



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Year 7 October Half Term Newsletter 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 7 have made a really fantastic start to the new academic year at secondary school. I have been very impressed with the way in which many Year 7 students have immersed themselves fully into the wider curriculum by getting involved in one or more of the many extra-curricular activities on offer here before and after school.

Open Evening

Despite the late night, a record number of Year 7 students set aside their evening on 19th September to help different departments promote Bishop Challoner to potential Year 7 students at Open Evening. Visitors and staff were full of praise for Year 7s conduct during this important event for the school. We are very proud and appreciative of the lengths our students go to in support of their school. And, despite the hiccup in the system, students did finally receive their praise postcards for helping out. Well done all.

Extra-curricular

Lots of students have been taking part in the extra-curricular clubs that are on offer, which has been fantastic. Basketball and badminton have both become increasingly popular with an outstanding 50 students in attendance. As well as this, The Call of Duty Dodgeball club has had a phenomenal turn out with over 70 students attending, this club is now being run on a Tuesday and Friday morning due to popular demand. After half term, Year 7, 8 and 9 indoor cricket will begin with the finals to be held at Edgbaston Cricket ground. As well as this a selected 15 students from Year 7 and 8 will have a great opportunity to be coached by a Warwickshire Cricket coach on a Tuesday afterschool! Additionally, basketball leagues and the NBA JR competition will commence- bringing together teams from across the UK to compete for the best Basketball team in the UK.

Commonwealth games

On Wednesday 17th October, 12 students from Year 7 and 8 had the privilege to sit down and discuss the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth games!



Football

The Year 7 boys' football team have had an undefeated start to their season with two wins in the league against Kings Norton Boys and St George's and one in the Birmingham Cup against St John Wall. They are now in the second round of the West Midlands Cup and third of the Birmingham Cup.

We wish you the best of luck!



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Netball

Year 7 girls have had a good start to the season. They have won one match and lost one! However, the girls are continuing with their efforts and are showing great developments over the week! The Year 7 netball captain (Niamh) wrote a mini match report and said:

“Our opponents were strong team with brilliant passes and determination. However, that did not stop us we worked hard at possession and shooting. Amazing defence helping to intercept the ball so less goals were scored. Something that our Year 7 team could improve on is getting in front of their marker.”

Brilliant overview of the game! Keep up the good work!

Girls' Football

3 teams entered the futsal tournament held at King Edwards Camp Hill. The Year 7 girls' team came out on top winning 2 out of their 3 games and drawing against UoB in their final game. Miss Hunter was extremely proud of the girls as they showed fantastic team work as the games went on! As a new team playing in their first tournament, their encouragement and skill between them was a pleasure to watch! Suraya (the team captain) wrote a match report:

“The Year 7 Girls football team were amazing on Monday when they played their first football tournament. We were really excited before our first match because we were all new players who came together to form our Year 7 football team, so we had not played together before.

The first match was with a team called Moseley, we won that match 1-0. After that game I was really proud of my team especially because it was our first game together and we had won it. I think that after that game it boosted up all of our confidence for the next match, because the next team we played we beat them with an even better score of 3-1.

I think that in that game our communication was much better and we were now acting more like a team.

The final match we played was the hardest. We did have a couple of good shots at goal but did not manage to get one in the back of the net. The score was 0-0 with UoB but we still managed to win the whole tournament. I am really happy for my team and cannot wait for our next match.”

The girls have qualified for the finals which will be held in the new-year at the Futsal Arena! Good luck girls!

Health and Wellbeing

Another opportunity that KS3 students have been able to get involved in within lessons is an option lesson. The PE department offered four different sports (Goal ball, Tchoukball, Call of Duty dodgeball and Ultimate Frisbee), for the students to participate in. The idea of options week was for students to choose a sport of their choice with their friends if they wish and participate in a different sport. This allowed students to be with their friends and try something new! A huge success first time round along with students showing great enjoyment!

Intra-School Competitions

The school intra school competition was held on Tuesday 23rd with Year 7 being the highest year group to sign up! They had 9 teams entered into the competition! Battle of the forms! The winning form was 7Liv who were superb from the start to finish. The competition brought together over 70 students so a massive well done to all those who signed up- a fantastic turnout.

