

Head of Year 11



October Half Term Newsletter

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

As we move through this term, it is wonderful to see how focused Year 11 are. This is such an important and exciting stage in their school journey, and we couldn't be prouder of the energy, determination, and enthusiasm they've shown so far.

The transition into Year 11 is a big step, higher expectations, and more independent learning, they have handled it brilliantly. Their teachers have been so impressed by their positive attitude, teamwork, and growing sense of responsibility for their GCSE.

It's been fantastic to see so many of them embracing the challenges and making the most of every learning opportunity, all students attending study sessions and interventions.

Consistent attendance and punctuality are key to success in Year 11. Every lesson contributes to the bigger picture, and we truly appreciate your support in ensuring your child is ready and present for each school day. Together, we can keep their momentum strong right through to the end of the year.



Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College

SIXTH FORM PROMOTIONAL VIDEO



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APPLY NOW



SIXTH FORM/CAREERS

As our Year 11 students move closer to the end of their GCSE studies, it's time to start thinking about next steps and post-16 options. For many students, joining our Sixth Form is a fantastic opportunity to continue their education in a familiar and supportive environment, while developing independence and preparing for life beyond school. It was wonderful to see so many Year 11 students attend our Sixth form open evening. We have events coming up for year 11 to get to know and meet current sixth formers to ask questions and later in the term experience sixth form life.

We recently held some assemblies for Year 11 students which focused on exploring future career options and post-education paths. Students were given a brief insight about the various opportunities available to them after Year 11, including further education, apprenticeships, and entering the workforce. Throughout the school year, students will receive ongoing support to help them make informed decisions about their next steps. This will include one-on-one guidance, workshops, and resources tailored to their individual interests and goals, ensuring they feel confident and prepared for life beyond Year 11.

Choosing what to do after Year 11 can feel like a big step. We encourage parents to discuss different pathways with their child — considering their strengths, interests, and career goals. Our teachers, careers adviser, and Sixth Form team are all available to offer guidance and support throughout the process.

FORM TIME AND ASSEMBLY

Assemblies continue to take place each week in the Auditorium for year 11. Assemblies this half term have focused on: Setting the Scene for this Academic Year, Attendance and Punctuality, Black History Month, World Mental Health Day, Sixth Form Open Evening, and Careers. Students have engaged in prayer during assembly and individuals have stood up and delivered the 'Going Forth Message' to conclude assembly. 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 the new BC Basics Curriculum and have had opportunities to demonstrate how they can display the different virtues and characteristics within our BC Basics Curriculum.

Form is also a great time each morning and afternoon. It's a chance for tutors to check in with students, support them with organisation, and help set goals for the week ahead.

During Form Time, Year 11 students take part in a range of activities, including:

- Study skills and revision planning to prepare for exams.
- Wellbeing check-ins and discussions about managing stress and building resilience.
- Prayer and Liturgy offers students a quiet moment for reflection and gratitude and a positive mindset. It encourages empathy, mindfulness, and a sense of community.

Tutors play a key role in guiding and mentoring students through this important year, helping them to stay focused and confident as they work towards their final goals.

YEAR 11 PARENT CONSULTATION AFTERNOON

Parent/Carer Consultation Afternoon We would like to remind parents/carers about the upcoming Parents' Consultation Afternoon taking place on Wednesday 5th November. This event is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, strengths, and areas for improvement with their consultation tutor and teachers. Attending the consultation is vital in ensuring that both parents/carers and students are fully informed and supported as we approach the mock examinations. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

MOCK EXAMS

Next half term brings the mock exams, an important milestone that helps students build confidence and get used to exam conditions. While they can feel a little daunting, these assessments are a fantastic opportunity to practise and prepare. We will be offering revision techniques during form time weekly and guidance to help students organise their study time effectively — and, of course, we are here to support them every step of the way. More information will be sent out to parents/carers in the first week back after half term. Students will be given detailed information and guidance from their subject teachers as well as a timetable for the mock exams.

OPEN EVENING

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to you and your child for the wonderful support shown during our recent Open Evening.

