

Head of Year 8



October Half Term Newsletter

Miss Hunter, Head of Year
Miss Manning, 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.

Charity Work and The Year of Hope

"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace."

Pope Francis

As a community, we wish to give glory to God by our service to others. In the Year of Hope at Bishop Challoner, our focus 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, with a special mention to 8TER and Miss Thomas organising a successful KS3 cake sale to raise money for our school charity. Lots of our Year 8 students also took part in the CAFOD Family Fast Day appeal at the beginning of October, where an incredible £129.72 was raised to help those less fortunate. Students not only donated, but also wrote prayers to end poverty, asked how they could get on board with future fundraising and encouraged each other to get involved.



A special mention to our Year 8 students Yankee, Reuben, Patrick and Lemuel who volunteered to help out with the appeal in the Chapel during their lunchtime – an excellent example of being faith-filled and helpful, in line with the character virtues that lie at the heart of our Bishop Challoner community.

PSHE and Form Time Worship

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.

FAITHFUL Character 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. Our top form for positive logs this half-term, at a whopping 90% is 8TER, closely followed by 8BER (89%) and 8SEB (86%). Alongside this, we wanted to give a specific well done to the following students on their achievements this half term: Sophia T, Ethan L, Harris K, Lihiem D, Mesuna R, Leighton -BF, Munana D, Giovanni AEE, Daniel B-G, Jacob T, Mae M, Kaiden G, Kyron H, Aleigh MH, Ednah ST, Lily B, Kayven R, Amnah N, Anthony T, Artur A, Henry K, Noah P. Keep up the great work!

Extra-Curricular

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of life at Bishop Challoner, and it has been amazing to see so many activities being attended by Year 8, from STEM club and Science club to Art Club, Cookery Club and Book Club to name a few! We hope Year 8 continue to get involved in these fantastic opportunities that foster and facilitate their holistic personal growth! A particularly exciting opportunity is happening in the last week of this half term, where 14 members of our year group are taking part in a Manga Drawing workshop, organised by the Literature Festival and hosted by author Sonia Leong.

Twelve students were also given a part in the BBC project looking at the 50th anniversary of the Birmingham Bombings; they helped interview local people who experienced the event and discussed what it was like living in Birmingham afterwards. This project ties in with their English curriculum this term, where students have been studying different aspects of Race & Identity. The aforementioned students were a credit to the school, displaying eloquence, courtesy and intrigue in what they were discussing so maturely. Well done Year 8!

Reading

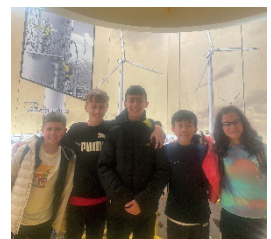
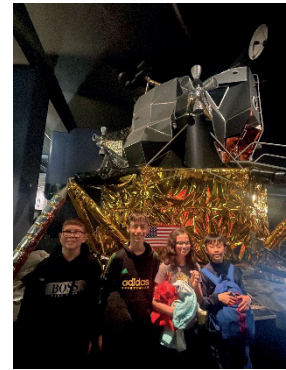
As an English teacher as well as Assistant Head of Year, I cannot state enough the importance of continuing to read with your children. Reading is a research driven method of improving one's grades, mental health and future prospects in life. As such, all students in Year 8 have an English lesson in the library once a fortnight to make excellent use of the resources available in the school. Likewise, we fully encourage reading from home and I must mention the Reading club and advise children attend it. Top library borrowers in Year 8 to celebrate are: Pio, Oliver E and Destiny! Next half term, we look forward to seeing many more Year 8 students making use of the brilliant resources the library has to offer.

Trips

Despite only being 8 weeks into a new school year, Year 8 have already been involved in a plethora of school trips, the first of which being the ever-exciting excursion to Drayton Manor in September. Since then, many of our students also took a visit to London to explore the Science Museum. They had a fab time, particularly when investigating in the International Space Station in the IMAX Theatre and viewing the displays around the centre (see attached pictures).

The computer science department facilitated another brilliant trip, in which 40 Year 8&9 pupils went to Bletchley Park. They were able to explore the grounds of the top-secret GCHQ operations where Alan Turing created a machine to crack the enigma cipher and decode Nazi Germany's secret military messages. They learnt about the exciting history of the location, had a chance to tackle some coded messages and took part in a workshop. The pupils from both year groups behaved impeccably and were a credit to the school.

Many are already looking forward to the residential retreat to Alton Castle which takes place in November, and also sporting trips. There are many opportunities here for students to engage with in out-of-classroom learning whilst having an amazing time. We encourage all parents to keep an eye out for the different opportunities that come up.



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.

Sport

As well as extra-curricular clubs, it has been a pleasure to see many of our Year 8 students participating in sports clubs run by our incredible PE department, such as Netball, Football, Basketball and Dance. We encourage more pupils to take a look at the extra-curricular timetable and get involved or try something new! On Friday 18th October, a number of Year 8 students were lucky enough to participate in a Parkour workshop run by the visiting Ascension Dance Company. The session was highly enjoyed by students, who had fun putting together routines and attempting a sport many of them hadn't tried before! Looking forward to next half term, we wish our group of Year 8 girls representing Birmingham City in the EFL Utilita Cup all the best as they head to Wast Hills Training Complex on Thursday 7th November.



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.

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.

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.

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 and you can collect free donations for us every time you buy something online.

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.

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.

Teaching School

Do you have older children or relatives at University studying Maths, Computing, Physics, Chemistry or MFL related degrees?

In June/July Bishop Challoner are offering a 3 week paid (£900 total) internship based in local schools, open to students. We wanted to flag this opportunity to families in our community. Application is straightforward, and can be done on our website here:

<https://www.bctsa.org/605/teaching-internship-programme>

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

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.

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%

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.

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.



**Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College**

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 13th November
6pm - 8pm



Click here to
book your tickets



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

@ourladyoflourd1



01214442684



www.ourladyoflourdprimary.com



enquiries@ourlady.bham.sch.uk



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

Autumn Term 2

Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Wednesday 6th November	Sixth Form Tea Party
Friday 8th November	Year 8 & 9 STEM Workshop
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 Year 8 Guess My Job
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
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

Birmingham Irish Association

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

Birmingham Irish Association