



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 10 October Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the well-deserved October break I wanted to write about the start the Year 10's have made to their all-important GCSE studies. These next two years are so very important as GCSE's are the first major stepping stones which open up a variety of opportunities for our students futures.

We at Bishop Challoner are incredibly proud of the outstanding outcomes of our students in public examinations and we constantly strive to maintain a high level of attainment each year. The way in which Year 10 have started their KS4 years fills me with hope for not only a set of great exam results in 2018 but also a wonderful future for the students.

'A new beginning' has been a theme for this term in assemblies and with teaching staff. Within three weeks of term the school was inspected again and I wanted to congratulate all of Year 10 for their mature attitudes, hard work and above all support for staff during these rather stressful times. Thankfully, all went well and I know that many of you have contacted the school and I thank you for your continued support. The hard work and commitment shown at the start of term has continued. I have been overjoyed by the excellent learning and effort shown in lessons on my rounds and the obvious enthusiasm for learning that students are showing to myself and their subject teachers.

A couple of weeks in I asked teachers to email me with students who deserved praise for their positive approach to their studies, excellent behaviour and enthusiasm but also to highlight any concerns regarding whether students are managing the move from KS3 to KS4. I was pleased to be able to reward a number of students who gained praise mentions from a number of their teachers in assembly but I also made it clear that many more students were mentioned but only by one of their teachers. I reiterated to the year group that all subjects at GCSE should receive the same level of effort and commitment and as I collated the results of the second round of 'Praise and Concern' mentions I can say with confidence that this message has been heeded. (See below for those who have been recognised).

Whilst effort and behaviour is excellent in lessons there have been some issues amongst the year group during break and lunch or before and after school. It is imperative that students realise that poor behaviour or a lack of respect for any member of the school community will be dealt with accordingly. Overall I have been impressed with the behaviour of Year 10 but there are a minority who need to realise why they are here and what they are expected to do whilst in school. I would hope that all my year group are old enough and wise enough to realise that poor behaviour has both short and long term consequences. Staff at Bishop Challoner work incredibly hard to assist the students in our care to gain outstanding results but it is very much a two way street. We will work all hours of the day for the students but ultimately the effort has to come from them for success to be secured. This leads me onto 5 O'Clocks. The majority of these sessions are for students to either catch up or extend their learning and have nothing to do with behavioural concerns. Students should recognise the opportunities they are given and grasp them with enthusiasm. All sessions should be attended and work brought to them if needed.

One of the massive tasks this year is organising work experience. I posted some guidance on the website last year and again a few weeks ago regarding the processes required to gain a placement. Students will have received a pack and parents/carers a letter explaining how this works with all the relevant dates and procedures (particularly regarding health and safety). The most important thing is to realise that all Year 10 students in Birmingham and beyond will be looking for work experience at around the same time as our students. Competition will be fierce and the earlier placements are organised the better.

Principal - Mr K.McEvoy

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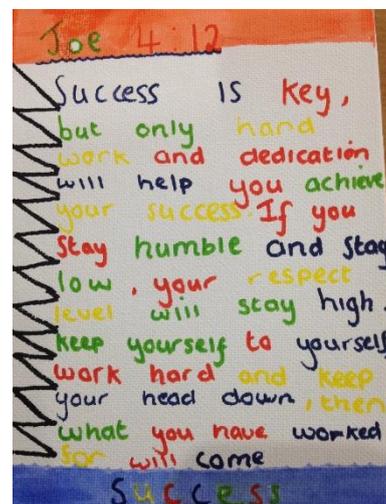
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Secondly the nature of the placement is key as many students think that as a 14/15 year old they will be doing the same activities as a fully qualified employee. Students must think carefully and enquire about what they will be doing so there are fewer surprises or disappointments. If you have any questions or need some help please ask your son/daughter to come and see myself or Mrs Reynolds in her office by SF4.

