

Head of Year 11



October Half Term Newsletter

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

As we approach the end of this first half term, I want to take a moment to congratulate the majority of students on what has been a fantastic start to Year 11. Students have embraced the challenges of this pivotal year with determination, maturity, and a positive attitude that we have been incredibly proud to see. I have been encouraged by students' commitment to study sessions, focus in lessons, and attendance to school as we set the tone for what is hopefully a successful and fulfilling final year for all. I would ask students to keep up the hard work and continue to strive to achieve their full potential.

Open Evening

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all the Year 11 students who went above and beyond in supporting the school during our recent Year 7 Open Evening. Their excellent service in showing prospective Year 7 students and their parents/carers around the school was nothing short of outstanding. Students represented the school with pride, professionalism, and enthusiasm, which made a lasting impression on everyone they met. Their efforts will have not only helped these families feel welcome and informed, but also demonstrated the best of what our school community is all about.

Headteacher - As ever, our students were the stars of the night. Our Year 11 students in particular, were remarkable, showing off their school with pride and really selling what Bishop Challoner is all about. Special mention to Bea in Year 11, who gave two brilliant talks to prospective new Year 7 student and their parents/carers.

Careers

We recently held an assembly 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.

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: Setting the Scene for this Academic Year, Attendance and Punctuality, The Year of Hope, 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.

Mock Examinations - Monday 2nd December - Wednesday 18th December

As the upcoming mock examinations approach, we want to ensure that all students are fully prepared to make the most of this important opportunity. The mock examinations serve as an important barometer and allows subject teachers to check progress and plan any further interventions and support needed. Over the coming weeks, we recommend that students establish a clear revision timetable, balancing their 'at home' study time across all subjects, to ensure thorough coverage of the materials for all subjects. Please encourage your child to revise in manageable sessions, taking regular breaks, and using a variety of effective revision techniques such as completing past papers, creating flashcards and mind maps as opposed to ineffective strategies like simply reading from their exercise books.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Year 11 students were recently informed during an assembly about the upcoming Sixth Form Open Evening. The event is an opportunity for students to explore the various courses and programs available to them at Bishop Challoner Catholic College after Year 11. Attending the open evening will allow students to discuss their options with teachers, ask questions about specific subjects, and gain a clearer understanding of what Sixth Form can offer.

Letter from Mr Mullins (Head of Sixth Form)-

Dear students, parents/carers,

We would like to invite all Year 11 students and their parents / carers to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 13th November, 6pm-8:30pm.

During the evening there will be the opportunity to find out more about our highly successful Sixth Form and how students go about applying.

The evening will include:

The opportunity to speak to the teachers of the 25 course options we are excited to have on offer next year.

- A talk by the Head of Sixth Form about life at Bishop Challoner at Key Stage 5.
- The opportunity to receive a Sixth Form prospectus.
- Time to speak to our Special Educational Needs department about how students are supported in the Sixth Form.
- The opportunity to speak to current students of the Sixth Form and ask any questions you may have.
- Information about the excellent extra-curricular provision on offer at our Sixth Form.

The event is a ticketed event so please use the below link or QR code to sign up for the evening.

We also welcome students from other schools, so if students have friends or family in other schools that would like to come along, please send them the link to sign up.

I look forward to welcoming you all to our open evening event.

Yours Sincerely

Mr L Mullins

Head of Sixth Form

l.mullins@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 13th November
6pm - 8pm



Click here to
book your tickets



Study Sessions and Interventions

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Year 11 teachers for running after-school study sessions to support students in their exam preparation. Your dedication and extra time are making a real difference, and it's fantastic to see students engaging so positively with these sessions. A number of Year 11 students have been engaging in intervention sessions after their study. These students have been working extremely hard revising for assessments, completing homework, and completing coursework. Intervention sessions are available to students who would like to work independently, in the school environment.

