



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 10 October Half Term Newsletter 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to another academic year at Bishop Challoner. Our Year 10 students have returned from the summer break with a refreshed and mature attitude, and have engaged well with the start of their GCSE and BTEC courses. It is great to see students working hard in lessons, and showing their commitment to the options they have chosen to study in Key Stage 4. I am extremely proud to take over from Mr Mullins as Head of Year 10, knowing the great potential for success this year group has to offer over the next two years.

The **Commit to Character** rewards programme has relaunched this half term and we will have the first rewards trip taking place before the Christmas holidays. Students who gain a Bronze Award for 25 signatures will be eligible to take part in this trip. Part of our mission at Bishop Challoner is not just to foster academic success in our students, but encourage them to live their lives according to gospel values of the Catholic Church. Following on from the success of the *Year of Celebration* at Bishop Challoner last year, our focus this academic year turns to the *Year of Service*, so we are encouraging students to consider ways they can serve their community. Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the character traits that we are aiming to develop as we move through this academic year:

Character Virtue	Explanation
Grateful & Compassionate	Positive attitude to life (E.g. readiness to show appreciation and ability to be kind to others, charity work, being forgiving, being truthful and respectful)
Attentive and Active	Attentive to opportunities (E.g. active in extra-curricular activities, ambassador activities, representing the school, achievement outside of school)
Eloquent	Positive communication and interaction with others (E.g. good listening and speaking skills, considerate of other people's views)
Learned & Intentional	Positive attitude towards academic study (E.g. positive behaviour, classwork, homework, attendance and punctuality)
Curious	Demonstrating high levels of interest in learning (E.g. questioning, completing additional research, demonstrating enjoyment for learning)
Intentional & faith-filled	Demonstrating the school mission statement (E.g. developing your full potential, giving service to others, living according to gospel values)

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Year 10 Tutor Team

We welcome Miss Swingler as the new Assistant Head of Year 10. We also welcome two new tutors to the Year 10 team this year: 10HIL- Mr Khitab, 10LIV- Mrs Middup

The Year 10 tutors have been particularly impressed with the following students this half term:

- 10BON** **Paul-Jon F**- punctuality has massively improved this, arriving on time every day.
Grace C- has helped numerous Year 7s with issues like finding their way to classrooms, acting as a great role model.
- 10HIL** **Cielen**- always ready to help others in Form time.
Kelsey M- always polite and volunteering to help in Form time.
- 10JEM** **Anna P**- being conscientious and a wonderful student
Niamh W- working hard and quietly getting on with her work
- 10LIV** **Matthius M**- always well behaved, polite and courteous.
Chloe P- always polite in form, and has engaged positively with the Year of Service.
- 10MAC** **Max P**- very helpful both in school and at home, documenting his service in the form Year of Service diary.
Ellessia G- always bringing a reading book and being prepared for her day.
- 10SCO** **Louis P**- impressed with his positive attitude towards learning in Year 10, showing a real sense of maturity towards his subjects.
- 10SHA** **Katherina B**- extremely helpful and contributing to life at Bishop Challoner in many ways.
Aidan L- extremely well behaved, helpful, and always represents the school with pride.

Congratulations to all these students for your fantastic attitudes to learning, and commitment to the traits we value in our students.

Options

At the start of Year 10, it is inevitable that some students reflect upon and decide whether the options they chose in Year 9 are still the correct pathway for them. Students wishing to change their options have had to have conversations with their class teachers and Head of Year to ensure that any changes are in their best interests. As we approach the October half term holidays, a substantial amount of work has now been completed in lessons, so we do not expect any further changes to option choices to be made.

Work Experience

The Work Experience programme was launched to Year 10 students two weeks ago. All students have received a comprehensive Student Information Pack and should be starting the process of finding a placement. A copy of the Student Information Pack is available under the *Careers* section on the school website. As soon as students have secured a placement, they must complete the *Confirmation of Work Experience Placement* form that was sent out to parents at the beginning of October. Again, a copy of this can be found on the school website. If you work for a company or organisation that takes on Work Experience students, or you own or run a business that would consider taking on students, please contact Mrs Reynolds by emailing r.reynolds@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk, or calling 0121 441 6144.

Upcoming Assessment Information

Mathematics

After October half term, Year 10 will sit two assessments in mathematics, one calculator paper and one non-calculator paper. Much of the content in these assessments will be algebra based, as that has been the focus for this half term in lessons. There will be other topics that also appear, which students should recognise from Key Stage 3. Revision lists have been issued to students to guide their revision.

Science

After half term, all Year 10 Science groups will be having a test on the GCSE work they have covered in lessons since January of Year 9. Information to be tested upon will have been given to the students in their lessons. Revision guides, together with workbooks, are now available to be bought from their science teachers.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Food Preparation & Nutrition students will have a test on Tuesday 31st October on all topics covered so far on their course.

Geography

Geography students will have a test on the 'Living World' at the end of November. Revision guides are available to purchase on SchoolComms for £6.80 that will help in preparation for this assessment.

Bishop's Got Talent

Bishop's Got Talent is our weekly showcase of the vast array of talent present in our school. Each department in the school takes its turn to host the event and add their own twist to proceedings. The Computer Science department hosted the event on Friday 22nd September, with all the Year 10 Computer Science taking part in a code breaking competition. They decrypted numerous types of cipher in order to progress to the final round of the competition, only to be narrowly beaten by a highly motivated and eager Year 7 team. The event was a great showcase of the computing talent we have in Year 10. Well done to all the students involved.



Performing Arts Hairspray Trip

The Year 10 Performing Arts BTEC class recently went to the Birmingham Hippodrome to watch a performance of the musical Hairspray. The students also filmed part of a documentary for their course. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were a real credit to the school.