Also regarding preparation, I am trying to get the year group to see the long term benefits of organisation and revision. It is never too early to start revision. Now many students will think that revision is reading notes before an exam. This is actually proven to be the least effective form of revision! Students should first ensure that all work is kept safe and organised and as they move through the two years of GCSE they could, for example spend some time each week making flashcards of what they have recently learnt or create mind maps of topics as they cover them. The benefit of this is when they get to Easter of Year 11. Instead of creating revision resources they are able to use the ones they have been creating all along. This reduces the idea of panic revision and the actual work they will do is much more effective.

Finally I want to congratulate again all the students in Year 10 on a wonderful start to their GCSE's. They have been, so far, brilliant and I pray and hope that this commitment to success continues as with such hard work inevitably comes great rewards. I want all of Year 10 to be dancing away at prom in June or July 2018 knowing that they did their best and have no regrets about their KS4 years at Bishop Challoner.



Praise and Reward

Three weeks into the year certificates were presented to students who had made excellent starts to the year according to their class teachers. The following students will receive their certificates after half term based on praise mentions provided in the week commencing 10th October 2016. All mentions will be collated each term and prizes awarded to the student(s) who have received the most praise from their class teachers for that entire term.

Gold 4+ Mentions	Silver 3 Mentions	Bronze 2 Mentions	
Aimee Rose	Adam Pearson	Akeidad Bowen	Kieron Toal
Chervelle Kinina	Ciara Barry	Angelo Martinez	Koko Hamilton
Christopher Wilson	Dan Matthew Valdez	Beteleheim Abraham	Kyiem Dormer
Niall Jona	Felicia Coomber	Beth Williams	Lily Miller
Raphael Mulekezi	Kyle Jones	Callum Johnson	Livia Rytlewska
Samuel Raji	La-Chaunte Smith	Charlotte Ashford	Luke Hickson
Thomas McDonnell	Lorcan Culloo	Daniel Collins	Michael Labao
	Natalia Surowka	Delarni Bradshaw-Hall	Molly Gallagher
	Shaniyah Monaghan	Emma Faccio	Nathan Cooke
		Finley Hamilton	Oliver Sweeney
		Francis Gjoni	Peter Naylor
		Hannah Cook	Saim Nadim
		James Dooley	Saar-Rah Baig
		James Grego	Sean Lowry
		Jude Wilson	Shannon Synnott
		Kai Wilson-Jones	Sharnay Devine
		Kian Winward	Trinity Crowe

Chaplaincy and Whole School Fundraising

Soli House

A small group of Year 10's had a wonderful time visiting Soli House Retreat. Lots of fun was had but also some serious reflection and thinking about futures and how as students they can contribute to our school community. Well done to the team of tens who went!



Lourdes trip



We are planning our 4th annual Lourdes Pilgrimage which takes place during the May half term next year (Saturday 27th May to Saturday 3rd June 2017). Whilst in Lourdes students will have the opportunity to serve the sick and elderly pilgrims through the Mass and social action throughout the week. This trip is a real highlight of the school year for students and staff alike.

The total cost of the trip is £441.50 which includes travelling to Lourdes by coach, accommodation and all meals whilst on the trip. There are 20 places available on this trip. Each place will be allocated on a first come first served basis by registering through SchoolComms. If you would like your child to take up this opportunity then please consent and pay a non-refundable deposit of £41.50 by Friday 03rd November. This payment is a voluntary contribution to the overall cost of the event. Without coverage of costs, the trip may not proceed. If you would like any more information please contact Tommy Rowan the Lay Chaplain at School.

St. Chad's Sanctuary

Bishop Challoner continues to support St. Chad's Sanctuary which is a place of welcome and hospitality for asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants. From 5th December - 14th December 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 men's 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).



Shoebox Appeal

Over the last few years Bishop Challoner Catholic community has had great success and generosity from our students 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 2016.

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 17th 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.

English

In English, students have explored a range of poetry that focus on conflict and power. Students have been honing their analytical skills but also have had the opportunity to use the poems as a springboard for writing descriptively.



In terms of extracurricular clubs, English aficionados have three options: they can experiment with different writing styles in Miss Laszlo's Graphite club, which takes place on Mondays; if students prefer expressing themselves verbally, it is highly recommended they attended Debate Mate after school on a Friday; finally, bookworms are encouraged to attend Miss Beard's book club in the library.

