



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Head of Year 7 Summer Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of a very strange academic year, it is time say goodbye to the Year 7 group that I was really only getting to know when we had to close the school. Usually, the summer term gives us all a chance to really get to know students, who we don't teach, as there is often a wealth of extra-curricular, character building activities alongside many, many trips. This year, these have had to become virtual and many students in Year 7 have continued to produce excellent, creative work.

Class Charts

It is fantastic to see how Year 7 students have embraced the use of Class charts. I know that for some pupils, this has been a much better way of working and I'm sure that we will exploit its full potential (when we've all had more training!) I might even be asking some of the students in September to remind me how to do things!

DT Food Knife Skills

Students in year 7 have looked a small-scale kitchen equipment. As part of this they have been practising their knife skills at home (with supervision of an adult).



They were asked to make a fruit salad demonstrating how to use knives safely and show a range of chopping techniques. Thank you to Robert D, Anne Roseline J U, Luis T and Aidan W for the excellent examples.

English Reading challenges

If you've got a spare minute, you might want to take a look at some of Year 7's Creative Challenges from last week. They have been studying Greek Myths in English this term and were asked to recreate one in any way they wanted. There have been cakes, poems, Lego scenes, paintings and more. William B's animated graphic has certainly captured a sense of drama and Katie D's stop-motion is particularly impressive! Please check out the English department's Twitter link: https://twitter.com/bc_englishdept/status/1281588727148576768?s=21

Maths

Every year, we enter a number of students from year 7 and year 8 into the "Junior Mathematical Challenge", run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT). It is a 60 minute challenge, sat under exam conditions, and tests understanding of tricky and interesting maths questions. It is a nationally run competition, and is often good fun! This year our students took part in this remotely, and completed the challenge online.

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School Trip Refunds

As I mentioned earlier, the summer term is usually a time when many trips take place. Many trips and obviously been paid for or partially paid for. It has been a mammoth task for the Finance team to organise these refunds and they have done a brilliant job managing the trip refund process. We are now hopefully getting towards a completion date.

Parents/carers will have been receiving messages to confirm what amounts are being refunded. If a payment was made within the last six months it will be refunded direct to the bank account/card paid with via SchoolComms. If a payment was made longer than six months ago or by cash then refunds will be made by cheque which are being prepared and signed and will then be posted out. If you have a query about this, please contact me and I will pass on your contact details to the Finance Team who will call you back.

Free School Meals

If your son/daughter is eligible for free school meals the Edenred voucher scheme has been extended to cover the summer holiday period. School will have been in touch to arrange the collection of the vouchers for this period.

September Start

We are really looking forward to seeing all students in September, in line with government guidance adaptations and some practices have changed, please refer to Dr Coughlan's letter sent on Thursday 16th July regarding the arrangements for September, in summary-

- All students will return
- Full school uniform must be worn
- Full school PE kit must be worn on days your son/daughter has PE as there will be no changing facilities available
- There may be a change to the start and end time of the school day for your son/daughter
- Whilst we encourage students to arrive at school close to their designated start time, sibling groups can arrive together and we will fully support this. Students arriving early to school will be accommodated. Please note, although staff are around the school there is no direct supervision unless students are taking part in organised activities.
- All students have a responsibility to adhere to hand washing and sanitizing and following one way systems in place in school
- Your son/daughter will receive a broad and balanced curriculum still consisting of 5 periods per day
- We are committed to offering extra-curricular activities where it is safe and possible to do so

Attendance/Punctuality

All students are expected to attend school full time from September. Normal procedures should be followed if you son/daughter is unable to attend school.

Students must be on time, sanctions in line with school policy will still apply.

Form Names 2020/2021

From September the name of our form groups will change. Each form group will be represented by a Saint, some further information on each of the Saints is attached.

BON will be BER- St Bernadette

HIL will be BOS- St John Bosco

LIV will be CEC- St Cecilia

MAC will be LUK- St Luke

SCO will be SEB- St Sebastian

SHA will be TER- St Teresa of Calcutta

The change of form names is a really positive move and further reflects the distinct nature of our Catholic school.

Uniform/Standards

Expectations regarding uniform and standards of behaviour remain unchanged in September. Students should attend school prepared to learn and familiarise themselves again with the BC Basics. There has been an appendix to the school's behaviour policy, this can be found here-

https://files.schudio.com/bishop-challoner-catholic-college/files/documents/policies/POLICIES_2020/BC_009a_Appendix_to_Behaviour_Policy.pdf

Medical Information

If your son/daughter has any medical condition that the school have not been made aware of please ensure that you provide full details before the start of September by emailing- enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.

Goodbye...

At this time of year we say goodbye and good luck to both teaching and support staff that are moving on. Ms Baker leaves to take up an Assistant Headteacher post after 15 years of outstanding service to the school. Also from the teaching staff we say farewell to Mr Wooler (Maths), Miss Leigh-Lancaster (English), Mr Bennett (Computing) and Mr Palmer (PE).

From the support staff we say goodbye to Mr Jogia (Cleaning Team), Miss O'Neill (Sports Centre/Reception), Miss Nutt (Maths Hub) and Miss Reynolds (Computing Hub).

We wish them all the very best of luck and we will continue to keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

A few goodbyes.

It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to the Year 7 year group as I will not be continuing as the Head of Year 8 next academic year. I am remaining as the Head of Year 7 and so will be welcoming the new cohort into the school in September. I am passing the Head of Year baton to Mr Clarke (formally Head of Year 11). I know that he is really excited to be working with you all from September. He will be assisted in the Head of Year role by Miss Williams, who will replace Mrs Higginson. Mrs Higginson herself is taking a break in order to have a baby, which is due during the Summer. We wish her and her family well.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as this Year group and, whilst I will not have direct pastoral responsibility, I'm still going to be teaching some Year 8 French groups, and I'm still there for those who need me!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs McGowan
Head of Year 7

Mrs 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

