



Head of Year 11

February Half Term Newsletter

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

I would like to start by commending our Year 11 students for their hard work and dedication during the mock examination period at the end of last term. Sitting a full set of exams is a challenging experience, and they approached it with maturity, resilience, and a real commitment to doing their best. These exams provided a valuable opportunity for students to experience the structure and expectations of their final GCSEs while identifying areas for further improvement. Well done to the Year 11 students for their efforts and the way they conducted themselves throughout this important period.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers who attended the recent Year 11 Consultation Day. Your support and engagement in these conversations are invaluable in helping students reflect on their progress and set clear goals for the months ahead. The discussions following the release of mock grades and written reports have been beneficial in identifying strengths and areas for improvement, ensuring that every student is fully prepared for the final stretch before their GCSE exams.

Assembly and Form Time

Our face-to-face assemblies continue to take place each week in the Auditorium. Assemblies this half term have focused on: New Beginnings, Attendance and Punctuality, World Religions Day, Safety and Crime, Safer Internet Week, and Random Acts of Kindness. Students have engaged in prayer during assembly and continued to listen respectfully. 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 focused on the Standards for Learning Curriculum, Blue Monday, Holocaust Memorial Day, Children's Mental Health Week, and National Apprenticeship Week.

Interviews

Year 11 students have been actively engaging in their career interviews and Sixth Form interviews, demonstrating real thoughtfulness about their future pathways. It has been fantastic to see them exploring their options, asking insightful questions, and considering their next steps with enthusiasm. These discussions are a crucial part of ensuring that every student has a clear and ambitious plan for life beyond Year 11, whether that be continuing their studies in our Sixth Form, pursuing college courses, or entering apprenticeships. We encourage students to keep reflecting on their aspirations and make the most of the guidance available to them as they make these important decisions.

Pathway to Prom

As we move through this important year, we also look forward to celebrating all that Year 11 has achieved during their five years at Bishop Challoner. The excitement is already building for the Year 11 Prom, which will be a fantastic opportunity for students to mark the end of this chapter in style. It will be a well-deserved celebration of their hard work, friendships, and the many memories they have made throughout their time at the school. More details about the event, including date and venue, will be shared soon, and we hope to see all students there to enjoy what promises to be a memorable and special evening.

To encourage commitment and engagement in this final stretch, we are introducing the 'Pathway to Prom' initiative, where students can earn points towards their attendance at this special event. Students will accumulate points each week for positive behaviours such as 100% attendance (10 points), attending all study and intervention sessions (10 points), being punctual to school and lessons (10 points), receiving no negative logs (10 points), not being late to lessons (10 points), earning over 100 achievement points in a week (10 points), and maintaining correct uniform standards (10 points). The target to secure a place at prom is 400 points, and we encourage all students to take full advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate their commitment, responsibility, and readiness for the next stage of their journey.

Quick Effective Revision Tool

This revision tool is called the '5 4 5' document and can be used for any subject. It takes 25 minutes to complete either the blue or the purple section(s) and ensures that revision is 'more effective' and not overwhelming. All students need is a blank piece of paper, a topic from a subject, and a timer. The tool should be completed in mind map form. We would recommend completing the blue section first for a topic, and then when revisiting the topic nearer to the exam, completing the more difficult purple section.

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.

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.



Study Sessions and Interventions

Alongside their lessons, many students have been making the most of additional study sessions and intervention opportunities to further consolidate their learning. We have been pleased to see their dedication to attending these sessions, using the extra time to revisit challenging topics and strengthen their understanding. To provide even more support, some of our class teachers are running extra intervention sessions to help students achieve the best possible grades in their upcoming exams and support them with their coursework. We strongly encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities, as they can make a significant difference in boosting confidence and performance. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging your child to fully engage with these sessions as we move closer to the final exams.

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.

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%

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

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.

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.

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.

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>

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 lunch-time activities?



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!

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