Maths

This year students in Year 10 will have started the GCSE course and will either be following the higher tier or the foundation tier. It is an important year for all students, and a good drive and focus is required throughout Year 10. Students will have spent the first half term recapping their Key Stage 3 knowledge on decimals, and extending themselves with powers and indices. Students will have a mid-year mock in February which they need to fully prepare for in the months leading to it. Students should be familiar with the websites mymaths.co.uk and mathswatchvle.com – both useful for revision and recapping material taught in class.



It has been great to see so many Year 10 students coming along to the maths drop in on Monday after school; this will continue after half term. The new content for the GCSEs is hard, and so an onus needs to be placed on students being proactive with their learning and seeking help outside of class when they are struggling. The study sessions for 10M7 will continue to run every Wednesday after school. Next term, some students in Year 10 will have the opportunity to attend a lecture by Dr Goodwin, a maths lecturer at Birmingham University, which promises to be an exciting and engaging event; certainly something to look forward to!

The maths department would like to recognise some excellent students, who have worked hard all term and produced some outstanding work. A big well done to: Felicia Coomber, Lily Peace, Thomas Ruane-Malone, Christopher Wilson, Daniel Collins, La-Chaunte Smith, Lorcan Culloo and Oliver Sweeney.

Science

Year 10 are continuing with the new GCSE that we started in Year 9. The importance of being prepared for lessons goes without saying, but an important change to the GCSE is the increase in the amount of maths the students will be tested on in their final exams in the summer of Year 11. To this end, all Year 10 students must come to science lessons with a calculator so they can practice their skills on the calculator they will be using in the exams. Mr Sarcevic in the maths department sells calculators, if you do not have one.



After half term, the Year 10 will be sitting tests in science and will have been told the topics they need to learn. CGP have published revision guides and work books to go with this new GCSE and I would encourage as many students as possible to buy them as they are very good. Foundation tier books are not yet published; I will let the students know when they become available. Just ask your teacher for any of these books if you want to buy them.

Geography

The Year 10 Geographers have made an excellent start to the new AQA GCSE specification. In recent weeks they have been looking at different forms of ecosystems focussing primarily on Tropical Rainforests. They have been investigating how vital these ecosystems are to the survival of the planet and all that reside upon it and are currently looking at different strategies to preserve and conserve the diminishing areas of rainforest that survive. They have also completed their first main case study of Malaysia.



In Geography it is vital that students read around topics and keep aware of current events. We would advise students to take a keen interest in news stories that are related to the environments and societies across the world. Simply reading the BBC news app each day can have a marked impact on contextual learning which is so vital to gain top marks in extended exam questions.



First assessments based on all learning so far this term will be happening shortly after half term.

Organisation for the Field Trip to Iceland in February Half Term is progressing well. Students have been given some notes that will help them prepare for the trip and final payments are almost due. This last month has seen some incredible Northern Lights in Iceland...we all need to start praying that they will come out to play next February.

RE

Year 10 have made excellent progress this half term and we are very pleased with how they have adapted to the demands of GCSE work. Year 10 have begun a new Religious Education specification which enables them to explore engaging questions regarding life and society, focusing on Catholic views, the views of other Christians and the views of humanists and other world views.

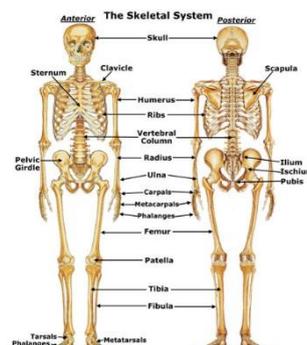


So far year 10 have looked at the teachings of religion and science regarding the creation of the universe. This includes looking at evolution, big bang, The Genesis accounts and evaluating the beliefs of various people regarding their views on creation. Students have also looked at The Sanctity of Life, Christian views on humans being created in the image of God, various views on abortion and environmental concerns and how people can care better for our planet. The new GCSE is a challenge for students and we are really impressed with how they have rose to this challenge. The maturity of students has led to intelligent class discussions and some incredibly intelligent responses to challenging questions regarding life and society. Well done! Keep up the good work.

