

Head of Year 7

October Half Term Newsletter

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

Warm greetings to all reading the first newsletter of the year for our Year 7 community in the Year of our Platinum Jubilee. They have had a brilliant transition into secondary school, settling into lessons and new routines whereby they are becoming more and more independent and it is lovely to facilitate and witness. Our phenomenal summer school gave many students the opportunity to foster new friendships, acclimatise to a much bigger school and capitalise on all of the enjoyable activities we had to offer, ensuring their holistic growth. With the vigour, respect and vivacity that pupils threw themselves into summer school, they have also thrown themselves into life at Bishop Challoner for which I commend them.



Food Bank

As a community, we wish to give glory to God by our service to others, which is especially poignant in our year of Challoner. As such, it has been lovely to see Year 7 readily and eagerly engage in the year group food bank, whereby in a few short weeks we have already collected a plethora of tins and other non-perishables to give to those in greater need. This foodbank is ongoing and as such, we welcome all contributions in our endeavour to help others. Each form has a specific colour to help collect towards and all proceeds here will benefit St Chad's Sanctuary, helping those most vulnerable and in need.



Year of Challoner

In this newsletter, we take the opportunity to praise our year group for their phenomenal hard work. Twenty-eight of our young people will be celebrating their positive logs this Thursday, the 26th October in the form of a pizza party. As Head of Year, it is a joy to organise these events, but it must be said that there were so many children who could have been chosen that it was hard to get to this number. More opportunities for rewards will be in abundance. Well done to: Felicity C, Grace McC, Tajah T M, Jacob T, Luke C, Mae McA, Sophia T, Niamh W, Noah G, Bernadette O, Florence R, Luke W, Holly C, Isla K, Amy T, Olivia W, Matteo A, Celeste C, Ednah S T, Brooke W, Elsie H, Ethan K, Luke B, Markas M, Aoife C, Emma S, Jeremi S & Ava Rose H.

PSHE - Prayers

Another part of our mission as a school is about developing our potential. This has been a theme throughout the year within our assemblies, Religious Studies and PSHE Education looking at growth, and aspirations. They have written their own prayers for the year ahead, looking at their future desires and their own hopes for the future year. It is lovely to see them partake in these in form times and of course to hear their collective worship together both in mass and around the school. The reverence and respect they have demonstrated is wonderful to see. In our platinum jubilee we reflect as a school on how our mission to educate, inspire and motivate young people in all areas has remained a steadfast goal as we teach each new generation. This year, we aim to celebrate all things Challoner and the successes we expect for our students.

Extra-curricular

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of life at Bishop Challoner and I am delighted to say that many activities are being attended by Year 7 from Drone club, Games club and Robotics club to Warhammer club and Cookery club; there is a plethora of clubs for students to take part in and enjoy. Not to mention of course the myriad PE clubs put on every morning and evening. Year 7 have been attending these clubs in droves and this is something I would like to see continue into the future. Particularly exciting is a new opportunity next half term where a student in Year 7 is taking the lead in developing their own club, creating things with beads which will be used as a way to help the school charity as time goes on.

Trips

Year 7 have already had an exciting trip to Drayton Manor where many took the opportunity to develop their friendships and zest for life whilst becoming more independent, making their way around the Park in friendship groups, whilst being supervised discreetly by staff who gave of their time to support those in our school. It was a fantastic first trip and a small taste of the opportunities that are to come for Year 7. Many are already looking forward to the residential retreat to Alton Castle which takes place in November, and also sporting trips abroad. There are many opportunities here for students to engage with in out-of-classroom learning whilst having an amazing time. I encourage all parents to keep an eye out for the different opportunities that come up.

Year 7 Assessments

The first of these assessments in Year 7 will take place between Monday 6th November and Friday 17th November. Please [click here](#) to view subject topics and guidance.

Reading

As Head of Year, I cannot state enough the importance of continuing to read with your children. Reading is a research driven method of improving one's grades, mental health and future prospects in life. As such, all students in Year 7 have a library lesson once a fortnight to make excellent use of the resources available in the school. Likewise, we fully encourage reading from home and all students were given a welcoming book before their arrival as well as the Bookbuzz books where every Year 7 student has had a new book to devour from authors across a range of genres. Here, I must mention the Reading club and advise children attend it.

Character Virtues

With our character virtues, taken from Jesuit values, I look forward to seeing Year 7s grow in their confidence, skills and characters as the year progresses. I hope to see many of Year 7 perform in the Christmas show or in the myriad Bishop's Got Talent events that give students an opportunity to share their talents with our school community. Many have already taken part in events such as the Day of Languages and so forth, showcasing their talents to the school. Well done for this.

