

Head of Year 10

February Half Term Newsletter



Mrs Whelan Head of Year
Mr Knowles, Assistant Head of Year

Well done to Year 10 for another excellent half term, all students working with diligence and maximum effort in every aspect of their GCSE lessons. We have started weekly intervention sessions for Year 10 students, and we are impressed with how many students have turned up to complete homework and revision. Keep up the good work Year 10.

Assemblies and Form Time

Assemblies this term have been forced on a wide range of topics covering Attendance, World Religion Day, Safer Internet Day and many more. Students have been engaged with the Going Forth Message each week, actively participating and volunteering to deliver the prayer in front of the year group which conclude each assembly.

During form time year 10 students have been learning about national apprenticeship week, children's mental health, holocaust memorial. Prayer and worship are an important activity in our community at Bishop Challoner, that being during form time. It is always wonderful to see students come together in collective worship. All year 10 students during form time wrote prayers of hope, which are celebrated on the Tree of Hope displayed in the main foyer.

10CEC Prayer of Hope

Holy father, guide us as pilgrims with your light.
Open our hearts to helping those in need with generosity.
Provide us with strength in our fundraising efforts.
Encourage us to build a community of peace through love.
Amen

Maths

We would like to inform you that the Year 10 Spring (mid-year) assessments will take place shortly after the upcoming half-term break.

Students will complete two one-hour papers during their regular lesson times, final dates tbc.

To aid in their preparation, students will receive revision lists and Mathswatch tasks. Your support in encouraging and assisting your child/children to complete these revision tasks would be greatly appreciated.

Year of Hope

Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church, an event that takes place once every 25 years. The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope", an invitation to showcase the hope of our Christian faith to people right across the world at a time when



there is so much suffering from the impact of war, poverty, climate change, and the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic.

The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee presents each one of us with an opportunity to reignite the flame of our faith in our own hearts and to share the light of that faith with those in darkness.

At Bishop Challoner Catholic College, we are excited to celebrate the Year of Hope with our students and our community. This term students have taken part in the Diocesan official live launch of the 2025 'Pilgrims of Hope'. I was lucky enough to witness this event with year 10 students, it was a powerful moment for our school community to come together in faith. Year 10 have continued to celebrate The Year of Hope in Assembly each week, during Form Time and attending Mass last week where year 10 students wrote the bidding prayers for hope. It was a delight to see the reverence and respect demonstrated by the year group. Year 10

Science

Year 10 have been lucky this year to be selected to take part in the Science Outreach Programme with the University of Birmingham. Birmingham University staff have been delivering workshops for students with the aim of imparting knowledge, raising aspirations and inspiring year 10 students to fulfil their potential. Year 10 students have enjoyed each session with some having gone onto apply to Unifest to explore university life, meet current university students and staff. All Unifest events and information for year 10 students are on Class Charts.

5 Foundations of Effective Attendance Practice

You will be aware that we have adopted the 5 Foundations framework to manage and monitor attendance. There have been two monitoring letters now sent and you can expect further communication in early March. Please continue to ensure your child is in school every day and on time. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Foundation 1
Whole School Thinking
Culture & Climate



Foundation 2
Supportive Policies,
Systems and Processes



Foundation 3
Professional Learning
Staff Development



Foundation 4
Implement Targeted
Programmes And Intervention



Foundation 5
Connect Appropriately With
Approaches To
Behaviour Management

Piercings

Please be reminded that students are permitted to wear a pair of gold or silver studs in the lobe of the ear. Any other piercings, including nose piercings, are not allowed.

Reporting Student Absence

All students are required to attend school/college on time every day. If for any reason your child is unable to attend, please ensure that the school attendance policy is followed, and their absence is reported before the START of the school day (8.40am) and on each day of absence. Please provide a reason for their absence and the likely length of absence, if known.

To report an absence please call the main school number 0121 444 4161 and select the correct option for your child's year group.

