



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 9 October Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is lovely to be able to write this newsletter as the school has now been able to re-open for all students. It has been such a delight to see all of year 9 back in and working hard. Students have coped extremely well with the new structures in school and we are proud of the mature attitude they are showing towards their learning. This is an important year with students thinking about the pathways they will be following on their GCSE studies and decisions will be made about subjects they would like to study next year. Miss Hunter and I have no doubt that students will make sensible choices and there will be a programme of support throughout the year to assist students with this. At the time of writing year 9 students have already accumulated 81,400 positive behaviour points due to their excellent focus and positive attitude in lessons – keep it up year 9!

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 9 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.

School Charity

We are continuing with another 'Year of Community' in school and in Year 9 we look forward to planning lots of charity events to support the CAFOD school charity. Any socially distanced fundraising ideas are welcome!



We are also excited to be involved in the Colm Smyth Shoebox appeal in school and helping to reach the school target of over 1000 shoeboxes!! Lots of Year 9 students have already been helping wrapping and packing shoeboxes in their lunchtime. The Chaplaincy team really appreciate all the work they have done so far and admire their commitment to the school mission statement of "Giving Glory to God in our service to others".



The students who have been involved so far are: Anna G, Hugh B, Megan B, Charlotte J, Mia F, Niall T, Gabriela W, Niamh C, Caitlin L, Ben M, Mia H, Caiomhe B, Oscar B, Evangeline H, Sophie K and George W.

Principal - Dr J Coughlan

Institute Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7EG

Tel: 0121 444 4161 • Fax: 0121 441 1552

www.bishopchalloner.org.uk • email: enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



Chaplaincy News

In Year 9, we have been focusing on different ways to pray to make it personal to them. Students have the opportunity on Friday lunchtimes to come into the chapel for a time to pause for prayer, they also have an opportunity to come and talk to the lay chaplains.

Thank you to those who helped with the St Chad's Sanctuary Collections. Your service is truly embodying the Gospel of [Matthew 5:16](#) *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

Careers News

I'm Miss Darby, the Careers Leader at Bishop Challoner Catholic College. At the end of Year 9 students will be making some decisions about their future studies. Which subjects are right for them and where they lead them to is up to the student! The more your son/daughter can research careers this year, the easier it will be to decide.

To help Year 9, they will have access to Unifrog, which we will be launching after Christmas. Unifrog is an online tool which will tell you what careers would be a good match for your personality and your interests. It also has a Careers library built into it which will give your child loads of brilliant information about all sorts of careers. The Subjects library can give ideas about what careers they could do, if they like a specific subject at school. So no matter what stage they are at with their careers research, Unifrog will be able to help!

Parent/Carers can also login to use Unifrog as if they were a student. The form code for Parents/Carers is: **BSCCPARENTS** and you can sign up here: www.unifrog.org/code.

As well as using Unifrog during form time after Christmas, Year 9 will also receive a number of assemblies which will explain what specific subjects are like in Years 10 and 11.

Your son/daughter can start looking around Unifrog now. If they have any login difficulties, please let me know on: e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.

Black History Month

October is national Black History Month. The aim of this month is to raise awareness and celebrate black history. To begin the month, all year groups have had an informative form time sessions about black history in the UK. The form session included information about how our diverse country came to be and how black history dates back over 2000 years in the UK. Famous and influential black figures both modern and historical, from the UK, were also shared. These role models demonstrate exceptional skill, resilience or influence and through those examples, we challenge all students to believe they can do anything they put their mind to.



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 9 whereby their lessons start, as you are aware, at 9.00am. Please be aware that this is the start of lesson and therefore it is important that students are prompt.

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 9- 93%
- Whole school- 94%

Considering the situation we find ourselves in the attendance of Year 9 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's 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Brown
Head of Year 9

Miss Hunter
Assistant Head of Year 9

Key Dates

Monday 2nd November-

Thursday 5th November-

Monday 9th November-

Wednesday 11th November-

School Open

All Souls Day

Year 11, 12 & 13 Parent Consultation

Anti-bullying week

Sixth Form Open Evening

Monday 30th November-
 Wednesday 4th December-
 Tuesday 8th December-
 Wednesday 9th December-

 Friday 11th December-
 Tuesday 15th December-
 Wednesday 16th December-
Friday 18th December-
Monday 4th January-

Food Bank Collection starts
 KS3 Rewards, Year 9
 Christmas Fair
 Christmaths Day
 Winter Soiree
 Year 7, 9 and 10 Parent Consultation
 Christmas Show
 Year 9/10 Sponsored Football
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 |