Sporting News

This academic year sees the success of our sporting teams continuing to flourish. The Year 10 football team are through to the second round of the Birmingham Cup after beating St Edmund Campion 1-0. Special mentions go to **Theo R** for scoring the winning goal, and to **Oisin R** for a last-minute penalty save. The team are also undefeated in the league with a recent 2-0 win over Kings Norton Boys. We also congratulate **Tom M**, who has made it into the West Midlands Football team. A fantastic achievement, well done!

Spiritual Life

Shoe box Appeal

Over the last few years Bishop Challoner Catholic community has had great success and generosity from our student and their families in supporting the **Shoebox Appeal**. Every year we collect hundreds of shoe boxes wrapped and filled with presents and we send them with the help of the charity **Trussell Trust**, to children who have very little. This year we are asking for your support again. **Trussell Trust** sends a message of hope to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes.



Many shoe boxes were sent from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, homeless shelters and poor communities. With your help we want to reach even more children in the poorest parts of the world in 2017.

First you need to decide whether to fill a box for a girl or a boy and what age: 2-4 years, 5-9 years or 10-14 years old. Then we ask you to cover a shoebox in Christmas paper and fill it with:

- new small toys: games, puzzles, soft toys, balls, car (no playing cards)
- school supplies: pencils, pens, rubber, sharpener, felt pens, paper, colouring book, notepad, chalk, crayons
- toiletries: soap, flannel, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, brush (no bottles)
- something to wear: hat, scarf, gloves, necklace,
- sweets: lollipops, chews, toffees, boiled sweets (no chocolate)
- £2.50 to help with transport costs

Ideally we need to receive the boxes no later than **Thursday 16th November** as it takes more than a month to get the boxes checked and transported abroad. The leaflets which will be distributed during our assemblies over the next few weeks will provide student and their families with all the necessary information however if you want any further information about the programme please look at <https://www.trusselltrust.org/what-we-do/overseas-projects/christmas-shoebboxes/> or alternatively contact me at school.

CAFOD Fast Day

On Friday 13th October, Bishop Challoner came together to celebrate CAFOD Fast day. Being part of a Catholic community, the fast day was very important and a lot of effort was put in to thinking about how we could really brighten up the harvest. Throughout the day, our Lay Chaplain Tommy led services teaching students about the work that CAFOD do. The services had a particular focus on how we can change the world to make it a brighter place, which included scripture and songs.



At break time and lunch time, students were invited into the auditorium which was a sea of colour to fit with CAFOD's theme for this year, to eat only bread and water and donate the money they would have spent in the canteen to CAFOD. They could then watch performances of songs from students, donate money for glow in the dark wristbands and paint their handprint onto our CAFOD display board in lots of colours. The school community worked incredibly hard to brighten up the harvest and managed to raise a total of £105!

Primary Chaplaincy Service

After choosing all our Primary Chaplaincy Teams, the teams were to visit Bishop Challoner for a commissioning service. The day was filled with prayer, games, the introduction of faith friends and fun. The Year 10 Chaplaincy Team at Bishop Challoner did us proud in leading many of these activities! The day was a great success in allowing our Primary Chaplaincy Teams to get to know each other and spend time celebrating their faith in preparation for the upcoming year spreading the word of God.



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 now only 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.

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. All students should hand mobile phones into the pastoral office for safe keeping and can collect them at the end of the school day. 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.

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.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Year 10- 94.3%
- Whole school- 95.4%

The whole school attendance target is 96%, so at this stage of the year, we are below this target. Please be aware that 95% attendance at this point in the year already equates to 10 hours of missed lessons. It is imperative that students should

always strive for 100% attendance, as every lesson of every day in every week plays an important part in the study and preparation for their examinations at the end of Year 11. I hope that our attendance figure in Year 10 will rise as we progress through the remainder of the 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 further day that 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.

I hope that all students and their families can enjoy a relaxing half term before their return on **Monday 30th October**.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Wooler
Head of Year 10

Miss Swingler
Assistant Head of Year 10

Key Dates

Monday 30th October-

Monday 30th October-

Wednesday 1st November-

Thursday 9th November-

Tuesday 21st November-

Friday 24th November-

Sunday 26th November-

Monday 27th November-

Friday 1st December-

Thursday 7th December-

Friday 8th December-

Monday 11th December-

Thursday 13th December-

Thursday 14th December-

Friday 15th December-

Tuesday 19th December-

Wednesday 20th December-

Thursday 21st December-

Friday 22nd December-

Monday 8th January-

School Open

Canteen- Sugar Awareness Day

All Saints Mass

Early Closure, 1.10pm- Year 11 Parent Consultation Day

Canteen- Poland Day

Shoebox Day

Ceili for Lourdes

National Youth Sunday & JP2 Commissioning Mass

Shoeboxes Collected

Advent Services Start

Christmas Show

School Closed- Year 7/9/10 Parent Consultation Day

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins

Primary Chaplaincy Advent Retreat

Winter Soiree

Year 9 Christmaths Day

Student Christmas Lunch

Carol Singers for Lourdes

KS3 STEM Fair

Whole School Mass

Non uniform Christmas Jumper day

School Closed- Inset Day

School Open

Remember – follow our many twitter feeds for updates on what is happening at BC!

Official School Twitter: @BishopChalloner

Teaching School: @teaching_school

Computing: @BishopChalComp

Biology: @BCCbio

PE: @BCPEDepartment

Geography: @BCGeogDept

Maths Hub: @CentralMathsHub

Science: @BCSciDept

School Games: @BCSGO

Chaplaincy: @BC_Chaplaincy

English: @BC_EnglishDept

Maths: @BCMathsDept

Science: @BCSciDept

School Games: @BCSGO