If you receive a text message or phone call from school/college because you have not reported your child's absence, please contact us on the most appropriate number as detailed above as soon as you can.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Uniform Standards

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 pleated 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 are forbidden.

Please note that school shoes must be completely black and boots of any kind are not allowed.

Our uniform requirements are complemented by a smart appearance and as such, hair styles should not have a distinct contrast in length. Hair that is dyed must be of a natural hair colour and may not contain more than one colour. To avoid a health and safety risk, long hair must not impede vision or cover the face, except for a fringe which must not cover the eyes. Long hair must be tied up for practical lessons. Religious head coverings must be black and securely tied for practical lessons. Hair bands or accessories must be for functional use to secure the hair. Where hairbands are worn, they must be black. Headwear that has religious or cultural purpose should be black. 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 plain stud earrings which may be worn.

Students found to be wearing an inappropriate item of uniform may be asked to change this or in some cases parents/carers will be contacted and requested to bring replacement uniform to school.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that standards of uniform and appearance are maintained.

Blazers

Blazers are a **compulsory** part of the school uniform and **must** be worn at all times. Jumpers are optional.

Canteen

All students must enter the canteen to purchase food no later than 10 minutes before the end of lunchtime. Access may be denied after this time.

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage

Year 7 - 95.3%

Year 8 - 93.5%

Year 9 - 93.5%

Year 10 - 91.8%

Year 11 - 90.3%

Whole School - 93.0%

Job Vacancies in the Archdiocese

The Archdiocese would appreciate your support in advertising the positions below in your weekly newsletters (the jobs will be on the Diocesan jobs page on Friday):

- Operations Director
- IT Manager

- Finance Manager
- Gift Aid Officer

Full details and closing dates can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs. If you know of anyone suitable, please do pass on the details and encourage them to apply!

Mobile phones

Please be reminded of the rules regarding mobile phones in school as detailed below.

- Mobile phones must never be used, seen or heard in school. Information from our behaviour policy is detailed below-
- Pupils are not allowed to have mobile phones out on the school premises
- Pupils must turn their phones off when on the school premises
- Mobile phones seen on the school premises may be confiscated
- The school reserves the right to instruct students to hand in their mobile phone
- Confiscated mobile phones will be returned at the discretion of Head of Year/Senior Staff
- In some circumstances, a confiscated mobile phone may only be returned to parents/carers
- School does not accept any responsibility for the loss or theft of any mobile device

Bishop Challoner Training School paid Summer Internship

- Online interviews for Summer 2025!
- Experience the teaching profession
- Start from June 2025
- 3 week placement
- Be paid £425 per week
- Boost your CV skills

If you're an undergraduate in any year or studying for a Masters and interested in teaching secondary Chemistry, Computing, Maths, Languages (French, German or Spanish) or Physics, you may be eligible to apply.

If you know someone who is at Uni at the moment who would like to have a 3 week, paid internship - trying out teaching as a possible future career.

Some previous interns have gone on to be teachers with us and other schools around the country. Others just enjoyed the internship and gained some great new skills ready for other careers.

Please spread the word. A simple application form is on our website here:

<https://www.bctsa.org/605/teaching-internship-programme>

First Aid Reminders Medication

All medication should be handed into first aid and not carried by the students. Exception EpiPen, Asthma inhalers, insulin. Tranexamic acid in special circumstances.

Allergies

All students with a known allergy parents/carers must provide school first aid with antihistamine; this also applies to those with anaphylaxis in addition to their EpiPen.

Hydration

Please provide students with a drinking vessel to refill at our water stations provided or they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

Contact Details

It is parents/carers responsibility to keep the school updated with correct emergency contact details and new medical conditions or concerns and investigations. This is extremely important.

Liquid Paracetamol

We do not provide liquid paracetamol such as Calpol please provide this to school first aid if your child can not take tablets and you wish to do so, this will be kept safe in first aid for your child only. We can only provide in tablet form.

Illness

If you assess your child in the morning and they are not well enough for school you must contact our pastoral team to report their absence.

