



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 11 May Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are safe and well in these unprecedented times. As I write this newsletter, we should have been in the second full week of GCSE examinations, seeing students come out of exams talking about what questions came up and what questions did not. As I said previously, I know that there is an overriding feeling of sadness from students that they would not be taking their final examinations this summer. I know how hard students have been working and understand wanting the opportunity to show what they have learnt in these examinations. We will not have these moments of talking about exams taken this year but that should not take away from how proud students should be of all the preparation they had put in to taking their exams. As Head of Year, I have been extremely proud of the work all students have put into both their schoolwork and in representing the year group in extracurricular activities. I am excited to see many of you here next year, continuing your learning journeys at Bishop Challoner and supporting you all with this.

Safeguarding and Well-being

Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.

Mother Teresa

We hope this newsletter finds you well and even though some of the lockdown restrictions have been eased we hope that you are all managing to remain safe. The lovely weather, hopefully will have enabled some of you to enjoy going outside to relax, to exercise and get some fresh air.

It is also important to remember to spend time talking to each other and time should be made where all electronic devices are left to one side for an hour or so to allow conversations to take place.

However, we do recognise that this period of time continues to be challenging for many of us. We continue to update the resources on our web page to help support parents/carers and young people throughout this time. These resources can be found on our school website:

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/catholic-college/about/safeguarding/covid-19-safeguarding-and-child-protection-addendum>.

On the web page you will also find information about staff who are in a position to offer further support and guidance. Please stay safe and allow us all to support each other during this time.

Half Term

School is open during the half term holiday for key worker and vulnerable students as defined by the DfE. If you think that your son/daughter needs to attend school please email keyworker@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk with the details of your situation and detail the days that you would need your son/daughter to attend.

Summer Term 2 Update

You will have received a letter from Dr Coughlan on Monday 18th May detailing the schools position with regards to opening for students from Year 10 and Year 12 from June onwards. Plans are well underway behind the scenes and as soon as they are finalised they will be communicated.

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Free School Meal Vouchers

Students eligible for free school meals will still receive a voucher from Edenred during half term. The government said they would not fund the half term holiday but as a school we will be covering the cost for this week. If you have any issues with FSM vouchers please email Mrs Reynolds, r.reynolds@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.

Grades

I wanted to reassure students that the grading process takes all work into consideration. It is not just based on one mock exam as I know some of you have been concerned about this.

To quote OFQUAL "It is important that schools and colleges take into account the full range of available evidence when they grade students - including non-exam assessment; the results of any homework assignments or mock exams; and any other records of student performance over the course of study".

Results day

Results day this year will be August 20th as previously planned and we hope that students will be able to collect these in person. As soon as we have more information, we will let all students and parents/carers know.

Preparation for A Level/Sixth form work

On the school website there are an excellent set of resources helping to prepare students for their A-levels. I have spoken to a number of students and parents recommending that they use this time to complete this work. These resources provided by many different subjects, provide a great insight into what students will be studying next year and help to bridge the gap in knowledge between year 11 and year 12. Where students are unsure over what they want to study next year, looking at the resources may help them to decide what they find most interesting.

Sixth Form

I look forward to seeing many of you in September continuing your journey with us into the Bishop Challoner sixth form. Those of you have been accepted into the Sixth Form should now have received your acceptance letter. Next year promises to be an exciting time for the sixth form with the new designated areas of the school for sixth form only.



A new dedicated silent study room for sixth form students connected to the common room. Bank of laptops available to borrow for study.



Enrolment

The Sixth Form team here at Challoner are really looking forward to meeting you again when you enrol in August. We're not quite sure how enrolment will look at present but please rest assured as soon as we do you will be the first to know. We'll be in touch again soon, in the meantime please continue to look at the Preparation materials on our website.

Virtual Work Experience

It has been great to see so many of you apply for the young professionals virtual work experience programme from 22nd-26th June. This will be an excellent opportunity to develop skills.

Year 11 Careers Booklet

All of Year 11 have been emailed an electronic booklet called STEP INTO THE FUTURE. This booklet allows students to work through activities that will teach them to match their skills, interests and values to requirements and opportunities in learning and work. It will also help them to be able to draw conclusions from researching and evaluating relevant labour market information (LMI) to support their future plans.

Each week they will be sent a few activities from this booklet that we suggest they work through. These activities should not be too time consuming and they are not compulsory. The workbooks are in a pdf format that students can type into and save their progress.

Chaplaincy

Within Chaplaincy, we are making resources available on the website and on the Chaplaincy Twitter Page (@bc_chaplaincy) to highlight the month of Mary and truly delve in to her significance in our faith. These resources include evening prayer, scripture reflections and a blog post. We also have our daily prayer and reflection sheet on our website which we invite you to browse at and take a moment for reflection and prayer.

Earlier this half term, we launched a Pause for Prayer Blog. The blog posts delved into different topics such as the rosary, Mary's significance and keeping faith alive which has seen guest writers from diocesan priests Monsignor Tim Menezes and Fr Sean who spoke openly about their faith and taking inspirations from the Popes. We invite you to take time to read through the blog posts and thank both Monsignor Tim and Fr Sean for writing these inspiring testaments to faith.

The week of 16th-24th May 2020 has been designated Laudato Si' Week. We are asked to pray about caring for Our Common Home. The weeklong celebration is to honour Pope Francis' writing on ecology and climate change, and to encourage us to build a better world together. We will be marking this with resources and parts of his writings on our website, the sway page (link available on the website) and twitter.

Coronavirus

Stay Alert

- Stay at home as much as possible
- Work from home if you can
- Limit contact with other people
- Keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- Wash your hands regularly
- Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Further updates regarding Corona Virus COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>.

Stay Safe,

Mr Clarke

Head of Year 11

Miss Williams

Assistant Head of Year 11



Official School Twitter:	@BishopChalloner	Library:	@Mrs F Library
Biology:	@BCCbio	Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy	Maths:	@BCMathsDept
Computing Hub:	@BCCComputingHub	PE:	@BCPEDepartment
Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
Design:	@BCCDesign	School Games:	@BCSGO
English:	@BC_EnglishDept	Science Learning Partnership:	@CentralMidSLP
FOBC:	@bc_friends	Science:	@BCSciDept
French:	@BC_MFL	Sixth Form:	@BCCSix
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Social Science:	@BCSocSciDept
History:	@history_GCSEBC	Teaching School:	@teaching_school