GCSE PE

Theory- Students are currently learning about the skeletal system in theory lessons and have just completed their first assessment in this area. They will be receiving feedback from their class teacher and setting targets based on the results of this test.

Practical - Please be aware that students will be assessed in 3 sports for their GCSE grade and by attending extra-curricular activities at Bishop Challoner or at external clubs will greatly help the pupil achieve their target grade. Students can see Miss Ellis for a full list of sports they can be assessed in and for advice regarding which clubs they can attend to improve. There is also a potential opportunity to learn and be assessed in rock climbing in the New Year, details of this will be sent out shortly.



Extra-Curricular Sports

Miss Spencer's Year 10 netball team have got off to a fantastic start to their season, winning all of their games. They have had impressive win against both Bourneville and St Albans - doubling the oppositions score. Well done to Livia for captaining her first match and well played to Ellie and Lily who received player of the match from the opposition. Miss Ball's Year 10 team also had a great start, showing excellent team work and resilience within their game against Shenley Academy- big congratulations to Libby for receiving player of the match! Girls in year 10 have the PGL netball and football trip to look forward to.



The Year 10 football team have made a superb start this year winning all three games so far. The boys have progressed into R2 in the ESFA and Birmingham cups following a 3-1 win at RSA academy and a 3-0 win at Tudor grange. In addition the boys have beat local rivals Wheelers Lane 6-0 in their opening league game playing some great football. It looks to be a promising season for the boys.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award has successfully been running at Bishop Challoner for the past 5 years. It is a scheme that aims to have a positive impact in developing young people's skills for life and work. Since it began in 1956, the aim of the D of E award has been to help young people to plan and undertake their own programme of activities to develop mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. After October half term this fantastic opportunity will be advertised to all year 10 students during PE lessons. Letters will be handed out informing you of the finer details and how and when to sign up via SchoolComms, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Miss Ellis or Miss Beall.



Product Design

In product Design, students have begun the investigation section of their controlled assessment. Having chosen a design brief from a range provided by AQA, students are now collecting a variety of sources of primary and secondary research so that they can draw up design criteria for their product. Their research has involved analysing existing products, interviewing a client and carrying out practical tests on a range of materials. After half term students will complete the investigation section and this will lead into the design phase.



Health and Social Care

Year 10 students have made a very encouraging start to their HSC studies and have been working on both of their Units this half-term. In preparation for their Unit 1 exam, which they will take at the end of Year 11, they have been learning about Human Growth and Development during different life stages and starting to consider some of the many factors that have an impact on this during our lives. For their Unit 2 coursework assignment they have been doing background learning about The Needs of Human Beings at different life stages, how those needs can be categorised and how they are met, and beginning to think a little bit about Job Roles in the Health, Social Care and Early Years Sectors.

Next half-term they will be starting to investigate Job Roles in more depth and be informed about the details of the Exam Board tasks they will need to complete for their coursework. They will subsequently make a start on the first of these tasks before the Christmas holidays. For the Unit 1 exam, they will be continuing to study different aspects of growth and development across the life stages and the factors that affect this growth and development.



ICT

The year 10 ICT group has made a great start to their career with ICT at KS4 and the early signs are promising for all those in the group. Since the start of the year students have looked at various topics including: smart phones; the various types of computing devices; multimedia entertainment systems; online shopping; how to be safe in the work place; and the digital divide. Even at this early stage in year 10, students have been successfully applying their knowledge to exam style and past paper questions with a promising outcome for all. After the Half Term break students are going to continue their work towards understanding, how the use and reliance on ICT affects them and others in the world; an exciting prospect given the ever changing landscape of the digital age.



Computing

The year 10 Computing group have begun their journey into the world of computing. Since September they have looked at: Binary; Logic Gates and Sorting Algorithms as part of their theory course. From a practical perspective they have discovered the importance of Pseudocode and how the top programmers at the top companies around the world use it to build the apps and games that they use.

They have taken this new planning tool and begun to program for themselves, so far looking at Variable Declaration, Iteration and Conditionals. After Half Term the programming journey continues as the group develop new understanding of programming fundamentals and just how the most complex of problems can be decomposed and solved using the tools they are now acquiring.



