



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 11 October Half Term Newsletter 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had a great start to the Autumn Term and students in Year 11 are working hard already, building on the success of Year 10 studies. Many students are working hard after school hours to ensure that coursework and homework is completed to the highest standard. This has proven to be a crucial factor in the success of Year 11 students at GCSE. The school continues to keep its doors open until 7pm every evening to allow students the opportunity to work in school.

I felt very proud of the Year 11 students during the school's annual open evening in September. Not only was it the highest ever turnout of Year 11 students volunteering at Open Evening, they all did a fantastic job showing potential students around their school. Mr McEvoy recognised their outstanding contribution and thanked them personally in assembly the following day. All students who helped out on Open Evening have automatically earned themselves a £5.00 discount for the Prom & Year Book package in recognition of their contribution to the school's Year of Service.

Study Sessions

I have been pleased with the attendance of study sessions from students so far. As half term draws to a close, students will be well aware of the impact that study sessions have made on their development within each subject so far and their value if one is missed. Study sessions are unique to this school and ensure that students do achieve their potential within each subject. On behalf of myself and all of the teachers I would like to thank students who have attended all of their study sessions so far; sometimes an extra hour at school each day with a teacher as opposed to an hour of independent revision at home can be the difference between grades.

Health Day

This week, the Year 11 students have participated in Health Day, with outside speakers discussing various aspects of living a healthy lifestyle. The Health and Wellbeing Day, organised by Miss Bisset, was a great PSHE opportunity for students. They were empathetic, enthused and engaged in the variety of talks or workshops that they attended. I am sure that many of the real life experiences visitors shared with the students of Year 11 will remain as memories throughout school life. I would like to thank all Year 11 students involved as their attitudes, good manners and thoughtful discussions throughout the day were superb.

CAFOD Fast Day

On Friday 13th October, Bishop Challoner got together to celebrate CAFOD Fast day. Being part of a Catholic community, the fast day was very important and a lot of effort was put in to thinking about how we could really brighten up the harvest. Throughout the day, our Lay Chaplain, Tommy, led services teaching students about the work that CAFOD do. The services had a particular focus on how we can change the world to make it a brighter place, which included scripture and songs. At break time and lunch time, students were invited into the auditorium which was a sea of colour to fit with CAFOD's theme this year, to eat only bread and water and donate the money they would have spent in the canteen to CAFOD. They could then watch performances of songs from students, donate money for glow in the dark wristbands and also paint their handprint onto our CAFOD display board in lots of colours. I think we worked really well as a school in brightening up the harvest and managed to raise a total of £105! In particular, I would like to thank Liam Swain for the service given in support of this event.

Principal - Mr K.McEvoy

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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 **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 2017.

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

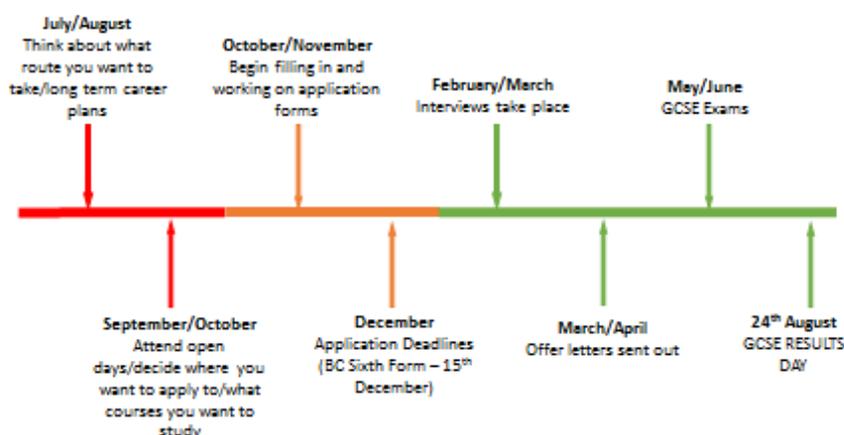
Ideally, we need to receive the boxes no later than **Thursday 16th November** as it takes more than a month to get the boxes checked and transported abroad. The leaflets which will be distributed during our assemblies over the next few weeks will provide student and their families with all the necessary 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.

Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College

The sixth form team at Bishop Challoner has recently delivered assemblies to Year 11 to give them advice on applying to the sixth form and the other opportunities available for Post 16 study. Please discuss with your son or daughter their post sixteen plans including whether or not they have completed their online application for Bishop Challoner Sixth Form. I have included a timeline for guidance at the end of this letter. If students have any questions about this process, they should see Miss Darby or Miss McGowan in the Student Services office by SF4. Fiona Wright, our in-house careers advisor, has also embarked on a programme of meeting with all Year 11 students to discuss their plans for next Year. She will be putting together action plans with each student and advising them on a variety of options for post 16 education. She will be available on Year 11 Consultation afternoon on Thursday 9th November, if you wish to meet with her. Please note also the date of the Bishop Challoner Sixth Form Open Evening: Wednesday 15th November at 6pm.



Year 11 timeline



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 11- 94.3%
- Whole school- 94.4%

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 30th October**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McGowan
Head of Year 11

Miss Laszlo
Assistant Head of Year 11

Key Dates

Monday 30th October-

Monday 30th October-

Wednesday 1st November-

Monday 6th November-Friday 10th November

Thursday 9th November-

Tuesday 21st November-

Tuesday 21st November-Wednesday 22nd November- Year 11 French Speaking Mocks

Friday 24th November-

Sunday 26th November-

Monday 27th November-

Friday 1st December-

Thursday 7th December-

Friday 8th December-

Monday 11th December-

Thursday 13th December-

Thursday 14th December-

Tuesday 19th December-

Wednesday 20th December-

Thursday 21st December-

Friday 22nd December-

Monday 8th January-

School Open

Canteen- Sugar Awareness Day

All Saints Mass

Year 11 English Spoken Language Assessments

Early Closure, 1.10pm- Year 11 Parent Consultation Day

Canteen- Poland Day

Year 11 French Speaking Mocks

Shoobox Day

Ceili for Lourdes

National Youth Sunday & JP2 Commissioning Mass

Shooboxes Collected

Advent Services Start

Christmas Show

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

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins

Primary Chaplaincy Advent Retreat

Winter Soiree

Student Christmas Lunch

Carol Singers for Lourdes

Whole School 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