



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 11 October Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

After a long time being taught from home, Year 11 have come back to school with a phenomenal attitude towards their education and GCSEs with students diligently completing their work, study sessions and homework to the best of their abilities. Well done. This diligence must be maintained throughout the coming months to ensure we get the best results possible for our Year 11 community in their all-important GCSE examinations. If one were to take one learning point from Covid and the lockdown, it is the ability to work independently and to persevere despite all difficulties with a continued growth mind-set. I believe my year group have really taken this on board and are determined to succeed which is such a worthy trait.

From having time home-schooling to extra schooling, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our year group on how they have handled the addition of study sessions to the school day. They are being given a great opportunity of extra support and time from their teachers enabling the greatest successes. I feel here that it is important to show our gratitude to their teachers who are giving up their time to ensure these study sessions are beneficial for Year 11. Thank you.

Covid 19 Test Results

If your son/daughter develops any of the Covid 19 symptoms and is therefore tested over the half term break it is very important that the school is made aware. Please inform us of the test result by emailing result@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk, within the email please include the date of the onset of symptoms and what the symptoms were. A team of staff will be picking up these emails and will respond accordingly. If a positive test is received, we may require some further information, in this instance a member of staff will contact you via a telephone call.

There have been many changes this year due to the pandemic which have all been put in place to best support and protect our school community. Masks are worn in all corridors and the one way system is strictly adhered to. Likewise, hand sanitising is encouraged throughout the school day. It is of vital importance that all continue to adhere to such high standards of hygiene and distancing that have been implemented for their safety. Thank you to Year 11 for complying and continuing to uphold our values and safety precautions to best support all of our health.

The last few months are going to have a continual impact. If there are any concerns that we can help with, any anxieties that need to be discussed, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will endeavour to support you as much as possible.

Revision

Students' organisation of their own time is quintessentially important in the build up to their exam. It is important that they commence in independent revision to solidify their learning given their examinations will question the work they are currently doing, and have completed in Year 10, at the end of Year 11. As such, I would recommend students create flashcards of the topics they study. One side could have a question, the other side potential answers. In English, one side could have a quotation and some analysis from their text, the other side a picture. These techniques really aid retention of information. Another method they could use is creating mind-maps to link their knowledge together. By creating excellent revision resources as they go along, students will have the best opportunities in their GCSEs.

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Shoebbox Appeal

At this point, I would like to make a plea. We have many families in our wider community who will not be able to join together at Christmas, who will not have the financial resources to make their children's Christmas a joyous celebration of the birth of Christ. At which point, as a whole school community, Challoner are again taking part in the shoe box appeal, in memory this year of Colm Smyth, a beloved previous member of staff who whole-heartedly endorsed our mission statement of 'giving glory to God by our service to others'. If you can support this by bringing in any items, or small amounts of money that we could use to purchase items, that would be greatly appreciated.



Charity remains at the heart of what we do at Challoner and I want to thank all of those who have given this year to the St Chad's collection. It is truly appreciated and I would encourage all who can to support this worthy charity, helping our most vulnerable in society and those who have very little, if anything at all.



Examinations

Examinations have already started the year in terms of all students have performed their Spoken Language Endorsement. To quote Mrs Goetschel, this year's Spoken Language, 'have genuinely been the best ever'. We have been very impressed with the range of topics chosen, the clarity of speech and the preparation that pupils have put in to their GCSE work. Well done. We wish those taking the Business examinations on the 27th November this year the same luck and hope that their dedication and hard work prevails.

Class Charts

Class Charts, a system introduced during lockdown, is a phenomenal resource for parents/carers to see and view how their child is performing in school. It illustrates their behaviours and positive logs as well as homework set, due dates and whether it was completed. Indeed, if homework is completed via class-charts, the feedback is also available to see here. I would encourage you to use this system. Please contact school if you need your parent/carer access code.

Timings of the day

The timings of the day have altered for Year 11 whereby their lessons start, as you are aware, at 8.50am. Please be aware that this is the start of lesson and therefore it is important that students are prompt. To ease this, C2/C3 have been made available for Year 11 from 8:00 if they would like to spend this time completing their work or revising. It is for the sole use of our year group and I would encourage people to use this extra resource as they see fit.

