

Head of Year 9



October Half Term Newsletter

Miss Hunter, Head of Year

Miss Manning Assistant Head of Year

A warm welcome back to our Year 9 students, parents, carers and all those reading our first Year 9 Newsletter of the school year. The year group have made a great start to this term, settling into new routines and classes well, which will support their progress during this important final year of KS3. Students have also participated in a range of activities outside of the classroom. As a returning Head of Year Team for this year group, we are excited to continue to watch our students throw themselves into life at Bishop Challoner and everything it has to offer.

CHARITY WORK & 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 9 students readily and eagerly engage in the charity work that has happened so far this year, contributing to donations through cake sales, entering a Halloween Hamper raffle and donating to the Christmas Toy Appeal on own clothes day. Looking forward, we are excited to see more donations as 9BER create a Christmas Hamper Raffle for December, and 9TER & 9SEB organise cake sales at break & lunchtime in the foyer next term!

Some of our Year 9 students also took part in the CAFOD Family Fast Day appeal at the beginning of October, where an incredible £181.10 was raised to help those less fortunate. A special mention to Brooke, Annedrea, Munana and Sophia who volunteered to help out with the appeal in the auditorium 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.



COLLECTIVE 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 9 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.



Some of our Year 9 pupils also had the chance to celebrate the Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass at St Chad's Cathedral, joining students from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. It was a privilege to watch them write and read Bidding Prayers and serve at the altar for Bishop Timothy Menezes. The experience was deeply moving, and our pupil chaplains returned inspired and ready to live out their mission in school - leading prayer, supporting liturgies and being a visible presence of faith and service in our community.

ASSEMBLIES

Year 9 continue to attend a weekly assembly, however have adapted well to now being seating in the auditorium as opposed to the sports hall. Each week assembly begins with collective worship, before receiving important messages about topics linked to our PSHE curriculum. This term, assemblies have been on themes such as World Mental Health Day, Black History Month, Resilience and Revision strategies. Pupils have also continued to finish assemblies with a going forth message of worship, and we have been very impressed with the confidence and eloquence of those who have volunteered for this role – Well Done!

KAP 4 ASSESSMENTS

Year 9 Key Assessment Points (KAP4s) are now underway, with the examination window continuing until Wednesday 12th November 2025. These are not intended to cause undue stress but it is important that students prepare thoroughly for these assessments as they allow teachers to measure the progress made since the beginning of the academic year. Students should utilise the revision strategies introduced to them in assemblies and form time resources in order to help themselves prepare as best they can and get into good habits of revision and organisation. The assessments will be completed during normal lesson time and an assessment timetable is now published on the school website, along with guidance on the topics to be assessed within each subject. Please make sure that students refer to this guidance as it will help them to feel effectively prepared for these assessments. The outcomes from these assessments will be very helpful when deciding on appropriate student Pathways as part of our Year 9 Pathways process that will take place in February and March next year. You will have an opportunity to discuss the progress your child is currently making during our Parent Consultation Day on Monday 15th December.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Year 9 every success with their assessments. With thorough preparation and organisation, students will be in a position to produce encouraging results thus demonstrating the progress they have made.

READING

“Books are a form of political action. Books are knowledge. Books are reflection. Books change your mind.”

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 9 participate in a Class Reader in their English lessons, with some lessons also being taught in the library to make excellent use of the resources available in the school. Likewise, we fully encourage reading from home!

Mrs Newton currently hosts a Social Reading Book Club in the library after school on Thursdays, which some of our keen Year 9 readers are currently a part of. The focus of this club is on reading for pleasure; there is NO expectation or pressure on the young people who attend to read, instead aiming to foster conversations and book talk in a relaxed and pressure-free setting. We have some wonderful fiction and non-fiction books suitable for all ages and abilities and hope to encourage pupils to just browse and enjoy looking through books. It would be lovely to see more Year 9 students now head to the library for this relaxed Thursday afternoon - biscuits and drinks are also available as a bonus!

