



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 9 October Half Term Newsletter 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 have had a fantastic start back to Bishop Challoner, as a year group we have begun to embrace Bishop Challoner's Year of Community through our assemblies, form time activities, personal pledges as well as planning how we will support all scales of community in the year ahead.

Students, as well as staff, have been given time to reflect upon what makes our Bishop Challoner community unique, how we can further develop our community spirit to ensure everyone feels a part of our school. Further afield we have shared ideas on how we can help those in the wider community, beginning with the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

Extra-Curricular

Last year, our year group showed amazing dedication to extracurricular activities. In fact, our year group had the largest uptake of extracurricular activities in comparison to all other years. This year is showing to be just as successful with Year 9 partaking and excelling in a myriad of activities.

Netball

Another congratulations is in order for our netball teams as the Year 9 girls won their match against Camp Hill. Year 9 also competed against Kings Norton Girls School this week. It was an extremely competitive match with the team working together well - unfortunate loss.

The after school netball competitions have begun and the Year 8 and 9 girls competed in the Secondary School Games last week, winning 3/4 of their games, finishing second overall. Well done to all girls who participated, the team worked really hard and played well against tough competition.

Athletics Workshop

Bishop Challoner PE pupils from Year 7-10 participated in a really successful athletics workshop last week. Dean Miller, who works with British Athletics, came into school to deliver an athletics session and organised a range of athletic activities for the students. Pupils worked really hard and 15 pupils have been invited to the Street 2 Stadium Birmingham athletics talent day at the University of Birmingham track. This is a brilliant opportunity for our pupils to get more involved in athletics and receive expert coaching for the day so a well done to those who attended the workshop.

Football

The Year 9 boy's football team will also be competing this week in their first football match of the season, playing against Bilton School in the West Midlands Cup. Good luck to all boys competing!

Creative Writing Club

In addition to our supporting success, Year 9 have also been enjoying Creative Writing Club. Creative Writing Club is open to all ages and abilities/interests whereby students, write, share and discuss. There is something for everyone - so far the students have written poetry about everyday objects, written short descriptions of ourselves and fictional characters. Eventually, the students aim to publish their favourite work in a group anthology.

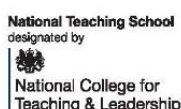


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Book Club

Likewise, I feel it is imperative to mention the importance of reading; it is pivotal that the pupils who have diligently gone to book club get a mention. Book Club, hosted by Mrs Fanning, has promoted the confidence in pupils to create successful learners whereby, with the help of many of our staff, pupils have read and experienced many topical novels to get them talking about literature and issues in the wider society. These students have portrayed traits of commitment and a determination to succeed.

Irish Potato Famine Commemoration Project

In May last academic year, as part of the Irish Potato Famine Commemoration Project which took the lives of over 1 million people, the year group planted potatoes outside of the sports hall. This half term, some of our Year 9s were given the chance to further support the project through harvesting what had been planted.



Shoe Box Appeal

In the Year of Community, Year 9 have displayed excellent compassion to those less fortunate than themselves by contributing to our Shoe Box Appeal. The Shoe boxes will be sent to the charity Operation Christmas Child who send shoe boxes to children need every year. Students have donated their time, money, resources and small gifts to this worthy cause. If any students would still like to contribute, donations are being accepted until the 8th of November.

Brighten Up for CAFOD

Lots of Year 9 took the opportunity to partake in the 'Brighten up for CAFOD' day. At this time, they purchased glow-bands, wore brightly coloured clothes and accessories and even had their nails painted.

Schoolcomms

As you are aware we operate a cashless catering system and Schoolcomms is the only system to make payments for your child's school dinners and school trips. There is only one money loading machine in operation in the school so it is imperative that Schoolcomms is used. For further information please visit our website www.bishopchalloner.org.uk

Uniform and Appearance

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 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 and boots are forbidden.

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black. There are a number of styles, particularly for girls, currently in fashion with wood style soles. These are not suitable for school. School shoes should also be leather and not patent.

In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. 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 gold stud earrings which may be worn by girls.

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.

I know that you will, as always, support us in maintaining the smart appearance of your children and high standards of discipline, so that our focus in school can be on educational achievement.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Year 9- 95%
- Whole school- 96%

This is very pleasing and is in line with the school attendance target. We hope that this level of attendance can continue throughout the remainder of the year.

If your child is absent from school, a notification phone call needs to be made to the school on the first day of the absence and every further day that they are absent too. Upon return to school, a written note needs to be handed in to their form tutor, stating the reason for absence. Please encourage your child to be at school by 8.30am to instil the important life skill of good punctuality.

I hope that all students and their families can enjoy a relaxing half term before their return on **Monday 4th November**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Dawson
Head of Year 9

Key Dates

Monday 4th November-

Thursday 7th November-

Wednesday 15th November-

Tuesday 19th November-

Wednesday 20th November-

Friday 29th November-

Monday 2nd December-

Friday 6th December-

Thursday 12th December-

Friday 13th December-

Monday 16th December-

Tuesday 17th December-

Thursday 29th December-

Friday 20th December-

Monday 6th January-

School Open

Early Closure, 1.10pm- Year 11 Parent Consultation Day

Sixth Form Open Evening

Canteen- Brazillian Day

Shoebboxes Collected

Year 9 Rewards

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins

Christmas Show

KS3 Christmaths Day

Winter Soiree

KS3 STEM Fair

School Closed- Year 7/9/10 Parent Consultation Day

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection Ends

Canteen- Student Christmas Lunch

Whole School Mass

Non uniform Christmas Jumper day

School Closed- Inset Day

School Open

Remember – follow our many twitter feeds for updates on what is happening at BC!



Official School Twitter:	@BishopChalloner	Science:	@BCSciDept
Science:	@BCSciDept	Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Teaching School:	@teaching_school	Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
School Games:	@BCSGO	History:	@history_GCSEBC
Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Science Learning Partnership:	@CentralMidSLP
Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy	Social Science:	@BCSocSciDept
Biology:	@BCCbio	School Games:	@BCSGO
English:	@BC_EnglishDept	Sixth Form:	@BCCSix
PE:	@BCPEDepartment	Central Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Maths:	@BCMathsDept	FOBC:	@bc_friends
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Design:	@BCCDesign