



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 9 February Half Term Newsletter 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are keeping well. We once again find ourselves in a period of remote learning and I have been delighted about how well students have adapted to this situation. Well done to all for their efforts. I have received so many reports from staff praising the work and positive attitude of Year 9 students. Thank you for all support you are giving to students to facilitate their learning from home.

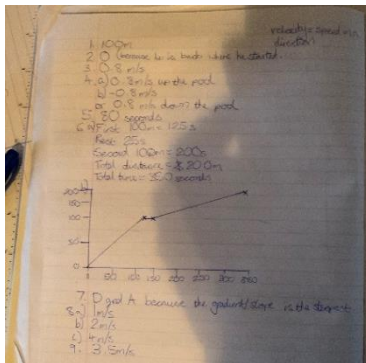
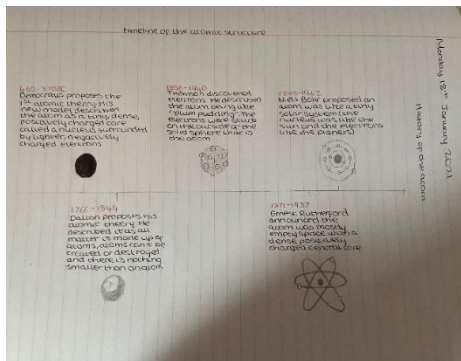
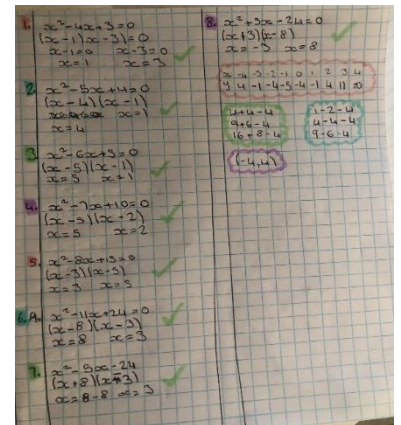
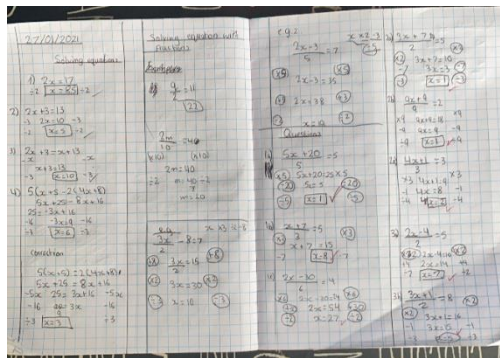
This still remains a very important term for Year 9. We have begun the pathways process and students will be making important decisions about their options. You can read more information about pathways in this newsletter.

Examples of Exemplary Work:

Consider the amount of exercise you receive, the variety of exercise, how well you warm up, the effect on your overall health, weight etc.

I really enjoy walking, my mum and I go on a 7 to 10 k walks at least 5 days a week, we are trying to wake up very early in the morning, thanks for this. I feel I can properly wake up and breathe in the fresh air. Clear my mind to have a fresh mind of the day, we usually walk the sunrise in the park.

As we walk through 3 parks (King's Heath, Hythe and Canon Hill park) we usually do a loop (back to see who can spot the most squirrels). Thanks for this, I feel more calm as I love nature. Winter walks are also preparing me for hiking, breeching and climbing during summer. I have conquered mountains nearly 1000m high so far, I feel like my legs are getting stronger every summer.



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Pathways Key Information:

- The Year 9 Pathways Process began on 1st February and before half term PSHE lessons have been used to introduce the process that students will be asked to select option subjects that they will study in Year 10 and Year 11.
- These lessons have focussed on career paths and job opportunities in the future.
- Students will also receive a series of **Pathways Assemblies** either side of half term.
- The **Year 9 Pathways Booklet** is now available to view on the **school website**.
<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/about/careers/student-zone/year-9-pathways/pathways-booklet>
- Parent/carers should receive a letter over the half term break explaining the pathways process and the letter will include a copy of their son/daughter's provisional **Pathway Choices Form**.
- Our **Virtual Pathways Evening** will be on **Thursday 4th March** - more details to follow.

An important Pathways message from Miss Darby the Careers Leader

As a parent/carer, the Pathways process (or Options process as we used to call it) can seem daunting, whether you've been through it before with older children or whether you're experiencing it for the first time. It can also be an exciting time though as this will be the first time your child has had any choice over what they study. You can help your child to make the right decisions for them by doing the following:

- Have discussions about their future goals. If they have a clear sense of the direction they are heading in then you can talk to them about which subjects might equip them best for the career they wish to pursue. If, however they do not have a future career in mind yet, that's fine. It would be sensible to choose a mixture of subjects if this is the case so that your child develops different skill sets and keeps more potential pathways open to them.
- Help them to research their options now. This will include finding out as much as they can about what the subjects in their Pathway consist of, how they are taught and assessed, how practical they are, how well they match with your child's strengths and interests and ultimately whether they are likely to enjoy them.
- Ensure that they are not choosing subjects so that they can be with their friends or with a particular teacher, as these can easily change.

During assembly and in their PSHE lessons, Year 9 have been advised to log onto **Unifrog** to start researching careers that they may be interested in, so that they can identify which GCSE subjects could help them on that pathway. As part of the Virtual Pathways evening there will be a Unifrog presentation explaining to you what Unifrog is and how it can help.

You can log on and create an account for yourself so that you can explore it and help support your child when they are doing their research.

Go to www.unifrog.org/student and click 'Sign in for the first time'. You'll be asked for some details and a form code. This is what you need: **BSCCPARENTS**

If you have any Unifrog related questions, please do get in touch with me, Miss Darby, Careers Leader on e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

If your child requires any Careers Advice, our Careers Advisor, Miss McGowan is available to discuss with students and parents/carers any Pathways related queries. e.mcgowan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Wellbeing at half term

Please follow the link for some great ideas on how to start your days and look after your health and wellbeing <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/events/2021-02-13-wellbeing-at-half-term>

Uniform and Appearance

For students that are attending school please be reminded that they are required to attend in full school uniform and full PE kit on the days they have PE. There are no changes to the dress code/appearance and standards of behaviour.

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.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Brown
Head of Year 9

Miss Hunter
Assistant Head of Year 9