

Head of Year 7



October Half Term Newsletter

Miss R Watson, Head of Year

Mr Azam, Assistant Head of Year

Wishing all parents/carers a very warm welcome to the first newsletter for our new Year 7 community. Over the last 8 weeks, the new members of our Bishop Challoner community have made a wonderful first impression, as they settle into the challenges that come with secondary school! The pastoral team have had the joy of hearing countless positive comments from staff members about the first impressions Year 7 are making - the kindness, politeness and enthusiasm being shown daily - it really is a pleasure to hear this from our colleagues, and we are incredibly proud. Every day we read positive logs on Class Charts about how our Year 7 students are continuing to live out our 'FAITHFUL' virtues across our school community and we look forward to seeing this continue into the next half term. Well done on making such a brilliant start to your time at Bishop Challoner, Year 7.

LESSONS

Year 7 have settled into the challenge of new timetables, new lessons, finding their way around a new school site and getting to know their new teachers! In lessons, students are having the opportunity to learn new subjects and new material in a vast array of ways. In History, Year 7 have been learning what qualities are required for a medieval monarch to be successful. They have been playing 'snakes and ladders' to identify what qualities advance the monarch to success, and which qualities would hinder them. In French, Year 7 have been learning how to introduce themselves, and have been putting this into practice!



YEAR 7 ASSESSMENTS

Please follow the links below for subject information and guidance on the upcoming Year 7 assessments.

Year 7 - <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/examinations-information/year-7-assessments>



BE FAITHFUL

In assemblies, form time and lessons this half term, Year 7 have been learning how to live out the key Jesuit values at the centre of our school community - being Faith-Filled, Attentive, Intentional, Truthful, Helpful, Forgiving, Understanding, and Learned. These virtues form the FAITHFUL virtues we all need for successful learning, community and life.

One of my weekly highlights is to announce in assembly the students who have received the most praise logs for living out these virtues - our 'Challoner Champions'. I also ask staff to nominate students who they wish to recognise for their kindness, generosity, helpfulness or outstanding participation in an extra-curricular activity. All of those recognised are applauded by staff and students in assembly and receive a praise postcard to take home.

This half term alone, we handed out 70 praise postcards across Year 7 and we hope to give out many more throughout the year!

SIXTH FORM PROMOTIONAL VIDEO



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW ONLINE](#)



APPLY NOW



**Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College**

CHARITY AND CHAPLAINCY

Collective worship, chaplaincy work and charity underpin the fabric of the Bishop Challoner community. Year 7 have fully embraced this and are incredibly reverential during form time worship, assembly worship, lesson prayers. They were also an absolute testimony to the school during the Year 7 at the beginning of September, where they were welcomed into our faithful community – we thank family members who attended this mass and welcome this in the future. Thank you especially to our students who volunteered to sing in the choir, participate in the offertory and to read.

We have also had students play an active role in our Chaplaincy, including attending the 'Commissioning Mass', with chaplaincy teams across our Archdiocese! From Year 7, this included Olivia A, Eliza C, Davina D, Cecelia T.



Students also hosted the CAFOD Family Fast Day – a fundraiser event. I was incredibly moved to hear that the following Year 7 students – although not originally part of planning the day – went to the event, asked if they could wear a t-shirt and began to help out! This sums up living out our school mission of 'giving glory to God' in 'our service to others'. Well done to Moira C, Celine C, Lily C and Cecilia T. The total raised was £185.46, which beat last year!

Throughout the year, each Year 7 form will be involved in a fundraiser event for our school charity – Father Hudson's Caritas. 7SEB kicked us off this year by selling

raffle tickets for a Halloween Hamper, put together by Mrs Flynn-Vilic! I have had the pleasure of helping to sell these tickets at lunchtimes and the hamper has proven to be popular, with over 30 tickets being sold in one lunchtime! Well done 7SEB!

Well done too, to Year 7 for their participation in World Mental Health Day fundraising activities. Students bought yellow ribbons and wrote kind messages – please see the example below by Skyrah C.



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

YEAR 7 CHARITY CHRISTMAS DISCO

On Thursday 4th December, 6-8pm, there will be a Christmas-themed school disco held in the Sixth Form Centre. This is open to all students in Year 7. The disco will be a great way to celebrate the end of Year 7's first term at Bishop Challoner and to help raise money for our school charity: Father Hudson's Caritas. Tickets cost £5 each which should be paid via Schoolcomms. They will be available to purchase from Tuesday 4th November.

We will also be selling refreshments at the disco; all money raised will contribute to fundraising in support of Father Hudson's Caritas.

Due to the late finish, we recommend that Year 7 students are collected from the disco. Please note that it is parents/carers responsibility to organise transport to and from the disco for students.



