



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## Year 8 May Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Events have certainly changed since the last newsletter! I hope that you and your families are keeping well during these difficult times. Staff are continuing to support our community both in school and through distance learning. I have received many emails from staff praising the efforts of year 8 students and the high calibre of work they are producing – keep it up year 8!

As we continue being at home more it is vital that students keep motivated but also prioritise well-being. I would like to signpost you to the Safeguarding and Well-being page on our website where you will find lots of useful links. Year 8 students are being asked to organise themselves and become more independent and I am aware that time management can be difficult so here are a few tips:

- Look at the timetable on the school website for which subjects you need to study each day.
- Stick to this timetable!
- Email (from your school email account) your class teacher if you are stuck with any work.
- Make sure you find time for exercise and fresh air.
- Have some screen-free time every day – look at the Activities page on the school website for ideas.
- Talk to another person about how you are feeling.

### Safeguarding and Well-being

*Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.*

**Mother Teresa**

We hope this newsletter finds you well and even though some of the lockdown restrictions have been eased we hope that you are all managing to remain safe. The lovely weather, hopefully will have enabled some of you to enjoy going outside to relax, to exercise and get some fresh air.

It is also important to remember to spend time talking to each other and time should be made where all electronic devices are left to one side for an hour or so to allow conversations to take place.

However, we do recognise that this period of time continues to be challenging for many of us. We continue to update the resources on our web page to help support parents/carers and young people throughout this time. These resources can be found on our school website:

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/catholic-college/about/safeguarding/covid-19-safeguarding-and-child-protection-addendum>.

On the web page you will also find information about staff who are in a position to offer further support and guidance. Please stay safe and allow us all to support each other during this time.

### Half Term

School is open during the half term holiday for key worker and vulnerable students as defined by the DfE. If you think that you son/daughter needs to attend school please email [keyworker@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:keyworker@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk) with the details of your situation and detail the days that you would need your son/daughter to attend.

**Principal - Dr J Coughlan**

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MathsHUBS



### **Summer Term 2 Update**

You will have received a letter from Dr Coughlan on Monday 18th May detailing the schools position with regards to opening for students from Year 10 and Year 12 from June onwards. Plans are well underway behind the scenes and as soon as they are finalised they will be communicated.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

Students eligible for free school meals will still receive a voucher from Edenred during half term. The government said they would not fund the half term holiday but as a school we will be covering the cost for this week. If you have any issues with FSM vouchers please email Mrs Reynolds, r.reynolds@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.

### **Class Charts**

All parents/carers of Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 students should by now have received parent/carer and student access codes for Class Charts. Year 10 and 12 have successfully been using Class Charts already this term.

The launch date for Class Charts was initially set for September 2020 but we have made a decision to bring this forward. Students and parents/carers can take advantage of the excellent Homework feature of the system. Staff can set homework, parent/carers and students can view the homework via the Class Charts app or website and complete, return and receive feedback from staff all using the system. All work for Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be issued by Class Charts from Monday 1st June 2020.

Please use the codes you were sent to create an account by going here:

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>.

Links to mobile phone apps are also available from this page. If you have more than one child in the school then you can enter additional codes once you have created an account and are logged in. Links to very useful guides for parents/carers and students are shown below:

[https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class\\_Charts\\_for\\_parents\\_guide.pdf](https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_parents_guide.pdf)

[https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class\\_Charts\\_for\\_pupils\\_guide.pdf](https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_pupils_guide.pdf)

If your child does not have access to online materials then work will continue to be distributed as it has been. Please note though, students can use the Class Charts app on mobile devices.

There are other very useful features of Class Charts that we will be launching from September 2020.

### **PE**

From 1st June there will be a virtual sport challenges linked to sports day which students can take part in. Students will be able tweet us their videos/ pictures to our PE page @BCPE.

### **Year 8 Careers Booklets**

All of year 8 have been emailed an electronic booklet called STEP ON. This booklet allows students to work through activities that will focus on the positive aspects of wellbeing, progress and achievements, teach students to give examples of different business organisational structure and recognise the qualities and skills they have demonstrated both in and out of school that will help to make them employable.

Each week they will be sent a few activities from this booklet that we suggest they work through. These activities shouldn't be too time consuming and they are not compulsory. The workbooks are in a pdf format that students can type into and save their progress.

### **Writing Competition**

Please see attached a link for a writing competition for young people as well as the chance to win £5000 for our school library.

[https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/big-dreams?utm\\_source=nbt&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=big-dreams&utm\\_campaign=20200515\\_writing-competition](https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/big-dreams?utm_source=nbt&utm_medium=email&utm_content=big-dreams&utm_campaign=20200515_writing-competition)

## Chaplaincy

Within Chaplaincy, we are making resources available on the website and on the Chaplaincy Twitter Page (@bc\_chaplaincy) to highlight the month of Mary and truly delve in to her significance in our faith. These resources include evening prayer, scripture reflections and a blog post. We also have our daily prayer and reflection sheet on our website which we invite you to browse at and take a moment for reflection and prayer.

Earlier this half term, we launched a Pause for Prayer Blog. The blog posts delved into different topics such as the rosary, Mary's significance and keeping faith alive which has seen guest writers from diocesan priests Monsignor Tim Menezes and Fr Sean who spoke openly about their faith and taking inspirations from the Popes. We invite you to take time to read through the blog posts and thank both Monsignor Tim and Fr Sean for writing these inspiring testaments to faith.

The week of 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 has been designated Laudato Si' Week. We are asked to pray about caring for Our Common Home. The weeklong celebration is to honour Pope Francis' writing on ecology and climate change, and to encourage us to build a better world together. We will be marking this with resources and parts of his writings on our website, the sway page (link available on the website) and twitter.

## Coronavirus

### Stay Alert

- Stay at home as much as possible
- Work from home if you can
- Limit contact with other people
- Keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- Wash your hands regularly
- Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

### Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Further updates regarding Corona Virus COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>.

Stay Safe,

Mrs Brown  
Head of Year 8

Miss Hunter  
Assistant Head of Year 8



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:	@BCCCDesign	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