Mobile Phones

Students should not be contacting parents/carers when they feel unwell and requesting to be collected from school. If a student is unwell, they MUST go to the First Aider who will deal with them. If a student is not well enough to stay in school, the First Aider will contact parents/carers to arrange collection.

Students who contact their parents/carer directly and do not follow the procedures in place will be sanctioned, this may result in their mobile phone having to be handed in to the Pastoral office each day. The use of anyone else's mobile phone risks that person being sanctioned also.

Please do not arrive at school to collect your child unless school have contacted you to do so. We do not have school staff readily available to collect children. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Any questions or concerns please email them using the main enquiry email for the attention of first aid or call to speak with first aid on the main school number 0121 444 4161.

Attendance Champions League

League Table

Week ending Friday 14th February

Position	Club	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Points
1	7SEB	19	17	0	2	51
2	7BOS	19	15	0	4	45
3	9LUK	19	13	0	6	39
4	9BER	19	13	0	6	39
5	8LUK	19	13	0	6	39
6	8BOS	19	13	0	6	39
7	7TER	19	13	0	6	39
8	7LUK	19	13	0	6	39
9	7CEC	19	13	0	6	39
10	11SEB	19	11	0	8	33
11	11BOS	19	11	0	8	33
12	8SEB	19	11	0	8	33
13	11CEC	19	10	0	9	30
14	10BOS	19	10	0	9	30
15	8BER	19	10	0	9	30
16	10CEC	19	9	0	10	27
17	9TER	19	9	0	10	27
18	9SEB	19	9	0	10	27
19	9CEC	19	9	0	10	27
20	10TER	19	8	0	11	24
21	10SEB	19	8	0	11	24
22	10LUK	19	8	0	11	24
23	8TER	19	8	0	11	24
24	9BOS	19	7	0	12	21
25	7BER	19	7	0	12	21
26	11LUK	19	6	0	13	18
27	11BER	19	4	0	15	12
28	10BER	19	3	0	16	9
29	8CEC	19	3	0	16	9
30	11TER	19	1	0	18	3

Results

Week ending Friday 14th February

7BER	97.58	VS	92.35	8TER
9BER	93.87	VS	88.48	8SEB
9BOS	96.36	VS	93.71	8LUK
9CEC	88.75	VS	87.43	8CEC
9LUK	92.94	VS	91.21	8BOS
9SEB	96.36	VS	96.06	8BER
9TER	96.67	VS	93.75	7TER
10BER	82.58	VS	97.27	7SEB
10BOS	93.79	VS	93.53	7LUK
10CEC	93.14	VS	93.94	7CEC
10LUK	85.16	VS	96.18	7BOS
10SEB	90.80	VS	88.55	11TER
10TER	90.63	VS	93.33	11SEB
11BER	88.44	VS	94.23	11LUK
11BOS	93.23	VS	90.32	11CEC

Fixtures

Week beginning Monday 24th February

8SEB	VS	7BER
8LUK	VS	8TER
8CEC	VS	9BER
8BOS	VS	9BOS
8BER	VS	9CEC
7TER	VS	9LUK
7SEB	VS	9SEB
7LUK	VS	9TER
7CEC	VS	10BER
7BOS	VS	10BOS
11TER	VS	10CEC
11SEB	VS	10LUK
11LUK	VS	10SEB
11CEC	VS	10TER
11BOS	VS	11BER

Contacting School

Communication between home and school is very important, in the event that you need to contact school please be reminded of the following procedures.

School telephone number- 0121 444 4161

Option 1- To report an absence

Option 2- Head of Year/Pastoral concerns/enquiries

Option 3- Sixth Form enquiries

Head of Year Contact

All Heads of Year and Assistant Heads of Year have teaching commitments; therefore any Head of Year/Pastoral enquiries should be directed through Option 2 for students in Year 7-11 or option 3 for students in Year 12 or 13.

If student services staff are not available to answer your call in person, please leave a message with the nature of your enquiry/concern and you will get a call back from the most appropriate member of staff at their earliest convenience. We aim to respond to all contact by the end of the next working day.

