



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## Year 7 October Half Term Newsletter 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 7 have made a really fantastic start to the new academic year at secondary school. I have been very impressed with the way in which many Year 7 students have immersed themselves fully into the wider curriculum by getting involved in one or more of the many extra-curricular activities on offer here before and after school.

### Open Evening

Despite the late night, a record number of Year 7 students set aside their evening on 18th September to help different departments promote Bishop Challoner to potential Year 7 students at Open Evening. Visitors and staff were full of praise for Year 7s conduct during this important event for the school. We are very proud and appreciative of the lengths our students go to in support of their school.

### Extra-curricular

Many students have been taking part in the extra-curricular clubs on offer, which has been fantastic. Netball and badminton have both become increasingly popular with an outstanding 50 students in attendance, this is outstanding. As well as this, The Call of Duty Dodgeball club has had a phenomenal turn out. Many other clubs, such as Languages Club, Cookery Club and most recently, Science Club have attracted many Year 7s. After Half Term, a number of new Clubs will be starting, such as Coding Club with Mr Khitab. Please check the website for an updated list after Half Term.

### The Year of Community

Students at Bishop Challoner have been exploring ways in which they can make a commitment to our school and local community. For many Year 7 students, settling in well and becoming involved in the Extra-Curricular Life at Bishop Challoner has been their first commitment to the Bishop Challoner Community. In the wider community, the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal and St Chad's Sanctuary have received support from Year 7 students.

### Rewards Scheme

The Commit to Character rewards scheme will be up and running after half term. Signatures are to be awarded for a number of positive character attributes. This allows students to gain points for acts linked to the key attributes of Compassion, Respect, Focus, and Resilience, being Active and Cultured. Please ask your child to show you their Commit to Character Reward Booklet and ask them what they have done to achieve their signatures!

Assemblies this half term have covered a range of topics from transition into secondary school, information about up and coming trips, Commit to Character Reward Scheme, social media safety, wellbeing in school, and Who was Bishop Challoner?

### Catholic Life

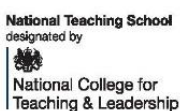
Our Mission Statement has been put into practice very obviously this half term, when Year 7s "Brightened Up" for Cafod to raise money for those in need. These charitable efforts continued with the collections for St Chads Sanctuary earlier this term and is now being put into practice with the Christmas Shoebox Collections.

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PLATINUM SCIENCE MARK WINNER 2017-2019

Over the last few years students and families Bishop Challoner Catholic community have had great success and shown tremendous generosity in supporting the Shoebox Appeal. Every year we collect hundreds of shoe boxes wrapped and filled with presents and send them, with the help of the charity Trussell Trust, to children who have very little. This year we are asking for your support again. Trussell Trust sends a message of hope to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes. Many shoe boxes were sent from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, homeless shelters and poor communities. With your help we want to reach even more children in the poorest parts of the world in 2019. Year 7 are also looking to lead the way with a reverse advent calendar in December, when we will be collecting different items for a local food bank. I would like to thank you all for your continued support for each of these very worthy causes.

### **Year 7 Mass**

On Wednesday 23rd October, Year 7 enjoyed their first whole school Year Mass together. It was a lovely way to round off the half term together.

### **Netbooks**

You will be receiving notification about the Netbook evening, which will allow you to find out about the Netbook scheme and how Netbooks are used at Bishop Challoner as a valuable learning resource to complement the exercise books and textbooks used in school. The evening has been designed to answer all queries about netbooks and I know that the Year 7 students are eager to start using these in class and at home.

### **Schoolcomms**

As you are aware we operate a cashless catering system and Schoolcomms is the only system to make payments for your child's school dinners and school trips. There is only one money loading machine in operation in the school so it is imperative that Schoolcomms is used. For further information please visit our website [www.bishopchalloner.org.uk](http://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk)

### **Uniform and Appearance**

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 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 and boots are forbidden.

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black. There are a number of styles, particularly for girls, currently in fashion with wood style soles. These are not suitable for school. School shoes should also be leather and not patent.

In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. 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 gold stud earrings which may be worn by girls.

### **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.

I know that you will, as always, support us in maintaining the smart appearance of your children and high standards of discipline, so that our focus in school can be on educational achievement.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

- Year 7- 97%
- Whole school- 96%

This is very pleasing and is in line with the school attendance target. We hope that this level of attendance can continue throughout the remainder of the year.

If your child is absent from school, a notification phone call needs to be made to the school on the first day of the absence and every further day that they are absent too. Upon return to school, a written note needs to be handed in to their form tutor, stating the reason for absence. Please encourage your child to be at school by 8.30am to instil the important life skill of good punctuality.

I hope that all students and their families can enjoy a relaxing half term before their return on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McGowan  
Head of Year 7

Mrs Higginson  
Assistant Head of Year 7

**Key Dates**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November-**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November-**  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November-  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November-  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November-  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November-  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November-  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December-

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December-  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December-

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December-**  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December-  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December-  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December-

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December-**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January-**

**School Open**  
**Early Closure, 1.10pm- Year 11 Parent Consultation Day**  
Sixth Form Open Evening  
Canteen- Brazillian Day  
Shoebboxes Collected  
Year 7 Rewards  
Year 7 A Christmas Carol, Alexander Theatre Trip  
St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins  
Christmas Show  
KS3 Christmaths Day  
Winter Soiree  
KS3 STEM Fair  
**School Closed- Year 7/9/10 Parent Consultation Day**  
St Chad's Sanctuary Collection Ends  
Canteen- Student Christmas Lunch  
Whole School Mass  
Non uniform Christmas Jumper day  
**School Closed- Inset Day**  
**School Open**



Remember – follow our many twitter feeds for updates on what is happening at BC!

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