

# Head of Year 7



## February Half Term Newsletter

**Miss Lloyd, Head of Year**

**Miss Williams, Assistant Head of Year**

While it is difficult to believe we are already at the halfway point of Year 7, it is a pleasure to once again write to all parents and carers of our Year 7 community. Since our last HOY newsletter, Year 7 have taken their first assessments, had their first Parent Consultation Day, celebrated Christmas, started some new teaching groups, and found their feet in our Bishop Challoner family. Year 7 continue to set the standard for attendance, punctuality and praise logs, and it has also been a pleasure to see so many students involve themselves in extracurricular opportunities. For those who are yet to embrace these, there is plenty more opportunity as we head into spring and summer, continuing to aim for our goal of 100% extracurricular participation in the year group. We hope you enjoy getting a taste for what Year 7 have been up to over the last term.

### Year 7 Christmas Service

Although it seems some time ago now, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the wonderful Christmas events that Year 7 participated in. From gathering toys for the Birmingham Irish Toy Appeal, enjoying a canteen Christmas dinner, celebrating Christmas Jumper day, to the extravaganza of the Christmas Service in the church, it was a great time to be in the Y7 community. The sheer number of volunteers to sing, read, dance and act in the show was unprecedented. We also used some assembly time to practice our Christmas carols and an incredible finale of One Moment from the film 'Nativity', as a whole year group. To top it off, it was lovely to have so many parents, grandparents, carers and families join with us in St Dunstan's on the afternoon itself to celebrate. We look forward to next our collective worship at St Dunstan's - dates will be sent by text and we would love to see you there!



### Year of Hope

While we have been celebrating our Year of Hope at school since September, we were delighted to participate in the Diocese's official launch of 2025 as a special Jubilee year, where we are all encouraged to be Pilgrims of Hope. As the rest of the school watched a live broadcast of the launch event, our Year 7 Faithful Ambassadors had the experience of attending the launch at St Dunstan's Church, a really special time to celebrate Mass with groups of students from our parish primary schools too. In form time, each form has also made a pledge of how they can be Pilgrims of Hope, including charity events, modelling compassion and working with local communities. You can see how these pledges have contributed to the beautiful tree of hope in the school foyer.



### History and English Events

The history department held a similar competition last term for students to enter creative responses to this year's celebration of Black History Month. Huge well done to Miley for her tremendous entry.

In English lessons, students also spent some time crafting responses for BCU's Future Writers competition, created to honour local poet Benjamin Zephaniah's legacy, on this year's theme of Family. The poems produced were incredibly moving, and it was fantastic to celebrate these in a breaktime Bishop's Got Talent poetry recital last month.



## 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 of clubs on offer. Before school, students can attend a different sport each day, along with the BC Band in the music department. This term has also seen the launch of an after school ukelele club! Alternatively, the range on offer should mean there really is something for everyone – cooking, debating, STEM, science, crafts, chess, music, Dungeons and Dragons, and book club. Our first year of 'Quiz Club' has been a hit on Thursday afternoons, with our own quizmaster Mr Robinson also entering the team to compete against other schools over Zoom.



The PE roster is as full as ever, with Year 7 students continuing to represent the school competitively in football, basketball and cricket. As we finally reach springtime and lighter evenings after school, now really is the time to attend an after-school club. Below are also some pictures from the ever-popular art and craft club.



## Geography Competition

I could sum up this entry of the newsletter simply with the word: "WOW!". Year 7 were set the annual challenge of creating a 'Landscape in a Box' and, as biased as I may be, entries this year were the best ever! Over 100 students submitted an entry and the time, quality, effort and materials used were simply astonishing. It was particularly heart-warming to see how keen students were to show off their designs to staff and peers during the exhibition at break time. We are well aware many of these entries involved some (hopefully enjoyable!) family effort and we thank you for supporting these endeavours. Happily, I did not have the difficult job of whittling down the winners but the judging panel did finally settle on a Top 10, a few of which are pictured here. Huge congratulations are offered to every student who created a wonderful entry – we are very proud of you!