Schoolcomms

As you are aware we operate a cashless catering system and Schoolcomms is the only system to make payments for your child's school dinners and school trips. There is only one money loading machine in operation in the school so it is imperative that Schoolcomms is used. For further information please visit our website www.bishopchalloner.org.uk

Uniform and Appearance

Students are required to wear the standard uniform of blazer, tie, white/blue shirt with black straight leg school trousers (not skinny or boot cut) or girls can wear a knee length black school skirt. Girls are also reminded that if they choose to wear a skirt, then they should wear plain, black, opaque tights. Students are reminded that black leather school shoes should be worn and that trainers/trainer style shoes and boots are forbidden.

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black. There are a number of styles, particularly for girls, currently in fashion with wood style soles. These are not suitable for school. School shoes should also be leather and not patent.

In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. The final decision as to whether a particular haircut/style is appropriate is at the discretion of senior staff.

Make up, nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted with the exception of one pair of stud earrings which may be worn by girls.

Mobile Phones

With most students in school now owning mobile phones for use to and from school, it is important that they are also not a distraction to study. Students found with mobile phones during lessons and around the school will have them confiscated and they will be returned at the discretion of senior staff/Heads of Year. In more persistent cases, phones may only be returned to parents/carers.

I know that you will, as always, support us in maintaining the smart appearance of your children and high standards of discipline, so that our focus in school can be on educational achievement.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Year 11- 94%
- Whole school- 94%

Considering the situation we find ourselves in the attendance of Year 11 this half term is very pleasing. We hope that this will continue for the remainder of the academic year. We will continue to strive to meet our attendance target of 97%.

If your child is absent from school, a notification phone call needs to be made to the school on the first day of the absence and every further day that they are absent too. Upon return to school, a written note needs to be handed in to their form tutor, stating the reason for absence. Please encourage your child to be at school by 8.30am to instil the important life skill of good punctuality.

Absence Reporting and Covid-19

If your son/daughter is required to self-isolate in line with government guidance work will only be made available via Class Charts when the school is informed. Please keep school informed of any progress regarding testing. **If your son/daughter is confirmed positive please inform the school immediately.**

Bike Safety

It is good to see a higher proportion of students cycling to school, we will be providing additional bike parking racks in the near future. It is essential that your son/daughter rides responsibly and they **MUST** wear a helmet. Should we have any concerns re your son/daughters road safety we will be in touch.

Finally, looking forward, we want to continue to inspire Year 11 to greatness, at which point, every fortnight, year 11 receive an email with an Opportunities Bulletin including details of Work Experience opportunities, blogs, careers events, open day information and much more. Please ensure that they look through this as it is a great opportunity for them to get and stay up to date with the latest information.

God bless you all and keep safe.

I hope that all students and their families can enjoy a relaxing half term before their return on **Monday 2nd November.**

Yours sincerely,

Miss Beard
Head of Year 11

Mr Fell
Assistant Head of Year 11

Key Dates

Monday 2nd November-

Thursday 5th November-

Monday 9th November-

Wednesday 11th November-

Friday 13th November-

School Open

All Souls Day

Year 11, 12 & 13 Parent Consultation

Anti-bullying week

Sixth Form Open Evening

Year 11 PSHE Day

Wednesday 18th November-

Monday 23rd November-

Monday 30th November-

Tuesday 8th December-

Wednesday 9th December-

Friday 11th December-

Tuesday 15th December-

Friday 18th December-

Monday 4th January-

Year 11 French Speaking Mocks

Apprenticeships Fair (Year 11, 12 & 13)

GSCE Autumn Exam Window

Food Bank Collection starts

Christmas Fair

Christmaths Day

Winter Soiree

Year 7, 9 and 10 Parent Consultation

Christmas Show

School Closed- Inset Day

School Open



Remember – follow our many twitter feeds for updates on what is happening at BC!

Official School Twitter:	@BishopChalloner	Science:	@BCSciDept
Science:	@BCSciDept	Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Teaching School:	@teaching_school	Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
School Games:	@BCSGO	History:	@history_GCSEBC
Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Science Learning Partnership:	@CentralMidSLP
Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy	Social Science:	@BCSocSciDept
Biology:	@BCCbio	School Games:	@BCSGO
English:	@BC_EnglishDept	Sixth Form:	@BCCSix
PE:	@BCPEDepartment	Central Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Maths:	@BCMathsDept	FOBC:	@bc_friends
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Design:	@BCCCDesign