



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 9 October Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Greetings to all of Year 9, their parents, carers, families and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself to you all as the new Head of Year 9 and welcome our new Assistant Head of Year Miss Stannard into her new role. It is a great privilege to head up this excellent year group and it is a pleasure to share and highlight some of the fantastic things our students have already been involved in so far this academic year.

Year 9 is a hugely important year for students and a time where maturity, organisation and hard work will be the key to students' success. Year 9 is the stepping stone for a successful transition into Key Stage 4, and a strong year is vital in preparing students for the endeavours of completing their GCSE's.

Later this year students will be given the opportunity to make important GCSE option choices for Year 10. Many students have already been enquiring about these choices and after Christmas we will begin to share information about options to help students and families make well-informed decisions. However, this is something students should certainly begin to think about and discuss with their families.

Whilst academic attainment and performance is at the forefront of my objectives for the year group I do also believe students should be urged to get involved in the many of the extra-curricular opportunities our school has to offer. With a better than ever enrichment programme, offering over 40 clubs before and after school, I feel these are fantastic opportunities that students should be taking advantage of and using to enhance their whole school experience.

Success, commitment and achievement should all be celebrated. This year sees the introduction of the Year 9 'Commit to Character' rewards programme. A great opportunity for students to demonstrate to teachers, parents/carers and their peers the many excellent attributes they bring to our school. Rewards will be given out to students who consistently demonstrate the many values that we as a school are trying to promote, and the success of these students will be shared in reward assemblies.

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 to charity work.

Heads of departments have kindly shared some of the news from their departments below and when reading through them I am sure you will agree the curriculum and opportunities given to our students is something we can all be very proud of.

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MathsHUBS



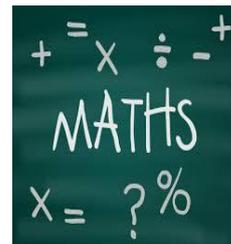
English

Year 9 have been unravelling the mysteries of 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' in their English lessons, developing their comprehension, writing and problem solving skills. Throughout the department, staff have been amazed at the insightful answers offered by students of all abilities. This is a very difficult text, which many schools are studying in year 11, so it is wonderful to see such engagement and understanding from students in year 9. Many students have also taken part in Graphite, a creative writing club run by Miss Laszlo where they look at creative texts before writing their own. If you would like to take part, it is run on Mondays in E2 from 3.10-4.30.



Mathematics

This year students in Year 9 will be studying topics that lay the foundations for their GCSE courses. It is an important year for all students. So far they have recapped weak areas on fractions and decimals, and then studied compound measures, truncation and rounding, and error intervals. This is in preparation for their Periodic 3 Assessments that take place after half term. Students should be familiar with the websites mymaths.co.uk and mathswatchvle.com – both useful for revision. A P3 revision list will be given to the students this week. Next term Year 9 will be embedding their knowledge of algebra.



The Year 9 Maths Leaders Programme has begun for a select number of students. This will see Year 9 Leaders organising and delivering the 'Chrimaths' Day in December, where primary schools join Bishop Challoner for the day to engage in fun maths puzzles and enjoy the festive spirit. All Year 9s have been invited to take part in Southampton University's cipher challenge, where they can have a go at code-breaking at home. Do look this up if it is something you are interested in! It has also been great to see so many Year 9 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.

Science

Year 9 have made a good start to science this year, which is very encouraging as it is their 'options year'. Shortly after half term all Year 9 students will be sitting their P3 assessments which is made up of two papers. They will be tested on all the work they have been taught since their T1 exam in February. The topics they need to revise are:

