

Head of Year 8



October Half Term Newsletter

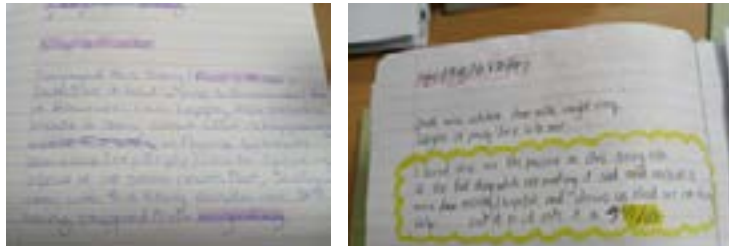
Mr Knowles, Head of Year

Miss Williams Assistant Head of Year

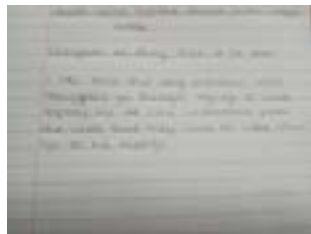
A warm welcome back to our Year 8 students, parents, carers and all those reading our first Year 8 Newsletter of the school year. The year group have made a great start to this term, settling into new routines and classes well, alongside getting involved in a range of activities outside of the classroom. As a new Head of Year for this year group, it has been wonderful to get to know the students and watch them continue to throw themselves into life at Bishop Challoner and everything it has to offer.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Across the departments, Year 8 have been involved in Black History Month and been empowering themselves. Firstly in French, students have been listening to the beautiful song Face a la mer by Calogero et Passy. Here are some comments about how they felt about the song.



In PSHE, students have been exploring famous black people who had an impact on the world we live in. People they have explored include Stormzy, Lenny Henry and Alex Scott. I have been so proud to see how insightful they have been in applying their findings to their lives.



ENGLISH PRESENTATIONS

In English, students have been working superbly on presentations on their role models. A range of famous people were spoken about and members of staff within the English department spoke with such fondness when telling us about students presentations. I had the honour of watching 8W1 show me their presentations and they were superb making me a very proud head of year!

PUNCTUALITY

As a reward for the superb start students are making to year 8, we are now having a weekly prize draw. Every student who is on time to every lesson each week is in with a chance of winning some chocolate and a pass to jump the lunch queue! This competition has certainly created a buzz within the year group as well as ensuring students understand the importance of punctuality.

YEAR OF HOPE

As a community, we wish to give glory to God by our service to others. In the Year of Hope at Bishop Challoner, our school charity is Father Hudson's Care: a charity that endeavors to protect and care for those vulnerable in society, such as children, families, the elderly, the disabled and the displaced, such as refugees. It has been wonderful to witness Year 8 students readily and eagerly engage in the charity work that has happened so far this year. As we continue to celebrate the year of Hope, students in 8TER have already been raising money for the whole school charity. On Friday 17th October, students in 8TER hosted a doughnut sale. Just shy of 200 doughnuts were sold raising just shy of £80. A fantastic effort I am sure you will agree.

Next up, 8CEC will be hosting a raffle for a chocolate hamper – wish them luck!

FAITHFUL VIRTUES

This academic year, our students have had a particular focus on the FAITHFUL virtues (being Faith-Filled, Attentive, Intentional, Truthful, Helpful, Forgiving, Understanding and Learned). In this newsletter, we would like to take the opportunity to praise our year group for their outstanding efforts working towards these different virtues every week. Every week during assembly, we make an effort to praise students who display these virtues. The following students have been top of the leaderboard consistently and deserve plenty of praise; Anenyasha N, Ogochim A-I, Rosie C, Noel C, Grace G, Milaan L and Aston M.

TRIPS

30 of our Year 8 girls had the exciting opportunity to visit Aston University to participate in a Cyber Girls First event. The day included inspiring talks from influential women working in the cybersecurity industry, who shared their experiences and advice about careers in technology. Students also enjoyed a special session with the West Midlands Cyber Crime Unit, where they took part in an escape room-style activity that challenged them to work as a team, think critically, and apply problem-solving skills. It was an inspiring day that not only opened our students' eyes to the growing field of cybersecurity but also highlighted the exciting opportunities available to them in the future.

Forty of our Year 8 students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Bletchley Park, the historic home of World War II codebreaking and modern computing. As part of the trip, they took part in an interactive cyber security workshop, where they learned about protecting information and the importance of online safety. Alongside this, students explored the famous huts and exhibitions, discovering how Alan Turing and his team cracked the Enigma code. The visit gave them a unique chance to connect history with modern-day computing, while also developing problem-solving and teamwork skills.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

The Year 8 boys football team beat Fortis Academy 7-0 in the Birmingham Cup, a fantastic achievement!



