

# Head of Year 10



## May Half Term Newsletter

**Mrs Whelan Head of Year**

**Mr Knowles, Assistant Head of Year**

As we move further into the summer term, it has been a pleasure to witness the continued growth, maturity, and enthusiasm of our students. Year 10 have been working hard in preparation for mocks and their final year ahead. It has been encouraging to see many students taking advantage of revision sessions, asking thoughtful questions in class, and showing a growing sense of responsibility for their learning.

We encourage all students to use the half-term break to rest and recharge, but also to review their notes, catch up on any outstanding work, and begin preparing for the rest of the mock exams after half term.

### Careers Focus and Work Experience

With GCSEs on the horizon, we are beginning to focus more closely on future pathways and enrichment opportunities, both in and out of the classroom.

This term, Year 10 students have been engaging with our careers program designed to help them think about life beyond school. We have had a range of activities including:

**Careers Workshops:** Interactive sessions on CV building, interview skills, and exploring post-16 options

**Mock Interviews:** Guests from a range of industries including healthcare, engineering, and creative arts. Interviewed year 10 students this half term, giving them vital practice with applications and interviews. All the students involved were a credit to themselves and the guests invited were really impressed with them.

**University of Birmingham trip:** I had the pleasure of taking 50 year 10 students to the University for the day. It gave the students a first-hand experience of what it would be like to study at the University. It was an enjoyable day out and, as always, the year 10 students represented the school well.

Next half term we are continuing with more careers events as well as work experience.

**College and Apprenticeship Insight:** We have begun to introduce students to the different pathways available after Year 11, including A-levels, vocational routes, and apprenticeships. We are excited to offer several upcoming opportunities and events for students. Year 10 students will continue taking part in career interviews to help students to start to plan for their futures.

**Work Experience:** Taking place, the week beginning 30/06/25 students will spend time in real workplaces, gaining invaluable insight into working life.

We encourage all parents to continue the conversation at home—ask your child what careers have sparked their interest and how they see themselves developing their strengths and skills.



## Assembly and The Year of Hope

During this term we have looked at a wide range of subjects during our Assemblies and form time, cultural diversity, Fair trade, British values, VE days, standards for learning and our whole school charity. Over the past few months, Year 10 has led and supported several fantastic charitable events. Our students organised and ran a phenomenally successful ice cream sale, raising over £220 for Father Hudson. Their teamwork and commitment were inspiring, and the event brought the school community together in a wonderful way.

Year 10 charity work is more than just raising money. It teaches responsibility, develops leadership, and nurtures a powerful sense of community. I have been incredibly proud of their efforts and the positive impact they are making.

Year 10 girls have also been running their own wellbeing group. Feel Good Friday started this term and with weekly sessions taking place after school. The girls took part in a skincare and make-up class with a wonderful demonstration by 10LUK Ms Nasar, Yoga with Ms Higginson and a lovely afternoon tea. The group was set up to promote mental and emotional wellbeing. Build self-confidence and positive body image. Encourage healthy lifestyle habits. Create a sense of community and belonging.

## Sport

Our Year 10 netball team took part in a Netball tournament this term securing a brilliant win. The game was a true display of teamwork, skill, and determination, and our students represented the school with pride both on and off the court.

The team showed excellent communication, quick decision-making, and resilience throughout the match. Well done girls.



## 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.

## 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.

## Maths

We would like to remind you that the Year 10 summer mock examinations will take place the first week back after the upcoming half-term break.

### Paper 1 (Calculator)

Monday 2nd June  
Venue: Auditorium  
Duration: 90 minutes

### Paper 2 (Non – Calculator)

Thursday 5th June  
Venue: In class  
Duration: 60 minutes (Period 3)

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

## Academic Progress

Year 10 has been working hard in preparation for upcoming assessments and their final year ahead. It has been encouraging to see many students taking advantage of revision sessions, asking thoughtful questions in class, and showing a growing sense of responsibility for their learning.

We encourage all students to use the half-term break to rest and recharge, but also to review their notes, catch up on any outstanding work, and begin preparing for the final half-term push.

## School Year 2025 to 2026

### Autumn Term 2025

#### Term starts:

Year 7, 11 & 13 - Wednesday 3rd September 2025  
All year groups- Thursday 4th September 2025

#### Half-term

Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025  
**Term ends:** Thursday 18th December 2025

### Spring Term 2026

**Term starts:** Monday 5 January 2026

#### Half-term

Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026  
**Term ends:** Friday 27 March 2026

### Summer Term 2026

**Term starts:** Monday 13 April 2026

#### Half-term

Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026  
**Term ends:** Friday 17th July 2026

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.



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.

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.

# PATHWAY TO THE FINAL





## Summer Uniform

In light of the weather forecast summer uniform can be worn.

Students **DO NOT** have to wear a-  
Tie  
Blazer  
Jumper

Students **MUST** wear-  
Shirts tucked in  
Shoes not trainers

If a 2nd layer is worn, this **MUST** be a blazer **NOT** a jumper or other outer wear, any item other than a blazer will be confiscated.

Girls must wear natural or black 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 kept completely black and boots of any kind are not allowed.

Our uniform requirements are complemented by a smart appearance and as such, hair styles that 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 in the lobe of the ear.

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.

## First Aid Information and Procedures

**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.**

Please make sure we have the correct medical information and emergency contact details, if you have changed your phone number or there is any change in medical conditions or concerns, please contact first aid using the enquiries email or the main school phone number.