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Friday 10th October marked World Mental Health Day, in which students & staff were invited to wear a yellow accessory to school and donate to the charity Young Minds. There was also a lunchtime celebration organised by the Wellbeing Team. Our library was transformed into a peaceful sanctuary with various mindful activities on offer including bracelet making, Origami, biscuit decorating, mindfulness colouring and a quiet cinema room where students watched Inside Out. Calming music played whilst some of our Sixth Form sold yellow ribbons they had made themselves. Students had chance to create a large bow memorial with finger painting and quotes. Miss Hughes also played classical music as students went into lunch. The whole event was a really lovely way to reminding each other that it is ok not to always feel ok, but that there are always people there to support you.



DRAYTON MANOR

Year 9 had a fantastic time at Drayton Manor at the beginning of the Autumn term! This first trip set a hugely positive tone for the school year ahead, as students explored the park's thrilling rides and attractions, embracing the adventure with laughter and excitement. This outing allowed students to strengthen friendships and foster a sense of camaraderie and enthusiasm for the year to come.



TIA FISHER AUTHOR VISIT

In English lessons so far this year, Year 9 have been introduced to the fantastic verse novel *Crossing The Line*, after being chosen as a huge hit by participants of our Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils Scheme. The novel follows teenager Erik, who, after a traumatic event in his life, makes a series of bad choices that ultimately lead him into the world of County Lines.

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the novel's author, Tia Fisher, into Bishop Challoner at the beginning of October. She delivered a wonderful assembly to our Year 9 students, who were attentive and engaged, asking mature and thought-provoking questions at the end. Some students then also participated in a creative writing workshop lead by Fisher, and the work they were able to produce was fantastic!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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 9, from Science Club to Art Club, Cookery Club and Debate Club to name a few! Particularly popular with many of our Year 9 students is Chess Club, run every Monday with Mr Welch. We get some serious competition taking place!

Many Year 9 students have also been involved in School of Jewellery workshops facilitated by our wonderful Art Department. We're looking forward to seeing what beautiful items the students create over the coming weeks!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Year 9 marks the first year that some of our students will embark on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. This is an exciting opportunity that invites students to engage in various activities through volunteering, taking part in physical activities and learning new skills. These lay groundwork for the students' personal development and future achievements. Along with outdoor expeditions in which students practice orienteering and campcraft, these activities foster teamwork and resilience, with students enhancing their confidence and personal growth. The Bronze DofE award will also set them up for the bigger challenge of the Silver award in the future. More information to follow

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 our weekly assemblies, we celebrate those students who have gone above and beyond in living out these virtues, however we would also like to use this newsletter to take the opportunity to praise our year group for their outstanding efforts. We currently have a three-way lead for top form positive logs this half-term; congratulations to 9CEC, 9LUK and 9TER! Alongside this, we wanted to give a specific well done to the following students on their achievements this half term: Sophia T, Ethan L, Munana D, Markas M, Brooke W, Kiryah - Shaer W, Kayven R, Ethan K, Reuben T, Lily B, Mark L, Ryan H, Niall F, Lemuel D, Ahmed A, Faye G, Luke W, Habiba M, Luke B, Dilara K, Filip B. A special congratulations to Luke C, who has consistently been in our Top 3 students with the most positive every week this term! A huge achievement! Well done!

SPORT

As well as extra-curricular clubs, it has been a pleasure to see many of our Year 9 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!



Looking ahead, we hope for more success at the upcoming Year 8&9 School Games Football Competition at Christchurch School, as well as at events within school, such as our Football Skills BGT event and the anticipated KS3 Intraform Volleyball competition!

An extra well done to our eight Year 9 students selected as Ball Crew for the W35 Pro Series Tennis Tournament in Edgbaston. Testament to all involved for their hard work and dedication over the training period.

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



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

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

