



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## Year 7 October Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

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

This newsletter is set out under the following headings

- Early review evening: standards and expectations
- Chaplaincy and spiritual life
- Extra-curricular activities and trip opportunities
- Academic updates
- Rewards initiatives

### Early Review Evening

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the Year 7 early review evening on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October. I hope this occasion was beneficial and meaningful at a useful point in the term to meet form tutors to discuss the settling in process. The opening talk focussed on illustrations of year 7 involvement in school life; it was a great way to showcase the wonderful academic work and extra-curricular involvement of the year groups so far. We also revisited the key topics Bishop Challoner Catholic College's high expectations of behaviour and uniform. I know that you will, as always, support us in maintaining the smart appearance of your children and high standards of discipline, so that our focus in school can be on educational achievement.

### Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life

#### Year 7 Mass

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, we shared our first year group mass together at St Dunstan's Church. We celebrated with children from local primary schools who joined 8 of our Year 7 students in making their commissions to being involved with the chaplaincy teams. It was wonderful to witness our students reverently worshipping together and celebrating their faith, which is at the heart of our Catholic school.



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## Cafod

Cafod's harvest fast day was held on Friday 7th October. There was Musical Performances, Glow Sticks, and making handprint activities in the auditorium, including bread and water raising money for the Cafod charity who we help people directly in their own communities, and campaign for global justice so that everyone can reach their full potential. 'Reaching our full potential' is a key message of our school mission statement. Through our charitable work, we can demonstrate our school aims to support our students in their development to grow to be conscientious citizens of the world.

## St Chads Sanctuary

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

## Shoe box Appeal

Over the last few years Bishop Challoner Catholic community has had great success and generosity from our student and their families in supporting the **Shoebbox Appeal**. Every year we collect hundreds of shoe boxes wrapped and filled with presents and we send them with the help of the charity **Trussell Trust**, to children who have very little. This year we are asking for your support again. **Trussell Trust** sends a message of hope to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes.



Many shoe boxes were sent from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, homeless shelters and poor communities. With your help we want to reach even more children in the poorest parts of the world in 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.

## Extra – curricular activities and trip opportunities

### PE and Sport

Since September, Year 7 students have been taking part in baseline assessments in a variety of sports such as invasion games, athletics, striking and fielding as well as creative movement. They recently started their curriculum where they can look forward to developing skills in a variety of physical activities such as handball, rugby, swimming and fitness. On Thursday 6th October, students from Year 7-9 got the opportunity to be coached by international cricketers including Boyd Ranking. The students thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and were able to develop their cricket skills thanks to the drills and expertise of

these cricketers. Students are rewarded for showing good sports values within their PE lessons, and as a result some of the Year 7 Ladies of the Lesson were taken bowling to celebrate.

Many of the Year 7 students have been involved in the extra-curricular clubs, which has been fantastic. Both boys and girls from the year group represented our school at a recent tournament against Queensbridge, in celebration of our joint ownership of the space at Moor Green Lane. The teams participated with excellent sportsmanship and competitiveness, playing both football and tag rugby. Two of the teams won first place, well done to all of those involved! Year 7, 8 and 9 students took part in an intra-form badminton competition, 7BON boys came in first place- well done!



GET INVOLVED! Extra-Curricular Activities at Bishop Challoner Catholic College			
<b>Monday</b> Drama Club All PA3 We Sing All PA2 Homework Club All E4 Maths Drop-in 7-10 E5 Homework help 9 & 10 E2 Graphite Club 7 S2 Science Club 7 S2	<b>Tuesday</b> Year Where? Orchestra All PA2 Homework Club All E4 Book Buzz 8 Library	<b>Wednesday</b> Year Where? History Club All H4 Homework Club All E4 Year 9 Young 9 M3 Maths Leaders 7 & 8 M4 Maths Gifted and Talented 7 & 8 M4	<b>Thursday</b> Year Where? Breakfast Book Club 7 Library Rock School All Geography Club 7 & 8 G2 Dance Club All Book Buzz 9 Library Homework Club All E4 Youth Club All
<b>Sport Specific</b> Non-Team Football (B) Dodgeball (B) Transposition (B & C) Year 7 Football (E & 7B) Gymnastics (B & C) Girls Football (C) Judo (B & C) Jujitsu (B & C) Badminton (B & C) Basketball (C) Touch Rugby (B) Netball (C) Cricket (B) Chess (C) Kabaddi (B & C) Badminton (B & C) Judo (B & C) Jujitsu (B & C) Basketball (B) Invasion Games (B & C)			



