

Head of Year 9

May Half Term Newsletter



Mr Brade, Head of Year
Miss Sadler, Assistant Head of Year

Well done to Year 9 for another excellent half term, students are working with diligence and maximum effort in every aspect of their lessons. Alongside their curriculum subjects, they have participated in assemblies, form time activities, and a variety of extra-curricular activities across different subjects.

KAP5 Assessments and GCSE Options

As we approach the end of the academic year, our Year 9 pupils have been working diligently to complete their KAP5 assessments in the core subjects of English, Maths, and Science. These assessments provide a valuable insight into the progress they've made and help to inform the next steps in their learning journey. In addition, this term marks an exciting milestone for our students as they begin the process of selecting their option subjects in preparation for starting their GCSE courses in Year 10. This is a key stage in their education, offering them the chance to explore their interests and shape their future studies. We are proud of the maturity and thoughtfulness our pupils have shown during this important time.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our Year 9 pupils recently had the opportunity to visit the Lickey Hills as part of their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award journey. This experience is an important part of the DofE programme, which encourages students to develop a wide range of skills, from teamwork and leadership to problem-solving and resilience. By participating in activities like this, pupils not only gain valuable life skills but also build confidence and self-discipline, which are crucial for their success both inside and outside of school. Completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award can have a lasting impact on their personal development, and it is a recognised achievement that will stand them in good stead for future opportunities, including further education and employment. We are excited to see the positive effects this experience will have on their overall growth and success at school.

Holocaust speaker

Year 9 recently had the privilege of hosting a guest speaker who shared their powerful and moving insights about the Holocaust. This experience proved to be invaluable for our students, offering them a deeper understanding of this significant chapter in history. The pupils were incredibly attentive and respectful throughout the session, demonstrating maturity and empathy. The opportunity to hear from an expert on the subject and engage in thoughtful discussions about such an important topic helped foster historical awareness and compassion, encouraging our students to reflect on the impact of prejudice and discrimination. Well done, Year 9!



Charity

Year 9 have been continuing to make a significant impact by raising money through a variety of charity events throughout the academic year. From cake sales to toy appeals and hampers, the students have put in a tremendous amount of effort to organise and participate in these fundraisers. Their dedication has resulted in hundreds of pounds being raised for charity, showcasing their commitment to helping others. The compassion and teamwork displayed by Year 9 throughout these initiatives have been exceptional, and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and generosity. Well done, Year 9!

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.

Year 9 Girls Football Team Champions

The Girls' final was first up at St Andrew's @ Knighthead Park, with eventual champions Bishop Challoner taking on Tudor Grange Solihull in the lunchtime kick-off. Megan's strike in the first half gave Bishop Challoner the early advantage in an end-to-end first half, with Tudor Grange's goalkeeper denying a raft of chances.

Megan doubled her tally and proudly bagged a St. Andrew's brace, and as it looked like Bishop Challoner had managed the game perfectly thanks to an assured and dominant display from captain Alice, Tudor Grange's Evie-Rae grabbed a stoppage time goal, but the final whistle soon followed, and Bishop Challoner lifted the trophy. Final Score Bishop Challoner 2-1 Tudor Grange.



School Year 2025 to 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Term starts:

Year 7, 11 & 13 - Wednesday 3rd September 2025

All year groups- Thursday 4th September 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

Mobile phones

Please be reminded of the rules regarding mobile phones in school as detailed below.

- Mobile phones must never be used, seen or heard in school. Information from our behaviour policy is detailed below-
- Students are not allowed to have mobile phones out on the school premises
- Students must turn their phones off when on the school premises
- Mobile phones seen on the school premises may be confiscated
- The school reserves the right to instruct students to hand in their mobile phone
- Confiscated mobile phones will be returned at the discretion of Head of Year/Senior Staff
- In some circumstances, a confiscated mobile phone may only be returned to parents/carers
- School does not accept any responsibility for the loss or theft of any mobile device

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.

Summer Uniform

In light of the weather forecast summer uniform can be worn.

Students **DO NOT** have to wear a-
Tie
Blazer
Jumper

Students **MUST** wear-
Shirts tucked in
Shoes not trainers

If a 2nd layer is worn, this **MUST** be a blazer **NOT** a jumper or other outer wear, any item other than a blazer will be confiscated.

Girls must wear natural or black 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 in the lobe of the ear.

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.

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.

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage

Year 7 - 95.4%

Year 8 - 93.7%

Year 9 - 93.8%

Year 10 - 91.3%

Year 11 - 90.7%

Whole School - 93.1%

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 with 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.

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.

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.



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.

PATHWAY TO THE FINAL



Communication between home and school is very important, in the event that you need to contact school please be reminded of the following procedures.

Option 1- To report an absence
Option 2- Head of Year/Pastoral concerns/enquiries
Option 3- Sixth Form enquiries

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.

We are proud to celebrate a very special achievement at Bishop Challoner Catholic College.

Our English teacher, Mr John Robinson, has been crowned the 2025 BBC Mastermind Champion following a dramatic and closely contested final.

John's exceptional performance – including a perfect score in his specialist subject, The Empire State Building – was a joy to watch and a wonderful reminder of the talent and dedication that exists within our teaching community.

This achievement follows his previous success on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, and once again he has demonstrated the value of commitment, calm under pressure, and a love of learning – qualities he models daily in the classroom.

Mr Robinson said: "I constantly tell the students that if you put effort into your revision, you'll get a reward at the end of it. Hopefully, the pupils can look at me and be inspired by the hard work I've put in as well."

We know our students and staff have been cheering him on throughout his Mastermind journey, and we are all absolutely delighted for him.

