



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## Year 7 February Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by wishing everyone a belated happy new year! Our Year 7 students have generally had a positive start to the New Year, they have approached the term with renewed motivation and an aim of achieving the school mission statement of reaching their full potential. Mrs Reade's form delivered an assembly for the rest of the year group about the signs, symptoms and common misconceptions about Type 1 diabetes. They did this with confidence and good humour giving an important message in a memorable way. Well done to Ciara Marlow and Meg Mitchell who wrote the script, a personal highlight for me was Sam Ryan's quote "pancake? Oh, no, pancreas".

### Christmas Disco

Before we broke up for Christmas we had the Year 7 charity Disco to raise money for the Chaplaincy trip to Lourdes. It was an awesome evening to celebrate the end of term, it was great to watch students together in their new friendships enjoying the music and dancing. Thank you to parents and carers for your support in facilitating your child attending the disco; it is wonderful to be building such strong partnerships between home and school.

### Achievements

There have been some individual achievements by students outside of school which have been identified to me, Harlie has received two Blue Peter badges and Lily Goodwin performed at the Symphony Hall. It is wonderful to hear about our students extra-curricular involvement and would encourage all students to tell their form tutors about what they get up to outside of school.

### E-safety

I would like to address the topic of e-safety; Smart Phones and Tablets are a great way for our students to engage with the curriculum and learning outside of the classroom and also provides them with the opportunity to experience modern technology used throughout the world. However, this personal access to the device, along with further exposure to others through access to the web, unfortunately presents an opportunity for your child to be exposed to material that we wouldn't want them to see. Please can I direct you to <http://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/eSafety>. For further information and advice regarding Online Safety please go to the Bishop Challoner website's Online Safety section. In addition, Vodafones Digital Parenting page is a good place to start when specifically seeking advice about usage for social media-

<http://www.vodafone.com/content/digital-parenting.html>



### Parent Consultation Day

I am pleased that so many of you attended parent consultation day in December where you were able to meet your child's personal tutor and gain an insight on their academic progress based on P1 assessments and quality of classwork. Some Year 7 students are still finding organisation difficult, especially with remembering homework. I would like to recommend homework club which is every day (except Fridays) from 3.10-4pm in E4. This is a prime opportunity for students to access support from teachers and get homework completed on the day it is set. The children's homework will be recorded in their planner, regularly going through this with your children at home will help them to stay on track with all of their deadlines.

In addition to prioritising homework and organisation of equipment, as you know, Bishop Challoner Catholic College also have 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.

Principal - Mr K.McEvoy

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### **Chaplaincy and spiritual life**

#### **Lourdes Fundraiser Ceili Night**

Join the Lourdes team on **Friday 10th March** at the Irish Centre (upstairs), 8pm till 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.

#### **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.



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

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/BCCCAlzheimersSociety> 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.

#### **Extra-curricular activities and trip opportunities**

157 Year 7 students have attended extra-curricular clubs and fixtures, there is so much to offer from Cookery club to Debate mate; the extra-curricular timetable can be accessed on the website. The following students have recorded the highest number of sessions across the year group in terms of involvement in clubs across numerous curriculum subjects; Allyssa Morgan, Dermott O'Keefe, Alice Morgan, Marcus Henry, Annabel Deane, Freddie Langdell, Ronan Pitt, Oliver Pawley, Christopher Woodcock, James Scotney, Cordellia Read, Kivah Lavin & Damien Ndangué. Miss Wood's form (7SCO) were the top performing form in terms of total counts of attendance at clubs!

#### **Symphony Hall Visit**

On Monday 30th January, 64 students journeyed to Symphony Hall to watch the CBSO perform live in an hour long concert aimed at Key Stage 3 children. It was a real treat for the students to see some of the world's finest musicians play in Europe's most prestigious performance venue and a wonderful time was had by all.

#### **The Tempest Visit**

On Wednesday 1st February, 10 Year 7 students had the opportunity to see The Tempest performed live by the RSC. This performance was hosted by St Alban's Secondary School. It was a chance to experience Shakespeare, take part in a question and answer and get to talk to some of the actors who our students kept well supplied in sweets through their generous offers.

Students particularly enjoyed the flaming red 'Ariel' and the funny characters in the play. Our students were perfect representatives of the school leading to a comment from the Assistant Head about such excellent behaviour. Well done all involved.

