

# Head of Year 8

## February Half Term Newsletter

**Miss Sadler, Head of Year**  
**Mr Brade Assistant Head of Year**

As we approach February half term and the halfway point of Year 8, Mr Brade and I have been proud to watch the progress Year 8 students have made. As a year group, their behaviour, punctuality and focus in lessons has been pleasing this term. Their attitude towards revision in the run up to assessments has been exemplary.



### Assemblies

Year 8 continue to attend a weekly assembly in the sports hall. Each week they start the assembly in worship, before receiving important messages such as information about World Religion Day, World Cancer Day, and the importance of attendance at school. Pupils have also been continuing to read a message of worship at the end of assembly. We have been very impressed with the confidence and eloquence of those pupils who have volunteered to stand up in assembly to do this – well done.

### Form Time

During form time year 8 have continued to receive important messages from their form tutors, for example discussing Holocaust Memorial Day, and sharing messages to support mental health.

They have also continued to engage in their year long intra-form competition 'The Tournament of Champions', challenges since the last newsletter have included quizzes, dodgeball and 'the cube' a series of mental and physical challenges.

The current leaderboard for Year 8 is:

1st LUK, 2nd SEB, 3rd TER, 4th BOS, 5th CEC.

### Assessments

Year 8 assessments at the midpoint of key stage 3 have been ongoing since 22nd January. Year 8 have shown a focus and dedication towards their revision that has been very impressive. We would like to commend them on their hard work and effort. The results of the assessment may result in some group changes to ensure that pupils are best placed to continue the key stage 3 curriculum. Class teachers and the pastoral team will be available to discuss the results in more detail at the parents' consultation day in March.

### Maths Challenge

On the 1st of February 2024, Bishop Challoner hosted the annual Year 8 Maths Challenge day. We entered two teams from Year 8 and both performed admirably. They had a fantastic day competing across 4 maths-based activities against 8 other Catholic schools from around the West Midlands. We had one team who finished in 4th place and the other finished in 7th place.

### Alton Castle

On Sunday 26th November the year 7 and 8 students who were attending Alton Castle residential attended St. Dunstan's Church on National Youth Sunday to celebrate a youth mass in preparation for their upcoming residential. The following day forty-three students set off for Alton castle from Monday to Wednesday, where they experienced fun, faith and friendship in action.

Students took part in biking, trekking, crate stacking, a low ropes course. Students also had a disco with lots of dancing and a conga line. We also had some budding actors in the group as we explored our retreat theme of 'the nativity'. Amongst the time of fun there was also opportunities to be more reflective with morning and night prayers, Grace before and after meals and the Holy Mass celebrated together as a community.

Throughout our retreat we were looking for students to display the commit to character virtues we follow in school. Well done to Teddy, Petro, Elsie, Mary, Mohammed, Ava, Joseph and Luke who displayed virtues of resilience, compassion and faith filled. The students had a brilliant time at Alton Castle and we're already looking forward to our next visit for year 7 and 8 in November 2024.



## Cyber Club for Girls

In November, we took a group of year 8 girls, accompanied by previous CyberFirst winners and finalists from year 9 and 10, to kick off CyberFirst at Aston University. It turned out to be a success, and six teams of girls in year 8 signed up to enter the national cyber security competition lead by GCHQ. One team, in particular, showed incredible commitment – even attending school on Sunday to complete more challenges with the support of their computing teachers. Collectively the school scored around 16,000 points! We hope that the girls who participated might consider pursuing future careers in technology.



## Ball Crew

As a school, Bishop Challoner have been selected to supply a Ball crew for the ITF 50k Womens World Tennis Tour when the competition reaches Birmingham in February. Thirty pupils have been selected for this magnificent opportunity with integral participants coming from Year 8. Testament to all involved for their hard work and dedication over the training period.



## Girls Football

The year 8 girls competed in a tournament at Birmingham city against rival schools to compete for a place to represent BCFC at the EFL regional finals. The girls dominated the opposition and won 9 games out of 9, scoring 50+ goals and conceding 0.



Although disappointed, the year 8 girls from Bishop Challoner representing BCFC were a credit to the school and to themselves at the EFL Girls regional finals. Unfortunately, the girls were knocked out in the semifinals after an extremely close game.



## Indoor Athletics - 2nd Place

Year 8 Participated in an Indoor Athletics event at Billesley Tennis Centre. The pupils from Bishop Challoner competed against different schools in a variety of events (Sprinting, Standing long jump, Relay, High jump). The winner of the event transcends to the final at the University of Birmingham, unfortunately the boys involved in Year 8 marginally missed out but valiantly securing 2nd place.



