

Head of Year 10

October Half Term Newsletter

Miss Shirley, Head of Year
Mr Khitab, Assistant Head of Year

Year 10 have made a mature and excellent start to KS4 at Bishop Challoner Catholic College. Students have finalised their GCSE option choices and have settled into their new teaching groups well. In addition to their curriculum subjects, students have engaged in assemblies, form time activities / resources, and extra-curricular activities across a range of subjects.



Assemblies/Form Time

Our face-to-face assemblies continue to take place each week in the Auditorium. Assemblies this half term have focused on: Setting the Scene for this Academic Year, Attendance and Punctuality, The Year of Challoner, Safety, Black History Month, World Mental Health Day, Character Values at Bishop Challoner, and Careers. Students have engaged in prayer during assembly and individuals have stood up and delivered the 'Going Forth Message' to conclude assembly. I have been really impressed with the maturity shown, and how students have conducted themselves when reading the prayer and 'going forth message' in assemblies.



In addition to listening to and engaging with these assembly themes, students have been participating in activities during form time, and have been provided with a variety of topics to discuss. Students have learnt about cultural literacy, the risks of gambling and gaming and the European day of languages. Students have also had the opportunities to create and write their own piece on anything that they feel thankful / grateful for.

Duke of Edinburgh

Following a successful Duke of Edinburgh expedition to achieve the Bronze Award last year, Bishop Challoner is excited to be giving Year 10 students the opportunity to complete their Silver Award. The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award program has opened an incredible gateway for our Year 10 students, offering them a transformative journey of personal growth and achievement. This prestigious opportunity not only challenges them physically, mentally, and socially but also instils essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and resilience. It is brilliant to see students in Year 10 already signing up, and if anymore students wish to take part in this, please see Miss Ellis or Mrs Law.



Extra-Curricular

We have got a range extra-curricular activities on offer for our students every day before and after School. It has been pleasing to see a lot of our Year 10 students attending extra-curricular clubs and immersing themselves in the opportunities at Bishop Challoner. A timetable of all the extra-curricular clubs we have to offer can be found on our school website. The likes of PE, Creative Writing, Chess, BC Band, and Robotics club are just a few of the activities amongst many others which we have on offer to our students. Well done to those of you who have been consistently attending clubs - we hope this continues!

The Year of Challoner

This year is 'The Year of Challoner'. We are celebrating 70 years of Bishop Challoner, as the school first opened its doors in 1953. Throughout the year, Year 10 students will be contributing to the celebration of this platinum jubilee. During our first school council meeting, students were embracing the school's legacy with enthusiasm and creativity and were coming up with some fantastic ideas on how we could celebrate throughout the year.

During this half term, the whole school key virtues we have focused on have been 'Generous' and 'Grateful'. Year 10 students have been thinking about how their actions both inside and outside of school could demonstrate generosity and gratitude. Some students' actions of encouraging and supporting peers and expressing thankfulness to teachers, have been noticed and praised, and we will continue to reward students who can demonstrate our key virtues to support the values of our school.

History

In History, students have made good progress with Weimar and Nazi Germany. They have been introduced to a new online platform called 'Educake', where they can complete online quizzes to test themselves on subjects and topics that they have learnt in lessons.

PE and Fixtures

The Senior Netball team have started their season brilliantly! The team beat King Edwards 5 ways 15-8 in their first match of the season. Well done to everyone who played.



After last academic years successful retention of the Birmingham Cup at Villa Park, we unfortunately lost 3 players/students, who moved onto new schools; two of which moved on as part of their development with their academy Football teams (Aston Villa and Leicester City). As a result of this, the team didn't start as well this season and were knocked out of the West Midlands Cup in Round 1, by a well organised Windsor School side. The team immediately responded to this and within a week, managed to beat Lode Heath convincingly 4-1 in Round 1 of the Birmingham Cup, before beating North Birmingham Academy 8-0 in Round 2.