Trips

PGL Netball

Students in Year 7 have the PGL netball trip to look forward to with a few places remaining for this. Be sure to sign up on School Comms.

Condover Hall (Residential)

The Condover Hall Residential is set to go ahead on Wednesday 20th – Friday 22nd February. This exciting opportunity is open to both Year 7 and 8. The residential will include a range of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities (high aerial wires, abseiling, rock climbing, water activities, raft building, orienteering and archery) and will allow students to develop socially, physically and mentally throughout the two nights. The total cost of the trip is £170 and this will include all food, accommodation, travel, activities and insurance. The residential will be supported by fully qualified instructors and staff from Bishop Challoner.

Rewards Scheme

Commit to Character is now up and running and the signatures are being awarded for a number of positive character attributes. This allows students to gain points for acts linked to the key words of Compassion, Respect, Focus, Resilience and being Active and Healthy. Please ask your child to show you their Commit to Character Reward Booklet and ask them what they have done to achieve their signatures!

Assemblies this half term have covered a range of topics from transition into secondary school, information about up and coming trips, Commit to Character Reward Scheme, social media safety, wellbeing in school, and two very interactive healthy minds and bodies assemblies. The year 7s were also treated to a viewing of 'Inside Out' to coincide with World Mental Health Day.

Catholic Life

Our Mission Statement has been put into practice very obviously this half term, when Year 7s brightened up for Cafod to raise money for those in need. These charitable efforts continued with the collections for St Chads Sanctuary earlier this term and is now being put into practice with the Christmas Shoebox Collections. Over the last few years Bishop Challoner Catholic community has had great success and generosity from our students 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 2018. Year 7 are also looking to lead the way with a reverse advent calendar in December, when we will be collecting different items for a local food bank. I would like to thank you all for your continued support for each of these very worthy causes.

Year 7 Mass

On Wednesday 24th October, Year 7 enjoyed their first whole school Year Mass together. It was a lovely way to round off the half term together.

Netbooks

You will have received notification about the Netbook evening which will allow you to find out about the Netbook scheme and how Netbooks are used at Bishop Challoner as a valuable learning resource to complement the exercise books and text books used in school. The evening has been designed to answer all queries about netbooks and I know that the Year 7 students are eager to start using these in class and at home.

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 7- 97%

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in the '100 Club' draw and all won a £10 voucher- Jessica F, Ezekiel H, Ruben M, Thomas O and Tobias W

- Whole school- 96%

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.

Lastly, I would like to thank all students for a quite brilliant start to the year. I am already excited to see what this year group can achieve. An excellent start made, keep it up!!

I hope that all students and their families can enjoy a relaxing half term before their return on **Monday 5th November**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McGowan
Head of Year 7

Mr Moreira
Assistant Head of Year 7

Key Dates**Monday 5th November-**Thursday 1st November-Monday 5th November-Wednesday 7th November-**Thursday 8th November-****Day**Tuesday 13th November-Wednesday 14th November-Monday 26th November-Sunday 25th November-Monday 3rd December-Wednesday 5th December-Thursday 6th December-Monday 10th December-Tuesday 11th December-**Friday 14th December-**Tuesday 18th December-Thursday 20th December-**Friday 21st December-****Monday 7th January-****School Open**

All Saints Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

Year 7 Alton Castle Retreat

Early Closure, 1.10pm- Year 11 Parent Consultation

Canteen- Italian Day

Sixth Form Open Evening

Shoebboxes Collected

National Youth Sunday

Advent Services Start

Christmas Show

KS3 Christmaths Day

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins

Year 7 Reward Trip

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

Canteen- Student Christmas Lunch

Year 7 and 8 Sponsored Football

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	Science:	@BCSciDept
Science:	@BCSciDept	Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Teaching School:	@teaching_school	Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
School Games:	@BCSGO	History:	@history_GCSEBC
Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Science Learning Partnership:	@CentralMidSLP
Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy	Social Science:	@BCSocSciDept
Biology:	@BCCbio	School Games:	@BCSGO
English:	@BC_EnglishDept	Sixth Form:	@BCCSix
PE:	@BCPEDepartment	Central Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Maths:	@BCMatsDept	FOBC:	@bc_friends
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Design:	@BCCDesign