

Head of Year 7



October Half Term Newsletter

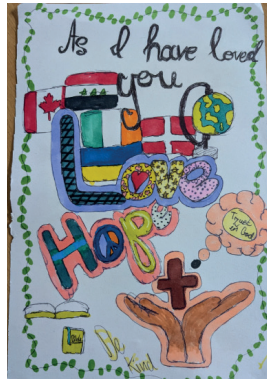
Miss Lloyd, Head of Year

Miss Williams, Assistant Head of Year

Wishing all parents/carers a very warm welcome to our first newsletter of the year for our new Year 7 community. Over the last 8 weeks, the new members of our Bishop Challoner family have made a wonderful first impression, settling into new routines and lessons and becoming more independent each week. We have lost count of the number of staff singing the praises of the manners, attitude and kindness abounding in our year group, much to the delight of the pastoral team – long may it last! It has also been a pleasure to see so many students throw themselves into the new opportunities outside of lessons on offer, a record of which they are keeping on their 'Year 7 Participation Record' in form time. For those who are yet to embrace these, there is plenty more opportunity next half term, as we build to our goal of 100% extracurricular participation in the year group. Well done on such a wonderful half term, Year 7 – we are very proud of you!

Year of Hope

This year, the school is celebrating a 'Year of Hope', promoting a community of positivity, supporting the less fortunate, working towards a better society and aiming to be the best people that God has called us to be. This coincides with Pope Francis' decision to call 2025 a jubilee year, themed 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Year 7 have been thinking about what hope means to them in form and RE lessons, and we have begun our charity work for the school's charity Father Hudson's Caritas with a cake sale and plans for a Year 7 disco next half term. Here is some lovely artwork produced by Evie-Rose in her own time, inspired by her RE lesson, featuring different flags and messages of equality from the Bible to highlight the diversity of the Christian community.



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. After school, there really is something for everyone – this term there is a choice including cooking, debating, quiz, STEM, science, crafts, chess, music, Dungeons and Dragons, and book club! Of course, there are also a range of sports and Year 7 pupils have already represented the school competitively in football, touch rugby and the 'Winter Games'. The stormy weather has been the toughest opposition for some fixtures, but Year 7 are already showing great resilience and teamwork. If anyone is yet to attend an after-school club, make it a target for next half term!



Lessons

Year 7 have settled into the challenge of their new timetables, moving around the school and getting to know a range of teachers extremely well. Many speak of the wonderful behaviour being exhibited consistently by the vast majority of our year group, and this is clear to see in the number of praise logs being given every day! With great behaviour and attitude, there's even more room for fun, as seen below by 7F students in a History lesson, playing snakes and ladders to learn about the successful traits needed to be a medieval monarch!



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 Year 7 Assessment window has now begun, with all students being assessed in English, Maths, RE and Science.

Full details and timings are available on the school website. These are not intended to cause undue stress or pressure, but to see where each student's starting point is in their attainment at the start of the year. Any students who are absent for an assessment will be assigned a catch-up lesson, supervised by Miss Lloyd and Miss Williams. Year 7 are encouraged to get into good habits of revision, organisation and try their very best in assessments.

Please [click here](#) to view subject topics and guidance.

Homework

Some Year 7 are finding the adjustments to checking Class Charts, meeting deadlines, and completing homework at times difficult. We appreciate all support parents can offer in helping students to be organised. Parents can access all homework set on Class Charts using the parent login code and students should be checking their account every day. In further support, Maths Homework Drop-In on Wednesdays after school is an open invitation to students who may need some assistance with Maths homework. 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!

Being the Best We Can Be

Year 7 also had the special opportunity this month to attend a talk from Team GB Paralympian, Kare Adenegan. Kare is a British wheelchair athlete and she talked to the whole year group about her journey to becoming a Paralympian. Year 7 were inspired to hear about aspirations and resilience. They listened with great respect and contributed to questions and answers, considering how these lessons could be applied to overcoming challenges in their own lives in order to realise their dreams.



While pupils navigate new social groups and new peers, travelling to school independently, and, for some, using mobile phones for the first time, we have been sending strong messages to students about respect and kindness. This is particularly important in how students conduct themselves in person and online, when around the general public and representing the school on public transport while wearing their uniform. We encourage parents to keep vigilance and openness in monitoring their children's interactions online and gently remind that most social media apps, including Tiktok, Snapchat and Instagram, have a minimum user age of 13 years old.



