

Head of Year 7

May Half Term Newsletter



Miss Lloyd, Head of Year

Miss Williams, Assistant Head of Year

Much to my astonishment, we have reached the summer term already and it is a pleasure to write to all parents and carers of our Year 7 community for the final time this year. Since our last HOY newsletter, Year 7 have taken their second assessments, celebrated Easter, taken part in a range of extracurricular opportunities, and made huge contributions to our Year of Hope. We hope you enjoy seeing a snapshot into some of the activities Year 7 have been up to over the last term.

Spring Soiree

When Year 7 began in the autumn term, it became quickly apparent that we have a wealth of musical and performing talent within our year group. As such, we knew this year's Spring Soiree would be a thrilling afternoon of entertainment. From those who only started playing an instrument this year, to more longstanding musicians, students took to the stage with drum and violin solos, piano recitals, and treated the audience to 'When I Grow Up' from the musical 'Matilda', to name but a few. The calibre of performance was a credit to the students, the music department and their visiting instrumental teachers. We look forward to seeing these talents grow next year as each student strives to fulfil their musical potential.



Year of Hope

Our 'Year of Hope' continues apace across the school, with Year 7 at the heart of our mission. Our Y7 Faithful Ambassadors have done inspirational work visiting our local Catholic primary schools to lead prayer and faith-filled activities as part of their chaplaincy role. Coming together with representatives from across our 'Tolkien cluster' of schools to altar serve, read, sing and pray together, in a wonderful celebratory Mass at St Dunstan's church, was a fitting conclusion to this important outreach work in our spiritual community.



Taking a different angle on the Year of Hope, 7CEC became quite the salespeople, taking advantage of our hot weather to host a charity ice lolly sale at break and lunchtimes, with sales into the hundreds and an emergency run for more supplies! All proceeds go towards our school designated charity, Fr Hudson's Caritas. Well done to Ms Hughes and her gang of volunteers.



Extra-curricular

I have had the pleasure of accompanying two trips this term – firstly, taking a group of impeccably-behaved students to Air Nation. This group were selected as being those with the most praise logs, and no negative logs, in Year 7, as a reward for their consistent endeavours in living out our high standards. Great fun was had by all!



A group of 50 excited students also visited the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham for a morning of entertaining (and sometimes gruesome!) action in the Horrible Histories tour. All students represented the school perfectly and had a fun time learning - and screaming - all about the Terrible Tudors. I'm sure I wasn't the only one with Henry VIII's "Divorced, Beheaded, Died" song stuck in their head for several days afterwards...!

Readathon

In a world of mobile phones, Youtube and Playstation, asking Year 7 to read for an entire day might sound like a tall order. Prior to the main event, our wonderful librarian, Mrs Newton, ran a bookmark-making lunchtime activity to build excitement for the main event. Then, on 28th March, our students rose to the occasion and proved how great their dedication, concentration and love of reading can be! With some classes listening to audiobooks, others having their teacher read aloud, and lots of time for personal reading of fiction and non-fiction, the day whizzed by with nothing but reports of pride and excellence. To top it off, along with Year 8, we raised an astonishing £3800 for Fr Hudson's Caritas! Well done to all involved, especially those for whom reading is a struggle, and those who fundraised impressive individual totals. Thank you also to families for supporting students with this event – it was certainly worth it.



Geography Competition BGT Science and Women's History Competition

More extracurricular fun was had thanks to the Science and History departments this term. In our breaktime 'Bishop's Got Talent' series of events, the science department organised a fantastic event of practical science experiments, with Y7 young scientists both leading the way and participating in the action.



The History department also recently ran a 'Women's History Month' competition and it was with great pleasure to see three of our Yr 7 students shortlisted as finalists with such impressive effort and work! Well done to all those who participated, and especially to Alicja, Miley and Jessica for reaching the shortlist.



Sports Update

Alongside the high attendance to our before and after school sports clubs, this term has also seen the training and try-outs for a coveted spot in our Ball Crew. Those selected will be working as ball boys and girls at the prestigious Lexus Birmingham Open tennis competition at the start of June. It was so pleasing to see many Year 7s trying out for a position in this special opportunity. Commiserations to those who were not selected on this occasion – there will be another chance to try out next year! Congratulations to the lucky 22 who have made it onto the team – the hard work now begins and we look forward to seeing you in your new kit soon. A group of Year 7s also recently took part in the Year 7 and 8 Catholic Secondary Schools Swimming Gala. A particular well done to the boys who were victorious on the day.



Assessments and reports

Year 7 should be congratulated for their hard work in preparing for their KAP2 assessments in recent weeks. These results will be reported next half term and there will opportunity to meet teachers to discuss these in July. It's not the end of the year yet though and there's still plenty of learning to take place in the remaining months of the year!

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. A huge well done to Milaan, Noel, Maddison, Jamie, Erin, Monet, Evania, Kian, Ruby, and William G - the pupils who have received the most praise logs in Y7 in the spring term with no negative logs!

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.

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.



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.

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.

PATHWAY TO THE FINAL



Summer Uniform

In light of the weather forecast summer uniform can be worn.

Students **DO NOT** have to wear a-
Tie
Blazer
Jumper

Students **MUST** wear-
Shirts tucked in
Shoes not trainers

If a 2nd layer is worn, this **MUST** be a blazer **NOT** a jumper or other outer wear, any item other than a blazer will be confiscated.