## Basketball - Jr NBA

A fantastic display from Year 8, who faced off against Lighthall in R5 of the Jr NBA. Challoner dominated the game scoring 38 points with each starting player scoring multiple baskets in the game. Challoner are now 2nd in the league with 2 games in hand and are in a great position to challenge for first place.



# 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**

## 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.

## 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](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and you can collect free donations for us every time you buy something online.

## 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.**

## 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 to 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 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.

**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.

Students are expected to be in full uniform travelling to and from school.

## Advertise with us... Newsletter sponsorship

BC14 and newsletter space available.

Contact [g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)  
Tel:- 0121 4444161.

## Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage	w/c 05/02/24
Year 7 - 94%	Late Marks
Year 8 - 94%	Year 7 - 19
Year 9 - 91%	Year 8 - 13
Year 10 - 89%	Year 9 - 56
Year 11 - 92%	Year 10 - 38
Whole School - 92%	Year 11 - 29

## 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.

## KEY DATES

**School Open**  
Monday 19th February

**Year 8 Designer Maker Showcase**  
Tuesday 20th February

**Teenage Cancer Trust - Canteen**  
Wednesday 21st February

**National Careers Week**  
w/b Monday 4th March

**World Book Day**  
Thursday 7th March

**Mothers Day Hamper Raffle**  
Friday 8th March

**Cyberfirst Event**  
Tuesday 12th March

**Malypmics Parents' Sleep Workshop**  
Wednesday 13th March

**Year 8 Disco and Tuck Shop**

Thursday 14th March  
BGT

**Mothers Day Hamper Raffle**

**World Sleep Day**  
Friday 15th March

**St Patrick's Day - Canteen Year 7/8 Sponsored Football**  
Monday 18th March

**Year 8 Parent Consultation Afternoon**  
School closes at 1.10pm  
Tuesday 19th March

**Sixth Form Easter Fair**  
Wednesday 20th March

**Easter Hamper Raffle Spring Cake Sale**  
Thursday 21st March

**Easter Holiday**  
Monday 25th March -  
Monday 8th April

**VACANCIES - click here for details**

## Leave in Term Time

Term time holidays cause significant concern. The direct correlation between attendance and attainment is undeniable. Absence from school interrupts teaching and learning and compromises progress. As per the letter regarding legal action sent at the start of the academic year, Birmingham local authority seeks to support Birmingham schools and academies in reducing the amount of education lost to student leave of absence in term time. Bishop Challoner Catholic College and Birmingham City Council strongly discourages student leave of absence during term time and parents/carers could be subject to court action and hefty fines. Recent leave in term time absences have resulted in one fine of £428 and 3 fines of 433. Please support the school and your child and ensure all leave is taken in the school holidays.

## Term Dates

### Spring Term

Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to  
Friday 16 February 2024  
Term Ends: Friday 22nd March 2024

### Summer Term 2024

**INSET School Closed:** Monday 8th April 2024  
Term Starts: Tuesday 9th April 2024  
Half Term: Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31  
May 2024  
Term Ends: Friday 19th July 2024  
**INSET School Closed:** Monday 22nd July 2024

## TWITTER

Official School  
Twitter  
@BishopChalloner

Careers  
@BCCareersSmart

Chaplaincy  
@BC\_Chaplaincy

Computing  
@BishopChalComp

English Dept  
@BC\_EnglishDept

Green Group  
@educating\_eco

History  
@bchistory\_

Music Department  
@BCPAmusic

PE Department  
@BCPEDepartment

Teaching and  
Learning  
@BcTeaching

Makes  
@bc\_makes

Wellbeing

@BCCWellbeing

Chess  
@bccchess

Performing Arts  
@BCPAPA4

Social Sciences  
@BCSocSciDept

Biology  
@BCCbio

Sixth Form  
@BCCCSix

Art Dept  
@BCChallonerArt

BFood Department  
@BishopFood

Judo Club  
@BCJudoClub

MFL  
@BishopMfl

OLC  
@BC\_OLC

SGO  
@BCSGO

Sports Centre

@BishopCentre

TSA  
@bctsa\_training

1-1 Maths  
@BC11M1maths

Central Maths Hub  
@centralmathshub

Central Midlands SLP  
@CentralMidSLP

Geography  
@BCGeogDept

Maths  
@BCMthsDept

Friends of BC  
@bc\_friends

STEM  
@STEMBC

Teach Computing  
Central Midlands  
@BCComputingHub

Tolkien Cluster  
Schools  
@PrimaryTolkien

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  
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.