Senior Staff Contact

Contact with Head of Year and/or Head of Department is expected to have been made before issues are escalated to Senior staff. Should you need to speak to a Senior member of staff, please contact school by phone and select Option 2 or 3, depending on the year group of your child and request a call and the most appropriate Senior member of staff will contact you at their earliest convenience.

Meeting Staff

Any requests for a face to face meeting with staff should be made using the same contact details as above. Please ensure that the purpose of any meeting request is made clear. A member of staff may contact you before a meeting is arranged if more information is required.

Please do not attend school without an appointment unless there is a safeguarding emergency.

Safeguarding Concerns

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact school and ask to speak to the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a deputy DSL. Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.

Weapon Screening

You will be aware of sad events nationally involving young people and weapons.

As part of our ongoing safeguarding procedures we regularly highlight the importance of personal safety.

We will once again be working in partnership with the police during the next half term and there will be a weapon screening exercise undertaken.

DAY	TIME	TITLE & SESSION
MONDAY 17th Feb	10 am - 3pm	Wellness & Sport for Families (8 - 14) Afternoon & Wellbeing Sessions Flag Football
TUESDAY 18th Feb	10 am - 3pm	Wellness & Sport for Adults & Young People (12 - 18) Healthy Cooking & Environmental Action Workshop Physical Activity & Football Sessions
WEDNESDAY 19th Feb	10 am - 3pm	Well Sport Activities for Young People (8 - 11) PE Sessions & Multi-Sport Activities Badminton & Dynamic Circuit Training
THURSDAY 20th Feb	10 am - 2pm	Interactive Play for Young People with SEND (8 - 14) Play Interactive Session

FREE Lunch provided by Kerbside Cobs

Logos: Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Combined Authority, UK Government

Spring Term 2

Monday 24th February	School closed - Staff INSET
Tuesday 25th February	School open
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Tuesday 25th February	Year 9 Immunisations
Wednesday 26th February	National Apprenticeship Show Tea Party
Thursday 27th February	Year 8 Computing Trip
Friday 28th February	Cake Sale
w/c Monday 3rd March	National Apprenticeship Week
Saturday 8th March	International Women's Day
w/c Monday 10th March	British Science Week
Monday 10th March - Wednesday 12th March	KS3 Football Trip
Tuesday 11th March	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 12th March	Year 9 Mass Tea Party
Thursday 13th March	Dementia Cafe - St Anne's Year 9 Options Evening
Friday 14th March	Year 9 Malypics
Monday 17th March	Year 10 Longbridge Fieldwork St Patrick's Day Hamper
Thursday 20th March	Year 10 Maths Feast Year 8 Black Country Museum Trip
Sunday 23rd March	Year 9 DofE Bronze Practice Walk
Tuesday 25th March	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 26th March	Tea Party Year 10 Cyber Competition Year 10 University of Birmingham Trip
Friday 28th March	Cake Sale Mother's Day Hamper
Tuesday 1st April	Year 8 Parent/Carer Consultation Afternoon
Wednesday 2nd April	Tea Party
Thursday 3rd April	Year 10 Mock Interviews
Sunday 6th April - Tuesday 8th April	Year 10 Silver DofE Practice
Tuesday 8th April	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 9th April	Spring Soiree Year 12 Easter Fair
Thursday 10th April	Bake Off Competition History - Alexandra Theatre Trip
Friday 11th April	Easter Service Easter Hamper
Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 28th April	School open

Library Reminders

We have 359 overdue items outstanding from our school library.

Please remind your child to return any overdue library books asap.

Our school library is very popular throughout the school day but especially between lessons.

Do you have any unwanted puzzles and games our Students can use as part of our break and lunchtime activities?

GET IN TOUCH

In order for us work together, to best support our young people, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have information to share regarding the safeguarding or wellbeing of your child.

Please contact Mrs K Peckover, Mrs M Nutt or any DSL or member of the Wellbeing Team.

Any such information will always be treated confidentially.