



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 8 October Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to another academic year at Bishop Challoner. Our Year 8s have had a very busy and focused half term. I have been very proud watching students grow in confidence and setting themselves aspirational goals. A number of students have embraced the start of their second year at the school and settled with ease. Many students are enjoying lessons with new teachers and the opportunity to experience new topics as they explore the Key Stage 3 curriculum further.

Friendships are still blossoming as the year group mature further into their teenage years. It is also wonderful to see relationships with teachers growing as students are starting to take further responsibility for their learning.

We have relaunched the **Commit to Character** rewards programme this half term and will be planning our first reward trip during the first few weeks back after half term. Many students have been working towards their bronze award; well done to **Olivia Moore, Abby Duggins and Bradley Flavin** who are the first students to receive their Bronze certificates. It has been fantastic to witness such growth in character amongst the Year 8s. We are encouraging students to continue to reflect on their gifts and talents both at home and at school; next term we will commit to our mission statement to *serve to others* as we prepare to focus on the Shoebox Appeal before the Christmas holidays. Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the character traits that we are aiming to develop as we move throughout this academic year:

Character trait/virtue	Examples in school	Pupils are growing to be....
Grateful	Working to best Contribution to form/year group Leading assemblies/liturgies Active Leadership	Grateful for your own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with your gifts, becoming young people for others.
Attentive	Consistent attendance/punctuality Smart and correct uniform Consistent behaviour and attitude to learning	Attentive to your experience and to your vocation; and discerning about choices you make and the effects of your choices
Compassionate	Kindness in class and around school Charity work Supporting other students Volunteering	Compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and loving by your just actions and forgiving words
Eloquent	Truthful/respectful Making the right choice Leadership in class Speaking and listening	Eloquent and truthful in what you say about yourself, about others and your relationships between people, the school community and the wider world
Learned	Consistent homework Consistent classwork	Learned , finding God in all things; and wise in the ways you use your learning for the common good.
Curious	Extra-curricular/Sport/ Dance/ History Representing the school Ambassador Achievements outside of school	Curious about everything; and active in your engagement with the world, changing what you can for the better
Intentional	Improved behaviour Improved homework Improved punctuality	Intentional in the way you live and use the resources of the earth, guided by your conscience; and prophetic in the example you set others.

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Year 8 Form Recognition

This year we welcome three new form tutors to our Year 8 team:

8BON- Miss Tahir

8HIL- Mrs Moon and Miss Ball

8MAC- Mr Wooler

All Year 8 tutors have been particularly impressed with the following students as part of their contribution to form life this half term:

8BON **Ellie Fackrell** and **Liam McGrath** for always having the correct equipment and planners signed.

8HIL **Quba Dalrymple** for his improved behaviour in form time.
Tom Moran-Morbey for doing an excellent job in his role as equipment monito and using his initiative.

8LIV **Anais Brotherson-Ingram** for her assistance with gardening club.
Callum Houston for his participation in form current affairs discussions.

8MAC **Fiona Barton** for always being punctual and quick to follow routines of getting out equipment and listening to instructions.
Mia Lynskey is always one of the first to volunteer to help with things, be it handing out letters, getting some more flyers for the form, or passing on messages to people who have been absent. She has also represented the form and year group with sport a number of times this term.

8SHA **Eoin O'Connor** has magnificently improved his behaviour and his punctuality.

Nadia Chimanuka has settled well into the form, always comes in with a smile on her face, is every so polite and felt comfortable enough to put herself forward for school council.

8SCO **Phoebe Hynes** - always well behaved and enthusiastic in form time.
Callender Brown - always listens and follows instructions perfectly.

Well done to all these students for your continued motivation and superb attitudes towards your form groups and school life.

Art

Year 8 have started to explore "Cubism" as an art movement this half term. They have used a range of materials - recently painting their own versions of the Weeping Woman by Picasso - and have experimented with composition to create fragmented artworks. Next term, Year 8 will be getting messy with mixed media, creating a relief title using a range of 3D materials.

Art Club for Year 7 and 8 is on Tuesdays 3:20pm-4:30pm. 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!

