



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

26<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well.

Further to the letter we sent in July regarding plans for the full opening of school in September this letter will provide you with some additional information that will be useful to both you and your son/daughter. As previously communicated, our aim is for all students to enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum whilst complying with measures set out to ensure that the well-being and health and safety of our students and staff remain our primary concern.

The Government recently launched their 'Back to School Safely' campaign and you can find useful information on the Department for Education webpages here - <https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool>.

## The School Day

Please see below important details of the September start date and school day start and end times for each year group.

Year Group	September Start Date	First Day Start Time	First Day End Time
7	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	8.40am	3.15pm
8	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	8.40am	3.15pm
9	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	9am	3.10pm
10	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	8.50am	3.10pm
11	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	8.50am	3.10pm
12	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	8.40am	3.10pm
13	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	8.40am	3.10pm

Please note that the end of school times on a Friday will be as follows from **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**.

Year 7/8- 2.45pm      Year 9- 2.50pm  
Year 10- 2.50pm      Year 11/12/13- 2.55pm

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Year 11 students will have compulsory study sessions Monday to Thursday, there will be an opportunity to purchase refreshments before study sessions begin. Study sessions will commence week commencing **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and will finish no later than 4.30pm.**

All students will continue to have five lessons per day and we are committed to offering as many extra-curricular activities as possible- more details of these will be available in September. Morning break and lunch are likely to be at different times to what our existing students are used to; breakfast will also be available from the canteen before school.

### **Hygiene Routines**

Upon arrival to school pupils will be expected to sanitise/wash their hands, this will be repeated regularly following breaks and lunch and on arrival to different classrooms. Increased cleaning routines are planned throughout the day and at the end of each school day. All students will be provided with one 50ml hand sanitiser but we would encourage them bring their own supply on a daily basis.

Mobile hand sanitiser stations and wall mounted sanitiser dispensers will be available throughout the school. All hand dryers in toilets have been disabled, students will use hand towels that must be disposed of in the bins provided.

All classrooms are equipped with antibacterial wipes, hand sanitiser and tissues. These will be replenished on a daily basis or as and when required.

### **Social Distancing**

The staggered start times and amendments that we have made to the timings of the school day limits the amount of contact students will have with each other. We will be reaffirming the indoor one way system in all areas of the school and this will extend to outside of the school building when moving from one lesson to another. Students will receive a new school map with details of the one way system clearly labelled for them to follow.

Floor markers, signage and barriers are all in place to ensure that students are reminded of their own responsibility in ensuring they adhere to social distancing outside of the classroom.

All measures that have been introduced are in line with government guidance.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Students must attend school from September. Please follow the normal procedure of reporting absence if your son/daughter is unable to attend school. Students must attend school on time, sanctions in line with school policy will apply if students are late to school. Students who arrive late should sign in at main reception.

### **Drop off and Collection**

There are some very useful links re transport and safer travel on the September Opening webpage of the school website, this can be found here - <https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/september-opening>. If you drop off and/or collect your son/daughter from school please be mindful of parking restrictions on Institute Road and adjacent roads. Where possible students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school. There is an area at the front of school where students can lock their bikes, they must also wear a helmet. Please also note that there should not be any gathering of parents/carers at the entrance/exits of the school.

If you have children in different year groups, starting at different times they are still permitted to arrive together in time for the earlier start, places will be identified for siblings not yet expected in school to go.

### **Uniform/Dress Code**

Year 7-11 students are required to attend in full school uniform. To avoid the need for students to have to change for PE, students will be need to wear their PE kit to school and remain in kit for the whole school day when they have PE. In case of poor weather you may consider purchasing the track pants and/or leggings for girls, these are available from Clive Mark. All students must wear their school blazer everyday including with their PE kit.

Students will need to bring in trainers and girls can bring in PE shorts/leggings for Dramatic Studies.

The dress code for students in Year 12 and 13 remains unchanged. If your son/daughter will be enrolling with the Sixth Form in August a parent/carer handbook detailing the dress code will be available on the school website shortly.

If during their extended time away from school your son/daughter has dyed their hair, chosen to have additional piercings or change their appearance in any way that is not compliant with the expectations of the school please prepare and make every effort to restore their appearance in time for the start of term.

Full details of uniform and appearance can be found here-

<https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/catholic-college/about/uniform>

### **Visits to School**

Parents/carers will not be permitted to enter the school site unless you have a pre-arranged appointment, please contact the school by telephone or email and your enquiry will be dealt with by the appropriate staff at the earliest opportunity.

### **Equipment**

Students should ensure that they are well equipped for school with a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener and calculator. Students must not share equipment with each other. It is essential that students have a school bag that is big enough to carry books, pencil case, netbook, lunch (if bring their own).

### **Catering Arrangements**

The school Canteen will be open and students will be able to purchase food and drink before school and at their designated break and lunch times if required. All purchase will be made via Schoolcomms, students will not be required to use their biometric fingerprint but will instead simply provide their name and year group to the catering staff when at the till point.

Year groups will have designated areas to sit and eat their lunch and outside space will also be designated to year groups so they can enjoy some fresh air and socialise with their peers outdoors. Students can choose to eat their lunch outside in their designated area instead of the canteen if they wish.

### **Water**

In order to reduce student movement the water machines in school will be out of use. This is a social distancing and health and safety measure and we ask that students bring a bottle of water with them every day. Water is available to purchase before school, at break time and at lunch time.

### **Personal Protective Equipment, including face coverings and masks**

Given the recent government announcement on the use of face coverings we are reviewing our approach and will circulate further details shortly.

### **Government Advice on Covid-19**

There is a whole array of advice and guidance constantly being updated on the gov.uk website. Please familiarise yourself with the most up to date guidance regarding Vulnerable Groups and the definitions of Clinically Vulnerable and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. If any situation with your son/daughter or family member changes in line with these definitions please inform the school. Useful information can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

The latest Covid-19 testing advice can also be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

### **Pastoral and Well-Being Support**

We are very aware from our communication with parents/carers and students that there are a real mix of emotions about returning to school/college. Some are really looking forward to it whilst others have concerns and/or are feeling anxious. We urge parents/carers and students to inform us if you or you or your son/daughter has any concerns about returning/starting school. The email addresses of key staff are on our school website and there are some excellent resources and signposting information on the Safeguarding and Well-being page which can be found here - <https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/catholic-college/about/safeguarding/safeguarding-and-well-being>.

There is also some very useful information and resources that can be found on the Forward Thinking Birmingham website here - <https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/>

Students in all year groups will receive information about the support on offer when they return in September.

Please refer and have a look at the various links to important information relating to our return to school on the September Opening webpage.

We are very much looking forward to the safe return of all students next week.

Yours sincerely,



Dr J Coughlan  
**Principal**