The hope here is to retain the Birmingham Cup for an impressive three years in a row! The team have also begun the retention of the Kings Norton & South Birmingham Cup successfully, by beating Priory School 4-0, University of Birmingham 1-0 and St. Georges 3-0 this half term. Overall, despite having to react to the loss of key players, the team have responded really well and have played some beautiful Football at times; it has been a pleasure to watch. We often have parents/carers/teachers from the opposing teams praising Bishop Challoner for the way they play and for their attitude whilst playing. Well done to everyone who is and has been involved!

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.

School Fund and Match Fund

Please visit the school website for more information on School Fund contributions and Match Fund through your employer.

Assessments in Maths

After the half term break, students will be undertaking assessments in Maths. These assessments will serve as crucial checkpoints in each student's academic journey, providing an opportunity to showcase their understanding and progress. It is pleasing to see students preparing and revising effectively in preparation for these upcoming tests / assessments. I would like to encourage students to dedicate time to revision to reinforce knowledge and boost confidence, to enable them to perform to the best of their ability. Class teachers are always there to provide effective study strategies, support, and guidance to any student who may need it. Good luck in your upcoming assessments!



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.

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

Allergy Management

Bishop Challoner Catholic College aims to minimise the risk to students and staff with allergies, including those who are allergic to nuts.

It is vital that staff and parents/carers and students adhere to the Allergy Management policy, as we have both students and staff in school who suffer from allergies, including nut allergies.

Persons with allergies, including a nut allergy can suffer life-threatening consequences if they come into contact with allergens, including nuts, either through ingestion or through touch. Parents/carers, students and staff must not bring or send, any food into school either for packed lunches or for snacks/treats with nuts in (including sesame seeds). For example, the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Cakes or biscuits made with nuts
- Nutella
- Muesli bars

Care should be taken when exchanging gifts, in particular at Easter, Christmas and birthdays. We appreciate your support with this important matter.

First Aid Reminders

Please inform the school of any new medical conditions or investigations. This is extremely important in helping us to correctly support your child's medical needs in school. We also need current emergency contact details; if these have changed you must contact the school with new details for our records.

Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes

Students diagnosed with Anaphylaxis must carry an Auto injector pen at all times on their person and a spare provided to first aid, this is in keeping with MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) Government agency recommendation that students should carry two Auto injector pens.

In order for your child to participate safely in trips and off-site activities, we will send with them the spare provided to first aid, in addition to the one they carry on them, so they have two with them following our school's policy for trips and off-site activities.

Other medications must be handed in to first aid or the trip lead on the day.

Emergency Contacts

It is imperative we have your current correct contact information on our systems. Please inform the school if anything has changed, especially telephone numbers.

Teaching School

Do you have older children or relatives at University studying Maths, Computing, Physics, Chemistry or MFL related degrees?

In June/July Bishop Challoner are offering a 3 week paid (£900 total) internship based in local schools, open to students. We wanted to flag this opportunity to families in our community. Application is straightforward, and can be done on our website here: <https://www.bctsa.org/605/teaching-internship-programme>

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.

Please call 0121 444 4161 and select OPTION 1.

If you receive a text message or phone call from school 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. **Please do not email staff to report an absence, this is not the procedure and your messages may be missed.**

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 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 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.

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.

Skirts

Please be reminded that all school skirts should be pleated, as part of the phased approach. Students still wearing a straight skirt have had this half term to replace it. We expect all skirts to be pleated from Monday 6th November.

Well done to Year 10 students on making an excellent and mature start to KS4. Attendance and punctuality are paramount in the academic journey as they establish the foundation for success. Regular attendance and good punctuality ensure consistent learning and prepares students for academic achievements. To ensure that they are giving themselves the best possible chance of success, students need to attend school and arrive to all lessons on time.

I thank you for supporting our school's policies and congratulate Year 10 on a brilliant start!

