



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 7 February Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the half way point in the year, it is lovely to see how well Year 7 students have settled into their studies. Many students are continuing to embrace fully the broad offer of extra-curricular activities here at Challoner and are enjoying new ones this term. Following the Parent Consultation Day in December, many students are building on their efforts early in the year and exploring the wide curriculum on offer.

Trips

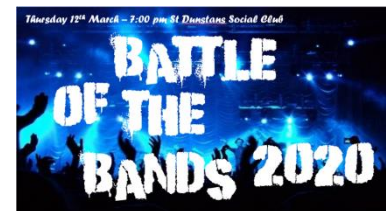
Earlier this half term, a number of Year 7 students visited Symphony Hall in Birmingham to listen to the CBSO perform some fantastic pieces. It was a lovely trip and I hope that it has inspired students to discover more of the fantastic music, which is available in our great city. Many students are also now looking forward to the opportunity to take part in the ball crew and the French Day trip, which will be towards the end of this academic year. There is a buzz of excitement amongst students about these fantastic opportunities; I would like to thank staff for organising them.

Maths Challenge

Thanks to Mr H Sarcevic who took a group of Year 7 students out this week to compete in a maths challenge at St Edmund Campion. Well done to all who took part.

Battle of The Bands

Another exciting opportunity is the Battle of the Bands Competition which is organised by Mr Tsintas. If last year's event is anything to go by, it will be dominated by Year 7s demonstrating their musical flair and talent. A great fundraiser too!



St Chad's Sanctuary

The community extends beyond the walls of Bishop Challoner and we continue to support the half-termly collections for St Chad's Sanctuary, supporting those in need in our local community. The school has also nominated the Cafod World Gifts project as our Charity for this academic year. This is a really fantastic charity to support as we are able to specify what we would like monies raised to be spent on. Year 7 have chosen A Community Water Supply and The Goat that Gives.



Community Water Supply - £750



The Goat that Gives - £28



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Year 7's collective fundraising will take place in the Summer Term when we will be organising a summer fayre to coincide with the Year 6 induction days.

Rewards Scheme

Commit to Character continues and many students are clocking up these achievement awards. The rewards event last half term was a well-deserved reward and the students were excited to be watching a film starring two of our Year 7s: We are looking forward to deciding what the next rewards event will be.

Assemblies

Assemblies this half term have focussed on a variety of topics to help students develop a healthy, safe and happy life. We have looked at the concept of Blue Monday and what we can all do to lead happier, healthy lives and support each other. We were reminded of the past in our Holocaust Memorial assembly and the lessons that we can all learn from this tragic time in World History. We have had an assembly about making safe choices what constitutes criminal responsibility. This was a helpful reminder to students about how to behave outside of school and how they should be going directly home at the end of the school day and not loitering on the High Street. We were also grateful to have an outside speaker come into talk to the Year 7 students about Apprenticeships and the pathways which can lead to doing an apprenticeship at different levels. This is part of the careers curriculum which is now delivered to KS3 students as well as KS4 and KS5 students.

Social Media Awareness

A number of students have now access to social media through their mobile phones and of course have use of netbooks outside of school. It is important that we keep reminding students of the consequences of unacceptable sharing of information and images via social media. We are lucky to have Visigo installed on school netbooks which can detect inappropriate use and help us to support students who make unwise choices when online.

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- %
- Whole school- %

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 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.

Lastly, I would like to thank all students for a quite brilliant start to the year. I am already excited to see what this year group can achieve. An excellent start made, keep it up!!

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McGowan
Head of Year 7

Mrs Higginson
Assistant Head of Year 7

Key Dates

Monday 24th February-
Tuesday 25th February-
Wednesday 26th February-
Thursday 27th February-
Friday 6th March-
Tuesday 10th March-
Thursday 12th March-
Friday 13th March-
Monday 16th March-
Friday 27th March-
Monday 30th March-
Thursday 2nd April-

Friday 3rd April-
Monday 20th 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
Malympics
St Chad’s Sanctuary Collections begin
KS3 5-a-side football trip fundraiser
Year 7 Rewards

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:	@BCMthsDept
Computing Hub:	@BCComputingHub	PE:	@BCPEDepartment
Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
Design:	@BCCCDesign	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