Many other fixtures have taken place, the year 7B football team lost to Priory school 7-3 and lost to Perton 3-2 in a very competitive game, goals from Oli Pawley and Freddie Langdell. The boys showed great determination within the game and are optimistic about their upcoming games.

Mr Wilson has been impressed with the start made to the Year 7A Football team this year. The year 7A team currently sit third in the league table after winning two, drawing one and losing one. He would like to commend the boys on their desire to sometimes play two matches in a week as well as train on a Tuesday morning; a huge commitment that he'd like to also thank the parents for their support with too. Their support, particularly on match days has been immense! Year 7 will be playing their first game on Tuesday so we wish them all the best!

There are many upcoming trips for Year 7 to be involved with, separately advertised by the relevant departments. In terms of residential trips, there are the Alton Castle RE retreat, the PGL girls Football and Netball trips and the boy's football development trip to Villarreal. There will be other upcoming reward trips and subject specific educational visits, including the opportunity to watch a live performance of the Royal Shakespeare Company performing Hamlet on November 11<sup>th</sup> for which separate letters have been sent home.

### Alton Castle

This trip is due to take place from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Alton Castle is a Catholic Youth Centre, run by Birmingham Archdiocese, situated in the Staffordshire countryside. During their stay students will take part in a variety of outdoor and indoor activities, which may include orienteering, climbing, survival, art, drama etc. As well as this, a big focus of the visit is on personal and spiritual development of students. The retreat engages our young people through prayer, discussion, outdoor activities and through celebrating Mass together. The retreat is a great opportunity for your son/daughter to make new friends and build confidence during their first term at Bishop Challoner. The accommodation is in dormitories and the Centre is in a lovely setting in the heart of the countryside. The cost of the trip is £140 which will be on Schoolcomms.

### PGL girls' football and Netball

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to Liddington PGL centre. Trip will be on SchoolComms. Price £160.00 which includes transport, food, tour hoody and accommodation.

### Villarreal trip

There are still several places left for this trip! It is a year 7 boys football development trip, for details please see Mr Wilson. It runs for a week from 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May, costs £800 in total which covers transport, food, accommodation, training, competitive matches and training kit.

## Academic update

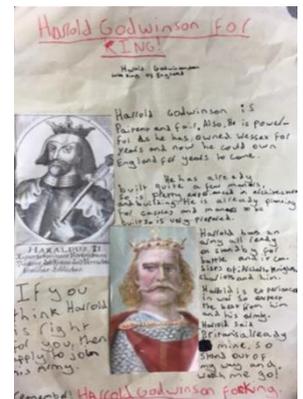
It was pleasing to see many students who volunteered their time on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September at our school open evening being involved in a multitude of various subjects. The effort and focus year 7s are dedicating to their studies is highly commendable. Many subjects have given a summary of the work that year 7s are completing.

## Geography

Year 7 Geographers are now coming to the end of the first unit of work and place of study the United Kingdom and will soon be moving onto investigating the global superpower that is China. The world is changing China, and China is changing the world. China is in the media today, as it is almost every day, dominating the world news in a variety of different ways. It is the world's fastest growing country and by 2040 China is expected to be the largest economy in the world, with India second and place and the US in 3rd place. The country has transformed itself and its role in the world at a great pace. After half term students will be investigating China's rapidly changing human environments and also learning about China's rich physical environments in a hugely engaging unit of work.