Computing

Year 8 began the 2016/17 academic year with an introduction to Online Safety. During this time, we investigated the dangers and concerns associated with using the internet in the modern age, covering topics such as cyber-bullying, online privacy and sexting. There was a strong focus on what students should do and how they should behave if they encounter such activities. We then moved on to visit some of the more challenging topics that form part of the computing curriculum. This involved using block-based coding, available through the code.org platform, and included topics such as variables and for-loops.

Following the half-term break, Year 8 will be given the exciting opportunity to program using the school's BBC Micro Bits. These are small circuit boards made available to schools, and allow the students to use code to create something that can then be observed physically using lights/sounds.

In the near future, we will be introducing a "Face of the Week" scheme for Computing. Every week, the computing department will choose a student who has shown a significant interest and aptitude to the computing lessons and declare them "Face of the Week". Their name will be mentioned on a dedicated noticeboard within the department.

Citizenship

The topic for year 8 Citizenship this term is "What is the legal justice system and how does it work?" Lessons have challenged students to engage with the criminal justice system in the UK, they include activities that explore issues such as why people offend, how sentencing happens, and what happens in a young offender's institute. Classes have made an excellent start to the year producing convincing arguments for and against different laws and punishments. Next half term students will build on what they have learnt by comparing the youth justice system to the adult criminal system.



English

Year 8 have had their detective hats on this term, unpicking the clues and mysteries of Sir Conan Doyle's 'The Speckled Band'. They have produced some outstanding work, focusing on the language and structure of the text. Next term, they will put their hand to writing in an attempt to write a thrilling crime novel. Will we discover the next bestseller? They have also had the chance to explore journalists skills, a project that will see one student's work published in the magazine 'My Moseley and Kings Heath'.

Geography

Year 8 students have started the year looking at the diverse nation that is Russia. Students have engaged with really interesting issues such as Russia's role in global pollution and the impacts of oil extraction in the Arctic Ocean. More recently students have studied Russia's longest river, the Volga. They have learned about the ways the river is used by humans and how many of physical features of the river are created. Russia is a hugely topical country and students are enjoying enquiring about its diverse landscapes and it's unique political, social and environmental issues.

History

This term in History, year 8 have made an excellent start to the year, engaging well with the curriculum. Pupils have studied Jack the Ripper and the conditions of Victorian London. This has piqued the interest of many of our students who have spent lessons trying to convince their classes of who Jack was. This unit provides an introduction to our next scheme of work, the Industrial Revolution. Year 8 will learn about what caused the rapid change and create arguments on the most important cause, before studying the social, economic and political consequences of the Industrial Revolution with a focus on child workers and factory life.

We are offering an exciting opportunity for Year 8 and 9 students to enhance their History knowledge and understanding with a visit to the World War One battlefields in Belgium and France in June. The trip will involve visits to battle fields of Ypres and the Somme, local memorial sites and the chance to hear the Last Post at Menin Gate.

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, we 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.

Maths

This term, students in Year 8 have been studying fractions, and factors, multiples and primes. After half term they will study ratio and proportion, as well as extending their Year 7 algebra skills. The content has been challenging but Year 8 pupils have risen to the challenge magnificently. Students should be familiar with the websites mymaths.co.uk and mathswatchvle.com – both useful for recapping concepts at home.

A fantastic number of Year 8 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 8 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 and produced some outstanding work. A big well done to: Amelia McCarthy, Liam Rose, Ella Black, Preah Beckford, Olivia Moore and Ben Collieran. Keep up the good work, Year 8!

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 - this is Bishop Challoner MFL department's own website. You will find some help, homework or links to videos there.

At the moment Year 8 are studying vocabulary about films, TV shows, books and the Internet. 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.

The French department is looking forward to launch the new French club; it will be starting on Wednesday 2nd November and will be running every Wednesday week 2.

This club is the perfect opportunity for any student who would like to improve on their listening and speaking skills. We will offer a range of activities which will be all delivered in French: art and craft, French cartoons, comic books, cookery and many more.

This club can also be a drop-in session for students who might need some support with their French school work. A bientôt!

