



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## Year 11 February Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are now half way through the school year and, once again, it has been a busy half term. Exam preparations are well underway and students are working hard following their Mock Examination results in January. Many students stepped up a gear for the final push to ensure that controlled assessments are complete and revision routines are in place before the Easter break.

### Lates Initiative update

I would like to thank all of those students who have clearly made more of an effort to arrive to school on time. There have been many discussions with students on the lates initiative about what is late and what isn't late. To clarify, it is a requirement for all students to be in form at **8:40am**. Students who arrive after this time are late to school, even if they arrive minutes past the 8:40 start time. Due to the positive response made by students on the lates Initiative, the number of students on the scheme has now dropped from 23 to 12.

### Year 11 Rewards

On Thursday 12th January 2017, students who have been nominated by more than one teacher for excellent effort, achievement or behaviour during the first term of school were taken to Accoks Green Bowling Alley for an afternoon of fun. In a conscious effort to reward students on a termly basis, the next rewards trip will take place after the Easter break. I strongly anticipate that there will be many nominations made by teachers from all departments as some of the work I am seeing being produced is nothing short of remarkable.

### English

Year 11 continue to work well as they get to grips with the new GCSE; students will be awarded a number 1-9 in the summer, rather than an A\*-C grade. The department were very impressed with how students tackled two challenging English Language mocks. Since Christmas, we have turned our attention to the four Literature texts:

- 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare
- 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley
- 'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley
- Poetry on the theme of power and conflict.

To prepare Year 11 students for the linear examinations, the department have decided to arrange two formal mocks examinations. Students will be examined on the two texts that they have revised on Thursday 2nd March. They will then sit another mock, six weeks later on Friday 28th April, on the final two texts. Students will be furnished with paper revision guides to complement their revision. The department strongly recommends that students make use of the excellent electronic resources on the VLE.

### Maths

Since the December mock, results have been analysed and fed back to pupils. The exposure to the new specification of GCSE at the end of last year was invaluable. This practice has really spurred on many of our students; more and more are showing evidence of study at home and many are now coming back after school for extra assistance on topics that they find hard. Many teachers are available after school hours – please do come and find us if you need help! There will be another formal "mock" test in the week after half term, where we hope that many of the students will show good progress. Revision material will be provided – extra revision over half term is essential.

**Principal - Mr K.McEvoy**

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The top mathematicians in the year group undertook the ‘Intermediate Maths Challenge’ at the beginning of February, which is a series of problems designed by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. These papers test out students’ problem solving skills. We look forward to receiving the results of these next term.

The maths department would like to recognise some excellent students that have worked brilliantly this half term. A big well done to: Davina Gordon; Molly Green; Thomas Woodcock; Eloise McKearney; Roisin Barton and Byron Owen. A particular mention must also go to Lochlann Ryan, Leo Paul Farmer and Orla Connaughton, who have all won mathematician of the fortnight for KS4. Keep up the good work everyone in this last push towards the summer exams.

### **Science**

Year 11 will be issued with past paper packs between March and the Easter holidays. These packs will prove to be a very important revision resource and must be looked after so that they can be used right up to the last exam in June. Doing past questions and looking at the mark schemes will inform pupils about what the examiners are looking for in their answers.

### **History**

Year 11 are currently working on their GCSE coursework, planning and writing their answer to a question focusing on the work of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King during the Civil Rights movement in the USA. Students will be given a limited time to write the coursework so must ensure that they have highly detailed plans before they begin writing. For the higher marks, they need to formulate a convincing, continuous running assertion and develop strong links between paragraphs. After half term, Year 11 will be studying their final unit for the GCSE: the British depth study.

This incorporates the Liberal Reforms, women’s suffrage campaigns and the British home front during World War One. Students could watch dramatized films such as ‘The Suffragette’ to engage them in the topic, or visit the Birmingham Central Library to see the World War One Collection. They are also advised to keep up with thorough and effective revision, and to ensure their notes on all units are detailed and well-organised in preparation for the summer exam. Good luck! Year 11B students who are studying Food Technology can benefit from revision books in GCSE WJEC Catering (£3 each). Mrs Patterson will have them for sale on parents evening. Please take advantage of this opportunity to purchase revision guides from school, as they are invariably cheaper than in the shops.

### **Religious Education**

This half term year 11 have continued their preparations for their Religious Education GCSE that will take place this coming May.

Students returned in January to receive very encouraging mock results and students should take confidence from this as they begin their revision for the summer exams. In the last few weeks students have been studying the topic Peace and Conflict. This has allowed students to explore issues such as;

- The United Nations and their work for peace
- How religious organisations try to promote world peace
- why wars occur
- Can a war ever be Just?
- Christian views regarding war
- The consequences of bullying
- Religious conflict within families
- Christian teaching on forgiveness and reconciliation

These questions are helping to develop the students thinking skills and develop knowledge of important issues with society today and will not only help them develop their subject knowledge for their forthcoming exam, but will foster within them the ability to critical analyse the world they live in and help prepare them for their future roles as citizens in modern society

Details of further intervention programmes in other subjects will be sent out to you as soon as they are finalised in departments. Many departments will take advantage of the Easter holiday to ensure that students are fully prepared for exams and that Controlled Assessments are at the best standard. With all this hard work going on in all areas of the curriculum, it is important to remember the importance of good attendance and punctuality in lessons and study sessions, as much of the preparation for Controlled Assessments takes place in standard lesson/study session time. Rewards initiatives are still happening in school to reward those pupils who have excellent attendance and punctuality and effort in lessons by reducing the cost of the Prom ticket and Year Book package.