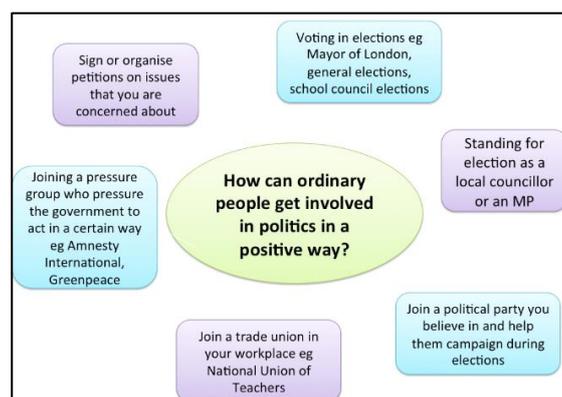
- *Ecosystems from year 8 and the start of the variation topic from year 9*
- *Separating techniques and the Earth from year 8 and the start of acids and metals from year 9*
- *Energy from year 8 and space from year 9*

As well as their class notes, all Year 9 students have access to the digital version of the science textbook by logging onto Kerboodle. By looking in both Activate Books 1 and 2 they will find chapters on the test topics. If there are any problems with logging onto Kerboodle they just need to go and speak to their class teacher.



Citizenship and PHSE

Citizenship for year 9 students is a fortnightly lesson. Over the course of the year students will engage with issues of personal, social, health and economic education, as well as engaging with how they can develop as good citizens of modern society. This half term lessons have focused on what political extremism is and how people can become susceptible to it. In a world where politics is become increasingly complex and in some places ignorant we aim to equip our students to make morally conscious and informed decisions.



Computing

The year began with an introduction to Online Safety. We emphasised the importance of staying safe online, and explored the dangers associated with social media and instant messaging. These sessions were focussed around pointing out how students should respond if they encounter any of the behaviours that we talked about, whilst also discussing the negative ways in which such actions can impact other people's lives.

We then moved on to text-based programming, using Python as our language of choice. This is the students' first taste of "real-world" programming, and they are now beginning to write lines of code in an online IDE. We have been explaining the ways in which their previous block-based programming experience on platforms such as Scratch and code.org is directly linked to the text-based approach, and the students are showing signs that they understand how the one follows on from the other.

We have also emphasised the importance of the planning phase when writing code. Students have previously studied the use of flow charts and how they are used to create a plan for an algorithm, and we are now taking this one step further and investigating the use of pseudocode as a tool for blueprinting an application. After half term, students will get the opportunity to use the school's set of BBC Micro Bits. These allow the students to write programs that process a physical input and exhibit a tangible response, such as being able to program the Micro Bits to be able to play "rock, paper, scissors".

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.

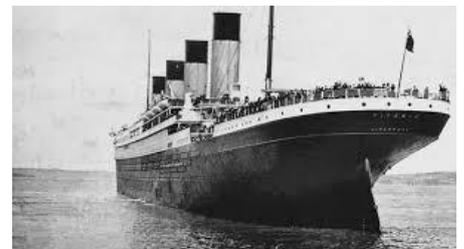
Geography

Year 9 Geographers have started the year learning about the structure of the Earth and plate tectonics. They have been investigating a variety of incredibly interesting tectonic hazards such as volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and super-volcanoes. Humans today have to live and adapt to live in a world in which we still cannot entirely control. During this unit of work students have been learning about how we as humans manage, respond and cope with the impacts that these natural occurrences can bring.



History

This term in History, year 9 have made an excellent start to the year, engaging well with the curriculum. Students have studied Edwardian society through an examination of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. This has culminated in a challenging assessment, where students were asked to consider how far Edwardian values were to blame for the tragedy of the Titanic. Year 9 rose to the challenge, and have written some highly analytical pieces weighing up the relative responsibility of individuals, Edwardian values and inevitability. This unit provides an introduction to our next scheme of work, which analyses the impact of World War One in Europe which will be covered next term. Year 9 will learn about medical and technological advances of the First World War as well as the war's more negative political and economic consequences.



To further enhance their studies, students should use the History Learning Site, BBC Bitesize and BBC iWonder sites. We are also offering an exciting opportunity for Year 8 and 9 students to visit the World War One battlefields in Belgium and France in June. The trip will involve visits to battle fields, local memorial sites and the chance to hear the Last Post at the Menin Gate.