## Personal Development Day

Year 7 also had the special opportunity this month to have a day suspended from usual lessons to cover a range of PSHE themes. Firstly, they attended a powerful talk from the organisation Precious Lives, where Augustus shared his personal story and opened up students' eyes to risks of knife crime. Later in the day, they delved into topics such as use of social media/group chats and the law, respecting others' religious beliefs, gratitude and wellbeing. We hope Year 7 came away with pause for thought and strategies for negotiating difficult situations.



## Be FAITHFUL

We continue to remind and reward Year 7 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 character virtues we all need for successful learning, community and life.

One of our highlights in assembly is to celebrate the students living out our Mission Statement – to give glory to God by fulfilling our potential and serving others. In terms of fulfilling potential, we monitor all the praise logs given out and recognize the top 5 on a weekly basis. A huge well done to Eli, Tristan, Cecilia, Zaara and Maggie - the five students who have received the most praise logs in Y7 since September!

I also select a student to be a 'Challoner Champion' for Serving Others – this isn't about getting the most logs, but being recognised for their kindness, generosity or helpfulness. Well done to Astrid, Rosie, Lillie-Mae, Nina, Jamie, Ayvah, Milaan and Noel, who have all been acknowledged as living our values in their everyday actions.

We strongly recommend you use the Class Charts app so that you can monitor your child's praise logs, behaviour logs, detentions and homework set. If you require your Parent Access Code, please get in touch.

## Homework

Most Year 7 have adapted to meet the demands of their secondary school homework well. There are some students who are still finding the adjustments of checking Class Charts and meeting deadlines difficult. We appreciate all support parents can offer in helping students to be organized and encouraging they check Class Charts on a daily basis. In further support, Maths Homework Drop-In on Wednesdays and Science Drop-In is on Tuesdays. Any student can also attend Homework Club in BC4 from 3.20-4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. At this club, children can also learn how to do touch typing – a really useful skill!

## 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**

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## First Aid Reminders

### 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.

### Allergies

All students with a known allergy parents/carers must provide school first aid with antihistamine; this also applies to those with anaphylaxis in addition to their EpiPen.

### Hydration

Please provide students with a drinking vessel to refill at our water stations provided or they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

### Contact Details

It is parents/carers responsibility to keep the school updated with correct emergency contact details and new medical conditions or concerns and investigations. This is extremely important.

### Liquid Paracetamol

We do not provide liquid paracetamol such as Calpol please provide this to school first aid if your child can not take tablets and you wish to do so, this will be kept safe in first aid for your child only. We can only provide in tablet form.

### Illness

If you assess your child in the morning and they are not well enough for school you must contact our pastoral team to report their absence.

### 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 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.

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.

## 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 the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a deputy DSL. Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.

## 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.

## Bishop Challoner Training School paid Summer Internship

- Online interviews for Summer 2025!
- Experience the teaching profession
- Start from June 2025
- 3 week placement
- Be paid £425 per week
- Boost your CV skills

If you're an undergraduate in any year or studying for a Masters and interested in teaching secondary Chemistry, Computing, Maths, Languages (French, German or Spanish) or Physics, you may be eligible to apply.

If you know someone who is at Uni at the moment who would like to have a 3 week, paid internship - trying out teaching as a possible future career.

Some previous interns have gone on to be teachers with us and other schools around the country. Others just enjoyed the internship and gained some great new skills ready for other careers.

Please spread the word. A simple application form is on our website here:

<https://www.bctsa.org/605/teaching-internship-programme>

## Library Reminders

We have 359 overdue items outstanding from our school library.

Please remind your child to return any overdue library books asap.

Our school library is very popular throughout the school day but especially between lessons.

Do you have any unwanted puzzles and games our Students can use as part of our break and lunchtime activities?



## Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage

Year 7 - 95.3%

Year 8 - 93.5%

Year 9 - 93.5%

Year 10 - 91.8%

Year 11 - 90.3%

Whole School - 93.0%

# Attendance Champions League

## League Table

Week ending Friday 14th February

Position	Club	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Points
1	7SEB	19	17	0	2	51
2	7BOS	19	15	0	4	45
3	9LUK	19	13	0	6	39
4	9BER	19	13	0	6	39
5	8LUK	19	13	0	6	39
6	8BOS	19	13	0	6	39
7	7TER	19	13	0	6	39
8	7LUK	19	13	0	6	39
9	7CEC	19	13	0	6	39
10	11SEB	19	11	0	8	33
11	11BOS	19	11	0	8	33
12	8SEB	19	11	0	8	33
13	11CEC	19	10	0	9	30
14	10BOS	19	10	0	9	30
15	8BER	19	10	0	9	30
16	10CEC	19	9	0	10	27
17	9TER	19	9	0	10	27
18	9SEB	19	9	0	10	27
19	9CEC	19	9	0	10	27
20	10TER	19	8	0	11	24
21	10SEB	19	8	0	11	24
22	10LUK	19	8	0	11	24
23	8TER	19	8	0	11	24
24	9BOS	19	7	0	12	21
25	7BER	19	7	0	12	21
26	11LUK	19	6	0	13	18
27	11BER	19	4	0	15	12
28	10BER	19	3	0	16	9
29	8CEC	19	3	0	16	9
30	11TER	19	1	0	18	3

## Results

Week ending Friday 14th February

7BER	97.58	VS	92.35	8TER
9BER	93.87	VS	88.48	8SEB
9BOS	96.36	VS	93.71	8LUK
9CEC	88.75	VS	87.43	8CEC
9LUK	92.94	VS	91.21	8BOS
9SEB	96.36	VS	96.06	8BER
9TER	96.67	VS	93.75	7TER
10BER	82.58	VS	97.27	7SEB
10BOS	93.79	VS	93.53	7LUK
10CEC	93.14	VS	93.94	7CEC
10LUK	85.16	VS	96.18	7BOS
10SEB	90.80	VS	88.55	11TER
10TER	90.63	VS	93.33	11SEB
11BER	88.44	VS	94.23	11LUK
11BOS	93.23	VS	90.32	11CEC

## Fixtures

Week beginning Monday 24th February

8SEB	VS	7BER
8LUK	VS	8TER
8CEC	VS	9BER
8BOS	VS	9BOS
8BER	VS	9CEC
7TER	VS	9LUK
7SEB	VS	9SEB
7LUK	VS	9TER
7CEC	VS	10BER
7BOS	VS	10BOS
11TER	VS	10CEC
11SEB	VS	10LUK
11LUK	VS	10SEB
11CEC	VS	10TER
11BOS	VS	11BER

## Weapon Screening

You will be aware of sad events nationally involving young people and weapons.

As part of our ongoing safeguarding procedures we regularly highlight the importance of personal safety.

We will once again be working in partnership with the police during the next half term and there will be a weapon screening exercise undertaken.

## Mobile phones

Please be reminded of the rules regarding mobile phones in school as detailed below.

- Mobile phones must never be used, seen or heard in school. Information from our behaviour policy is detailed below-
- Students are not allowed to have mobile phones out on the school premises
- Students must turn their phones off when on the school premises
- Mobile phones seen on the school premises may be confiscated
- The school reserves the right to instruct students to hand in their mobile phone
- Confiscated mobile phones will be returned at the discretion of Head of Year/Senior Staff
- In some circumstances, a confiscated mobile phone may only be returned to parents/carers
- School does not accept any responsibility for the loss or theft of any mobile device

## Job Vacancies in the Archdiocese

The Archdiocese would appreciate your support in advertising the positions below in your weekly newsletters (the jobs will be on the Diocesan jobs page on Friday):

- Operations Director
- IT Manager
- Finance Manager
- Gift Aid Officer

Full details and closing dates can be found at [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs). If you know of anyone suitable, please do pass on the details and encourage them to apply!



