

Head of Year 7

February Half Term Newsletter

Miss Beard, Head of Year
Mr Fell, Assistant Head of Year

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter for Year 7. We have had quite the eventful term showing the growth and progress of our students. I was immensely impressed by the Year 7 school council and how they raised Year 7 improvements, concerns and desires for charitable initiatives which continue this week with 7BOS running a cake sale to aid our whole school charity. Already, 7BER held a lovely sweet sale in December and 7LUK held their initiative in that first term! Not to mention 7SEB and their excellent to aid charity. It is lovely to see that every form in Year 7 is living out our mission statement of giving glory to God by giving service to others.



Charity

Not only have many in Year 7 directly contributed their time to charitable events, many more have partaken in fundraisers such as the non school uniform days, sweet sales, hamper raffles- which were indeed won by Year 7- and many more events. Well done!

Moving forward with charity, I am particularly excited for Year 7 to help raise funds for our Sixth Form team who are going to support disabled children in Lourdes. Year 7 are directly helping with this endeavour with many of our Irish dancers using their talents and volunteering their time to support the Ceili. We welcome our community to this event in our collective efforts of support.

Clubs

Furthermore, clubs abound in the school giving pupils opportunities to improve their skills, meet new friends and continue their holistic and academic journeys in our school. It is wonderful to see so many pupils in the sports hall and BC4 before school participating in sports clubs and breakfast clubs. For those who aren't inclined to sporting clubs, there are myriad other for pupils to partake. The relatively new Monday Morning Movie Madness club has now started its third film and we welcome all of Year 7 for films and bagels on Monday mornings in E8. After school, even more clubs are on offer including different things including STEM club, chess club and many others. Year 7 attendance here is great but it would be lovely for every single member of our school to partake in at least one club per week. Please do encourage your children here.

Well Done

Congratulations to all those who consistently and humbly do the right things, remind all that there are opportunities to grow and succeed and wish everyone a happy, learned Easter Term.

Achievements

Our talents come in various forms from our wonderful dancers to the phenomenal work produced in Geography for the eco-systems and landmarks in a box! A massive well done to the winners there. With over 130 students handing in their entries to be judged, it was clear the effort, time and dedication that had been given to these projects which I hope the couple of photos start to demonstrate. I know our judges found it most difficult to pick the winners here with such amazing work given in. This event is just one demonstration of the mastery Year 7 attain and achieve when they give their time, talents and effort to a task.



Values

Within the classrooms, we can see pupils following our Jesuit values to create success in lessons by demonstrating out Commit to Character: they are polite, discerning, articulate and engaged in their learning in all subjects. Here we strive to improve and embed these essential life skills in all that we do.

School Fund and Match Fund

Please visit the school website for more information on School Fund contributions and Match Fund through your employer.

Trips

Trips and residentials are also a highlight of Year 7 at Bishop Challoner. On Sunday 26th November, the Year 7 and 8 students who were attending Alton Castle residential attended St. Dunstan's Church on National Youth Sunday to celebrate a youth mass in preparation for their upcoming residential.

The following day, 43 students set off for Alton castle from Monday to Wednesday, where they experienced fun, faith and friendship in action: students took part in biking, trekking, crate staking, a low ropes course. Students also had a disco with lots of dancing and a conga line. We also had some budding actors in the group as we explored our retreat theme of 'The Nativity'. Amongst the times of fun, there was also ample opportunities to be more reflective with morning and night prayers, Grace before and after meals and the Holy Mass celebrated together as a community.

Throughout our retreat, we were looking for students to display the commit to character virtues we follow in school. Well done to Elsie, Mary, and Luke who were most recognised in the group; they displayed virtues of resilience, compassion and faith filled. The students had a brilliant time at Alton Castle and we're already looking forward to our next visit for Year 7 and 8 in November 2024.

For being a short term, the Easter one provides many opportunities to enrich students' lives with trips as well. The trip to Symphony Hall on Wednesday 7th February is just one example of the experiences we wish our pupils to partake in; they have had a wonderful time.



Leave in Term Time

Term time holidays cause significant concern. The direct correlation between attendance and attainment is undeniable. Absence from school interrupts teaching and learning and compromises progress. As per the letter regarding legal action sent at the start of the academic year, Birmingham local authority seeks to support Birmingham schools and academies in reducing the amount of education lost to student leave of absence in term time. Bishop Challoner Catholic College and Birmingham City Council strongly discourages student leave of absence during term time and parents/carers could be subject to court action and hefty fines. Recent leave in term time absences have resulted in one fine of £428 and 3 fines of 433. Please support the school and your child and ensure all leave is taken in the school holidays.

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

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.

