



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## Year 9 February Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is an important and exciting time of the academic year for Year 9 students at Bishop Challoner. Students will shortly begin the options process and start to make decisions regarding the subjects in which they would like to study next year. Students will be issued with information booklets and personalised letters before half term, providing students with guidance on the possible pathways they can follow. Subject departments will be providing students and parents with plenty of bespoke support and information ahead of students making their final decisions. This will include an open evening in which parents/carers and students will be invited in to discuss options with subject teachers, a careers afternoon where students will get the opportunity to meet and talk to a number of employers from a variety of sectors, and finally a number of assemblies will enable students to make informed decisions on their chosen options pathway.

Students who have specific career paths in mind will be encouraged to carry out independent research and discuss options with subject teachers, form tutors and careers advisors where required. However, many students, understandably, will not have a chosen career path at this stage of their lives. My personal advice for these students would be to choose subjects in which they have a strong interest or in which they have shown particular talent.

### Charlie Fogarty

Earlier this month all of Year 9 listened to a talk carried out by a young man called Charlie Fogarty. Charlie is a local boy from Solihull who had a thriving football career ahead of him playing for Birmingham City's academy team. He was tragically involved in a road traffic accident which resulted in him suffering a severe brain injury with long-term implications for his mobility. Through his own hard work and endeavour, over the years Charlie has now managed to walk, talk and even play football again at a competitive level. A truly inspirational young man with whom I feel many of our students really engaged, and the underlying messages of 'never giving up' and 'hard work paying off' deeply resounded with many of our students.

### 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.

### Commit to Character

I would like to personally congratulate all students who have achieved Bronze and Silver awards in the Key Stage 3 'Commit to Character' rewards scheme. These students have demonstrated to teachers, parents/carers and their peers the many excellent character attributes such as compassion and eloquence that they bring to our school and they should be proud of their on-going achievements.

Principal - Mr K.McEvoy

Institute Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7EG

Tel: 0121 444 4161 • Fax: 0121 441 1552

[www.bishopchalloner.org.uk](http://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk) • email: [enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)



## Fox Hollies

A number of Year 9 students have also taken part in the Fox Hollies volunteering scheme, working at a local school with disabled children. These students have demonstrated maturity and compassion when working at the school and must be highly commended for their commitment in supporting this worthwhile local community project.

I am also very pleased to say that many students have taken advantage of the many extra-curricular activities that the school hosts both before and after school. From students carrying out gymnastics in the morning, to students staying behind after school to perfect English writing skills, it is very pleasing that many of our students are fully utilising the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities that school has on offer.

## Citizenship

This half term in Citizenship lessons students have been learning all about Personal, Social and Health education issues such as eating disorders, being an organ donor, safe relationships and issues concerning drugs and alcohol. These lessons are particularly important in ensuring all students are fully informed on issues that impact their lives and understand how and where they can seek help if they require it at any point in their lives. Students will be developing upon these lessons in the summer term when all year groups will have collapsed timetable days to explore these issues further.

**How do drugs impact you, your family & society?**

Drugs are a waste of time. They destroy your memory and your self-respect and everything that goes along with your self esteem.  
*Kurt Cobain*

Amy became defined by her addiction and it led to her death  
*Russell Brand*

The worst thing is I could keep my addiction hidden, that is why it took me so long to get clean.  
*Eminem*

It's been one of the greatest challenges that ever came along in my life.  
*Buzz Aldrin (Astronaut)*

**TASK**  
How can drugs impact someone's life physically and socially. Explain your point of view using at least three points your fact sheet.



## Computing

Year 9 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.

They have recently begun a scheme of work looking at the internet and how the World Wide Web works on it. The overarching goal of the scheme of work is for the students to have a strong understanding of the internet and how it connects devices around the world, culminating in them creating their own website by coding it from the ground up with HTML.

## English

After half term, we would like to invite year 9s to attend our new KS3 English club. Run by a team of very enthusiastic sixth form leaders, it is a new initiative where year 9 students can come and get extra help with essay writing skills in small groups: especially important in the run up to T2! So far, it has been a big success with year 8, who are benefiting from the knowledge and experience of a group of very skilled English A Level students, and after half term we will be opening it to year 9s as well. With a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, all year 9 students are welcome.

## Geography

Year 9 students in Geography are currently learning about the world's still leading superpower of the United States of America. Students have been studying the river management currently taking place along the Colorado River at the world famous Hoover Dam, and learning about sustainability in important areas such as Yellowstone National Park. Recently students have been tracking hurricanes and learning how these actually form in the Gulf of Mexico. They will also shortly be investigating USA's interesting and continually changing human environments, from mega cities like New York to urban regeneration in areas like Detroit. This unit of work will really help develop students' Geographical understanding of a variety of key concepts.



