



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Year 7 February Half Term Newsletter 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the half way point in the year, it is lovely to see how well Year 7 students have settled into their studies. Many students are continuing to embrace fully the broad offer of extra-curricular activities here at Challoner and are enjoying new ones this term. Following the Parent Consultation Day in December, many students are building on their efforts early in the year and exploring the wide curriculum on offer.

Trips

Earlier this half term, a number of Year 7 students visited Symphony Hall in Birmingham to listen to the CBSO perform some fantastic pieces. It was a lovely trip and I hope that it has inspired students to discover more of the fantastic music, which is available in our great city. Many students are looking forward to school trips to Milan for football, Conover Hall residential, which takes place during the Half Term Holiday and the French Day trip, which will be towards the end of this academic year. There is a buzz of excitement amongst students about these fantastic opportunities; I would like to thank staff for organising them.

Health and Wellbeing

The focus this term is to continue to build on all of the fabulous physical Health and Wellbeing opportunities provide by our fantastic PE department. We are thinking about physical health with our charity choice this year. The option available to choose from were 'MIND' – a mental Health Charity and 'THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION'. It was a close result, but in the end, BHF won. The Year 7 charity Champions are currently working with their form groups to come up with fundraising ideas for the Charity so that we can match or even top last year's £6,000 target. I look forward to meeting up this week to see what ideas they have come up with.

Physical Education and School Sport

Huge congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 girls who represented Birmingham City Football Club in the girl's cup. All the girls involved played extremely well and finished in 4th place. An excellent achievement all round and well done to all those involved.



The Year 7 and 8 Indoor Athletics continued again this year. The Year 7 and 8 boys and girls were selected after a rigorous trial at Bishop Challoner and made it all the way to the Athletics finals at Billesley. A huge congratulations to all those who made it through. The Year 7 and 8 girls both won the competition whilst the Year 8 boys finished 3rd and the Year 7 boys finished 2nd.



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PE Spectacular started this year with huge success. There was a fantastic turnout for the Just Dance Spectacular which not only promoted physical activity, but also raised £18.50 for the British Heart Foundation. The competition consisted of dancing in groups of 4, in pairs and individually. Prizes and winners will be given by the end of the week.



12 Days of Fitness was a massive success leading up to the Christmas period. Year 7 led the way with outstanding numbers every day for 12 days in the Fitness suite performing different fitness challenges. The majority of those involved continued to complete 12 different fitness challenges, showing outstanding dedication and work ethic for those 12 days. Well done to all those involved. Keep it up!



As part of our extra-curricular programme, we have a qualified Warwickshire coach coming in to lead and deliver engaging Cricket sessions for our Year 7 students. This opportunity has been received very well by our students who turn up each week excited and ready to take part. This opportunity will continue again later in the year. Details to follow



The Year 7 football team have made a strong start this year. They came second in their league beating Kings Norton Boys and St George's before losing to a very strong Priory Team. They have also had a good run in the Birmingham Cup where they now play local rivals St Thomas Aquinas in the quarter final. They are hoping to proceed through to the next round of the cup with ambitions to reach the finals. The year 7 Basketball team have made a fantastic start this season. In the regular Birmingham League they have won the majority of their games – beating Dame Elizabeth, St Georges and Camp Hill. In the NBA Junior League, the team remain undefeated after beating St Georges which exceptional performances from Rafael Lopez and Kamill Munir. The team now go into their next game against St Bedes.

Rewards Scheme

Commit to Character continues and many student are clocking up these achievement awards. The trip to the cinema last half term was a well deserved reward and the students were excited to be watching a film starring two of our Year 7s: William Redican and Layla-Grace Buckley. We are looking forward to deciding what the next rewards event will be. Assemblies this half term have focussed on trying to help students understand and develop a healthy use of social media. A number of students have now access to social media through their mobile phones and of course have use of netbooks outside of school. It is important that we keep reminding students of the consequences of unacceptable sharing of information and images via social media. We are lucky to have Visigo installed on school netbooks which can detect inappropriate use and help us to support students who make unwise choices when online.

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 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.

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.

Mobile Phones/Smart Watches

Mobile phones and smart watches are not allowed to be used in school. Students are only permitted to use their mobile phone or smart watch from 3.10pm onwards once on the playground/exit gates. Students found with a mobile phone/smart watch 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.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Year 7- 96%
- Whole school- 95%

The whole school attendance target is an aspirational 97% and we would hope that we can work towards achieving this as a year group by the end of the academic 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 subsequent day 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!!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs McGowan
Head of Year 7

Mr Moreira
Assistant Head of Year 7

Key Dates

Monday 25th February-

Monday 4th March-Friday 8th March

Tuesday 5th March-

Wednesday 6th March-

Thursday 7th March-

Wednesday 13th March-Thursday 14th March

Thursday 14th March-

Monday 18th March-

Friday 22nd March-

Tuesday 26th March-

Thursday 4th April-

Friday 5th April-

Tuesday 9th April-

Thursday 11th April-

Friday 12th April-

Monday 29th April-

School Open

English KS3 Readathon

Canteen- Pancake Day

Ash Wednesday, whole school service

KS3 & KS4 Student Voice

BGT Event

Canteen- International School Meals Day

Year 7 Science STEM Trip – Big Bang Fair NEC

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection Begins

KS3 Malypics

Year 7 Rewards Trip

Early Finish 1.10pm

Year 8 Parents Consultation Afternoon (2-4.30pm)

KS3 Football Development Quiz Night

Year 7/8 Sponsored Football

Whole School Easter Mass

Non Uniform Day 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	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:	@BCMathsDept	FOBC:	@bc_friends
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Design:	@BCCCDesign

