



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 7 October Half Term Newsletter 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our first half term is now over and our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their time at Bishop Challoner. It has been a pleasure to witness the year group grow in confidence and spirit over the last six weeks. New friendships have formed and /students seem to be feeling at home in our Bishop Challoner community. I would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support during this half term; it is wonderful to be building such strong partnerships between home and school.

In this first Year 7 newsletter, I wish to highlight some of the wonderful work our year group been doing and exciting activities they have been embracing. The first half term has been extremely busy, with year 7s fully immersing themselves in school life. I have been very impressed with their positive attitude towards their peers and attentiveness to their studies. The Year 7 form tutors have also been very impressed with how their forms have settled to life at Bishop Challoner.

This newsletter is set out under the following headings:

- Early review evening: standards and expectations
- Chaplaincy and spiritual life
- Extra-curricular activities

Early review evening

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the Year 7 early review evening on Tuesday 3rd October. I hope this occasion was beneficial and meaningful at a useful point in the term to meet form tutors to discuss the settling in process. The opening talk focussed on illustrations of year 7 involvement in school life; it was a great way to showcase the wonderful academic work and extra-curricular involvement of the year groups so far. We also revisited the key topics Bishop Challoner Catholic College's high expectations of behaviour and uniform. 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.

As you may be aware our netbook project has been running successfully for over 7 years. Every child in Year 7 will need a netbook. The project is part funded by school and part by parental contributions. The parental contributions are £14 per month for 3 years. Further details will be included in the information packs you will be receiving. The Netbook dates have been confirmed for:

Tuesday 31st October 2017

Thursday 2nd November 2017.

Letters will be coming out by the end of the week to invite you to one of the sessions above. If however you have any imminent queries please email Mrs Wall who will get back to you.

We are really pleased with how well Year 7 have settled in this half-term and we feel now they are ready to accept the exciting responsibility of their own netbook.

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 MathsHUBS



Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life, Year 7 St Chads Visit

A number of year 7s visited St Chads with Tommy, our lay chaplain. They had a fantastic trip out and an opportunity to share in collective worship. Excellent ambassadors to the school and our 'Year of Service'.



Cafod

Cafod's harvest fast day was held on Friday 13th October. There was Musical Performances, Glow Sticks, and making handprint activities in the auditorium, including bread and water raising money for the Cafod charity who we help people directly in their own communities, and campaign for global justice so that everyone can reach their full potential. 'Reaching our full potential' is a key message of our school mission statement. Through our charitable work, we can demonstrate our school aims to support our pupils in their development to grow to be conscientious citizens of the world.

St Chads Sanctuary

Bishop Challoner continues to support St. Chad's Sanctuary which is a place of welcome and hospitality for asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants. The school is running a collection project of food and clothes. Items St. Chad's Sanctuary are in need of are: Any tinned pulses in water ie. red beans (not baked beans), Lentils, Chickpeas, Tinned vegetables, Dry Rice/pasta etc, Small men's clothes (or teenage lad size), Toiletries: Toothpaste, Shampoo, Soap/shower gel. Each day has been named as a reminder of what to bring in e.g Men's Monday- Bring in small mens clothing (size 28-34), Tin Tuesday- Bring in tinned food (not baked beans), Warm Wednesday- Bring in a warm piece of clothing for the winter, Toiletries Thursday- Bring in Toiletries, Feet Friday- Bring in shoes and socks (size 7-9). Thank you to those pupils who have already donated to St Chads sanctuary.



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 **Shoebbox 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.

Extra-curricular

It is wonderful to so many Year 7 pupils involved in the extra-curricular clubs. Both boys and girls from the year group represented our school at a recent Tag Rugby and Football tournament against Queensbridge, in celebration of our joint ownership of the space at Moor Green Lane. The teams participated with excellent sportsmanship and competitiveness, playing both football and tag rugby. All of the year 7 teams won first place, well done to all of those involved!

The boy's football team have enjoyed both league and cup matches early on in the team. They have played 9-a-side fixtures where they have been successful locally and 6-a-side matches at the Catholic School games where they came second. In addition to the first team squad, there is football club available as an extra-curricular activity.



The girl's football team have also had two tournaments, securing 1st and 2nd place at each respectively. In addition to Football, the girls Netball team have started the league with a win and great turn out to club! Upcoming fixtures include Basketball and Rugby. Credit to all involved in clubs and fixtures it is wonderful to have such a healthy and fit year group with the passion and determination to participate in sport.



A highlight so far is the South Birmingham Cross Country Championships where we had 16 Year 7 students taking part and winning both the boys and girls Year 7 races!

Science club is run once a week, each week students can do exciting practical experiments such as making paper aeroplanes and look at the physics behind getting them to fly! In addition to Science club, Year 7 have been attending cookery and art clubs in hoards! Furthermore, 16 students are representing Bishop Challoner in the Catholic School Games Scrabble competition; watch this space for results!



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 7- 97.8%
- Whole school- 95.4%

This is very pleasing and is in line with the school attendance target. We hope that this level of attendance can continue throughout 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,

Miss Hampson
Head of Year 7

Miss Mazabraud
Assistant Head of Year 7

Key Dates

Monday 30th October-

Monday 30th October-

Wednesday 1st November-

Monday 6th November-Wednesday 8th 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-

Tuesday 19th December-

Wednesday 20th December-

Thursday 21st December-

Friday 22nd December-

Monday 8th January-

School Open

Canteen- Sugar Awareness Day

All Saints Mass

Year 7 Alton Castle Retreat

Early Closure, 1.10pm- Year 11 Parent Consultation Day

Canteen- Poland Day

Shoobox Day

Ceili for Lourdes

National Youth Sunday & JP2 Commissioning Mass

Shooboxes 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

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