#### **History Club**

History Club has become increasingly popular pressing into the spring term and has attracted a broad range of students from different year groups. We began this term by looking at Roman settlements. Students questioned why the Romans chose certain locations for their settlements, the public facilities available in Roman towns and logistical questions such as where and how to get food and water. Students then broke off into smaller groups to create their own fortified

Roman settlements, considering defensive features in addition to public amenities. Before half-term, they will swap settlements and devise plans of attack using Roman siege equipment and strategies. After half-term we will be returning to the Norman Conquest for a re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings and the ever-popular castle building competition. All students from Year 7 and 8 are welcome to come along to H4 every other Wednesday from 3.15 to 4.15 to join the fun!

### **Bronze ambassadors**

Year 7 students have been developing their leadership skills and have been helping Mr McDermott and Mr Noone work with Y1-2 students in local primary schools. They have been teaching them some basic skills, such as throwing and catching and running ahead of a large Y1-2 multi skills event in April. The students have visited St Alban's, Ss John and Monica and Our Lady of Lourdes and the group is made up of Ellie-Jo Brett, Niamh O'Connor, Niamh Fullerton, Allyssa Morgan, Georgie Marshall, Molly Flynn, Carys Robinson, Alice Morgan, Savannah Browne, Rose Fulford, Olivia Doyle, Beatrice de Castro, Jordine Kazadi, Thomas Gill and Victoria Wiczorek.

### **Aegon Classic Ball Crew**

Year 7 were all invited to Ball Crew Trials for the Aegon Classic this summer and 90 attended the first trials which is fantastic. The selection process is extremely rigorous, full details of the criteria and commitment involved are featured on the school website, please do take a look at these to help your child understand the trials system. Those who make it to the final squad will be off school for a week in the summer to fulfil their role, and will attend many training days up to the event. They will each receive a brand new Nike ball crew kit including trainers and will be taken on a trip to Wimbledon. Inevitably those not selected will be disappointed but I hope you can appreciate how competitive selection is and they can of course, re-trial in year 8.

### **Sports results**

The Year 7 boy's football team won 6-2 in their quarter final and are into the Semi Final of the Kings Norton Cup. In addition to this, the Year 7A football team have also won the Kings Norton League after winning 5, drawing 1 and losing 0; an excellent achievement by all who represented. The Year 7B Boys' Football team are currently top of their league with two wins from two. They have a friendly against Sandwell before half-term followed by their last two league matches against Dame Elizabeth and University of Birmingham School where they will be aiming for the league title.

The Year 7 boys' basketball team won 10-6 Vs Nishkam School and Lost 14-12 to Queensbridge. More games to follow but a very pleasing start made to their league campaign! The Year 7 girls' basketball team have won two of their three basketball games, they lost to St Paul's by just one basket. Miss Ball and Miss Ellis have been very pleased with the girl's commitment and effort within all of their games. Also, the netball team won their game against Kings Norton Girls 4-3, which was a very close game but well deserved. A huge congratulations to all of the teams involved.



### **PE Extra-curricular clubs**

Attendance of Year 7s at extra-curricular clubs has been great, but we'd like to see even more of you there! Check out the extra-curricular timetable that is advertised on the plasma and around the school, or ask your PE teachers. There are new girls only clubs being ran by the GLAMS who are trying to get more girls active, check out their noticeboard to see what is going on.



The PE department would like to reward and thank students for their attendance and commitment to PE clubs. Therefore, students can collect a "Reward Card" from either their PE or club teacher, then simply collect a signature off their club teacher each time they attend. At the end of the half term students are to take their card to Miss Beall in the PE office to collect their prize.

### **Year 7 Villarreal CF**

Update - The cancelled meeting on Wednesday 1st February has now been re-arranged for Wednesday 1st March. Parents/carers will receive more information re. Villarreal CF and will also have the opportunity to meet and talk with the trip organiser/s from Bishop Challoner and InspireSport. Passports, EHIC cards and Students Consent Forms must be handed into Mrs Durkin in the pastoral office before this meeting if at all possible! Thanks, Mr Wilson.

