



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 9 February Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Barron Richardson to the Year 9 Team in the role of Assistant Head of Year.

Year 9 have continued their hard work and dedication to learning this half term as we embark into discussions about GCSE Pathways. All students will now have been briefly introduced to the pathways process and can begin to consider their option choices. More information will be available to students during multiple assemblies in the first week after half term and parents/carers and students are invited to join us on 5th March for our Year 9 pathways evening.

Big Physics Quiz 2020

In the third week back after Christmas, eight intrepid young physicists from year 9 ventured to the University of Birmingham for the annual Big Physics Quiz. There, they were grilled on various topics and their knowledge put to the test. The two teams fared well across the early rounds; both using their Jokers to good effect, gaining double points. The students then had a break to enjoy a fascinating key note lecture from Dr Jonathan Goldwin on "The Physics of Hot and Cold", a particularly apt topic for the time of year, before returning to the quiz for the final round. The final round was on the specialist topic of medical physics at GCSE level, for which the Bishop Challoner students had been preparing. Overall, the students acquitted themselves admirably. Both teams scored 41 points putting themselves squarely in the top third of schools competing. After which they returned back to Bishop Challoner and were awarded with certificates for their endeavours which were presented to them by the Head of Year 9 at assembly in front of their peers.



Ski Trip

On Sunday 26th January to Saturday 1st February 36 students travelled to Prato Nevoso, Italy for a skiing trip. The trip started off meeting at Bishop Challoner at 3:30am, travelling to London Gatwick, flying to Turin, Italy and then on a coach transfer to Prato Nevoso. Each morning every student had a 6:45am wake up call for breakfast and then heading down to the slopes for their 9am lesson. Each student was able to participate in the 20 hours of skiing tuition they had with one of the three skiing instructors. It was great to see the progress over the course of the week for each student (even the advanced skiers were backwards skiing!) The students experienced a variety of slopes from blue to red to black and some even experienced the gondolas. Evening entertainment over the week included: pizza evening in a local restaurant, snow tubing and an awards evening.



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



PLATINUM SCIENCE MARK WINNER 2017-2020

As the week came to an end, it was clear that all students had excelled at skiing when they received their certificates from one of three instructors. A special thank you goes to the members of staff for their dedication, time and commitment to the skiing trip (Miss Watson, Miss Hunter, Mr Moreira, Mr Ravenscroft and Mr Davison) but to also to the students, they were commended by members of the pupil on their flight home for being polite, thoughtful and for their superb behaviour. Well done all.

The University of Birmingham: Extreme Robotics Lab

Josephine Potter, Niamh Bracken, Ethan Naher and John Osei completed six weekend workshops at the University of Birmingham Extreme Robotic Lab. Following successful completion they all received a certificate which was presented to them in front of teachers and parents from different secondary schools. In the first workshop they calculated and designed a car and raced it against other students. In the second week they learnt about the science and engineering behind modern drones and how they operate. In the third week they designed products that played different role models from production line manager to design engineer. In week four, they learnt how to move and control different purpose robots including robotic arm simulator which is used to remove unclear waste. In week five, they worked with Professor Robert Stone and his team who research on human interaction and virtual reality. In this workshop students wore VR headsets and completed various tasks including working in a military hospital unit. In the final week, students were given basic equipment and instructions and worked in small teams to build their own drones and race it against other teams. Huge dedication, creativity and hard work shown by all those involved, well done.



Chess Tournament

Over the past three weeks a chess tournament has been taking place in the library at lunch times. Several students from our Year group rose to the challenge including Phoebe C, Giuseppe B, Oisin C and Joel R. All students participated in 5 matches with Joel being awarded third place. Congratulations to all students who participated.

The School Charity

This half term Year 9 have been busy discussing their ideas for how their form is going to support our whole school charity, CAFOD World Gifts. Some the activities suggested so far include: an Easter egg raffle, cake sale, penalty shootout and sponsored silence. Year 9 have shown great enthusiasm for organising these events and they will be given the opportunity to show their dedication to charity and the Year of Community next half term.



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- 95%
- 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 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 24th February**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Dawson
Head of Year 9

Miss Barron-Richardson
Assistant Head of Year 9

Key Dates

Monday 24th February-
Tuesday 25th February-
Wednesday 26th February-
Thursday 27th February-
Monday 2nd March-
Thursday 5th March-
Friday 6th March-
Tuesday 10th March-
Thursday 12th March-
Friday 13th March-
Monday 16th March-
Friday 27th March-
Wednesday 1st April-
Thursday 2nd April-

Friday 3rd April-
Monday 20th April-

School Open

Canteen- Pancake Day
Ash Wednesday, Whole School Mass
Whole School Careers Fair
Year 9 Gifted and Talented Day
Year 9 Pathways Evening
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 9 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:	@BCMathsDept
Computing Hub:	@BCCComputingHub	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