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

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.

We have also been considering our school's Mission Statement – to give glory to God by fulfilling our potential and serving others. One of my weekly highlights each week is to announce in assembly the names of the students with the most praise logs for living out these virtues. The top student is also awarded our 'Challoner Champion' for Developing Potential. A huge well done to Hafsa A, Eli P, Milaan A, Joseph M, Molly C, Stanley P and Thomas F – all have been top of the year group for a week, truly fulfilling their potential!

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. Congratulations to Aasiyah S, Temperance H, Kye L, Hafsa A, Ogochim A-I, Zac F for their range of character virtue logs this half term.

Reading

As Head of Year and an English teacher, 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. Our top library borrowers in Year 7 also got attend a wonderful session at Selly Park Girls' School this half term, meeting author Onjali Rauf and hearing her talk about her life and writing!



Year 7 Mass

It has been a privilege to celebrate Mass as a year group twice already this half term. Following hymn practice in assembly, and some dance practice in form(!), our Year 7 October Mass was a memorable and joyful celebration of our spiritual life. We had an enthusiastic group of volunteers to read, altar serve, bring up the offertory procession, and lead the actions for the year group to 'My Lighthouse'. Fr Stefan told us all that to sing in Mass is to praise God twice, and Year 7 took this to their hearts, participating in full voice to our hymns, as well as respectfully and reverently responding in the liturgy. We look forward to next half term's services and extend a warm welcome to parents and family to join us in our collective worship at St Dunstan's – dates will be sent by text and we would love to see you there!



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.

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.

Gate Closure

From Monday 4th November the student entrance gate will be locked at 8.35am. If students arrive between 8.35am-8.40am they must enter via reception.

Students should be in their form room by 8.40am when the school day starts. We would encourage students to be in school by 8.30am where possible and to ensure they are on time.

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 Reminders

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, it is important children stay hydrated.

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

Mobile Phones

Students should not be contacting parents/carers when they feel unwell and requesting to be collected from school. In the event that a student is unwell they **MUST** go to the First Aider who will deal with them. In the event that 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.

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.

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

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 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Reception and Nursery Class applications for Sept 2025

Please come and visit our wonderful school and staff to see what being a member of the Our Lady of Lourdes school family will be like for your child.

Open Mornings (booking not required)
Friday 18th Oct 9:30 – 11:00 am
Saturday 9th Nov 9:00 – 10:00 am
Additional date to be confirmed if required

@ourladyoflourdes1 01214442684
www.ourladyoflourdesprimary.com enquiries@ourlady.bham.sch.uk

Christ at the centre of our school where we live, love and learn together

Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 13th November
6pm - 8pm

Click here to book your tickets

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%

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 Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Wednesday 6th November	Sixth Form Tea Party
Sunday 10th November	Remembrance Sunday
Monday 11th November	Toy Appeal Launch Remembrance one minute silence
Wednesday 13th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Tuesday 19th November	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 20th November	Sixth Form Tea Party Red Wednesday
Friday 22nd November	Cake Sale
Sunday 24th November	Youth Mass at St Dunstan's
Monday 25th November - Wednesday 27th November	Year 7 & 8 Alton Castle Trip
Wednesday 27th November	Flu vaccinations
Monday 2nd December - Friday 6th December	Book Fair
Tuesday 3rd December	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 4th December - Thursday 5th December	Christmas Event
Thursday 5th December	Canteen - Mexican Day
Tuesday 10th December	Cooking Club Parent/Carer Celebration
Thursday 12th December	Year 7 Disco
Friday 13th December	Toy Appeal Ends Cake Sale
Tuesday 17th December	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 18th December	Sixth Form Tea Party
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Hamper Raffle Christmas Mass
Friday 20th December	School closed - Staff INSET
Monday 6th January	School open

Toy Appeal

Christmas 2024



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

COLLECTION DATES:
Monday 4th November - Thursday 12th December

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Toy Appeal

Competitions

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



FORM GROUP REWARDS TRIP

The form group that donates the most gifts to the appeal will be awarded with an afternoon rewards trip.

AMAZON VOUCHER PRIZE DRAW

Every student that brings in a gift will be entered into a prize draw to win an Amazon voucher.

1st prize: £50, 2nd & 3rd prize: £30, 4th & 5th prize: £15, 6th prize £10