Physical Education

Students have started the year by participating within the performance pathway of their curriculum. This is where students are developing their skills, tactics and understanding of a range of physical activities to demonstrate the best of their ability. Worcester Warriors academy coaches have been working with year 9 boys to develop their skills in Rugby.





The boys have really enjoyed these taster sessions over this half term and some boys have decided to give a go outside of school. This has been a great success so far in our first term back to school and we look forward to having Worcester Warriors back in next term to work with our girls across KS3. 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.

Year 9 football team are currently unbeaten this season and have progressed in each of the four cups that they have entered. The boys have shown great attitude and team spirit and are working hard to achieve as much success as possible this year.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students took part in an intra-form badminton competition, 9MAC boys and 9BON girls came in first place. Well done to those students and all of those involved, the competition was a great success.



Religious Education

Year 9 have made an excellent start to the year and can be very proud of the quality of work they are producing. This is a very important year in preparing for the transition to GCSE work next year and the department are eager to develop and foster skills in the students that will be essential for success at ks4.

This half term students have been exploring the question 'Does God Exist'? This has allowed students time to explore a range of views and opinions and to guide students towards developing their own personal view and faith.

Students have explored questions such as;

- Reasons why people believe in God
- Reasons why some people do not believe in God
- Different images of God
- The Catholic belief in The Trinity
- Who is God The Father?
- Who is God The Son?
- Who is God The Holy Spirit ?
- How can Jesus be a human and God?
- Why is it important that God became man?
- Does the existence of evil mean there is no God?
- How do Catholics explain why a good God allows evil?

Students then presented their findings in the form of a presentation to highlight their findings and to celebrate the learning that has taken place.

Performing Arts-Britain's Got Talent

A huge well done and congratulations to all students who performed in Britain's Got Talent on Wednesday 19th October! You all worked so hard rehearsing and did yourselves, the school and your families proud! The Performing Arts team hope you will remember the experience for many years to come.

Instrumental fees

Instrumental fees were due on 19th October. If you haven't paid please do so as a matter of urgency.

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 9 are studying the topic related to family and friendship. Year 9s have access to Kerboodle which grant them access to a digital copy of their text book and many resources and grammar practice as well. 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.

Opportunity

France Trip 2017

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

ONLY 9 PLACES LEFT!

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

fantôme
squelette
 bonbons
 citrouille
 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.

Art

Challoner students have jumped straight into art this year-not afraid to be messy either!

Year 9 have started the year by time travelling back to the Italian Renaissance, drawing Da Vinci's anatomy images. Fast forward to Impressionism, Year 9 have become 'Masters of Light' in the style of Claude Monet, creating fantastic sunsets and waterlilies using paint. Next term, Year 9 will continue their journey through time: Post Impressionism, Expressionism, Dada and finally - POP!

Bishop Challoner Inclusive Leadership Award – Year 9

This half term has seen the start of this year’s Bishop Challoner Inclusive Leadership Award. This award was set up around 18 months ago and has since seen around 40 students participate. The award has three elements: learning about disabilities and communicating with those who have learning disabilities; working with peers who are disabled at our partnership school Fox Hollies (a school for students with disabilities); and educating our community. Often the students at Fox Hollies are unable to communicate through spoken language and learn at slower rates. Attending Fox Hollies to work with special needs students their own age helps our students gain a sense of perspective, overcome any implicit bias or fear they may have around disabilities or disabled people, and gain confidence and leadership skills through the tasks they complete.

The first group of nine students have begun their leadership challenge by completing an afternoon training session on disability awareness, and Makaton Sign Language They have also begun their first of four trips to Fox Hollies and represented the school really well by stepping out of their comfort zone and engaging with their peers at Fox Hollies in the positive and proactive way we hope all future group do.

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 students 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.

Debate Mate is Back!

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

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 9- 94.9%
- Whole school- 95.6%

Congratulations to winners of the weekly attendance raffles- Sean Harkin, Ian Kelly, Joachim Tun, Cody Read and Niamh Woodcock.

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**.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Mullins
Head of Year 9

Miss Stannard
Assistant Head of Year 9

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-

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

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