



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## Year 11 October Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Students in Year 11 have made a very positive and productive start to this academic year. With exam season reaching ever closer, I have been encouraged by the positive work ethic shown by our students in lessons, study sessions, preparation for mock examinations and within extra-curricular responses. I wish all of Year 11 a very restful and enjoyable half term break.

### Lates Initiative

I have been most impressed with the reaction to pupils who were placed upon the lates initiative at the beginning of the year. Pupils have reacted positively and we will be seeking to review which pupils are on the initiative when we come back after half term. Judging by the number of lates we have seen since the initiative restarted this year, there will not be many pupils left on the programme post half term break. I would like to thank all pupils who were originally on the initiative for their work in rectifying their punctuality to school; sometimes something as simple as waking up ten minutes earlier to travel on the earlier bus can be the difference. Punctuality is highly regarded in any workplace and at Bishop Challoner we try to embed this message into the pupils throughout school so that they are best prepared for life after school. Many pupils will require references for colleges, sixth-form, apprenticeships and workplaces in the not too distant future and punctuality and attendance will be something that will feature within these statements.

### Rewards Scheme

As students and parents know, Year 11 can be such a difficult year to be in. With the constant pressure of exams, coursework and study sessions sometimes I would like to remind pupils that they will be rewarded for their hard work and dedication towards life in school.

This year a brand new rewards scheme will be introduced. Quite simply, each half term we will be sending an email to all Heads of Department asking them to nominate approximately 10 pupils within their weekly subject meetings of who they believe deserves a reward. If a pupil receives one nomination in total their parents will be notified and students will be commended on their excellent work. If a student receives more than one nomination they will have the opportunity to go on a rewards trip taking place termly; with the first trip taking place just before the Christmas break.

As mentioned above, Year 11 is a tough year for all involved. Sometimes a reward for hard work, commitment to coursework or high score in a recent test keeps us striving towards achievement. I look forward to seeing how this new scheme will run and interested to see all of the imminent nominations from subjects!

### Study Sessions

I have been pleased with the attendance of study sessions from pupils within Year 11 so far. As half term draws to a close, pupils will be well aware of the impact that study sessions have made on their development within each subject so far and their value if one is missed. Students are also aware that if they do miss a study session their subject teacher may well ask them to re-attend on an evening after attending their usual study session.

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 MathsHUBS



Consequently, some pupils may find that they have to stay until 4:30pm to attend one study session; and then re-attending one that they have missed after until 6pm onwards. Many students have seen this as a punishment, which isn't the case at all. If a student misses a study session and their teacher requires them to catch up on the work missed then they will be expected to do so. Parents will receive a text message from the school detailing what time their son or daughter will be at school until. Study sessions are unique to this school and ensure that pupils do achieve their potential within each subject. On behalf of myself and all of your teachers I would like to thank students who have attended all of their study sessions so far; sometimes an extra hour at school each day with a teacher as opposed to an hour of independent revision at home can be the difference in moving up grades.

### **7 o'clock support**

I would like to thank all students who have attended their 7 o'clock support sessions during this half term. I have witnessed first-hand the impact it has had on students catching up with any coursework deadlines, missed homework or even to serve as a punishment for any misbehaviours in school. If pupils are given a 7 o'clock support then they will be notified by a teacher and a text will be sent home upon the day of the subsequent session. At times, pupils will not be required to stay until 7pm if they have completed their missed work and in this case pupils are asked to contact parents/guardians to inform them that they are being released from school earlier than the required time to stay. If a pupil does not have access to this then a member of staff who is on duty will contact home to inform parents/guardians instead. I would also like to thank parents/guardians for your support in this matter. The expectations for pupils within this school are high and I appreciate the time given by you as carers assisting the school in the attendance of these support sessions. The 7 o'clock support sessions are also available for those students who need a quiet place to study after school and are most welcome to attend and use the support of a supervised study period until 7 o'clock in C3 from Monday to Thursday.

### **Open Evening**

Despite their busy schedules, a school record number of Year 11 students set aside their evening on 21<sup>st</sup> September to act as guides for prospective Year 7 parents on Open Evening. Visitors and staff were full of praise for Year 11's conduct during this important event for the school. Many visitors took the time to contact Mr McEvoy after the event to express how impressed they were with the enthusiasm and the knowledge of our Year 11 students. We are very proud and appreciative of the lengths our students go to in support of their school. Well done all.

