



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 10 February Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10 have continued to excel in the second term of their GCSE careers. Students have completed mock examinations and assessments in classes which have produced very promising results. Students' organisation of their own time, therefore, is becoming increasingly important in the build up to their external GCSE examinations. It is important that they commence in independent revision to solidify their learning given their examinations will question the work they are currently doing 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 technique students could utilise in their revision is by creating mindmaps which link together the different strands of their knowledge. This will enable them to review what they have learnt whilst cognitively linking the information. Official revision guides are available in school and class teachers will happily direct students to the best revision techniques for their own topics. By creating excellent revision resources as they go along, students will have the best opportunities in their GCSEs.

## Work Experience

Year 10 is very significant for students due to the work experience component of it. It is pivotal that you and your child are discussing ideas and trying to arrange a placement as soon as possible as the skills it teaches students are invaluable. I would highly recommend arranging placements at the earliest convenience. If students are struggling, they are very welcome to see Mrs Reynolds who coordinates work experience. Those going on the trip to Germany will still have one week to partake in a work experience placement and they must make the most of this opportunity. It would be ideal for work experience forms to be handed in as soon as possible.

## Extra-Curricular

There are many exciting opportunities for Year 10 to get involved with. Some of our students will be partaking in a programme with the University of Birmingham, Birmingham City University and Aston University in the prestigious AimHigher programme which has the aim of increasing ambition in students to help enable the best outcomes for them in the future. In the same vein, students have all had a talk about the opportunity to go to University summer schools for students their ages. I would highly recommend all students further research this as a taster for what university could be like in many different fields.

## Soli House

With regards to Catholic life, students in Year 10 have the exciting opportunity to go on a residential trip to Soli House. This residential is an exciting opportunity for students to meet students from other schools of the same age. They will partake in myriad exciting activities which will both give them more insight into their own faith whilst being an enjoyable, holistic experience. If students would like more information, they should go and speak to the chaplaincy team at school.

Principal - Dr J Coughlan

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### School Charity

Charity and giving service are always important at Bishop Challoner. Year 10 commenced 2020 by hosting a cake sale over a break time raising money for our school charity, Cafod World Gifts. In real terms, the money raised at this event would equate to buying two goats for families who have real need which could help to improve their quality of life. Year 10 have voted on what they would like their contributions of money to go to, having the opportunity of ownership over their charitable donations this year and they have decided that they would like to raise money for a community water supply and also for goats for a family. We will endeavour to continue to raise money for our goals this year to help others.



### Eco Club

Clubs and sports continue to be an area where year 10 excel. The Eco-Club are actively involved in making our community better. They went into the local area and helped to tidy it up, picking up litter and demonstrating their own moral fibre at this time. Clearing over 10 bags of rubbish from our natural areas is just one step in trying to improve our community. The Eco-club have a list of ideas that they will be trying this year to best support our environment. These have already included things like vegan awareness sales, which additionally raised money for charity. Further events will be planned throughout the year.



### Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh award has commenced and students are enjoying learning all the skills they will need for this whilst commencing in the hours of voluntary, active work that they will be required to do to gain the award.

### 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](http://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 10- 94%
- Whole school- 95%

This is very pleasing and is in line with the school attendance target. We hope that this level of attendance can continue throughout the remainder of the year.

If a student's attendance is 95%, this means they have missed fifty possible lessons, a significant amount during a school year. Students must endeavour, where possible to be in school, on time, every day and we will await the excellent results that all their hard work shall result in.

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.

I hope that all students and their families can enjoy a relaxing half term before their return on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February**.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Beard  
Head of Year 10

Mr Fell  
Assistant Head of Year 10

### Key Dates

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February-**  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February-  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February-  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February-  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March-  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March-  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March-  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March-  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March-  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March-  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April-**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April-**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April-**

### School Open

Canteen- Pancake Day  
Ash Wednesday, Whole School Mass  
Whole School Careers Fair  
Library – Bishop's Got Talent  
Canteen- USA Day  
Community Event- Battle of The Bands  
Malypmics  
St Chad's Sanctuary Collections begin  
KS3 5-a-side football trip fundraiser

### Early Closure – 1.10pm

Whole School Mass  
St Chad's Sanctuary Collections end  
Non uniform day for school charity (£1)

### School Closed- Inset Day

### School Open



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

Official School Twitter:	@BishopChalloner	Library:	@Mrs F Library
Biology:	@BCCbio	Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy	Maths:	@BCMathsDept
Computing Hub:	@BCCComputingHub	PE:	@BCPEDepartment
Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
Design:	@BCCDesign	School Games:	@BCSGO
English:	@BC_EnglishDept	Science Learning Partnership:	@CentralMidSLP
FOBC:	@bc_friends	Science:	@BCSciDept
French:	@BC_MFL	Sixth Form:	@BCCSix
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Social Science:	@BCSocSciDept

History:	@history_GCSEBC	Teaching School:	@teaching_school
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