## **Music and Performing Arts**

The Performing Arts Exam will be the 10th May. So students will be with us all day on the 9th and 10th including study session. They will also be required every Thursday after 1/2 term after their study sessions. A few Saturdays before the exam will be given over to practice if needed.

Fees for instrumental lessons were due on Friday 3rd February. If you haven't already paid please do so as a matter of urgency. If you have any problems or queries regarding payment please email Mrs Choudhury at [I.choudhury@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:I.choudhury@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk).

BC Orchestra is now taking place on Tuesdays after school from 3.15-4.00pm in PA2. If you have instrumental lessons both in or outside of school you are more than welcome to attend. Students need to see Miss Hughes in PA1 for more information.

We currently have instrumental spaces available for an immediate start on any woodwind instrument and drum kit. Please email Mrs Choudhury for further information and prices.

## **P.E.**

The Year 11 netball team unfortunately lost their final game to Kings Norton Girls, it was a hard game against the opposition but they gave it their all continuously throughout the game. The girls had more success in their basketball fixture against St Thomas Aquinas where they won. Well done.

After such a positive end to the 15/16 academic Football year; winning the West Midlands Cup and the Kings Norton Cup, the boys' Football team recently reached the Quarter Final of the ESFA Schools National Cup before being knocked out 3-2 by Thomas Telford. The boys are now looking to retain the West Midlands cup for the second year running when they take on Heart of England in the semi-final on Wednesday 15th Feb. They've faced some tough opposition in the run up to the semis and have performed incredibly well to get this far.

## **Online safety**

As part of the ongoing work to ensure the continued Safeguarding of pupils, the following advice has been issued by our own I.T. department to help you understand how you can ensure your child's safety online. If you are concerned about an aspect of social media, Vodafone's Digital Parenting page is quite a good place to start and has a walk through for all of the apps about how to setup parental controls- <http://www.vodafone.com/content/digital-parenting.html>. Please feel free to contact the school if you require any further support with this.

## **Whole School Charity**

In January the students voted for the "Alzheimers Society" to be our Whole School Charity this year. The Alzheimers Society is the leading UK care and research charity for people with this disease and other dementias, their families and carers. This charity is close to lots of people's hearts in our community. The whole school target for this year is £6000.

**Leading the fight  
against dementia**

**Alzheimer's  
Society**

If you would like to donate money please donate on our virgin giving page at:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/BCCCAAlzheimersSociety> or by donating on SchoolComms. If you have any fundraising ideas that you would like to share please contact Heads of Years or the Lay Chaplain Tommy.

## **Lourdes Fundraiser Ceili Night**

Join the Lourdes team on Friday 10th March at the Irish Centre (Upstairs), 8pm til late for a Lourdes fundraiser. We have booked "The Hurling Boys" to lead us in our ceili dancing. Raffle on the night. £5 for a ticket which can be bought from reception at school or on the door on the night. Families welcome.

## **Youth Club**

St. Dunstan's youth club meets fortnightly on a Friday evening. This youth group is to have faith, fun and friendship. Age range 9-13 years old. Our next youth club sessions are Friday 17th February, 3rd March, 17th March, 31st March. 7-8.30pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Tommy, the Lay Chaplain, for more information.

## **Proclaim**

Proclaim is a youth group for 14+ who take part in praise and worship, games, prayer and pizza. Join the group on a fortnightly basis on the following dates: Friday 17th February, 3rd March, 17th March, 31st March. 5-6.30pm in St. Dunstan's Conference room. Contact Tommy the Lay Chaplain for more information.

### **Youth Mass**

Join the parish youth groups on Saturday 4th March for a Youth Mass at St. Dunstan's Church at 5.30pm. Following the youth mass there will be a cake sale to raise money for mission work in Brazil.

### **Bishop Challoner Sixth Form**

We are delighted that many Year 11 students have applied for Sixth Form courses at Bishop Challoner. Interviews for the Sixth Form have started this week. Ms Wright is continuing to meet with all year 11 students to discuss their Post 16 and career opportunities. You are, of course welcome to attend these interviews. Please contact either myself or Ms Wright if you wish to attend your child's interview.

### **'The Challenge'**

You will have received the letter about the opportunity offered to all Year 11 students for the summer enrichment activity, 'The Challenge'. We are also hoping to have presentations about Apprenticeship opportunities later next term.

### **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](http://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/skin fades in the hair. The latest fashion styles are not always appropriate for school. 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 11- 93.7%
- Whole school- 94.9%

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- Ella Reel, George Baker, Joshua Sombrio, Dejon Butler-Blake and Lochlann Ryan.

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 27<sup>th</sup> February**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McGowan  
**Head of Year 11**

Mr Wilson  
**Assistant Head of Year 11**

**Key Dates**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February-**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March-  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March-

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March-Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March-

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March-  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April-

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April-**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April-**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April-Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April-  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April-

**School Open**

Ash Wednesday Whole School Service

Lent Services Begin

Periods 1 and 2 - Maths mock

Period 3 and 4 - English mock

Canteen- National Breakfast Week

Canteen- Pancake Day

Whole School Easter Mass

Non Uniform for Lourdes

**School Closed- Inset Day**

**School Open**

Art Exam (11C) 10 hours

Art Exam (11A / 11B) 10 hours



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