Opportunity



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



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

Cost - £380

PE and sporting news

Year 8's have been developing their skills and understanding of a range of sports since the start of the school year, including badminton, softball, tennis, handball, tag rugby and contact rugby. On Thursday 6th October, pupils from year 7-9 got the opportunity to be coached by international cricketers including Boyd Ranking. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and were able to develop their cricket skills thanks to the drills and expertise of these cricketers. After half term the pupils can look forward to more invasion and striking and fielding games, as well as creative movement. Pupils are rewarded for showing good sports values within their PE lessons, and as a result some of the Year 8 Ladies of the Lesson were taken bowling to celebrate.

Lots of the year 8 pupils have been attending the extra-curricular clubs, but it would be great to see even more pupils. Come and get a copy of the extra-curricular timetable to find one that you could attend! Recently, both boys and girls from the year group represented our school at the football and tag rugby tournament against Queensbridge, in celebration of our joint ownership of the space at Moor Green Lane. The teams participated with excellent sportsmanship and competitiveness, with all of the teams coming either first or second place- a massive well done to all of those pupils that were involved. Year 8 boys have qualified for round 3 of the ESFA Cup and will play Thomas More from Nuneaton. They have also won their first league match against Wheelers Lane. Year 8 girls are playing next week in the area C ESFA cup at the transport ground. They have also won their first league game of the year against Smithswood. The year 8 netball team have only had one match so far, which they unfortunately lost 17-15, but tried exceptionally hard. They have four matches coming up after half term which they are feeling optimistic about.

fantôme

squelette

citrouille

bonbons

SORCIÈRE

monstre

e	e	e	v	x	s	p	v	m	m
l	r	m	s	r	d	k	s	a	m
l	è	ô	m	n	g	u	s	r	y
i	i	t	z	e	o	q	y	f	k
u	c	n	x	d	u	b	p	s	l
o	r	a	d	e	e	q	n	h	j
r	o	f	m	w	h	h	y	o	s
t	s	c	h	l	i	n	o	v	b
i	e	t	t	e	l	e	u	q	s
c	j	u	t	i	c	m	h	i	n

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

Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils took part in an intra-form badminton competition, 8HIL and 8LIV boys came joint first place and 8BON girls came first- well done to those and all of those involved.

Pupils in year 8 have the PGL netball and football trip to look forward to, as well as the trip to Real Madrid.



Ogwen Cottage

Some Year 8s have recently returned from a residential to Ogwen Cottage in North Wales where they have developed a range of life skills through a variety of outdoor adventurous activities. Throughout the week pupils were faced with difficult challenges in which they needed to work together as a team in order to succeed. These activities included rock climbing, abseiling, gorge walking and a two day expedition where pupils had to carry their equipment, set up camp, cook their food and continue their walk the following day. Some groups were blessed with glorious sunshine whilst others had a tough time in the pouring rain. It was a pleasure to watch the pupils grow closer as a team throughout the week and complete all challenges with great achievement.

RE

Year 8 have been asking the question *"How can I find happiness and fulfilment?"* During our lessons we have explored Schultz's theory on happiness, evaluating how we reach long term, enduring happiness. Students have reflected on the aspects of their lives which give them the most happiness. They have designed personal collages which demonstrate and contextualise their own thoughts on happiness. We have also studied Biblical references to searching for fulfilment; each group has analysed the teaching of Jesus (Beatitudes) and the Ten Commandments evaluating are their relevance in modern society. RE staff have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication shown during this topic and are pleased to see the different classes responding so well and developing their identity on what might bring them ultimate happiness! Well done year 8!

Science:

Year 8 have made a good start in science this term. They now need to make sure they can still log onto Kerboodle. They may have done this already in lessons, but we would encourage the use of the online science textbook at home too. If they have forgotten their username or password they just need to speak to their teacher. In February, Year 8 will be doing their T1 tests in science so being able to use the digital textbook at home will be essential if they are to be able to revise the necessary material they will be expected to know.

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 10th October - Thursday 20th October** the school is running a collection project of food and clothes. Items St. Chad's Sanctuary are in need of are: Any tinned pulses in water ie. red beans (not baked beans), Lentils, Chickpeas, Tinned vegetables, Dry Rice/pasta etc, Small men's clothes (or teenage lad size), Toiletries: Toothpaste, Shampoo, Soap/shower gel. Each day has been named as a reminder of what to bring in e.g Men's Monday- Bring in small mens 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).

The collection for next half term will start on **Monday 5th December** and run until Wednesday 14th December so please start to think about preparing for these collections we approach the Christmas season.