A huge congratulations to Mr Robinson from everyone at Bishop Challoner — we are already preparing a space in the trophy cabinet for the famous glass bowl!

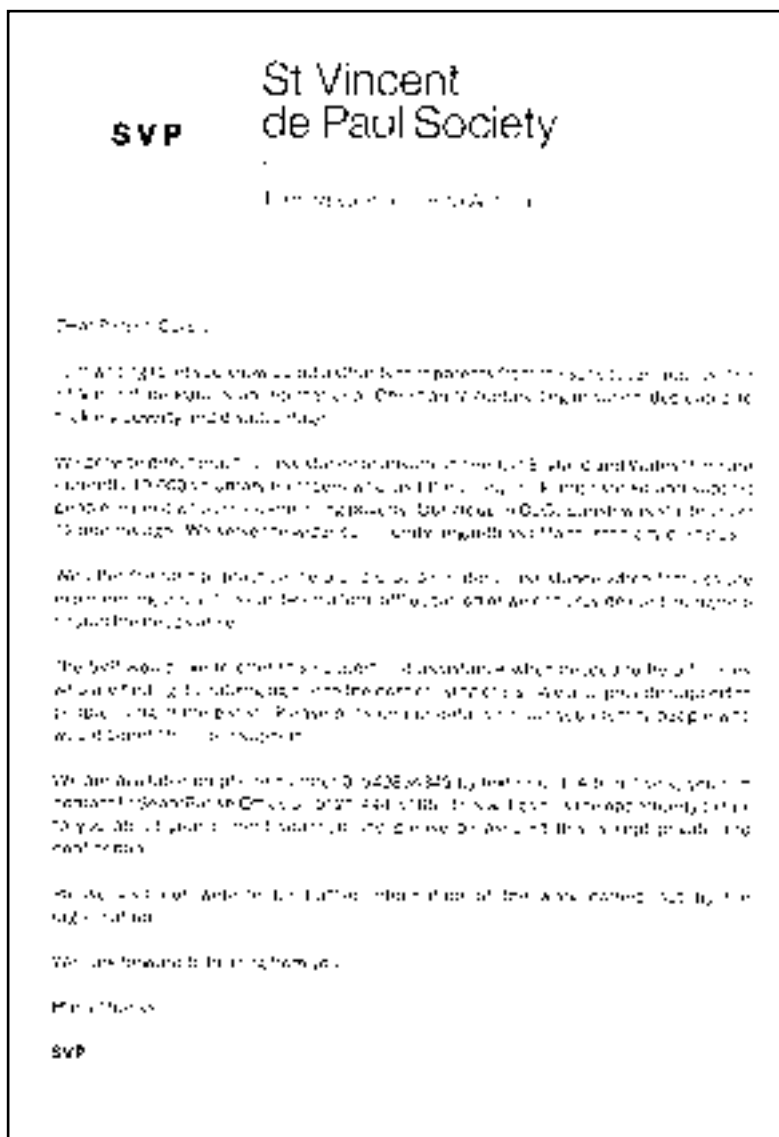
Read the full article on the BBC News website here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07119dvzmpo>

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.

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.

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.



SummerTerm 2	
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Saturday 31st May - Sunday 8th June	Ball Crew
Monday 2nd June	School Open Year 9 Barber Art Workshop
Tuesday 3rd June	Bishop's Got Talent Year 9 Mass
Wednesday 4th June	Tea Party
Sunday 8th June - Monday 9th June	Year 9 DofE Bronze
Monday 9th June - Wednesday 11th June	Year 10 French Speaking Mocks
Thursday 12th June - Friday 13th June	Wheelbarrow Food Competition
Friday 13th June	Fathers Day Hamper KS3 DT Trip
Friday 13th June - Sunday 29th June	Sixth Form Trip to Peru
Monday 16th June - Friday 20th June	Creativity and Refugee Week Year 10 Spoken English Exams
Monday 16th June - Wednesday 18th June	Year 9 Soli House
Tuesday 17th June	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 18th June	Tea Party Year 7 and 8 Computing Trip - Big Bang NEC
Thursday 19th June	Year 10 UOB Chemistry Lessons
Sunday 22nd June - Tuesday 24th June	Year 10 and Year 12 DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition
Monday 23rd June - Friday 27th June	Science Week
Tuesday 24th June	Year 7 CSI Day
Wednesday 25th June - Friday 27th June	Year 10 Carding Mill Valley Trip
Wednesday 25th June	Year 10 and Year 12 Mass
Thursday 26th June	Year 10 UOB Chemistry Lesson
Friday 27th June	Cake Sale TBC Catholic Competition - Summer Games
Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July	Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 30th June	Sports Day Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 1st July	Bishop's Got Talent Culture Day
Wednesday 2nd July	Year 6 Induction Day 1 Year Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 3rd July	Year 6 Induction Day 2 Year 6 Induction Day Mass Year 6 Parent/Carer Evening Year 13 Prom
Sunday 6th July - Thursday 10th July	Year 10 and Year 11 Trip to Rome
Monday 7th July	Year 10 Work Experience De-brief Year 7 and Year 8 Lickey Hills Trip
Monday 7th July - Friday 11th July	Year 12 Work Experience
Wednesday 9th July	Primary Concert Sixth Form Taster Day
Thursday 10th July	Battle of the Bands Year 10 Art Trip to Liverpool
Friday 11th July	Year 7 and Year 10 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 15th July	Year 9 and Year 10 end of year Mass
Wednesday 16th July	Awards Evening Tea Party
Thursday 17th July	Cake Sale TBC Year 7 and Year 8 end of year Mass
Friday 18th July	Last day of the academic year
Monday 21st July	INSET - School Closed