Our Year 11 student helpers were outstanding representatives of the school. They welcomed visitors, guided families around the site, and spoke with genuine enthusiasm about their experiences, their maturity, confidence, and kindness made a lasting impression on our guests and helped to showcase everything that makes our school community so special. Events like this are an important part of school life, and the contribution of our Year 11 students plays a huge role in making the evening such a success. We are incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves and the positive example they set for younger students and prospective families.

Toy Appeal Competitions

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

FORM GROUP REWARDS TRIP

The form group that donates the most gifts to the appeal will be awarded with an afternoon rewards trip.

AMAZON VOUCHER PRIZE DRAW

Every student that brings in a gift will be entered into a prize draw to win an Amazon voucher.

1st prize: £50, 2nd & 3rd prize: £30, 4th & 5th prize: £15, 6th prize £10



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 a Designated Safeguarding Lead. Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.



SCHOOL YEAR

AUTUMN TERM 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

INSET DAYS

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage

Year 7 - 96.4%

Year 8 - 93.7%

Year 9 - 94.5%

Year 10 - 92.9%

Year 11 - 89.3%

Whole School - 93.5%

FACILITIES HIRE

We offer a wide range of classes for the local community and our facilities are also available for private hire. For session bookings and all other enquiries please feel free to contact one of the team.

Bishop Challoner Sports Centre is an exciting and innovative sports complex, comprising:

- A full sized Sports Hall
- Olympic sized Dojo specifically designed for Martial Arts
- Meeting Conference Room

<https://widget.bookteq.com/bishopchallonersportscentre/43f86d02-be0c-4249-ba4a-637f57cfbea0/book-online/b1be746a-fcf8-4de0-a44e-2497d3876911/activity>

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 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.

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 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.

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.

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 at risk of 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.

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 Designated Safeguarding Lead or member of the Wellbeing Team.

Any such information will always be treated confidentially.

Attendance Champions League

League Table

Week ending Friday 18th October

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

Results

Week ending Friday 18th October

11BER	93.75	VS	93.56	7BER
10TER	95.70	VS	95.26	11BOS
10SEB	100.00	VS	96.12	11CEC
10LUK	91.53	VS	91.35	11LUK
10CEC	93.56	VS	91.96	11SEB
10BOS	96.09	VS	92.74	11TER
10BER	93.15	VS	97.79	7BOS
9TER	92.80	VS	93.18	7CEC
9SEB	97.35	VS	94.12	7LUK
9LUK	92.65	VS	96.21	7SEB
9CEC	97.35	VS	94.70	7TER
9BOS	95.45	VS	93.56	8BER
9BER	95.56	VS	95.45	8BOS
8TER	97.35	VS	95.00	8CEC
8SEB	93.01	VS	93.21	8LUK

Fixtures

Week beginning Monday 21st October

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

September Manager of the Month: Miss Merkulova, 7BOS

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

Autumn Term 2	
Every Wednesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 3rd November	Year 7 Assessment window Men's Health Month
Wednesday 5th November	Early finish Year 11 Parent Consultation Afternoon
Monday 10th November - Friday 14th November	Anti-bullying Week
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 13th November	World Kindness Day
Monday 17th November - Friday 21st November	Year 7 and Year 8 Bikeability
Wednesday 19th November	Red Wednesday Mass
Thursday 20th November	Catholic Secondary Schools KS4 Maths Challenge
Friday 21st November	Last day of Jubilee Year of Hope
Monday 24th November - Wednesday 27th November	Year 7 Alton Castle Trip
Thursday 27th November	Catholic Secondary School Chess Event Year 7 Animal Experience
Friday 28th November	Bishop's Got Talent
Monday 1st December	Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday 3rd December	Sixth Form Rudolph Run
Thursday 4th December	Year 7 Christmas Disco Christmas Disco Shop
Monday 8th December	Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception Sixth Form London Art Trip
Wednesday 10th December - Friday 12th December	Year 12 Soli House Trip
Thursday 11th December	Christmaths Day
Monday 15th December	Year 7, 8 & 9 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 16th December	Year 7 & 8 Christmas Mass
Wednesday 17th December	Sixth Form Bishop's Got Talent Year 9, 10 & 11 Christmas Mass
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Cake Raffle Musical Dementia Trip Christmas Hamper Raffle - 9BER Sixth Form Christmas Service
Friday 19th December	Staff INSET - School Closed