



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Year 9 February Half Term Newsletter 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

This term, year 9 have had excitement and many opportunities of which they could partake. In terms of expanding character, working collaboratively and also fulfilling our potentials by giving service to others. They have spent time developing their sign language skills in school and attending Fox Hollies school for students with special needs. Students have demonstrated great attitudes towards learning about people with different needs to their own, and they have very much enjoyed spending time with the students.

Enrichment

Year 9 have been involved in activities such as dance lessons, life skills classes, art lessons and spending time with students during break time. We have several students that would now like to attend Fox Hollies as their year 10 work experience because they have been inspired by the caring nature of the school and have valued developing their different communication skills. In March, a few students will continue to develop their experiences by attending a residential alongside our Fox Hollies' friends; the aim is for students to spend time together learning from one another and developing the leadership skills required to support someone of different needs. Just some of the activities our students will participate in include high ropes course, archery, zip wire, laser tag.



We are also six weeks away from WE Day UK at the SSE Arena in London. WE Day is an exciting opportunity for young people from across the UK to reflect on how they have, are or will change the world! WE Day aims to empower students to become involved in social change and become global citizens. During the day, students will listen to talks, inspiring stories and incredible performances from major influencers across the globe. Past speakers have included members of the Royal Family, bands such as The Vamps and influences such as Malala. This year we will be inviting a small group of year 9 students to attend WE Day. There is no cost involved. Instead, we are asking for students to demonstrate dedication to the school and their community in service to others. Students that stand out as engaging in service or participating particularly well in the Year of Health and Wellbeing will be recommended for the trip.



Charity

Year 9's charity ethos has also been demonstrated during form time. The Dignity Project has been set up as a way to collect toiletries, sanitary products and other essential items for St Chad's sanctuary. Led by Mrs Hodges, the aim has been to increase awareness whilst bringing year 9 together as a community to affect change in our community and wider society.



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Well done to all who have contributed; a special note must be placed here to Teigan who donated £10 to be spent on toiletries for this purpose. All forms have worked to collect different items and we are very proud of their efforts. Year 9 charity representatives will personally be delivering these basic, yet vital, necessities to those most in need. School wide St Chad's collections continue if students have any extra donations to contribute.

Transatlantic Adventure

A group of students have pioneered a new way to partake in the Transatlantic Adventure whereby they sweated and faced trials and tribulations in performing myriad tasks to improve their own well-being, all from the comfort of the school's brand new, refurbished fitness suite. As the next half term ensues, all students will get the opportunity to see if we, as a community, can metaphorically cross the Atlantic.



Debate Mate Success

Molly and Daniel deserve a special mention for their commitment and articulacy at the recent debating events. Particularly, they performed to an impressive standard when they helped Challoner to become a leading team in the West Midlands Urban Debate League, eagerly awaiting their National ranking. They have another league competition later this year and we wish them well. If others are inspired by this, Debate Mate is every Friday from 2:30. Similarly, in March, a team of 4 year nine's will work on producing a persuasive speech about an inspirational figure with one member presenting this in a students' speaking competition against other Birmingham Catholic schools; please see Ms Lloyd for further details.

Big Physics Quiz

Out of approximately fifty other schools in the West Midlands, Year 9 students represented Challoner in the Big Physics Quiz hosted by the Physics and Astronomy department of the University of Birmingham. With no additional training, our students ranked 11th when competing competitively, narrowly missing out to local grammar schools. They also experienced a keynote lecture by Dr Maria Pavlidou: what an opportunity to heighten our aspirations.

Football

Congratulations to the Boys football team. They have won their quarter final game against Wheelers Lane 3-1. This was an excellent performance and they will now compete in the semi-finals of the Birmingham Cup. Year 9, as always, have excelled in sports and many attend multiple after/before school clubs. If your child would like to participate, please encourage them; it would be great to see them there.

Book Club

Book club's diligent members have also been improving and growing in confidence in their reading. Reading is proven to help students achieve in all subjects and must be encouraged for students to succeed in their future endeavours. Coming up to the Year 9 Pathways, we will support and stretch all students in terms of their reading needs.

Year 9 Pathways

Next half term, students must stretch and challenge themselves as we approach a pivotal time in their educational careers. Leading up to the Pathways' Evening on 7th March, students will be receiving myriad assemblies about their GCSE choices. We encourage all students to discuss their ideas both at home and with their teachers in preparation for such big decisions. A big thank you to Mrs Klerides and three year ten students who gave students a taster with regards to what media is about.

T2 Assessments

With the T2 assessments around Easter, Year 9 are introducing a drop in Breakfast revision club on two mornings a week. On Mondays, these will take place in E1 with Mrs Hodges and on Wednesday, they will occur in C2 with Ms Beard. Students are welcome from 8:00am until form for help and a quiet space to revise. These assessments, which should not worry students, should demonstrate their knowledge and all the skills they have learnt. Revision is vital for their success and we will support them during this time.

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 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 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.

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.

Mobile Phones/Smart Watches

Mobile phones and smart watches are not allowed to be used in school. Students are only permitted to use their mobile phone or smart watch from 3.10pm onwards once on the playground/exit gates. Students found with a mobile phone/smart watch 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.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Year 9- 94%
- Whole school- 95%

The whole school attendance target is an aspirational 97% and we would hope that we can work towards achieving this as a year group by the end of the academic 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 subsequent day 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.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Beard
Head of Year 9

Mrs Hodges
Assistant Head of Year 9

Key Dates

Monday 25th February-

Wednesday 27th February-

Monday 4th March-Friday 8th March

Tuesday 5th March-

Wednesday 6th March-

Thursday 7th March-

Wednesday 13th March-

Wednesday 13th March-Thursday 14th March

Thursday 14th March-

Friday 15th March-

Monday 18th March-

Friday 22nd March-

Thursday 28th March-

Thursday 4th April-

Friday 5th April-

Tuesday 10th April-

Thursday 11th April-

Friday 12th April-

Monday 29th April-

School Open

Year 8-13 Careers Fair

English KS3 Readathon

Canteen- Pancake Day

Ash Wednesday, whole school service

Year 9 Pathways Evening 6-8pm

KS3 & KS4 Student Voice

Year 9 Mass

BGT Event

Canteen- International School Meals Day

Year 9 Girls Vaccinations

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection Begins

KS3 Malympics

Year 9 Rewards Trip

Early Finish 1.10pm

Year 8 Parents Consultation Afternoon (2-4.30pm)

KS3 Football Development Quiz Night

Year 9/10 Sponsored Football

Whole School Easter Mass

Non Uniform Day for Lourdes

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:	@BCCCDesign