Girls must wear natural or black 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 in the lobe of the ear.

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.

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 with 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage

Year 7 - 95.4%

Year 8 - 93.7%

Year 9 - 93.8%

Year 10 - 91.3%

Year 11 - 90.7%

Whole School - 93.1%

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 DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.

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.

School Year 2025 to 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Term starts:

Year 7, 11 & 13 - Wednesday 3rd September 2025

All year groups- Thursday 4th September 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

Mastermind Success

We are proud to celebrate a very special achievement at Bishop Challoner Catholic College.

Our English teacher, Mr John Robinson, has been crowned the 2025 BBC Mastermind Champion following a dramatic and closely contested final.

John's exceptional performance – including a perfect score in his specialist subject, The Empire State Building – was a joy to watch and a wonderful reminder of the talent and dedication that exists within our teaching community.

This achievement follows his previous success on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, and once again he has demonstrated the value of commitment, calm under pressure, and a love of learning – qualities he models daily in the classroom.

Mr Robinson said: "I constantly tell the students that if you put effort into your revision, you'll get a reward at the end of it. Hopefully, the pupils can look at me and be inspired by the hard work I've put in as well."

We know our students and staff have been cheering him on throughout his Mastermind journey, and we are all absolutely delighted for him.

A huge congratulations to Mr Robinson from everyone at Bishop Challoner — we are already preparing a space in the trophy cabinet for the famous glass bowl!

Read the full article on the BBC News website here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07119dvzmpo>

SVP

St Vincent
de Paul Society

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Turning Concern into Action

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know about a Charity that parents from the school can access. The St Vincent de Paul is an International, Christian Voluntary Organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage.

We provide direct practical assistance to anyone in need. In England and Wales there are currently 10,000 voluntary members who visit the lonely, sick, imprisoned and support people in need who are experiencing poverty. Our group in OLOL parish was started over 12 months ago. We serve the wider community, regardless of faith, ethnicity or status.

We offer friendship, practical help and provide material assistance when families are experiencing crisis. This can be on a one off occasion or we can provide continuing help should the need arise.

The SVP would like to offer this support and assistance when needed to help families who are finding it challenging due to the cost of living crisis. We also provide support to people living in the parish. Please pass on our details should you identify people who would benefit from our support.

We are available on phone number 07945854349 by text or call. Alternatively, you can contact Fr Sean/Parish Office on 0121-444-5105. This will give us the opportunity to talk to you about your current situation and please be assured this is kept private and confidential.

Please visit our website for further information of the work carried out by the organisation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many Thanks

SVP

SummerTerm 2	
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Saturday 31st May - Sunday 8th June	Ball Crew
Monday 2nd June	School Open Year 9 Barber Art Workshop
Tuesday 3rd June	Bishop's Got Talent Year 9 Mass
Wednesday 4th June	Tea Party
Sunday 8th June - Monday 9th June	Year 9 DofE Bronze
Monday 9th June - Wednesday 11th June	Year 10 French Speaking Mocks
Thursday 12th June - Friday 13th June	Wheelbarrow Food Competition
Friday 13th June	Fathers Day Hamper KS3 DT Trip
Friday 13th June - Sunday 29th June	Sixth Form Trip to Peru
Monday 16th June - Friday 20th June	Creativity and Refugee Week Year 10 Spoken English Exams
Monday 16th June - Wednesday 18th June	Year 9 Soli House
Tuesday 17th June	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 18th June	Tea Party Year 7 and 8 Computing Trip - Big Bang NEC
Thursday 19th June	Year 10 UOB Chemistry Lessons
Sunday 22nd June - Tuesday 24th June	Year 10 and Year 12 DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition
Monday 23rd June - Friday 27th June	Science Week
Tuesday 24th June	Year 7 CSI Day
Wednesday 25th June - Friday 27th June	Year 10 Carding Mill Valley Trip
Wednesday 25th June	Year 10 and Year 12 Mass
Thursday 26th June	Year 10 UOB Chemistry Lesson
Friday 27th June	Cake Sale TBC Catholic Competition - Summer Games
Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July	Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 30th June	Sports Day Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 1st July	Bishop's Got Talent Culture Day
Wednesday 2nd July	Year 6 Induction Day 1 Year Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 3rd July	Year 6 Induction Day 2 Year 6 Induction Day Mass Year 6 Parent/Carer Evening Year 13 Prom
Sunday 6th July - Thursday 10th July	Year 10 and Year 11 Trip to Rome
Monday 7th July	Year 10 Work Experience De-brief Year 7 and Year 8 Lickey Hills Trip
Monday 7th July - Friday 11th July	Year 12 Work Experience
Wednesday 9th July	Primary Concert Sixth Form Taster Day
Thursday 10th July	Battle of the Bands Year 10 Art Trip to Liverpool
Friday 11th July	Year 7 and Year 10 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 15th July	Year 9 and Year 10 end of year Mass
Wednesday 16th July	Awards Evening Tea Party
Thursday 17th July	Cake Sale TBC Year 7 and Year 8 end of year Mass
Friday 18th July	Last day of the academic year
Monday 21st July	INSET - School Closed