## History

This term in History, year 7 have made an excellent start to the year, engaging well with the curriculum. Students have studied 1066; the contenders to the throne and numerous bloody battles including the Battle of Hastings. This has culminated in a challenging assessment, where students were asked to consider whether William won the Battle of Hastings because he was lucky. Year 7 conducted themselves extremely well in their first history assessments and have set the expectations for the rest of the year. This unit provides an introduction to our next scheme of work; how powerful were English monarchs? Year 7 will learn about Medieval Kings and examine how successful different monarchs were in controlling England, they will start by examining William of Normandy before looking at King John.

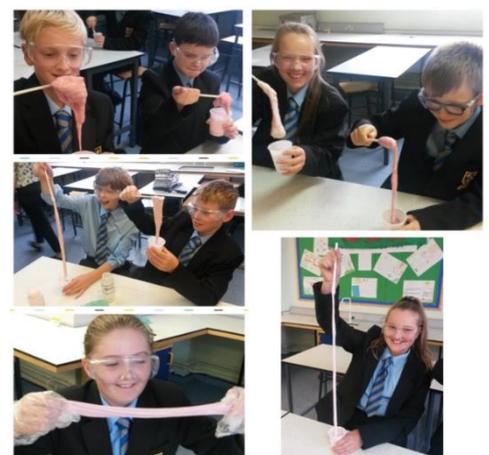


Students also have the opportunity to attend History club, every Wednesday week two in H4 from 3.15 until 4.15! The first topic of the year, has been examining the Ancient Egyptians' bizarre funerary practices. After half term, they will be mummifying Barbie dolls using ancient techniques and building tombs for them. Pushing into November, we will be designing and creating a World War One and Two memorial to be displayed in the school for Remembrance Day.

## Science

Year 7 have settled well into their science lessons and were great ambassadors for the school with their enthusiastic participation in Open Evening. Science club has proved to be a hit with our new recruits which is no surprise with activities such as rockets and making slime! Anyone who would like to join science club just need to see Miss Lloyd in S1 and she will give you the details.

With the arrival of the new netbooks, Year 7 now have access to the online science textbook *Activate 1*, via Kerboodle. They should all have been shown how to logon to this book in their lessons and I would encourage them to be using it at home. In the two weeks after half term all of the students will be sitting their first science test. To help them prepare for this they have been told that the questions will be on:



## Primary school science knowledge

- Classification of living things
- Blood and circulation
- Sources of light
- Electrical circuits
- Properties of materials
- Particle model
- Habitats and food chains
- How light travels
- Shadows
- Circuit symbols
- Solutions

## Year 7 curriculum

Specialised cells and cell features (p14-24 of Activate 1)

Types of forces and how they interact. (P 112-122 of Activate 1)

The tests should not be a cause for concern for the students as the school just needs to get information about their present science knowledge. I am also very aware that the primary school science experience can be vary variable so all I want them to do is have a go and try their best.

## Reading (a vital life skill)

All students now need to be able to read high level texts with comprehension to pass high stakes exams and to make themselves employable. By the time they leave primary school, the majority of students have mastered the skill of decoding words and can be considered functional readers. Becoming a fluent reader, however, takes continued practice.

There are many benefits to reading: it increases general knowledge; expands vocabulary; improves spelling; enhances language and communication; develops critical thinking skills; aids memory; and encourages focus. Twenty minutes reading a day is all it takes. Yet, so many people say they don't have the time to read; 49% of children and young people think that reading is boring; and 22% of children report that no one at home encourages them to read. Reading together is fun and helps build relationships.

As such, the library have organised early interventions to help reading needs in the form of the book doctor which will be continued next half-term.

## Parents are the most important reading role models for children and young people.

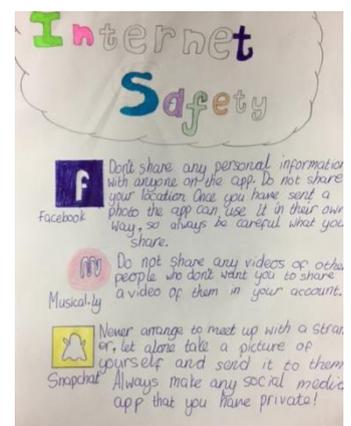
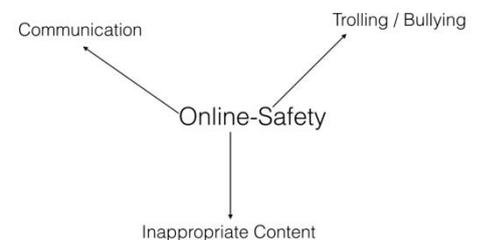
Research evidence shows that your involvement in your child's reading and learning is more important than anything else in helping them to fulfil their potential. Reading with children, or talking with them about what they have read, is a wonderful way to show that it is an important and valuable way to spend free time.

