

Head of Year 9



October Half Term Newsletter

Miss Shirley, Head of Year
Miss Carter, Assistant Head of Year

Year 9 have made an excellent start to the new academic year at Bishop Challoner Catholic College. Students have settled into their new teaching groups, which will help them progress during their final year at KS3. In addition to their curriculum subjects, students have engaged in assemblies, form time activities/resources, and extra-curricular activities across a range of subjects.

Assemblies and Form time

We are pleased to have been able to continue with our face to face assemblies, which now take place in the Auditorium. Assemblies this half term have focused on: Setting the Scene for this Academic Year, Attendance, The Year of Character, Safety and Harassment, Black History Month, World Mental Health Day, and Anti-Slavery. In addition to listening to and engaging with these assembly themes, students have been participating in activities during form time, and have been provided with a variety of topics to discuss. Students have learnt about the International Day of Peace, Hate Crime Awareness and the European Day of Languages. Students have also had the opportunity to write messages and kind words for the late Queen, as well as producing a form resource on what they feel most grateful for.

The time in form has also allowed teachers to complete equipment checks and often engage students in 'Newsround of the Week', which has been a fun and interesting activity to conclude the day.

Open Evening

I would like to thank each and every Year 9 student who stayed late to help out at our Open Evening. It was a pleasure to open our doors to Year 6 students and their parents/carers, and showcase what our School has to offer. A number of Year 9 students helped out in different areas across the School, which staff were so appreciative of. The feedback we received from parents/carers was extremely positive, so well done!

The Year of Character

The academic Year of 2022-2023 has been named 'The Year of Character'. 'The shape of your character is the shape of your future'. This is a statement which we have shared with our students to help them understand that the characteristics we display, will determine the type of person we are and what happens in our future. During assemblies and each subject lesson, we have encouraged students to recognise the importance of the Catholic values.

During this half term, the whole school key virtues we have focused on have been 'compassion' and 'love'. Myself, and Miss Carter have rewarded students from each form group, based on how many positive logs they have received for displaying particular virtues in their lessons and/or around school. A huge well done to the students who have won awards for being recognised by their teachers for their acts of 'compassion' and 'active behaviour'.

Extra-Curricular

We have got a range extra-curricular activities on offer for our students every day before and after school. It has been pleasing to see a lot of our Year 9 students attending extra-curricular clubs and immersing themselves in the opportunities at Bishop Challoner. A timetable of all the extra-curricular clubs we have to offer can be found on our school's website. The likes of PE, Drama, Choir, Drone and Robotics club, are just a few of the activities amongst many others which we have on offer to our students. This half term, we also held our dance and singing auditions for our Christmas production and were so pleased to see so many talented students. We can't wait for the production!

Well done to those of you who have been consistently attending clubs - we hope this continues!



Year 9 Assessments

The first of these assessments in Year 9 will take place between Monday 31st October and Friday 11th November. Please [click here](#) to view subject topics and guidance.



Geography

In Geography, students have been investigating the topic of the USA. One of the concepts they have been learning about is de-industrialisation and the decline of Detroit. Year 9 have demonstrated their understanding fantastically through songs, raps and poems and the classes have shown amazing creativity in the work they have completed. Different classes have even competed with each other for the 'best rap'. A few examples have been posted on Twitter (@BCGeogDept) - make sure to take a listen! A huge well done to students for their creativity and effort.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology, students created fantastic architectural models! They experimented with curved forms, inspired by the architecture of Zaha Hadid and Frank Gehry. We were impressed with how creative and focused students were, and they managed to design and produce some fantastic work. Well done!



Computer Science

The Computer Science Department took a number of Year 9 students to visit the ICentrum for the Birmingham Tech Week Show. Students really enjoyed the experience and felt inspired to consider a career in Tech.



Attendance, Punctuality & Equipment

Year 9 students are preparing to select the subjects that they will study in Year 10, and in some subjects, they are beginning preparations for their GCSEs. To ensure that they are giving themselves the best possible chance of success, attending all of their lessons on time and being punctual is key.

ClassCharts has become routine practice for our school to communicate home. Homework, resources, announcements, and attentions, will all be communicated through ClassCharts. Parents/carers are able to see positive rewards and conduct logs given, and this is a good platform for parents to monitor both positive and negative behaviour. Netbooks are frequently used in various lessons and they are also an extremely useful tool for allowing students to complete homework set and any additional work at home. Like any normal piece of equipment used throughout the school day, a netbook is a mandatory piece of equipment which allows students to engage in their subjects and complete their work.

Physical Education

The Year 9 boys football team have won all 5/5 matches so far this year, which is brilliant. The team have clearly relished the opportunity to not only retain the 3 titles they won last year (in Year 8), but to also focus on the only title they didn't win - the West Midlands Cup. I'm pleased to report that on 16/9/22, they were successful in Round 1 of this competition and in a match that had it all, Bishop Challoner beat Windsor School (Halesowen) 4-3, scoring with the last kick of the game to spark a mass celebration!