YEAR 10 KEY DATES

School Open Christmas Toy Appeal Starts Monday 6th November	Book Fair Friday 1st December
India Day - Canteen Wednesday 8th November	Christmas Show Fundraising Events Tuesday 5th December
School ends at 1.15pm Thursday 9th November	Christmaths Day Thursday 7th December
Anti-Bullying Week Monday 13th November - Friday 17th November	10BOS Christmas Card Sale Monday 11th December
World Kindness Day Monday 13th November	Student Christmas Lunch Monday 18th December
Remembrance Events Thursday 16th November	School Closed for Year 7, 8 & 9 PCD Wednesday 20th December
Bishop's Got Talent Friday 17th November	Christmas Jumper Day Thursday 21st December
Road Safety Week Monday 20th November - Friday 24th November	School Closed - INSET Day Friday 22nd December
Bronze & Silver DofE Training Meeting Monday 27th November	School Open Monday 8th January

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage	w/c 23/10/23
Year 7 - 95.3%	Late Marks
Year 8 - 93.9%	Year 7 - 21
Year 9 - 92.4%	Year 8 - 21
Year 10 - 91.1%	Year 9 - 49
Year 11 - 92.0%	Year 10 - 37
Whole School - 93.0%	Year 11 - 27

Easy Fundraising

Our extra curricular and enrichment programme enriches the lives of young people in our school and gives them the opportunities to fulfil their full potential. Our programme runs 40 clubs per week ranging from book club to gymnastics.

Join easyfundraising and you can collect free donations for us every time you buy something online.

Toy Appeal Christmas 2023

Scan to donate

Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 1-15 years

COLLECTION DATES:

Monday 6th November - Thursday 14th December

Irish TV are visiting St Anne's Parish Centre, B12 oPA on Thursday 14th December



Attendance Raffle Winners

Well done to the following students that have had 100% attendance and no late marks. They each won a £10 high street voucher.

Friday 20th October

Year 7 - Lemuel D
Year 8 - Eirlys W
Year 9 - Emily P
Year 10 - Cory C
Year 11 - Ava G

Thursday 26th October

Year 7 - Ksenija N
Year 8 - Tymoteseusz K
Year 9 - Onyinye N
Year 10 - Abubakar Q
Year 11 - Nathan C

VACANCIES - [click here for details](#)

TWITTER

Official School Twitter
@BishopChalloner

Careers
@BCCareersSmart

Chaplaincy
@BC_Chaplaincy

Computing
@BishopChalComp

English Dept
@BC_EnglishDept

Green Group
@educating_eco

History
@bchistory_

Music Department
@BCPAMusic

PE Department
@BCPEDepartment

Teaching and Learning
@BcTeaching

Makes
@bc_makes

Wellbeing
@BCCWellbeing

Chess
@bcchess

Performing Arts
@BCPAPA4

Social Sciences
@BCSocSciDept

Biology
@BCCBio

Sixth Form
@BCCCSix

Art Dept
@BCChallonerArt

BFood Department
@BishopFood

Judo Club
@BCJudoClub

MFL
@BishopMfl

OLC
@BC_OLC

SGO
@BCSGO

Sports Centre
@BishopCentre

TSA
@bctsa_training

1-1 Maths
@BC11M1maths

Central Maths Hub
@centralmathshub

Central Midlands SLP
@CentralMidSLP

Geography
@BCGeogDept

Maths
@BCMathsDept

Friends of BC
@bc_friends

STEM
@STEMBC

Teach Computing Central Midlands
@BCCComputingHub

Tolkien Cluster Schools
@PrimaryTolkien

BISHOP CHALLONER



CATHOLIC COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATE

Platinum Jubilee Remembrance Event

on

Thursday 25th April 2024

4.30pm-6.30pm

School Visit

Range of students' activities

7pm

Blessing

MISSION STATEMENT

In our community Bishop Challoner Catholic College we give glory to God by developing our full potential and in our service to others. In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

SCHOOL PRAYER

Who are I God?
Who am I here?
What do you want me to do?
You made me special in the something wonderful in this life of mine.
Show me what I might be,
what I might do,
what I might help,
and I'll do it for you.
Amen.