

# Head of Year 9

## October Half Term Newsletter

**Mrs Whelan, Head of Year**  
**Miss Hunter, Assistant Head of Year**

Year 9 have made a wonderful start to the new academic year. Students have settled into their teaching groups and are progressing well in their final year of Key Stage 3. In addition to their curriculum subjects, students have been engaging in assemblies, form time activities and extra-curricular activities.



### The Year of Challoner

This academic year we will be celebrating Bishop Challoner School's Platinum Jubilee – it's been a full 70 years since Bishop Challoner opened its doors in 1953!

During assemblies, Year 9 students have been learning what life at Bishop Challoner was like in 1953 compared to 2023.

We looked at the first Bishop Challoner newsletter published in 1958. The school had very much the same mission, which is to offer students a great education, enrich their lives, and develop and nurture good citizens. Students were offered extra-curricular clubs and trips to places like Belgium, and we still offer this trip today. Today we still want students to excel in their studies, alongside developing good character. This can be seen in our day-to-day studies, our mission statement and our character virtues.

During this half term, the whole school character virtues that we have focused on have been 'Grateful' and 'Generous'. We have encouraged students to recognise the importance of these Catholic values by their charity work and the celebrations taking place this year for the Jubilee.

As a year group we will be taking part in The Excellence Exhibition, Remembrance Evening, Bishop's Got Talent Events, Creativity Week celebrating Bishop Challoner's History, Festival of Culture, Spring and Summer Fair and The Platinum Celebration Evening.

Assemblies this half term have had a focus on setting the scene for the academic year, Attendance, The Year of Challoner, Safety and Personal Responsibility, Black History Month, World Mental Health Day and Character values. Students have been engaging in these topics and taking an active role in prayer and worship in assemblies and form time.

### Year 9 Success

Well done to Imogen S who has worked incredibly hard to make it through the final synchro trials. Imogen's hard work and determination has meant she has achieved a place into the GB Youth Squad National Programme for Artistic Swimming. We wish you all the best Imogen!

### Sports and PE

This half term the Year 9 boys' football team have had an amazing start to the season; they are already through to the third round of the Birmingham Cup after 2 superb wins! The boys had a great win against Christ Church Academy in the 1st round, beating them 1-0, with Terrence scoring in the first half. In the second round, the boys went on to beat Park Hall Academy 3-1. A fantastic performance from all players, with Terrence and Curtis scoring the winning goals.

The Year 9 girls' football team have also begun the season with great enthusiasm. The players have demonstrated exemplary work ethic and behaviour, making them an exceptional team. Many of them have shown their dedication by attending Friday morning training sessions even before the school day begins, and they've been thoroughly enjoying their football.

Well done to both Year 9 teams!



### Year 9 Assessments

The first of these assessments in Year 7 will take place between Monday 6th November and Friday 17th November. Please [click here](#) to view subject topics and guidance.

### PSHE Workshop

This half term, Year 9 students were able to take part in group workshops with Aquarius and guest speaker Rob Pedley MBE. Students found the day both enjoyable and informative.

## Extra-Curricular

Bishop Challoner has a wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer for students to take part in before and after school daily. It has been very pleasing to see so many Year 9 students attending extra-curricular clubs and being open to opportunities at Bishop Challoner. This half term, Year 9 students have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze award by dedicating their time to completing 3 sections in their own time (skill, physical and volunteering), and the expedition session with school. We were amazed to see so many students at the launch evening this week.



## 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 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.

## Skirts

Please be reminded that all school skirts should be pleated, as part of the phased approach. Students still wearing a straight skirt have had this half term to replace it. We expect all skirts to be pleated from Monday 6th November.

## 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.

## 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.

## School Fund and Match Fund

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

## Attendance and Punctuality

In the final year of KS3, Year 9 students are preparing to select their GCSE subjects for Year 10. To ensure students are giving themselves the best possible chance of success, attending all their lessons and being punctual is key.

## 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.

## Teaching School

Do you have older children or relatives at University studying Maths, Computing, Physics, Chemistry or MFL related degrees?

In June/July Bishop Challoner are offering a 3 week paid (£900 total) internship based in local schools, open to students. We wanted to flag this opportunity to families in our community. Application is straightforward, and can be done on our website here:

<https://www.bctsa.org/605/teaching-internship-programme>

## 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	w/c 23/10/23
Year 7 - 95.3%	Late Marks
Year 8 - 93.9%	Year 7 - 21
Year 9 - 92.4%	Year 8 - 21
Year 10 - 91.1%	Year 9 - 49
Year 11 - 92.0%	Year 10 - 37
Whole School - 93.0%	Year 11 - 27

**VACANCIES** - [click here for details](#)

## Attendance Raffle Winners

Well done to the following students that have had 100% attendance and no late marks. They each won a £10 high street voucher.

### Friday 20th October

Year 7 - Lemuel D  
Year 8 - Eirlys W  
Year 9 - Emily P  
Year 10 - Cory C  
Year 11 - Ava G

### Thursday 26th October

Year 7 - Ksenija N  
Year 8 - Tymoteseusz K  
Year 9 - Onyinye N  
Year 10 - Abubakar Q  
Year 11 - Nathan C

## YEAR 9 KEY DATES

<b>School Open Christmas Toy Appeal Starts</b> Monday 6th November	<b>Stories of Hope and Home</b> Monday 11th December
<b>Assessment Window</b> Monday 6th November - Friday 17th November	<b>Student Christmas Lunch</b> Monday 18th December
<b>India Day - Canteen</b> Wednesday 8th November	<b>School Closed for Year 7, 8 &amp; 9 PCD</b> Wednesday 20th December
<b>School ends at 1.15pm</b> Thursday 9th November	<b>Christmas Jumper Day</b> Thursday 21st December
<b>Anti-Bullying Week</b> Monday 13th November - Friday 17th November	<b>School Closed - INSET Day</b> Friday 22nd December
<b>World Kindness Day</b> Monday 13th November	<b>School Open</b> Monday 8th January
<b>Remembrance Events</b> Thursday 16th November	
<b>Bishop's Got Talent</b> Friday 17th November	
<b>Road Safety Week</b> Monday 20th November - Friday 24th November	
<b>Book Fair</b> Friday 1st December	
<b>Christmas Show Fundraising Events</b> Tuesday 5th December	
<b>Christmaths Day</b> Thursday 7th December	

## 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  
@BCCCWellbeing

Chess  
@bccchess

Performing Arts  
@BCPAPA4

Social Sciences  
@BCSocSciDept

Biology  
@BCCbio

Sixth Form  
@BCCCSix

Art Dept  
@BCChallonerArt

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  
@BCMATHSDept

Friends of BC  
@bc\_friends

STEM  
@STEMBC

Teach Computing Central Midlands  
@BCComputingHub

Tolkien Cluster Schools  
@PrimaryTolkien

**BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

*Platinum Jubilee*  
1953-2023  
LAUS DEO

**SAVE THE DATE**  
*Platinum Jubilee Remembrance Event*  
on  
**Thursday 25th April 2024**  
4.30pm-6.30pm  
School Visit  
Range of students' activities  
7pm  
Blessing  
Mass

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
In our community 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 art 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.

# Toy Appeal

## Christmas 2023



Scan to donate

Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 1-15 years



### COLLECTION DATES:

Monday 6th November - Thursday 14th December

Irish TV are visiting St Anne's Parish Centre, B12 OPA on Thursday 14th December