## Computing

Year 7 began their computing career at Challoner by looking at Online Safety and developing knowledge and understanding about the unfortunate side of the digital age. From these lessons the students have taken away the ability to spot potential problems that someone could face on the internet and crucially, what to do themselves if they are ever faced with one of the issues that we looked at.

Our Year 7 students received their netbooks half way through this first term and their computing lessons have been used to highlight the power of their new digital learning tools. The lessons have seen students develop an understanding as to the importance of: good file structure and naming; professional use of school email accounts and how they can be used to contact teachers for help and guidance; connecting to the school network to access the array of curriculum enhancing resources there; and how to use and access the VLE. In the final week of this Half Term the groups have completed the computing baseline assessment, a tool we use in school to ensure that the students are getting the very best out of their computing lessons.

Straight after the Half Term break students will come into contact with the fortunate side of the digital age, as they begin their journey of programming. Pretty soon they are going to be using their skills to play Plants Vs Zombies, Angry Birds and more; lessons that their teachers are eager to teach and lessons that students will be even more eager to be part of!



## Art

Challoner students have jumped straight into art this year - not afraid to be messy either! Year 7 have begun their art journey at Challoner by looking at Natural Form; and exploring lots of different materials, including stick and ink, pencil and even painting with bleach! They have also researched Peter Randall Page and created imaginative and exciting homework about his work. Next term, Year 7 will be exploring photography and editing through the work of Edward Weston.

Art Club for Year 7 and 8 is on Tuesdays 3:20 - 4:30. Currently, the group are working on 'Sweets & Treats' and have created monoprints and mini salt dough sculptures of donuts, ice creams and biscuits. Next term, the club will be creating large scale cardboard sculptures of cakes - just in time for Christmas!

## Religious Education

Religious Education lessons began this year with each class evaluating why it is important to study RE, and how the values of a religious education are shown in our mission statement and prayer. After this students began tackling two key topic questions; who is God and how can we know what is true? To answer these questions lessons have explored different perspectives on God and how He reveals himself to others through natural, divine and self-revelation. Using teachings from the New or Old Testament students have been tasked with evaluating God's existence and nature including how God can exist in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



## Maths

This term, our newest students have been settling in to maths by recapping and extending core numerical concepts that they covered in primary school. This is in preparation for their Periodic 1 Assessments that take place after half term. Now Year 7s have netbooks, students should be familiar with the websites [mymaths.co.uk](http://mymaths.co.uk) and [mathswatchvle.com](http://mathswatchvle.com) – both useful for revision. A P1 revision list will be given to the students this week. Next term Year 7 will study algebra: solving equations and simplifying expressions.

A fantastic number of Year 7 students have been attending the Gifted and Talented sessions after school each week, where activities have included code-breaking and problems to do with chicken nuggets! A reminder to all students that if they wish to take part in Southampton University's cipher challenge they can have a go at code-breaking at home. It has also been great to see so many Year 7 students coming along to the maths drop in on Monday after school; this will continue after half term. Our one-to-one support programme has also started off extremely well, where our trained sixth form tutors provide half hour morning tutoring sessions to students who require the extra support. Attending these sessions is compulsory for those students, but if you have any questions or queries, please get in contact with the maths department.

The maths department would like to recognise some superstar students, who have worked hard all term, settled in well and produced some outstanding work. A big well done to: Seth Bagnall, Oliver Coyne, Lucy Anne Hayes, Brandon Kanza, Tess O'Connor, Sam Ryan, Alice Morgan, Alex Lubangi, Biancca Pardillo, Michael Lennon, Leane Coelho, Chesney Ndayisenga, Gabriel Langan, Thomas McKeon and Dillon-Pawar Masters. Keep up the good work, Year 7!