Please send children into school with a water bottle they can re-fill at our water stations provided or they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

Students with Asthma must carry with them their own personal inhalers. This includes offsite activities and school trips to ensure they can participate safely.

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

We do not provide liquid paracetamol such as Calpol. If your child cannot take tablets and you would prefer them to have liquid Calpol please send this in to the school first aider with your child's name on it, this will be kept safe in first aid for your child only.

## First Aid and 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 student services 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 Updates

Attendance Percentage

Year 7 - 95.4%

Year 8 - 93.7%

Year 9 - 93.8%

Year 10 - 91.3%

Year 11 - 90.7%

Whole School - 93.1%

## 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.

### 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

## 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

## 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.

## Mastermind Success

We are proud to celebrate a very special achievement at Bishop Challoner Catholic College.

Our English teacher, Mr John Robinson, has been crowned the 2025 BBC Mastermind Champion following a dramatic and closely contested final.

John's exceptional performance – including a perfect score in his specialist subject, The Empire State Building – was a joy to watch and a wonderful reminder of the talent and dedication that exists within our teaching community.

This achievement follows his previous success on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, and once again he has demonstrated the value of commitment, calm under pressure, and a love of learning – qualities he models daily in the classroom.

Mr Robinson said: "I constantly tell the students that if you put effort into your revision, you'll get a reward at the end of it. Hopefully, the pupils can look at me and be inspired by the hard work I've put in as well."

We know our students and staff have been cheering him on throughout his Mastermind journey, and we are all absolutely delighted for him.

A huge congratulations to Mr Robinson from everyone at Bishop Challoner — we are already preparing a space in the trophy cabinet for the famous glass bowl!

Read the full article on the BBC News website here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07119dvzmpo>

SummerTerm 2	
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Saturday 31st May - Sunday 8th June	Ball Crew
Monday 2nd June	School Open Year 9 Barber Art Workshop
Tuesday 3rd June	Bishop's Got Talent Year 9 Mass
Wednesday 4th June	Tea Party
Sunday 8th June - Monday 9th June	Year 9 DofE Bronze
Monday 9th June - Wednesday 11th June	Year 10 French Speaking Mocks
Thursday 12th June - Friday 13th June	Wheelbarrow Food Competition
Friday 13th June	Fathers Day Hamper KS3 DT Trip
Friday 13th June - Sunday 29th June	Sixth Form Trip to Peru
Monday 16th June - Friday 20th June	Creativity and Refugee Week Year 10 Spoken English Exams
Monday 16th June - Wednesday 18th June	Year 9 Soli House
Tuesday 17th June	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 18th June	Tea Party Year 7 and 8 Computing Trip - Big Bang NEC
Thursday 19th June	Year 10 UOB Chemistry Lessons
Sunday 22nd June - Tuesday 24th June	Year 10 and Year 12 DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition
Monday 23rd June - Friday 27th June	Science Week
Tuesday 24th June	Year 7 CSI Day
Wednesday 25th June - Friday 27th June	Year 10 Carding Mill Valley Trip
Wednesday 25th June	Year 10 and Year 12 Mass
Thursday 26th June	Year 10 UOB Chemistry Lesson
Friday 27th June	Cake Sale TBC Catholic Competition - Summer Games
Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July	Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 30th June	Sports Day Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 1st July	Bishop's Got Talent Culture Day
Wednesday 2nd July	Year 6 Induction Day 1 Year Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 3rd July	Year 6 Induction Day 2 Year 6 Induction Day Mass Year 6 Parent/Carer Evening Year 13 Prom
Sunday 6th July - Thursday 10th July	Year 10 and Year 11 Trip to Rome
Monday 7th July	Year 10 Work Experience De-brief Year 7 and Year 8 Lickey Hills Trip
Monday 7th July - Friday 11th July	Year 12 Work Experience
Wednesday 9th July	Primary Concert Sixth Form Taster Day
Thursday 10th July	Battle of the Bands Year 10 Art Trip to Liverpool
Friday 11th July	Year 7 and Year 10 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 15th July	Year 9 and Year 10 end of year Mass
Wednesday 16th July	Awards Evening Tea Party
Thursday 17th July	Cake Sale TBC Year 7 and Year 8 end of year Mass
Friday 18th July	Last day of the academic year
Monday 21st July	INSET - School Closed

**SVP**

# St Vincent de Paul Society

www.svp.org.uk

Turning Concern into Action

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know about a Charity that parents from the school can access. The St Vincent de Paul is an International Christian Voluntary Organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage.

We provide direct practical assistance to anyone in need, in England and Wales there are currently 10,000 voluntary members who visit the lonely, sick, imprisoned and support people in need who are experiencing poverty. Our group in OLÖL parish was started over 12 months ago. We serve the wider community, regardless of faith, ethnicity or status.

We offer friendship, practical help and provide material assistance when families are experiencing crisis. This can be on a 'one off' occasion or we can provide continuing help should the needs arise.

The SVP would like to offer this support and assistance when needed to help families who are finding it challenging due to the cost of living crisis. We also provide support to people living in the parish. Please pass on our details should you identify people who would benefit from our support.

We are available on phone number 07949854349 by text or call. Alternatively, you can contact Fr Sean/Parish Office on 0121-444-5106. This will give us the opportunity to talk to you about your current situation and please be assured this is kept private and confidential.

Please visit our website for further information of the work carried out by the organisation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many Thanks

**SVP**