



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 8 February Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the second Year 8 newsletter of the academic year! School life continues to be busy for Year 8 especially since the start of their T1 assessments.

T1 Assessments

Currently students are sitting their T1 assessments, students are working hard and trying to achieve the best they can. Well done Year 8 and keep it up! Also please remember that we are still running the Revision and Well-being sessions before school until the T1 assessment window finishes.

YEAR 8 T1
Revision and Well-being session

When: Every Monday and Tuesday morning 7.45am – 8.20am.
Where: S4 (Science Block)
What: Revision in a quiet place to help you focus during T1s
Why: Maybe you have a T1 assessment that morning and you want a place to do some last minute revision.

Feeling anxious? Come to S4 to talk to Miss Hunter and Mrs Brown

KEEP CALM DO SOME REVISION

STARTING MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

Parent Consultation Afternoon

Parent Consultation afternoon will take place on Thursday 2nd April and arrangements for making appointments with your child’s personal tutor will be communicated soon.

Careers trip to the University of Birmingham

At the end of November 100 Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic careers trip to the University of Birmingham. They learnt about all of the different courses that can be studied at university and met current students. Year 8 really enjoyed their tour of the university and their visit to the Lapworth Geology Museum. Students behaved impeccably and were a credit to the school. Feedback from students has shown that some who were not considering studying at a university in the future would now consider it.



Rewards

Several students were able to meet together for a Christmas themed rewards treat just before the end of term. These students were selected for the high number of Commit to Character signatures they had collected during the term. Students enjoyed making decorations, a raffle and enjoying a Christmas film. Miss Hunter and I continue to be impressed by the positive attitude showed by so many Year 8 students. Keep collecting those signatures before the next rewards event!



Black Country Living Museum

I had the absolute pleasure of accompanying year 8 on their trip to the Black Country Living Museum. Students enjoyed adding context to their studies on producing steel, even the trip down the mines meant a few bumped heads! Students were also interested to learn that in the past they may have been working down the mines for several years by the time they reached the age of 13 and the cramped conditions were so unbearable that they were forced to live in No trip would have been complete without a visit to the chip shop and many students enjoyed a good meal!!



Author Visit

Year 8 were lucky enough to have a visit from the author Catherine Johnson. She skillfully shared her expertise in story writing with the students and led them through several creative writing workshops. Several students have commented on the positive experience they had during this day and they were very happy to receive a free copy of her latest novel!



PE



Athletics

The Year 8 girls had an indoor athletics schools games competition in January and won the competition against various other schools and they have advanced through to the next round (regional's) and they will compete against even more schools around the area. The team won every single running race apart from two! Well done girls!

The Year 8 boys came second in the same tournament and also did really well and only came second by 3 points. Well done boys!

Girls' Football

U14 Girls' football team are through to the semi-finals and have played expertly in every round so far!

Basketball

In the basketball league the Year 8 boys' team have played exceptionally well so far - beating the likes of Queensbridge and Yardley. The Year 8 team is currently in 1st place in their group, looking to progress to the Play-Off (Knock-out) rounds of the National League Competition.

Cricket

Year 8 girls have had the opportunity to participate in cricket sessions led by a professional cricket coach from Warwickshire Cricket Club, come along to cricket club on a Monday after school to develop your skills!

Ski trip

On Sunday 26th January to Saturday 1st February we took a group of 36 pupils to Prato Nevoso, Italy for a skiing trip. The trip started off meeting at Bishop Challoner at 3:30am, travelling to London Gatwick, flying to Turin, Italy and then on a coach transfer to Prato Nevoso. Each morning every student had a 6:45am wake up call for breakfast and then heading down to the slopes for their 9am lesson. Each student was able to participate in the 20 hours of skiing tuition they had with one of the three skiing instructors. It was great to see the progress over the course of the week for each student (even the advanced skiers were backwards skiing!). The students experienced a variety of slopes from blue to red to black and some even experienced the gondolas. Evening entertainment over the week included: pizza evening in a local restaurant, snow tubing and an awards evening.

It was a difficult decision in terms of giving awards to students but a special mention goes to the following students for their efforts during the trip: the most resilient skier: Adeeba J, the most improved skier: Evan D, the most forgetful person: Cora R, the proudest moment award: Jada Leigh T and finally the Nutella award went to Joseph M. As the week came to an end, it was clear that all students had excelled at skiing when they received their certificates from one of the instructors. A special thank you goes to the members of staff for their dedication, time and commitment to the skiing trip (Miss Watson, Miss Hunter, Mr Moreira, Mr Ravenscroft and Mr Davison) but to also to the students,



they were commended by members of the public on their flight home for being polite, thoughtful and for their superb behaviour. We are extremely proud of each and every one of the students who attended the trip, they were a credit not only to Bishop Challoner but also to their parents and members of staff. Well done all.

Year of Community

During the summer term it will be the turn of Year 8 to run charity events to raise money for our chosen CAFOD World Gifts. Students have already suggested some fantastic fundraising ideas and we look forward to helping them implement as many of these as possible. Several Year 8 students have also volunteered to help run events. It promises to be an exciting time!



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 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 and boots 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 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. 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%
- 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.

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 24th February.**

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Brown
Head of Year 8

Miss H Hunter
Assistant Head of Year 8

Key Dates

Monday 24th February-
 Tuesday 25th February-
 Wednesday 26th February-
 Thursday 27th February-
 Friday 6th March-
 Tuesday 10th March-
 Thursday 12th March-
 Friday 13th March-
 Monday 16th March-
 Friday 27th March-
 Tuesday 31st March-
Thursday 2nd April-

Friday 3rd April-
Monday 20th April-

School Open

Canteen- Pancake Day
 Ash Wednesday, Whole School Mass
 Whole School Careers Fair
 Library- Bishop's Got Talent
 Canteen- USA Day
 Community Event- Battle of The Bands
 Malympics
 St Chad's Sanctuary Collections begin
 KS3 5-a-side football trip fundraiser
 Year 8 Rewards

Year 8 Parent Consultation Afternoon- 2-4pm

Early Closure- 1.10pm

Whole School Mass
 St Chad's Sanctuary Collections end
 Non uniform day for school charity (£1)

School Closed- Inset Day

School Open



Remember – follow our many twitter feeds for updates on what is happening at BC!

Official School Twitter:	@BishopChalloner	Library:	@Mrs F Library
Biology:	@BCCbio	Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy	Maths:	@BCMathsDept
Computing Hub:	@BCCComputingHub	PE:	@BCPEDepartment
Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
Design:	@BCCCDesign	School Games:	@BCSGO
English:	@BC_EnglishDept	Science Learning Partnership:	@CentralMidSLP
FOBC:	@bc_friends	Science:	@BCSciDept
French:	@BC_MFL	Sixth Form:	@BCCSix
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Social Science:	@BCSocSciDept
History:	@history_GCSEBC	Teaching School:	@teaching_school