### **Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College**

After half term, the sixth form team at Bishop Challoner will be delivering assemblies to Year 11 to give them a sense of what life is like at Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College. Please discuss with your son or daughter their post sixteen plans. Students will be given guidance in completing their online registration for UCAS Progress after half term. This is the online system for applications to further education. If they have any questions about this process, they must see Mrs Reynolds or Miss E McGowan in the Student Services office by SF4.

### **Year 11 Health Day**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October, Year 11 students took part in a Health and Wellbeing Day organised by Miss Bisset. To say that the day was a success would be a huge understatement; it was simply fantastic. Pupils were empathetic, enthused and engaged in the variety of talks or workshops that they attended. I am sure that many of the real life experiences that visitors shared with the students of Year 11 will remain as memories throughout school life. I would like to thank all Year 11 students involved as their attitudes, good manners and thoughtful discussions throughout the day were superb.

Miss Bisset- Session one was led by a drama company who delivered a play called Safe and Sound. The play was written to engage students in issues surrounding unhealthy relations, after which students had to discuss their opinions and attitudes towards the characters. Students were informed about how to spot unhealthy relationships and where to seek help if they experience or see an unhealthy relationship forming.



Session two and three were led by staff in school on various topics including the laws, social and health implications of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The session also engaged Year 11 in debate about the laws on consent, the health risks of sexual activity.

Session four, led by West Midlands police, led many students to think carefully about the choices they make and the people they socialise with. The presentation included Alison Cope as guest speaker. Alison's son Joshua Ribera was stabbed and murdered in Selly Oak in September 2013, he was well known within the grime music scene as Depzman with over 45 million views of his music videos on YouTube. Alison told his life story leading up to the night of his murder and how many lives were changed that night by the actions of one person. Alison is 2015 Pride of Birmingham winner. The story of her family was exceptionally told and will undoubtedly be remembered by all who attended the assembly.



### **Question about Revision?**

#### **When should my son/daughter start revising for exams?**

Generally speaking, in depth revision should start two or more months before an exam. However, students should continually revise; this means ensuring their notes are complete – that all work missed is caught up on and that any gaps in their knowledge or understanding is dealt with by seeing the relevant teacher or checking the VLE.

#### **Is there any way in which I can suggest they plan their revision programme?**

Ask them to make a list of the different topics they need to revise for each subject and encourage them to make a revision timetable which clearly shows the week, day, time, subject and topics for revision. You may support them by referring to the timetable and checking and acknowledging that it is being followed. Research has shown that most effective revision takes place when a person revises in blocks of 20-30 minutes at a time with a 10 minute break in between.

#### **How can I help to create the right study environment?**

Encourage your son or daughter to revise at a table with paper, books and pens at the ready. It is important that he or she studies in a warm, quiet and well-lit room, well away from the television - although some students will work better with some quiet, calming, background music.

Remind them that distraction during their planned revision time is likely to make their revision time harder and more stressful, so it would be advisable to switch phones to silent and leave them out of the way. Now may also be a good time to talk to younger brothers and sisters about the importance of not interrupting him/her while she/he studies.

#### **How can they best use their revision time?**

Suggest that she/he reads through the notes from a particular topic and highlight any keywords, definitions and main points. She/he can then summarise the notes by creating mind maps, glossaries of key terms or flash cards on a particular topic. The following link on the VLE will give your son or daughter access to past papers across a range of subject areas. He or she has been shown how to use this resource so please ask him/her to share this information with you.

<http://vle.bcweb.org.uk/mod/page/view.php?id=46068>

### **Science**

Year 11 have made a good start to their science lessons this year, with controlled assessments being completed well in advance of the deadline set by the exam board. This means we can focus on exam material and preparation for the rest of the course. If any student has not bought a revision guide, now is the time to do it: in December they will be sitting their mock exams and these books will be a great help. Pupils can also buy workbooks with answers; these provide a great way to work your way through the whole course and so be more fully able to answer any question that might appear on the exam papers. Please speak to your class teacher if you want to buy any of these books.