Business Studies

This term students have been looking at the first module in the Business GCSE: Spotting a business opportunity. Students investigated how businesses meet customer needs through research and analysis. They have been market mapping different industries and comparing competition. In the next half term we will be investigating and researching entrepreneurs and enterprise, looking at what makes these people so successful in the business world.



Debate Mate

Debate Mate is Back! Every Thursday from 3rd November onwards, Debate Mate will run from 3.20pm - 4.30pm. Debate Mate is a club where you can learn how to debate and express your opinions persuasively. We debate all kinds of topics, from footballers' pay to euthanasia. No experience necessary. If you want to improve your public speaking skills and debate big topics with your friends, then come along! See Miss Fenlon (SF1) or Miss Lloyd (SF2) for more information.



Performing Arts

Congratulations to our Year 10 students who have completed their first assessment

Britain's Got Talent

A huge well done and congratulations to all students who performed in Britain's Got Talent on Wednesday 19th October! You all worked so hard rehearsing and did yourselves, the school and your families proud! The Performing Arts team hope you will remember the experience for many years to come.



Instrumental fees

Instrumental fees were due on 19th October. If you haven't paid please do so as a matter of urgency.

Music

Year 10 GCSE Music students have been working hard this term to 'get to grips' with music theory. The new specification is very tricky and Miss Hughes and Mrs Choudhury are proud of the way students have worked with dedication and commitment to understand some of the difficult concepts covered in lessons.

French

This year, all year 10 are starting preparing for the new GCSE (9-1) as they are in many other subjects. This means that students will not be working towards controlled assessment but will have end of year examinations instead, on the four skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing.

So far this year students have been working on the topics of family and friends' relationships. There has been a big focus on verbs and grammar as this will be a major part of their GCSE.

In order to ensure continuous progress in French we advise our students to practise their verbs, tenses and grammar as much as possible, they always have lists of vocabulary available to them on the website www.kerboodle.com, which they need to learn for their lessons. All students have a username and password to access this site.

Also, there is plenty of support on the AQA website, AQA being the exam board we are working with. Students can also use the free website www.languagesonline.org.uk for more grammar practice.

Opportunity



France Trip 2017



- World War II landing beaches
- The famous Bayeux tapestry
- Local markets and shops
- A chocolate factory
- Sightseeing in Paris
- Parc Astérix



ONLY 9
PLACES
LEFT!

If you are interested in one of the remaining places please email Mr Davison w.davison@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk for a copy of the letter or sign up via SchoolComms

Cost - £380

Art

Year 10 have had a great start to their GCSE Fine Art course, and have starting filling their sketchbooks with a range of materials, processes and techniques under the theme of 'Nature vs Manmade'. So far, the classes have experimented with ink and water, monoprint, oil paint rub, watercolour and wax entrapment. After half term, they will be continuing to explore their own ideas under the theme, branching out using different images and their own photographs.

If any Year 10 students are interested in helping out during Art Club, please see Miss Swingler in A1 for more information.

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- 95.7%
- Whole school- 95.6%

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.

Congratulations to winners of the weekly attendance raffles- Adawa Awanayah, Oliver Wilkins, Natalia Surowka and Kayleigh Feeney.

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 31st October**.

Kind regards,

Mr May
Head of Year 10

Miss Laszlo
Assistant Head of Year 10

Key Dates

Monday 31st October-

Tuesday 8th November-

Monday 14th November-

Wednesday 16th November-

Wednesday 16th November-Tuesday 22nd November-

Friday 25th November-

Monday 28th November-

Monday 28th November-Friday 2nd December-

Thursday 1st December-

Monday 5th December-

Thursday 7th December-

Friday 8th December-

Thursday 15th December-

Friday 16th December-

Monday 3rd January-

School Open

Canteen- French Day

World Diabetes Day

Sixth Form Open Evening

Alcohol Awareness Week

Shoebox Day

Shoebboxes Collected

Sugar Awareness Week

Christmas Show

Advent services begin

Winter Soiree

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins

Winter Soiree

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

Whole school Christmas 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