PSHE AND ASSEMBLY

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. Year 8 students have spent time thinking about their goals for the year ahead, and also had plenty of opportunity to come together in collective worship. It was a delight to see the reverence and respect demonstrated by the year group during the first mass of the school term, and we hope they will continue to uphold this attitude within collective worship around school and during form times. This year, students have been able to volunteer for different roles within their form groups, such as faithful ambassadors, form angels, school council reps and eco reps. The willingness and eagerness of pupils to be involved in these roles has been beyond impressive, and it is wonderful to see how keen pupils are to want to make a change for the better and be helpful and faith-filled wherever they can.

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 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.

FIRST AID AND MOBILE PHONES

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

Any questions or concerns please email them using the main enquiry email for the attention of first aid or call to speak with first aid on the main school number 0121 444 4161.

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 INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

Medication; All medication should be handed into first aid and not carried by the students. Exception EpiPen, Asthma inhalers, insulin. Tranexamic acid in special circumstances.

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 at our water stations provided or they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

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

Parents/Carers of students with a known allergy must provide school first aid with antihistamine; this also applies to those at risk of anaphylaxis, in addition to their EpiPen.

We do not provide liquid paracetamol such as Calpol. If your child cannot take tablets and you would prefer them to have liquid Calpol, please send this in to the school first aider with your child's name on it. This will be kept safe in first aid for your child only.

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 Designated Safeguarding Lead or member of the Wellbeing Team.

Any such information will always be treated confidentially.

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 Designated Safeguarding Lead. Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.



SCHOOL YEAR

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Half-term

Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Term ends

Thursday 18th December 2025

SPRING TERM 2026

Term starts

Monday 5 January 2026

Half-term

Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term ends

Friday 27 March 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

Term starts

Monday 13 April 2026

Half-term

Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term ends

Friday 17th July 2026

INSET DAYS

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

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%

FACILITIES HIRE

We offer a wide range of classes for the local community and our facilities are also available for private hire. For session bookings and all other enquiries please feel free to contact one of the team.

Bishop Challoner Sports Centre is an exciting and innovative sports complex, comprising:

- A full sized Sports Hall
- Olympic sized Dojo specifically designed for Martial Arts
- Meeting Conference Room

<https://widget.bookteq.com/bishopchallonersportscentre/43f86d02-be0c-4249-ba4a-637f57cfbea0/book-online/b1be746a-fcf8-4de0-a44e-2497d3876911/activity>

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 Wednesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 3rd November	Year 7 Assessment window Men's Health Month
Wednesday 5th November	Early finish Year 11 Parent Consultation Afternoon
Monday 10th November - Friday 14th November	Anti-bullying Week
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 13th November	World Kindness Day
Monday 17th November - Friday 21st November	Year 7 and Year 8 Bikeability
Wednesday 19th November	Red Wednesday Mass
Thursday 20th November	Catholic Secondary Schools KS4 Maths Challenge
Friday 21st November	Last day of Jubilee Year of Hope
Monday 24th November - Wednesday 27th November	Year 7 Alton Castle Trip
Thursday 27th November	Catholic Secondary School Chess Event Year 7 Animal Experience
Friday 28th November	Bishop's Got Talent
Monday 1st December	Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday 3rd December	Sixth Form Rudolph Run
Thursday 4th December	Year 7 Christmas Disco Christmas Disco Shop
Monday 8th December	Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception Sixth Form London Art Trip
Wednesday 10th December - Friday 12th December	Year 12 Soli House Trip
Thursday 11th December	Christmaths Day
Monday 15th December	Year 7, 8 & 9 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 16th December	Year 7 & 8 Christmas Mass
Wednesday 17th December	Sixth Form Bishop's Got Talent Year 9, 10 & 11 Christmas Mass
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Cake Raffle Musical Dementia Trip Christmas Hamper Raffle - 9BER Sixth Form Christmas Service
Friday 19th December	Staff INSET - School Closed



**Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College**

APPLY NOW



SIXTH FORM PROMOTIONAL VIDEO



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW ONLINE](#)

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



Toy Appeal Christmas 2025

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

Irish TV will be at Bishop Challoner on Friday 28th November.

COLLECTION DATES:

Monday 3rd November - Friday 12th December

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