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 8/9 retreat to the Briars

We are planning a Year 8/9 residential retreat to "The Briars" in Derbyshire. This trip is due to take place from Wednesday 8th February to Friday 10th February 2017.

The Briars is a Youth Centre, run by Nottingham Diocese, situated in the Derbyshire Dales. A big focus of the visit is on personal and spiritual development and pupils will participate in prayer, discussion and Mass together with school staff and trained Youth Workers at the centre.

The accommodation is in dormitories and the Centre is in a lovely setting in the heart of the countryside. The food is highly recommended and the entire stay, inclusive of coach transport to and from school, costs just £115. If you would like your son/daughter to be part of the Briars retreat please give consent, make a **non-refundable deposit of £35** and note any medical information via Schoolcomms by **Tuesday 1st November**. This consent includes your permission for photographs/filming of your child. The second payment of **£40** is due by **Friday 2nd December** and the final payment of **£40** is due by **Friday 27th January**. This payment is a voluntary contribution to the overall cost of the event. Without coverage of costs, the trip may not proceed.

We only have 30 places for this trip so to avoid disappointment please secure your place via schoolcomms as soon as possible. If due to personal circumstances you need an extended period of time to pay the deposit the please get in touch with me to discuss in confidence at your earliest convenience. If you would like any more information please contact myself or Tommy Rowan the Lay Chaplain at School.

Lourdes trip

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

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

Debate Mate

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

Book Buzz

We are starting a 'Book Buzz' reading club for year 8 students during registration on a Tuesday afternoon for 20 students. Could those who are interested give their names to their form tutors. If there are more than 20 students we will have a reserve list if a place becomes available or if we change the list next term. Please ensure the students understand they will be expected to read in silence for 15 minutes and it is protected reading time. Also anyone interested in becoming a library monitor should come and see me or Mrs Jones and come to the break time meeting on Thursday 3rd November.

Please also congratulate the students that do come into the library as generally the behaviour has been very good and this all helps to create a lovely environment for all.

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.

Schoolcomms

As you are aware we operate a cashless catering system and Schoolcomms is the only system to make payments for your child's school dinners and school trips. There is now only one money loading machine in operation in the school so it is imperative that Schoolcomms is used. For further information please visit our website www.bishopchalloner.org.uk

Uniform and Appearance

Students are required to wear the standard uniform of blazer, tie, white/blue shirt with black straight leg school trousers (not skinny or boot cut) or girls can wear a knee length black school skirt. Girls are also reminded that if they choose to wear a skirt, then they should wear plain, black, opaque tights. Students are reminded that black leather school shoes should be worn and that trainers/trainer style shoes are forbidden.

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

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

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

Mobile Phones

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

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

Attendance and Punctuality

- Year 8- 95.7%
- Whole school- 95.6%

This is very pleasing and is in line with the school attendance target. We hope that this level of attendance can continue throughout the remainder of the year.

Congratulations to winners of the weekly attendance raffles- Inke Mazak, Preah Beckford, Taye Hendrickson, Abby Duggins and Ellie Miles.

If your child is absent from school, a notification phone call needs to be made to the school on the first day of the absence and every further day that they are absent too. Upon return to school, a written note needs to be handed in to their form tutor, stating the reason for absence. Please encourage your child to be at school by 8.30am to instil the important life skill of good punctuality.

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

Kind regards,



Miss Caherty
Head of Year 8



Miss Williams
Assistant Head of Year 8

Key Dates

Monday 31st October-

Tuesday 8th November-

Monday 14th November-

Wednesday 16th November-

Wednesday 16th November-Tuesday 22nd November-

Friday 25th November-

Monday 28th November-

Monday 28th November-Friday 2nd December-

Thursday 1st December-

Friday 2nd December-

Monday 5th December-

Thursday 7th December-

Friday 8th December-

Thursday 15th December-

Friday 16th December-

Monday 3rd January-

School Open

Canteen- French Day

World Diabetes Day

Sixth Form Open Evening

Alcohol Awareness Week

Shoebox Day

Shoebboxes Collected

Sugar Awareness Week

Christmas Show

Advent services begin

Winter Soiree

KS3 English G&T Tip

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

