



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 7 May Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are all well at this difficult time. This is a very strange experience for us all to be going through and I personally am very grateful for the Bishop Challoner community in supporting us all during the past couple of months in particular. We have all had to get used to a very different way of working in so many areas with varying degrees of success. I know personally that I'm just not very good at video calls! I keep trying though!

Safeguarding and Well-being

Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.

Mother Teresa

We hope this newsletter finds you well and even though some of the lockdown restrictions have been eased we hope that you are all managing to remain safe. The lovely weather, hopefully will have enabled some of you to enjoy going outside to relax, to exercise and get some fresh air.

It is also important to remember to spend time talking to each other and time should be made where all electronic devices are left to one side for an hour or so to allow conversations to take place.

However, we do recognise that this period of time continues to be challenging for many of us. We continue to update the resources on our web page to help support parents/carers and young people throughout this time. These resources can be found on our school website:

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/catholic-college/about/safeguarding/covid-19-safeguarding-and-child-protection-addendum>.

On the web page you will also find information about staff who are in a position to offer further support and guidance. Please stay safe and allow us all to support each other during this time.

Half Term

School is open during the half term holiday for key worker and vulnerable students as defined by the DfE. If you think that your son/daughter needs to attend school please email keyworker@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk with the details of your situation and detail the days that you would need your son/daughter to attend.

Summer Term 2 Update

You will have received a letter from Dr Coughlan on Monday 18th May detailing the schools position with regards to opening for students from Year 10 and Year 12 from June onwards. Plans are well underway behind the scenes and as soon as they are finalised they will be communicated.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Students eligible for free school meals will still receive a voucher from Edenred during half term. The government said they would not fund the half term holiday but as a school we will be covering the cost for this week. If you have any issues with FSM vouchers please email Mrs Reynolds, r.reynolds@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.

Principal - Dr J Coughlan

Institute Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7EG

Tel: 0121 444 4161 • Fax: 0121 441 1552

www.bishopchalloner.org.uk • email: enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



Class Charts

All parents/carers of Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 students should by now have received parent/carer and student access codes for Class Charts. Year 10 and 12 have successfully been using Class Charts already this term.

The launch date for Class Charts was initially set for September 2020 but we have made a decision to bring this forward. Students and parents/carers can take advantage of the excellent Homework feature of the system. Staff can set homework, parent/carers and students can view the homework via the Class Charts app or website and complete, return and receive feedback from staff all using the system. All work for Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be issued by Class Charts from Monday 1st June 2020.

Please use the codes you were sent to create an account by going here:

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>.

Links to mobile phone apps are also available from this page. If you have more than one child in the school then you can enter additional codes once you have created an account and are logged in. Links to very useful guides for parents/carers and students are shown below:

https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_parents_guide.pdf

https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_pupils_guide.pdf

If your child does not have access to online materials then work will continue to be distributed as it has been. Please note though, students can use the Class Charts app on mobile devices.

There are other very useful features of Class Charts that we will be launching from September 2020.

Online Work

Having communicated with a number of parents/carers and students over the past few weeks, I know that there have been difficulties, but also some fabulous work being done in lockdown. Whether by phone call or email, I have received some great feedback on how the home learning is going and I just would like to say how proud I am of Year 7 students who have really given of their best at this difficult time. It has been really fabulous to receive praise from many teachers for pupils' work and almost impossible for me to mention them all here. I know that many teachers have responded directly to students' requests for help or feedback and I know that this has been a great help.

A few key groups of students have been especially highlighted to me as having produced great work. Miss Stone and Mrs Middup are particularly impressed with students in 7X3, 7Y1 and 7X2 Maths' groups. William and Darragh deserve a special mention for their efforts in Maths during lockdown. William also has produced some great Science work along with Anne Roseline and Jack K. Well done!

I think that lockdown has brought out the creative side in many of us and I have been perfecting the art of making pastry myself, pictures of which you can see in the National Skills Day video shared by Miss Darby on the school website. Miss Swingler has also sent me some great pieces of Art work, some of which you can see below. These were by Aidan W, Orran, Anne Roseline and Antonia. Keep up this great work!



In my own subject of French, I know that many of you are enjoying the activities set and making regular use of Quizlet. I have enjoyed the Quizlet Live sessions that some of you have joined in with and it is great to see that some of you have embraced to cultural learning about different aspects of French life such as the game of Pétanque. It was good to see evidence of the game being played at home. Thank you Sophie and Hannah!



Well done to this half term's Year 7 writing challenge winners; Olivia G, Abigael F, Sophie C, Sofia B, George K, Evie B, Michael H.

Careers

In addition to all the great standard curriculum work which has been provided by teachers online or posted home, there has also been Career's resources provided by Miss McGowan which continues and adds to the Careers provision for Year 7 students which has been happening since September. All of Year 7 has been emailed an electronic booklet called **STEP UP**. This booklet allows students to work through activities that will help them to describe themselves, their strengths and preferences, to explore careers and career development and to know how to make plans and decisions carefully.

Each week they will be sent a few activities from this booklet that we suggest they work through. These activities shouldn't be too time consuming and they are not compulsory. The workbooks are in a pdf format that students can type into and save their progress. Thank you to Miss McGowan for organising this.

We invite you to take time out of your day to pause for prayer and reflection.

PE

I usually have a wealth of PE news to share in my newsletters. However, I think Joe Wicks has that one sorted for you all at the moment! Looking ahead, from 1st June, there will be virtual sport challenges linked to sports day, in which students can take part. Students will be able tweet us their videos/ pictures to our PE page @BCPE. Keep an eye on the website for details.

National Skills Day

As I have already mentioned, hopefully we have all been developing lots of new skills during this time. You will be able to access the Bishop Challoner video for National Skills Day via the website.

Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy department of the school is another area which has continued to work hard to support our students throughout this time of homeschooling.

Within Chaplaincy, we are making resources available on the website and on the Chaplaincy Twitter Page (@bc_chaplaincy) to highlight the month of Mary and truly delve into her significance in our faith. These resources include evening prayer, scripture reflections and a blog post. We also have our daily prayer and reflection sheet on our website which we invite you to browse at and take a moment for reflection and prayer.

Earlier this half term, we launched a Pause for Prayer Blog. The blog posts delved into different topics such as the rosary, Mary's significance and keeping faith alive which has seen guest writers from diocesan priests Monsignor Tim Menezes and Fr Sean who spoke openly about their faith and taking inspirations from the Popes. We invite you to take time to read through the blog posts and thank both Monsignor Tim and Fr Sean for writing these inspiring testaments to faith.

The week of 16th-24th May 2020 has been designated Laudato Si' Week. We are asked to pray about caring for Our Common Home. The weeklong celebration is to honour Pope Francis' writing on ecology and climate change, and to encourage us to build a better world together. We will be marking this with resources and parts of his writings on our website, the sway page (link available on the website) and twitter.

Coronavirus

Stay Alert

- Stay at home as much as possible
- Work from home if you can
- Limit contact with other people
- Keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- Wash your hands regularly
- Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Further updates regarding Corona Virus COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>.

Please keep emailing me and class teachers throughout the summer term if you have any queries or questions. We are all in this together and there is no better place to be than together in the Bishop Challoner virtual community.

Take care and stay safe

Mrs H J McGowan
Head of Year 7

Mrs R Higginson
Assistant Head of Year 7



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