Football

Year 7 girls' football team competed in their first tournament at the Secondary School Games competition at Christ church - well done girls! The boys also competed in the Secondary School Games competition and played away against Kings Norton boys and Plantsbrook.

Year 7 Mass

Year 7 were exemplary in their welcoming mass as a whole Year group, reading well and behaving impeccably in the church. The answers some students gave to questions from Father Toby demonstrated their eloquence, learned natures and respect. They were a credit to our school. As a Catholic school, we cannot state enough the importance spiritual life holds within our community. As such, Year 7 have already taken part in a retreat afternoon which was calm and reflective. It was a great opportunity for them to be together as a team. Paper chains were made to ensure students remembered they were a bonded link within our community whilst being an individual, as per the words of Cardinal John Henry Newman.

Autumn Term 2

As the next half term commences, we hope students continue to gain in independence, organising themselves and their belongings. A part of this organisation is being prepared for their first set of assessments both this week and the first week back. I recommend students use the holidays to rest and recuperate but also to spend a little time revising things they have worked so hard on over the last eight weeks in preparation for the maths, science and RE assessments in that first week back. Whilst assessments naturally make students a little nervous, I want them to feel confident and resilient in coming into these. They have worked incredibly hard and this is an opportunity for their teachers to see what knowledge they have gained and need to revisit. Revision classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings in E8 will continue into the first week of the term so students are welcome to sit here for quiet revision time. and guidance.

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 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.

Skirts

Please be reminded that all school skirts should be pleated, as part of the phased approach. Students still wearing a straight skirt have had this half term to replace it. We expect all skirts to be pleated from Monday 6th November.

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.

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BC14 and newsletter space available.

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

Tel:- 0121 4444161.

YEAR 7 KEY DATES

School Open	Year 7 & 8 Alton Castle Residential
Christmas Toy Appeal Starts	Monday 27th November - Wednesday 29th November
Monday 6th November	
Assessment Window	Book Fair
Monday 6th November - Friday 17th November	Friday 1st December
India Day - Canteen	Christmas Show Fundraising Events
Wednesday 8th November	Tuesday 5th December
School ends at 1.15pm	Christmaths Day
Thursday 9th November	Thursday 7th December
Anti-Bullying Week	Student Christmas Lunch
Monday 13th November - Friday 17th November	Monday 18th December
World Kindness Day	School Closed for Year 7, 8 & 9 PCD
Monday 13th November	Wednesday 20th December
Remembrance Events	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 16th November	Thursday 21st December
Bishop's Got Talent	School Closed - INSET Day
Friday 17th November	Friday 22nd December
Road Safety Week	School Open
Monday 20th November - Friday 24th November	Monday 8th January

School Fund and Match Fund

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

Easy Fundraising

Our extra curricular and enrichment programme enriches the lives of young people in our school and gives them the opportunities to fulfil their full potential. Our programme runs 40 clubs per week ranging from book club to gymnastics.

Join www.easyfundraising.org.uk and you can collect free donations for us every time you buy something online.

Teaching School

Do you have older children or relatives at University studying Maths, Computing, Physics, Chemistry or MFL related degrees?

In June/July Bishop Challoner are offering a 3 week paid (£900 total) internship based in local schools, open to students. We wanted to flag this opportunity to families in our community. Application is straightforward, and can be done on our website here:

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

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 @BCCSix	Geography @BCGeogDept
History @bchistory_	Art Dept @BChallonerArt	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	

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage	w/c 23/10/23
Year 7 - 95.3%	Late Marks
Year 8 - 93.9%	Year 7 - 21
Year 9 - 92.4%	Year 8 - 21
Year 10 - 91.1%	Year 9 - 49
Year 11 - 92.0%	Year 10 - 37
Whole School - 93.0%	Year 11 - 27

Attendance Raffle Winners

Well done to the following students that have had 100% attendance and no late marks. They each won a £10 high street voucher.

Friday 20th October

Year 7 - Lemuel D
Year 8 - Eirlys W
Year 9 - Emily P
Year 10 - Cory C
Year 11 - Ava G

Thursday 26th October

Year 7 - Ksenija N
Year 8 - Tymotesusz K
Year 9 - Onyinye N
Year 10 - Abubakar Q
Year 11 - Nathan C

VACANCIES - [click here for details](#)

Toy Appeal

Christmas 2023

Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 1-15 years

COLLECTION DATES:
Monday 6th November - Thursday 14th December

Irish TV are visiting St Anne's Parish Centre, B12 oPA on Thursday 14th December



Scan to donate

Platinum Jubilee 1953-2023

Birmingham Irish

BISHOP CHALLONER



CATHOLIC COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATE

Platinum Jubilee Remembrance Event

on

Thursday 25th April 2024

4.30pm-6.30pm

School Visit

Range of students' activities

7pm

Blessing

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.

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.