

Head of Year 9

February Half Term Newsletter

Mrs Whelan, Head of Year
Mr Knowles, Assistant Head of Year

We are pleased to welcome Year 9 back into a new term. We would like to take this opportunity to say well done to all students for completing their P3 assessments in the Autumn term. Well done to all to everyone that revised and worked hard prior to their assessments. I am pleased with how encouraging the results were and how Year 9 are progressing this year. This year is particularly important for Year 9 as they begin to explore and choose their GCSE subjects in preparation for the next academic year.



Year 9 Assessments and Parent Consultation Day

Following the Year 9 assessment period we had a very successful Parent Consultation Day. It was wonderful to see so many parents/carers and students make appointments to discuss assessments results and progress with teachers as well as myself.

Year 9 Aspirations Day

Year 9 will be taking part this term in Aspirations Day the Wednesday 6th March. On this day students will be off their normal timetable and will be participating in different workshops and talks. The focus of the day is to provide students with a taste of different GCSE subjects based on their pathway questionnaire they completed at the start of this term. They will have the opportunity to gain insight into potential future career choices. The workshops and talks will focus on Business, Finance, IT, Media, Health & Social, Music, Art, Law, Politics, Science, Maths, Sport & Leisure and Engineering.

Sporting Success

The Year 9 boys basketball team have had an impressive start to the new term, winning their first game. The boys worked hard and supported each other with great team spirit.



Assemblies and Form Time

This term the assemblies have focused on World Religious Day, World Cancer Day, Attendance, Safer internet Day and Holocaust Memorial Day. A holocaust historian visited our school this term. Lesley Urbach from the organization Generation2Generation gave Year 9 an informative, interesting and moving talk on her Jewish family during the Holocaust. Lesley commented how respectful and attentive Year 9 were during this talk.

I have also been impressed by the level of respect and engagement shown by Year 9 students during our reflection and prayer time in assemblies. Essay, Tereance, Eve and many more offering to help say the prayer. Year 9 have also been taking part in weekly rosary sessions with Father John.

It has been impressive to see students taking part in the inter-form competitions such as designing form badges, handball competition and basketball. 9BER became the first form to contribute to the school charity by selling raffle tickets before Christmas, raising over £60.



Careers Fair/Pathway Evening

Our annual careers fair will be taking place during the day of Thursday 7th March. This day will be a fantastic opportunity for students to gain further insight into different career paths as well as exciting students about their learning and GCSE options. Year 9 will have the opportunity to meet with and ask questions of representatives from various organizations.

This will lead to a Pathway Evening on Thursday 7th March. Parents/Carers will have the opportunity to come into school and speak to subject teachers and departments regarding GCSE options. The aim of the evening is to give students and parents/carers information on what is on offer and to answer any questions that they may have.

Ball Crew

Bishop Challoner Catholic College have once again been invited to provide the Ball Crew for the ITF 50K Women's World Tennis Tour competition this February. Year 9 students will be taking part, and we very much look forward to seeing them on the TV over the weekend.

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.

Fox Hollies

Year 9 students were chosen this year to participate in a volunteer programme at Fox Hollies School. The main element of the program involves our students stepping out of their comfort zone by participating in Fox Hollies enrichment activities. Year 9 students took part in art-based activities, music lessons and drama workshops with students from Fox Hollies School.



LAMMA Science Trip

15 Year 9 girls represented Bishop Challoner at the annual UK agricultural machinery equipment and service show. The girls had a great day learning about farming and agriculture taking part in practical experiments.



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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage

Year 7 - 94%

Year 8 - 94%

Year 9 - 91%

Year 10 - 89%

Year 11 - 92%

Whole School - 92%

w/c 05/02/24

Late Marks

Year 7 - 19

Year 8 - 13

Year 9 - 56

Year 10 - 38

Year 11 - 29

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
@BChallonerArt

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
@BCMatsDept

Friends of BC
@bc_friends

STEM
@STEMBC

Teach Computing
Central Midlands
@
BCComputingHub

Tolkien Cluster
Schools
@PrimaryTolkien

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.

School Fund and Match Fund

Please visit the school website for more information on School Fund contributions and Match Fund through your employer.

KEY DATES

School Open
Monday 19th February

Wednesday 13th March

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

BGT
**Mothers Day Hamper
Raffle**

World Sleep Day
Friday 15th March

Fox Hollies Trip
Thursday 22nd February

**St Patrick's Day -
Canteen**

Monday 18th March

National Careers Week
w/b Monday 4th March

School closes at 1.10pm
Tuesday 19th March

Year 9 Aspirations Day
Wednesday 6th March

**Year 9/10 Sponsored
Football**

Sixth Form Easter Fair
Wednesday 20th March

Careers Fair
World Book Day
Year 9 Pathways Evening
Thursday 7th March

Easter Hamper Raffle
Spring Cake Sale
Thursday 21st March

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

Easter Holiday
Monday 25th March -
Monday 8th April

Malypmics
Parents' Sleep Workshop

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

BISHOP CHALLONER



CATHOLIC COLLEGE

MISSION STATEMENT

In our community of
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.

Platinum Jubilee Remembrance Event

on

Thursday 25th April 2024

4.30pm-6.30pm

School Visit

Range of students' activities

7pm

Blessing