### **Religious Education**

Year 11 have made an exceptional start to their year 11 studies and we are very hopeful of excellent grades being achieved in the summer examinations. So far this year have studied a range of interesting issues which has allowed them to explore Christian views, alongside non-religious views and enabled them to develop their own personal viewpoint. Students have studied the topic Rights and Responsibilities which involved looking at how a Christian makes moral decision, for example using The Bible, The Church and their conscience. Students also looked at the importance of human rights in The UK and the

importance of democracy. Finally students explored various viewpoints concerning genetic engineering and explored possible benefits and considered various ethical concerns that may arise.

More recently students have looked at the topic The Environment and Medical Ethics. This has allowed students the chance to look at environmental concerns and how humans may act to solve these issues. Students have explored the Christian views on stewardship and how this provides Christians with the motivation to care for our planet and why it is important to take this responsibility seriously. Finally students have been considering ethical issues such as transplant surgery and infertility treatments. This has enabled students to explore medical ethics and form viewpoint regarding these practices. We are very proud of the progress students are making and feel this had been an encouraging stepping stone towards both preparation for their examinations but also towards preparing them for being citizens in modern Britain.

### **Health and Social Care**

Year 11 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 the Impacts of Expected and Unexpected Life Course Events on our growth and development and they will be continuing with this after the half-term break. For their Unit 2 coursework assignment they have been doing background learning about Care Values, Methods of Referral and Barriers to Access as well as starting to re-draft pieces they produced in Year 10 for some of the tasks. Next half-term they will be continuing with this re-drafting process as well as working on the first drafts for the tasks they have been preparing for over the last few weeks. This will be a busy period, with lots of deadlines to meet and study sessions to attend in an effort to get the most out of this process, and with a joyful Christmas holiday to look forward to at the end of it. Have a good half term.

### **Business Studies**

The year has started with Controlled Assessment for Year 11 for which students have been researching their chosen small business. They have had to investigate how they offer high levels of customer satisfaction, amongst other things, and its importance within the business. With the write up phase nearing completion, students will now be spending lesson time looking at content in preparation for Unit Three, beginning with Marketing.

Year 11 were also lucky enough to go on a trip to the Jaguar Landrover site in Solihull. Students were taken on a tour of the factory where the cars are made and got involved in some Business based tasks. Here students were asked to create models to a given specification in a strict time frame with penalties given for mistakes. This highlighted to them the importance of quality control and good organisational skills. Overall the trip was a great success with students seeing first-hand the concepts that they are taught in the classroom.

### **Maths**

For our Year 11 students it is the most important year of their school career to date, and hard work is crucial to ensure the best possible outcomes at the end of the year for their GCSEs. Students will be doing mock papers frequently during study sessions, and should be revising for each of these carefully; revisiting notes made in class and completing packs of questions. Pupils should already be familiar with the websites [mymaths.co.uk](http://mymaths.co.uk) and [mathswatchvle.com](http://mathswatchvle.com) – both useful for revision. Undertaking revision little and often is the key to success next summer.

So far students have continued to cover the GCSE course, either the higher tier or the foundation tier. As this is the first year of the new GCSE, students will be challenged with the extra content that is in both specifications. Students of the higher GCSE will have looked at Pythagoras and trigonometry this term, and will be studying simultaneous and quadratic equations next term. Foundation GCSE students have been solidifying key number and algebra skills, and testing these through past papers. Please bear in mind that the December mock examinations will include work covered in Year 10, as well as work covered in Year 11, so recapping prior learning is essential.



The maths department have been impressed with the improved work ethic and commitment that has been shown by a huge number of Year 11s so far this year. We would like to recognise some excellent students, who have worked hard all term and produced outstanding work. A big well done to: Jake Williams, Myah Hall, Billy Bautista, Dylan Hanson-Molloy, Ronan McCauley, Lochlann Ryan, Ciara Tranter, Ella Reel and James Barrett.

### **Computing**

The year 11 Computing group have begun their work to the completion of the first controlled assessment. The unit that they are looking at provides them with three tasks to complete, all of which are taken into account to provide an overall grade for the unit. Progress has been excellent and all within the group have made great steps towards completion by ensuring the Half Term deadline for Task 1 is met. Overall grades for this unit will not be known until it is completed around Christmas time but early indications have shown that the group as a whole can be proud of what they have done so far. Moving into the second Autumn Half Term, the group are going to be completing this unit and then swiftly progressing onto the second and final piece of controlled assessment that they have to complete.