### **Academic updates**

As communicated in December 2016, teaching group changes will be based upon analysis of P1 assessments, combined with the information gained from KS2 data and professional judgement of staff. Parent Consultation Day provided the opportunity to meet with class teachers to discuss specific areas of support for individual students. Frequent moderation of class work, homework and ongoing assessments have indicated changes which will be implemented after half term.

### **Good habits your child might start to develop over half-term**

Some students are slow at reading and have difficulty understanding text because they have not become fluent readers through regular practice. **Reading for pleasure** develops reading fluency and comprehension, improves vocabulary and increases general knowledge. It also develops the skills needed for writing and problem solving skills. Just 20 minutes reading a day could have a significant impact on your child's achievement.

Some students are slow at writing because they print, others have very untidy handwriting. **Touch-typing** is one of the most valuable skills you can learn. The benefits include speed and accuracy as well as time saved when writing and reduces tiredness. It helps you to focus on the content of what you are writing. It also gives you the option of correcting errors as they appear. Visit <http://www.typingstudy.com> for a free online course or search for one which suits your child better. The skill can be mastered quite quickly and once learned, is never forgotten.

Students encounter large quantities of new vocabulary in their courses, particularly when listening to teachers. The ability to spell the words correctly in note-taking, for looking up in dictionaries and books and for searching on the internet, will significantly affect their academic achievement. Encourage your child to practice spelling common words and key subject words correctly.

### **Maths**

This half term, Year 7 have been continuing with their studies, with most groups beginning to look at data and ratio; building on some of what would have been learnt at junior school. All classes have been exposed to problem solving activities, and they are being encouraged to persevere with problems and try to seek solutions!

A number of Year 7 students take part in the maths enrichment club. Students have investigated quadratic sequences through playing games and have applied formulas for volume and surface area of cylinders, to investigate the best packaging method for companies to use. Once a month the maths enrichment club has been joined by students from seven primary schools. In these sessions students from Bishop Challoner have teamed up with primary school students in teams to compete against each other in a variety of challenges from relay races to picture puzzles to rich problems. Year 7 students have shown great leadership and team skills in participating in these activities which have been greatly enjoyed by all. If you feel like some exciting maths challenges is for you, then come and join the fun every Wednesday!

As always, if students are struggling with concepts covered in class, or are in need of support with their homework, the mymaths drop-in runs weekly on a Monday after school, staffed by maths teachers. It has been fantastic to see some dedicated Year 7 students turn up weekly for support. The Maths One-to-One Support Programme has continued this half term, with some of our Year 7 students coming in before school to strengthen their mathematical skills with our sixth form tutors. Attendance to sessions has improved a lot this half term, which has resulted in greater levels of mathematical confidence and understanding being shown by students in lessons. Well done to those who have been regularly attending. We would however strive to achieve higher levels of attendance and punctuality to all sessions, as this will ensure the programme has the greatest impact on students. If parents/carers have any queries or concerns regarding the programme, then please contact Mr Wooler or Mr Jethwa in the Mathematics Department.

The maths department would like to recognise some excellent students that have worked brilliantly this half term. A big well done to: Kacper Glaza; Annabelle Deane; Wiktoria Wiczorek; Alex Lubangi and Marcus Henry. A mention must also go to both O'Shea Kelly and Sam Ryan, who have won mathematician of the fortnight for KS3. Keep up the good work everyone!

### **Citizenship**

This half term in Citizenship lessons, students have been learning all about the importance of democracy and parliamentary powers in the UK. By the end of this topic students should understand the UK political system of democratic governance including the roles of citizens and parliament. Students will also evaluate the significance of voting, elections and political parties. Some students have begun watching an engaging documentary called 'He named me Malala', this documentary is all about the struggles Malala Yousafzai has been through standing up for the rights of all women and how she now uses her fame to advocate for fair democratic society that stands up against injustice.

## **Computing**

Year 7 have been exploring the mysterious and captivating art of cryptography in their computing lessons. Starting in the times of the ancient Romans, students have discovered how Julius Caesar was able to send encrypted messages across the battlefield of his empire through the means of a simple cipher known as the Caesar Cipher. Students have decoded and encoded their own messages using this effective encryption technique and related the benefits of this technique to the modern digital world that we live in. Moving forward in time to the birth of the modern computer, students have seen first-hand how a computer works at its most basic through binary. Students have explored how binary is understood and converted to language and numbers that we can understand as people.