Students are expected to be in full uniform travelling to and from school.

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

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.

Please call 0121 444 4161 and select OPTION 1.

If you receive a text message or phone call from school 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. **Please do not email staff to report an absence, this is not the procedure and your messages may be missed.**

First Aid Reminders

Please inform the school of any new medical conditions or investigations. This is extremely important in helping us to correctly support your child's medical needs in school. We also need current emergency contact details; if these have changed you must contact the school with new details for our records.

Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes

Students diagnosed with Anaphylaxis must carry an Auto injector pen at all times on their person and a spare provided to first aid, this is in keeping with MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) Government agency recommendation that students should carry two Auto injector pens.

In order for your child to participate safely in trips and off-site activities, we will send with them the spare provided to first aid, in addition to the one they carry on them, so they have two with them following our school's policy for trips and off-site activities.

Other medications must be handed in to first aid or the trip lead on the day.

Emergency Contacts

It is imperative we have your current correct contact information on our systems. Please inform the school if anything has changed, especially telephone numbers.

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.

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.

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.

Advertise with us... Newsletter sponsorship

BC14 and newsletter space available.

Contact g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Tel:- 0121 4444161.

YEAR 7 KEY DATES

School Open Monday 19th February	St Patrick's Day - Canteen Year 7/8 Sponsored Football Monday 18th March
Teenage Cancer Trust - Canteen Year 7 Rosary Wednesday 21st February	School closes at 1.10pm Tuesday 19th March
Year 7 Rosary Wednesday 28th February	Sixth Form Easter Fair Year 7 Rosary Wednesday 20th March
National Careers Week w/b Monday 4th March	Easter Hamper Raffle Spring Cake Sale 7TER Thursday 21st March
Year 7 Rosary Wednesday 6th March	Easter Holiday Monday 25th March - Monday 8th April
World Book Day Thursday 7th March	
Mothers Day Hamper Raffle 7CEC Friday 8th March	
Malympics Parents' Sleep Workshop Year 7 Rosary Wednesday 13th March	
BGT Mothers Day Hamper Raffle World Sleep Day Friday 15th March	

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage

Year 7 - 94%

Year 8 - 94%

Year 9 - 91%

Year 10 - 89%

Year 11 - 92%

Whole School - 92%

w/c 05/02/24

Late Marks

Year 7 - 19

Year 8 - 13

Year 9 - 56

Year 10 - 38

Year 11 - 29

Term Dates

Spring Term

Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to
Friday 16 February 2024

Term Ends: Friday 22nd March 2024

Summer Term 2024

INSET School Closed:

Monday 8th April 2024

Term Starts: Tuesday 9th April 2024

Half Term: Monday 27 May 2024 to

Friday 31 May 2024

Term Ends: Friday 19th July 2024

INSET School Closed:

Monday 22nd July 2024

[VACANCIES - click here for details](#)

TWITTER

Official School Twitter @BishopChalloner	@bc_makes Wellbeing @BCCWellbeing	Sports Centre @BishopCentre
Careers @BCCareersSmart	Chess @bccchess	TSA @bctsa_training
Chaplaincy @BC_Chaplaincy	Performing Arts @BCPAPA4	1-1 Maths @BC11M1maths
Computing @BishopChalComp	Social Sciences @BCSocSciDept	Central Maths Hub @centralmathshub
English Dept @BC_EnglishDept	Biology @BCCbio	Central Midlands SLP @CentralMidSLP
Green Group @educating_eco	Sixth Form @BCCCSix	Geography @BCGeogDept
History @bchistory_	Art Dept @BCCChallonerArt	Maths @BCMthsDept
Music Department @BCPAMusic	BFood Department @BishopFood	Friends of BC @bc_friends
PE Department @BCPEDepartment	Judo Club @BCJudoClub	STEM @STEMBC
Teaching and Learning @BcTeaching	MFL @BishopMfl	Teach Computing Central Midlands @BCComputingHub
Makes	OLC @BC_OLC	Tolkien Cluster Schools @PrimaryTolkien
	SGO @BCSGO	

BISHOP CHALLONER



CATHOLIC COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATE

MISSION STATEMENT

In our community of
Bishop Challoner Catholic College
we give glory to God by
developing our full potential
and in our service to others.
In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and the Holy Spirit.

Platinum Jubilee Remembrance Event

on

Thursday 25th April 2024

4.30pm-6.30pm

School Visit

Range of students' activities

7pm

Blessing

SCHOOL PRAYER

Who am I God?
Why am I here?
What do you want me to do?
You made me special to do something
wonderful in this life of mine.
Show me what I might be,
what I might do,
who I might help
and I'll do it for you.
Amen.