A fantastic performance, and tremendous character. The Year 9 boys team will now face Caludon Castle in Round 2 of the competition after half term as they look to chase down this illusive West Midlands Cup title! In addition to this, the boys have successfully progressed into Round 3 of the Birmingham Cup after a BYE in Round 1 and a successful win in Round 2 v Kings Norton Boys School. They have also won 3/3 in the Kings Norton & South Birmingham Premier League, beating Colmers, Queensbridge and Kings Norton Boys, which means they are top of the table as we head into Autumn 2. A huge well done to the Year 9 boys team!

Year 9 boys and girls teams both won their respective Catholic School Games 6 aside football competitions at Bishop Walsh on 12/10/22. The girls beat Bishop Walsh 1-0 in the final, and the boys beat St. Thomas Aquinas on penalties in the final after a 2-2 draw in normal time. The quality on display from all students was phenomenal and other schools were quick to praise their ability and their attitudes. Fantastic!



Vacancies

Please [click here](#) to visit our school website for open vacancies.

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 (not lycra or stretchy). 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.

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 stud earrings which may be worn.

Please note that lycra or stretchy skirts are not allowed to 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.

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.

If your child is in Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 please call 0121 444 4161 and select OPTION 1.

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. Please do not email staff to report an absence, this is not the procedure and your messages may be missed.

Parenting Groups

Please visit our website by [clicking here](#) to view upcoming webinars from the Schools and Colleges Early Support Service. Groups include:

- Adolescent self-harm
- Managing teen behaviour
- Anxiety in adolescence
- Strong teen emotions
- Building resilience

Fizzy Drinks and Chewing Gum

Please be reminded fizzy drinks and chewing gum are prohibited in school. Students should not be in possession of either of these in school; they will be confiscated and disposed of.

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.

Class Charts and Teams

Class Charts and Teams are now being used fully in all lessons to set homework and provide lesson resources for students to refer back to after the lesson. We are all aware of how valuable the netbooks are for providing access to learning from home. This has of course allowed us to no longer use the planners as all of the information can be accessed electronically. The use of Class Charts by parents is also very helpful as the rewards and conduct logs can also be easily monitored at home. If, as a parent, you have not yet been able to access class charts, please get in touch with me at e.shirley@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk and I will be able to provide you with the parent login code.

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL



Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 0-15 years

Collection Dates:
Monday 31st October -
Thursday 8th December

Irish TV are visiting
St Anne's Parish Centre,
BIZ DPA on Thursday 13th
December

Gloves
Games
Jigsaws
Cars
Toiletries
Dolls
Hats
Jewellery
Teethers
Books
Pull along toys
Scarves

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Birmingham Irish

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.

First Aid Reminder

If your child has asthma or anaphylaxis they should always be carrying an inhaler/epi-pen with them. If a student is due to go off site for PE or a trip and they do not have an inhaler with them this may result in them being unable to participate, this is for their own safety.

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
@bcchess

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
@BCCComputingHub

Tolkien Cluster Schools
@PrimaryTolkien

KEY DATES

School Open (Week 2)
Monday 31st October

Year 9 Assessments
Monday 31st October -
Friday 11th November

Sixth Form Open Evening
A Service of Remembrance
Wednesday 9th
November

Remembrance Day
Friday 11th November

School finishes at 2.30pm
Wednesday 16th
November

Colm Smyth Toy Appeal Begins
Tuesday 15th November

Canteen - Mexican Day
Wednesday 23rd
November

Bishop's Got Talent
Friday 25th November

Christmas Presence Day
Tuesday 6th December

Chirstmaths Day
PE Reward Trip
Wednesday 7th
December

Christmas Show
Thursday 8th December

School Closed
Year 7, 8 & 10 Parent Consultations
Friday 8th July

PE Aspirations
Monday 12th December

Sponsored Football
Year 9 & 10
Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 13th December

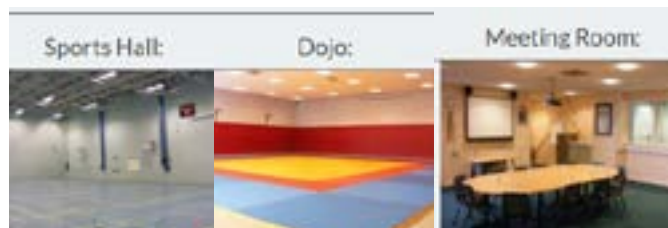
PE Aspirations
Wednesday 14th
December

Christmas Jumper Day
£1 Donation
Nativity of the Lord Mass
Thursday 15th
December

School Closed Staff INSET
Friday 16th December

Venue Hire

For more information call: 0121 441 6103



BISHOP CHALLONER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 9th November

6pm - 8.30pm

Click here to book your place



BISHOP CHALLONER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

T-LEVELS



Wednesday 23rd
November
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Click here to book
your tickets

LAUNCH
EVENT