**Foundation**



**King Edwards VI  
ASTON SCHOOL**

### FEBRUARY HALF TERM WEEK FREE SESSIONS

King Edwards School of Grammar, Aston, Birmingham, B6 4DJ

DAY	TIME	TITLE & SESSION
<b>MONDAY</b> 17th Feb	10 am - 3pm	<b>Wellness &amp; Sport for Families (8 - 14)</b> Afternoon & Wellbeing Sessions Flag Football
<b>TUESDAY</b> 18th Feb	10 am - 3pm	<b>Wellness &amp; Sport for Adults &amp; Young People (12 - 18)</b> Healthy Cooking & Environmental Action Workshop Physical Activity & Football Sessions
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 19th Feb	10 am - 3pm	<b>Multi Sport Activities for Young People (8 - 11)</b> PE Session & Multi Sport Activities Badminton & Dynamic Circuit Sessions
<b>THURSDAY</b> 20th Feb	10 am - 2pm	<b>Interactive Play for Young People with SEND (8 - 14)</b> Play Interactive Session

FREE Lunch provided by Kerbside Cobs



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YOUR PLACE



Birmingham  
City Council



West Midlands  
Combined Authority



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## Spring Term 2

<b>Monday 24th February</b>	School closed - Staff INSET
<b>Tuesday 25th February</b>	School open
<b>Every Tuesday</b>	Rosary
<b>Every Thursday</b>	Community Mass - 11.30am
<b>Tuesday 25th February</b>	Year 9 Immunisations
<b>Wednesday 26th February</b>	National Apprenticeship Show Tea Party Year 13 Student Finance Talk
<b>Thursday 27th February</b>	Year 8 Computing Trip
<b>Friday 28th February</b>	Cake Sale
<b>w/c Monday 3rd March</b>	National Apprenticeship Week
<b>Saturday 8th March</b>	International Women's Day
<b>w/c Monday 10th March</b>	British Science Week
<b>Monday 10th March - Wednesday 12th March</b>	KS3 Football Trip
<b>Tuesday 11th March</b>	Bishop's Got Talent Year 13 Student Finance Talk for Parents/Carers
<b>Wednesday 12th March</b>	Key Stage 5 Debate Newman University Year 9 Mass Tea Party
<b>Thursday 13th March</b>	Dementia Cafe - St Anne's Year 9 Options Evening
<b>Friday 14th March</b>	Year 9 Malypics
<b>Monday 17th March</b>	Year 10 Longbridge Fieldwork St Patrick's Day Hamper
<b>Thursday 20th March</b>	Year 10 Maths Feast Year 8 Black Country Museum Trip
<b>Sunday 23rd March</b>	Year 9 DofE Bronze Practice Walk
<b>Tuesday 25th March</b>	Bishop's Got Talent
<b>Wednesday 26th March</b>	Tea Party Year 10 Cyber Competition Year 10 University of Birmingham Trip
<b>Friday 28th March</b>	Cake Sale Mother's Day Hamper
<b>Tuesday 1st April</b>	Year 8 Parent/Carer Consultation Afternoon Year 13 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
<b>Wednesday 2nd April</b>	Tea Party
<b>Thursday 3rd April</b>	Year 10 Mock Interviews
<b>Sunday 6th April - Tuesday 8th April</b>	Year 10 Silver DofE Practice
<b>Tuesday 8th April</b>	Bishop's Got Talent
<b>Wednesday 9th April</b>	Spring Soiree Year 12 Easter Fair
<b>Thursday 10th April</b>	Bake Off Competition History - Alexandra Theatre Trip
<b>Friday 11th April</b>	Easter Service Easter Hamper
<b>Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April</b>	Easter Holiday
<b>Monday 28th April</b>	School open