### **ICT**

The Year 11 ICT group have hit the ground running with work towards their externally assessed unit of work. In lessons pupils have recapped topics from the previous year and quickly moved on to applying this knowledge to exam style questioning. Towards the end of the Half Term, they have come into contact with the exam questions that require an expansive and coordinated answer. Pupils have performed exceedingly well when tackling these questions and it acts as a good indicator to the success that we can anticipate moving forward. Following the Half Term break pupils are going to begin their controlled assessment for the ICT course. This assessment is a practical component that has then using their ICT skills to complete a variety of tasks and activities all based around a given scenario. Desk top publishing software will be used in a variety of contexts to ensure the completion and success of this interesting and exciting task.

### **Art**

Year 11 have continued working on their 'Figure' coursework for GCSE Fine Art and have created some high quality work for this project. Exploring a range of artists has been a focus, including Mark Powell, Thomas Saliot, Agnes Cecile and Emma Parker. Next term, the students will be working on their own independent concepts and ideas, projecting their work further with personal research, artists and experiments. They will complete their final responses for this project in December, ready for their exam project in January!

### **English**

Year 11 have worked very well in English as they get to grips with the new GCSE; students will be awarded a number 1-9, rather than an A\*-C grade. Please come and see Mr Clinton on parent consultation if you want to know more. Mr Clinton also has two requests: firstly, students will be required to perform a ten minute speaking assessment after they return to school after half term. The English department would be very grateful if you would ask to see your son or daughter's plan and then listen to his or her presentation. Secondly, research suggests that students who read for pleasure do better in their examinations. Please encourage your son/daughter to read a novel between now and January. The English department recommend 'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding, 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' by George Orwell or 'Catcher in the Rye' by JD Salinger.

### **PE**

Well done to the Year 11 Girls Netball team who won their game against Swanshurst and were close to winning their game against KECH to which they lost by only 2 points! Congratulations to Hannah who achieved play of the match and a thank you to Sophie and Ellie who offered to play both games.

The Year 11 Football team are progressing well in all competitions with convincing wins in the ESFA, West Midlands, Birmingham and Kings Norton cup's. Up and coming fixtures will see the boys travel to Walsall and Tipton, plus the short journey to rivals St Thomas Aquinas.



## Performing Arts

### 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 11 GCSE Music students have been busy preparing for their final performances this half term and we want to remind them to keep practising over half term!

### Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life

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 **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 i.e. 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 man'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 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 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.

### Year 11 Prom

The end of Year 11 prom is one of the most exciting events taking place each year within the school calendar. This year the Year 11 school council will have a huge say in the logistics and arrangements made within the end of year prom. As a result, I would urge all students who want a say in this matter to speak with their two school council members within form groups to inform them of any details that they **MUST** have within what is expected to be the biggest celebration of the year! Each newsletter will look to update any matters with regards to the Year 11 prom but for now, if students have any requests then they must inform the Year 11 school council.

## **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 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 11- 93.7%
- 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- Ella Reel, George Farrell, Antonia Clarke, Colleen Nolan and Dylan McElroy.

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.

Lastly, I would like to thank all students for a quite brilliant start to the year. I am already excited to see what this year group can achieve after some excellent end of Year 10 Science exam results. Keep up the good work and stay committed towards your end of year targets and goals.

And to parents, once again I thank all of you for your kind words during and after our Ofsted inspection. Your sons and daughters were incredibly well behaved and really showed Ofsted what Bishop Challoner is all about – serving others through God and achieving our own full potential.

An excellent start made, keep it up!!

I hope that all students and their families can enjoy a relaxing half term before their return on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.**

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. McGowan

**Head of Year 11**

**Key Dates**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October-**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November-

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November-

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November-

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November-Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November-

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November-

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November-Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November-

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November-

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November-

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November-Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December-

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December-

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December-

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December-

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December-**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December-

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December-**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January-**

Mr D. Wilson

**Assistant Head of Year 11**

**School Open**

Canteen- French Day

Year 11 Parent Consultation Afternoon (2pm-4pm)

World Diabetes Day

Year 11 English Speaking Exams

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