## **History**

At the beginning of January, Year 9 looked at the impacts of World War One on the modern world. Since then they have been engaged in the study of the Holocaust, asking questions about how this horrific event could have happened and who we should blame. On Holocaust Memorial Day in January, Year 9 had the rare opportunity to watch a live webcast of a Holocaust survivor, Mala Tribich, telling her incredible story. They have since written prayers and poems reflecting on Mala's story which will be displayed in a book. After half term, Year 9 will begin to learn the content for the summer T2 exam, which will be on the causes of World War Two. They are encouraged to begin looking at cartoons from the interwar period online, as their use of sources will be tested in the T2, and to deepen their understanding of interwar 'red scares' by reading or watching George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'.

## **Maths**

Year 9 have been working hard this term, as they continue to cover content that will be assessed in their Transition 2 assessments this summer. Year 9 have been working on ratio, percentages and data. Some groups have been analysing the "best buy" for investing in different bank accounts, and looking at the way that goods and items can depreciate. In data, there have been some amazing, colourful pie charts produced! Year 9s are slowly being introduced to GCSE content, so it is an important time in the curriculum for them.

After half term, a group of thirty Year 9 students will spend a day at Bletchley Park, in a joint maths and computing trip. The day will include a workshop on codes and ciphers, as well as exploring the site itself and learning about the history. It should be fantastic! Additionally, the 'Team Maths Challenge', as organised by the United Kingdom's Mathematical Trust, will see two Year 9 and two Year 8 students compete in a national competition. We wish them the very best of luck!

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 9s turn up weekly for support. The Maths One-to-One Support Programme has continued this half term, with some of our year 9 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/guardians 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: Ciara Hughes; Angelica Ward; Jacqueline Synnott; Alanna Fisher; Andrew Doyle; Matthus Mlengha; Abdul Iqbal; Dawid Manukyan; Ellie Hall; Paige McGowran; Ciara Maxwell; Anna Tracey; Daniel Johns Kennedy; Kelsey Mattison; Lilly Rose Fackrell; Joseph Loftus; Ellie Waide; Matthus Mlengha, Abdul Iqbal, Dawid Manukyan; Ellie Hall and Arwena Rytewska. A particular mention must also go to Lewis Solarin, who won mathematician of the fortnight for KS3. Keep up the good work everyone!

## **Performing Arts**

Fees for instrumental lessons were due on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

## **Physical Education News**

The Year 9 boys' basketball team drew with Archbishop Ilsley 16-16. Whilst the Year 9 girls' basketball team lost to St Thomas Aquinas, but then beat Shenley Academy and Bartley Green School.

The year 9 boys and girls have the 'Basketball School Games' to look forward to and many students have signed up to take part. The boys football team have also managed to reach the semi-final of the Birmingham Cup an excellent achievement and we wish the boys the best of luck for this game after half term.

We have been extremely impressed with the number of students attending Extra-Curricular activities within PE this year. Most clubs have 25-30 students attending which is excellent! If you would like to know what clubs are on in the morning or afternoons, head to the school website or PE department twitter page @BCPEDepartment in order to access the timetable. 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.

### **Religious Education**

Year 9 have been extremely engaged in tackling the question 'Am I responsible for others'? This unit has allowed students to reflect on questions such as; Why should we be concerned about the needs of others? Examples of justice and injustice in the world and how Christians look to tackle injustice through following the example of the teachings and actions of Jesus.

Students have explored human rights abuses in the world and identified Christian responses to social injustice. This has enabled students to develop a social conscience and reflect upon the duty of Christians to be of service to others. Students have been focusing on literacy skills during this unit, looking at how to structure arguments from both points of view, using skills such as; communication, analysis and evaluation. This is aimed at helping students to be GCSE ready for their transition to ks4 next academic year.

### **Science**

All year 9 students have now started their GCSE courses in science. They will sit separate chemistry, physics and biology exams in the summer of 2019 so they will be taught the three sciences separately. The topics that will be covered between now and the summer are:

#### **Biology**

Topic 1 = Key concepts in Biology

#### **Chemistry**

Topic 1 = Atomic structure, the periodic table

Topic 2 = States of Matter, methods of separating and purifying substances

#### **Physics**

Topic 2 = Motion and forces spec points.

Students must keep their exercise books in a safe place when they finish them as they will be needing these to revise for their GCSEs in 2 years' time.

Here is the link to the GCSE specification if you want to take a look [Edexcel GCSE specification link](#).

To support the course, revision guides and workbooks are available from science teachers.

### **Lourdes Fundraiser Ceili Night**

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

### **Youth Club**

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

### **Proclaim**

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

## **Youth Mass**

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

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

Many 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.

Many 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.

## **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 9- 93.9%
- 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- Jacob Ingram, Mia Rose McColgan, Sean Harkin, Daniel Myers and Malachy Riley.

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,

Mr Mullins  
**Head of Year 9**

Miss Stannard  
**Assistant Head of Year 9**

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> March-  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March-  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March-Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March-  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March-  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March-Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April-  
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  
KS3 Careers Fair  
Canteen- National Breakfast Week  
Year 9 Options Evening  
Year 9 Mass  
KS3 Big Bang Fair  
Year 9 Malypmics  
Ski Trip  
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