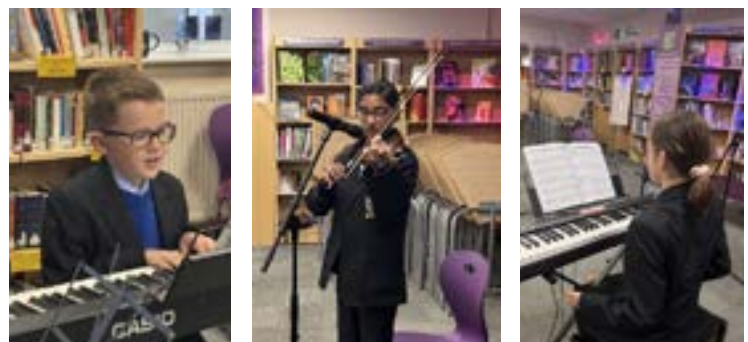
HOMEWORK

Some students in Year 7 are finding it challenging to adapt to receiving homework and meeting deadlines. We encourage all parents/carers to monitor this using the Class Charts app, on which you can view what homework has been issued, when the deadline is and if a detention has been issued for not completing this. Students should also be checking their Class Charts account every day. Form Tutors have shared with students that there is Homework Club Monday-Thursday in BC4, 3.20-4pm, where staff will be present to support with homework completion. In addition, for Maths homework specifically, Maths Drop-In is every Wednesday after school.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of life at Bishop Challoner and many Year 7s have thrown themselves into the diverse range on offer to them. I have spoken to students who are attending debating club, science club, chess club, netball, Ju-Jitsu, football and German language club! There really is something for everyone!

Many Year 7 students have also already had the opportunity to showcase the skills they have developed from engaging in extra-curricular activities. Six students performed on a variety of musical instruments for Bishop's Got Talent in the Library – they had a huge audience and it was brilliant to see so many of their peers showing up to support them! Well done to Emma W, Kimi H, Elijah R, Davina D, Ava Mary H and Lily C. Of course, sporting fixtures are also taking place. Both the girls and boys Year 7 football teams have had victories already this half term – long may this continue!



YEAR 7 SPORTS LEADERS

Sixteen students in Year 7 have been involved in a primary sports leadership event. They have been selected by Mr McDermott to work with 7 local primary schools (each bringing 12 pupils!) to lead sports workshops. Not only were they praised by Mr McDermott for being excellent role models, but staff at the primary schools were incredibly impressed, too! What better way to live out our FAITHFUL virtues? Well done to Emily S, Painting T, Isla H, Maicy W, Grace K, Suzanna M, Annabel P, Mary J, Violet J, Gabrielle A, Cydney P, Olivija K, Ava Jane W, Lexi S, Aleesha Z, Maia Rose K!



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.

FIRST AID AND 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 student services 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.

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.

FIRST AID INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

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.

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 at our water stations provided or they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

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

Parents/Carers of students with a known allergy must provide school first aid with antihistamine; this also applies to those at risk of anaphylaxis, in addition to their EpiPen.

We do not provide liquid paracetamol such as Calpol. If your child cannot take tablets and you would prefer them to have liquid Calpol, please send this in to the school first aider with your child's name on it. This will be kept safe in first aid for your child only.

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 Designated Safeguarding Lead or member of the Wellbeing Team.

Any such information will always be treated confidentially.

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 a Designated Safeguarding Lead. Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.



SCHOOL YEAR

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Half-term

Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Term ends

Thursday 18th December 2025

SPRING TERM 2026

Term starts

Monday 5 January 2026

Half-term

Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term ends

Friday 27 March 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

Term starts

Monday 13 April 2026

Half-term

Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term ends

Friday 17th July 2026

INSET DAYS

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

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%

FACILITIES HIRE

We offer a wide range of classes for the local community and our facilities are also available for private hire. For session bookings and all other enquiries please feel free to contact one of the team.

Bishop Challoner Sports Centre is an exciting and innovative sports complex, comprising:

- A full sized Sports Hall
- Olympic sized Dojo specifically designed for Martial Arts
- Meeting Conference Room

<https://widget.bookteq.com/bishopchallonersportscentre/43f86d02-be0c-4249-ba4a-637f57cfbea0/book-online/b1be746a-fcf8-4de0-a44e-2497d3876911/activity>

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

Autumn Term 2	
Every Wednesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 3rd November	Year 7 Assessment window Men's Health Month
Wednesday 5th November	Early finish Year 11 Parent Consultation Afternoon
Monday 10th November - Friday 14th November	Anti-bullying Week
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 13th November	World Kindness Day
Monday 17th November - Friday 21st November	Year 7 and Year 8 Bikeability
Wednesday 19th November	Red Wednesday Mass
Thursday 20th November	Catholic Secondary Schools KS4 Maths Challenge
Friday 21st November	Last day of Jubilee Year of Hope
Monday 24th November - Wednesday 27th November	Year 7 Alton Castle Trip
Thursday 27th November	Catholic Secondary School Chess Event Year 7 Animal Experience
Friday 28th November	Bishop's Got Talent
Monday 1st December	Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday 3rd December	Sixth Form Rudolph Run
Thursday 4th December	Year 7 Christmas Disco Christmas Disco Shop
Monday 8th December	Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception Sixth Form London Art Trip
Wednesday 10th December - Friday 12th December	Year 12 Soli House Trip
Thursday 11th December	Christmaths Day
Monday 15th December	Year 7, 8 & 9 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 16th December	Year 7 & 8 Christmas Mass
Wednesday 17th December	Sixth Form Bishop's Got Talent Year 9, 10 & 11 Christmas Mass
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Cake Raffle Musical Dementia Trip Christmas Hamper Raffle - 9BER Sixth Form Christmas Service
Friday 19th December	Staff INSET - School Closed