## **Music**

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 l.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.

## **Religious Education**

This term in Religious Education lessons students have been completing their topic 'Who is Jesus?' and completing their first assessment. This topic is particularly interesting as students have been engaging in detail with the life and works of Jesus, evaluating the significance and evidence of these events and what it means for them today. One lesson most students have especially enjoyed is entitled 'What struggles to some followers of Jesus face', many students were aware of the struggles Jesus's disciples faced almost 2000 years ago but few were aware of the many persecuted Christians in the modern global society. It shocked most students to find out that on average 322 Christians are killed for their faith each month across the world. We will be building on this work next term by learning about Catholic social teachings and observing how society needs us to 'take up our cross' and have a positive impact in society today.

## **History**

At the beginning of January, Year 7 looked at the power rivalry between the King and Church in Medieval times and how this reached a violent turning point with the murder of Saint Thomas Becket. Since then, they have been studying the life and crimes of the ill-fated King John, questioning the accuracy of Walt Disney's interpretation. After half-term, Year 7 will be briefly looking at the Great Reformation before diving into Elizabethan England. They will be looking at how well Elizabeth I dealt with her problems, including the question of marriage, threats from foreign invaders and religious challenges. To get a head start on their studies, Year 7 are encouraged to watch 'Elizabeth: The Golden Age', an engaging film which dramatizes the events of the Spanish Armada. Family day trips to Packwood House in Warwickshire or Moseley Old Hall in Staffordshire, both National Trust owned Elizabethan properties, will also help to bring this topic alive.

## **French**

Year 7 have learnt about school subjects and school routine recently. The MFL department would like to emphasise the fact that Periodic 2 assessments will cover all the topics studied from September. They have access to resources online to practise spelling of key-vocabulary on Module 1 and 2. Students should not wait the last minute to start revising as there is a huge amount of items of vocabulary. They should work independently at home and revisions should be as regular and thorough as possible. Good luck to all of them!

## **Rewards initiatives**

### **Commit to character cinema rewards afternoon**

Year 7 have embraced the commit to character initiative with enthusiasm, frequently demonstrating the appropriate conduct, good morals and character virtues to warrant praise. Students are required to gain 25 signatures to achieve the Bronze award, 50 for Silver and 100 for the Gold award. Each half term there will be an activity to celebrate students who get to each milestone.

If they have got 25 or more this time, they need to aim for 50 by Easter to ensure they can be involved.

This half term saw 50 students from Year 7 rewarded with a cinema afternoon to celebrate them achieving their bronze and silver commit to character points.

Alan Johnson, Alice Morgan, Alice O'Neil, Anabel Deane, Annaley Matthews, Anton Connanon-Blake, Arther Nana, Beatriz Pardillo, Caragh Drury, Carys Robinson, Christopher Woodcock, Ciara Marlow, Damien Ndangue, Daniel Gallagher, Deborah Ajewole, Deleah Taylor, Derrie Symes, Dillon Pawar-Masters, Erin Kelly, Gabriel Gajewski, Harlie Hamilton, Harrison Paul, Harry Smith, Jack Musson, Jamar Dawo, James Scotney, Jimi Feeney, Kacpar Glaza, Kane Clare, Kelise Brevitt-Pope, Kieran Edwards, Kivah Lavin, Laurence Rawlson, Leah Driscoll, Lee Tranter, Lily Goodwin, Lucy-Anna Hayes, Maddie Mckeever, Malachy Tun, Molly Jones, Niamh Fullerton, Olivia Doyle, Olivia Stocker, Oshay Kelly, Patrick Fox, Ronan Pitt, Sam Ryan, Savannah Browne, Tom McKeon, Wictoria Wiczorek.



### 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 7- 96.7%
- Whole school- 95%

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- Sam Bird, Savannah Brown, Aimee Syron, Ethan O'Neill and Terence Eales.

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,

Miss Hampson  
**Head of Year 7**

Miss Beard  
**Assistant Head of Year 7**

## 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-

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March-Friday 17<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-**

### School Open

Ash Wednesday Whole School Service

Lent Services Begin

Canteen- National Breakfast Week

KS3 Big Bang Fair

Canteen- Pancake Day

Whole School Easter Mass

Non Uniform for Lourdes

**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