## Music

A letter was sent home with students on 17th October regarding a trip to see the *City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra* at Symphony Hall on 30th January 2017. The cost is only £3.50, however there are only 65 places available so please register via schoolcomms if you wish your child to take part in this amazing opportunity.

## 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.

## French

Pupils have access to a range of websites on which they can practise French. From grammar skills to vocabulary learning and revisions, we have something for you. We would like to direct parents towards [frenchbc.weebly.com](http://frenchbc.weebly.com) - this is Bishop Challoner MFL department's own website. You will find some help, homework or links to videos there.

At the moment Year 7 are studying how to say what they like and dislike in French. They will soon turn to physical descriptions. The MFL department would like to encourage students to start to learn and to revise the vocabulary as soon as they start a new topic. Doing so will reduce stress and improve children's confidence when assessments come.

## Rewards initiative

The "Commit to Character" reward booklet will be unveiled after October half term. It is a key stage three initiative to reward appropriate conduct and demonstrations of good morals and character virtues. All students will be given personal rewards booklets which encouraged them to focus on committing to developing their character both inside the classroom and within the school community.

The record cards highlight specific profile traits (see the grid below) for staff to sign and reward. Students will be required to gain 25 signatures to achieve the Bronze award, 50 for Silver and 100 for the Gold award. Successful students will be issued with certificates and will be included in a special trip at the end of each term. We are hoping to build on pupil profile traits during Year 7 form time and RE lessons over the next two terms to encourage student to reflect on their gifts and talents both at home and at school and how they can fulfil their potential through service to others.

The following students deserve recognition for achieving 250 positive achievement logs from teaching staff Kivah Lavin, Thomas McKeon, Oliver Doyle, Meghan Harper, Molly Jones, Alice O'Neill, Deleah Taylor, Sam Ryan, Jay Carlin, Rose Fulford, Leah Driscoll, Christopher Woodcock, Remie A-Westwood, Thomas Stokes, Annley Mathews, Harrison Paul and Bianca Pardillo -well done everyone!

## 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.

**Words to find:**  
bonbons, citrouille, fantôme, masque, sorcière, squelette.



Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black. There are a number of styles, particularly for girls, currently in fashion with wood style soles. These are not suitable for school. School shoes should also be leather and not patent.

In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. The final decision as to whether a particular haircut/style is appropriate is at the discretion of senior staff.

Make up, nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted with the exception of one pair of plain gold stud earrings which may be worn by girls.

### **Mobile Phones**

With most students in school now owning mobile phones for use to and from school, it is important that they are also not a distraction to study. All students should hand mobile phones into the pastoral office for safe keeping and can collect them at the end of the school day. Students found with mobile phones during lessons and around the school will have them confiscated and they will be returned at the discretion of senior staff/Heads of Year. In more persistent cases, phones may only be returned to parents/carers.

I know that you will, as always, support us in maintaining the smart appearance of your children and high standards of discipline, so that our focus in school can be on educational achievement.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

- Year 7- 97.9%
- 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- Anton Concannon-Blake, Meghan Harper, Meg Mitchell, Emmie Reilly and Annabel Deane.

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 31<sup>st</sup> October**.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Hampson  
**Head of Year 7**

Miss Beard  
**Assistant Head of Year 7**

## Key Dates

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

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

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

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November-Wednesday 16<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-

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December-

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

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December-

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

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

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December-Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December-

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

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

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

### School Open

Canteen- French Day

World Diabetes Day

Year 7 Alton Castle Retreat

Sixth Form Open Evening

Alcohol Awareness Week

Shoebox Day

Shoebboxes Collected

Sugar Awareness Week

Christmas Show

Advent services begin

Winter Soiree

KS3 English G&T Tip

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins

Year 7 STEM Fair

Winter Soiree

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

7X1/7X2 Christmas Lectures at Birmingham University

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

