

# Head of Year 9



## October Half Term Newsletter

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

Year 9 has made a fantastic start to the new academic year at Bishop Challoner Catholic College. Students have comfortably settled into their new teaching groups, which will support their progress during this important final year of KS3. Alongside their curriculum subjects, they have participated in assemblies, form time activities, and a variety of extra-curricular activities across different subjects.

### Attendance

Year 9 has demonstrated remarkable commitment to attendance, achieving the second highest rate in the school overall, with one form leading the way as the highest attending group. This impressive achievement reflects the dedication and enthusiasm of both students and staff. It's fantastic to see such strong engagement at this level, setting a wonderful example for the rest of the school community. Well, done to all Year 9 students! May this outstanding attendance continue throughout the year.

### Open Evening

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Year 9 pupils who stayed late to assist with our Open Evening. It was a joy to welcome Year 6 students and their parents/carers to showcase what our school has to offer. Our Year 9 helpers contributed to various areas throughout the school, demonstrating a positive and helpful attitude that the staff greatly appreciated. We received incredibly positive feedback from parents/carers, so a big well done to everyone involved!

### Maths

Year 9 have had the opportunity to explore trigonometry in maths. The pupils' hands on experience of using measuring equipment to measure the height of the sports hall enabled pupils to gain a greater understanding of the relevance of trigonometry and its practical applications in everyday life. It was a fantastic opportunity for a change in learning environment.

### Football

The Year 9 football team has had an impressive season thus far, showcasing their talent in various competitions, including the West Midlands Cup, Birmingham Cup, and the National PlayStation Cup. With a record of four wins out of five matches, they have successfully advanced to the second round of the West Midlands Cup and the third round of the Birmingham Cup. Unfortunately, their journey in the National PlayStation Cup ended after a fiercely contested match against North Bromsgrove. Despite being knocked out, the team demonstrated resilience, particularly in the second half, where Challoner dominated play and pushed for a comeback, highlighting their potential for future successes. In addition to their cup competitions, the boys are looking forward to the league season, where they finished an impressive second last year. With their strong performances so far, there's a renewed sense of confidence and determination within the team. The players are eager to build on their previous success and aim for the top spot this time around, well-prepared to tackle the challenges ahead and make a serious bid for the league title.



### Charity Events

At Bishop Challoner, there has been a wonderful variety of charity events organized this term, showcasing the school community's commitment to making a positive impact. From cake sales to themed fundraisers like Ice Cream Fridays, and open evening hamper raffles, students have come together to support various causes. These events not only raise vital funds but also foster teamwork, creativity, and a spirit of generosity among the pupils. Charity events will continue after half-term with our November cake sale, Christmas Candy Canes, Christmas tuck shop and Christmas Hamper raffle.



## Drayton Manor

Year 9 had a fantastic time at Drayton Manor Theme Park for their start-of-year school trip, creating memories that set a positive tone for the school year ahead. Despite the rain, spirits remained high as students eagerly explored the park's thrilling rides and attractions, embracing the adventure with laughter and excitement and the wet weather only added to the fun. This outing not only strengthened friendships but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and enthusiasm for the year to come, leaving everyone looking forward to more adventures together.



## DofE

Some Year 9 students will embark on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award this year, an exciting opportunity that lays the groundwork for their personal development and future achievements. This program encourages them to engage in various activities, including volunteering, skill-building, and outdoor expeditions, all of which foster teamwork and resilience. By participating in the Bronze award, students not only enhance their skills and confidence but also set themselves up for the challenges of the Silver award in the future. As they explore new interests and develop their capabilities, they look forward to the journey ahead, eager to embrace the experiences that will shape them in the coming years.

## Assemblies and Form Time

This term, our school has focused on key themes such as attendance, prayer and liturgy, Black History Month, gambling and gaming, and careers and creativity. These important topics have been delivered through assemblies designed to inform and raise awareness among students about their significance. We've emphasised the importance of consistent attendance in fostering academic success, highlighted the role of prayer and liturgy in our community, and celebrated the contributions of Black History Month. Additionally, we've addressed the impacts of gambling and gaming, encouraging responsible choices, while also exploring various career paths and fostering creativity. Through these assemblies, we aim to equip pupils with the knowledge and understanding necessary to navigate these vital aspects of their lives.

## 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.

## Bletchley Park

On 25th September, a group of Year 9 pupils embarked on an exciting trip to Bletchley Park, organized by the computer science department. There, they explored the historic grounds of the top-secret GCHQ operations, where Alan Turing developed his groundbreaking machine to crack the Enigma cipher and decode Nazi Germany's secret military messages. Students delved into the fascinating history of this location, tackled some coded messages, and participated in a workshop. Throughout the day, the pupils behaved exceptionally well and were great representatives of the school.



## 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.



## 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 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 Reminders

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, it is important children stay hydrated.

Students with Asthma must carry with them their own personal inhalers. This includes offsite activities and school trips to ensure they can participate safely.

## Mobile Phones

Students should not be contacting parents/carers when they feel unwell and requesting to be collected from school. In the event that a student is unwell they MUST go to the First Aider who will deal with them. In the event that 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 Pastoral 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.

## 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 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

# 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.

Autumn Term 2	
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Wednesday 6th November	Sixth Form Tea Party
Friday 8th November	Year 8 & 9 STEM Workshop
Sunday 10th November	Remembrance Sunday
Monday 11th November	Toy Appeal Launch Remembrance one minute silence
Wednesday 13th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Tuesday 19th November	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 20th November	Sixth Form Tea Party Red Wednesday
Friday 22nd November	Cake Sale
Sunday 24th November	Youth Mass at St Dunstan's
Wednesday 27th November	Flu vaccinations
Monday 2nd December - Friday 6th December	Book Fair
Tuesday 3rd December	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 4th December - Thursday 5th December	Christmas Event
Thursday 5th December	Canteen - Mexican Day
Tuesday 10th December	Cooking Club Parent/Carer Celebration
Friday 13th December	Toy Appeal Ends Cake Sale
Tuesday 17th December	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 18th December	Sixth Form Tea Party
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Hamper Raffle Christmas Mass
Friday 20th December	School closed - Staff INSET
Monday 6th January	School open

## 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%

## Gate Closure

From Monday 4th November the student entrance gate will be locked at 8.35am. If students arrive between 8.35am-8.40am they must enter via reception.

Students should be in their form room by 8.40am when the school day starts. We would encourage students to be in school by 8.30am were possible and to ensure they are on time.

## 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.

## Blazers

Blazers are a **compulsory** part of the school uniform and **must** be worn at all times. Jumpers are optional.

## 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.



**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Catholic Primary School & Nursery

### Reception and Nursery Class applications for Sept 2025

Please come and visit our wonderful school and staff to see what being a member of the Our Lady of Lourdes school family will be like for your child.

**Open Mornings** (booking not required)  
Friday 18th Oct 9:30 – 11:00 am  
Saturday 9th Nov 9:00 – 10:00 am  
Additional date to be confirmed if required

@ourladyoflourd1  01214442684   
www.ourladyoflourdsprimary.com  enquiries@ourlady.bham.sch.uk 

*Christ at the centre of our school where we live, love and learn together*



**Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College**

## OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 13th November  
6pm - 8pm



Click here to book your tickets



# 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 2024

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

**COLLECTION DATES:**  
Monday 4th November - Thursday 12th December

**BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE**