Student Health & Wellbeing

As we move further into this important final year of study, it is crucial for students to remember that their health and well-being is just as important as their academic success. Balancing schoolwork with self-care is key to students maintaining focus and energy throughout the academic year. I would encourage all students to make sure that they are getting enough sleep, staying active, and eating well to keep both their body and mind in peak condition, particularly as we approach mock season. Students should never hesitate to reach out if they are feeling overwhelmed - we have a dedicated team at school that are in place to help with such situations and would be more than willing to help and support.

In students' final year of study, it is recommended that students create a timetable with parent/carer support that helps to balance appropriate amounts of schoolwork and revision, with time to focus on health & wellbeing as well.

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.

Parent/Carer Consultation Afternoon

We would like to remind parents/carers about the upcoming Parents' Consultation Afternoon taking place on Thursday 7th October. 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.

Football

Girls - After a BYE in Round 1, the Year 11 Girls Football team made an excellent start to the ESFA National Cup, managing to come from 5-1 down, to win 6-5 (AET) in Round 2 against Walsall Academy. The team now seek to use this momentum positively, when taking on North Bromsgrove High School in Round 3 in October. In addition to this, the Year 11 Girls Football team will be competing in the West Midlands Cup.



Boys - The Year 11 Boys Football team have been entered into 4 competitions this year. Students will be/have been competing in the West Midlands Cup, the all-Birmingham Cup, the Kings Norton & South Birmingham League and the ESFA National Cup. Unfortunately, the team have already been knocked out of the ESFA National Cup after losing 3-2 to an excellent South Bromsgrove High School team in Round 1 of the competition. Despite this, the team did well and hope to be able to put that loss behind them - seeking to win the all-Birmingham Cup and Kings Norton & South Birmingham League for the fourth time running - and hope to find success in the West Midlands Cup, which has eluded them during their time at Bishop Challoner thus far.

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.

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.

Gate Closure

From Monday 4th November the student entrance gate will be locked at 8.35am. If students arrive between 8.35am-8.40am they must enter via reception.

Students should be in their form room by 8.40am when the school day starts. We would encourage students to be in school by 8.30am where possible and to ensure they are on time.

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.

First Aid Reminders

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, it is important children stay hydrated.

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

Mobile Phones

Students should not be contacting parents/carers when they feel unwell and requesting to be collected from school. In the event that a student is unwell they MUST go to the First Aider who will deal with them. In the event that 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.

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 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 Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Wednesday 6th November	Sixth Form Tea Party
Sunday 10th November	Remembrance Sunday
Monday 11th November	Toy Appeal Launch Remembrance one minute silence
Wednesday 13th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Tuesday 19th November	Bishop's Got Talent Year 10 Mass
Wednesday 20th November	Sixth Form Tea Party Red Wednesday
Friday 22nd November	Cake Sale
Sunday 24th November	Youth Mass at St Dunstan's
Wednesday 27th November	Flu vaccinations
Monday 2nd December - Friday 6th December	Book Fair
Tuesday 3rd December	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 4th December - Thursday 5th December	Christmas Event
Thursday 5th December	Canteen - Mexican Day
Tuesday 10th December	Cooking Club Parent/Carer Celebration
Friday 13th December	Toy Appeal Ends Cake Sale
Tuesday 17th December	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 18th December	Sixth Form Tea Party
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Hamper Raffle Christmas Mass
Friday 20th December	School closed - Staff INSET
Monday 6th January	School open

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%

Toy Appeal

Christmas 2024



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

COLLECTION DATES:

Monday 4th November - Thursday 12th December

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Birmingham Irish Association



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

Birmingham Irish Association



Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Reception and Nursery Class applications for Sept 2025

Please come and visit our wonderful school and staff to see what being a member of the Our Lady of Lourdes school family will be like for your child.



Open Mornings (booking not required)
Friday 18th Oct 9:30 – 11:00 am
Saturday 9th Nov 9:00 – 10:00 am

Additional date to be confirmed if required

@ourladyoflourd1



01214442684



www.ourladyoflourdsprimary.com



enquiries@ourlady.bham.sch.uk



Christ at the centre of our school where we live, love and learn together

