



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Year 8 October Half Term Newsletter 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly I would like to welcome Mrs Dawson to the Year 8 team as Assistant Head of Year as Miss Mazabraud has become Head of Modern Foreign Languages. We have hit the ground running in Year 8, with children showing leadership qualities from the get go, from helping new Year 7 students to committing their time to proudly advocate their school at open evening. I remain very proud of this year group in embracing new challenges, we have had students involved in 'Bishops Got Talent' events, auditioning for the Christmas show, helping with the St Chads sanctuary collection and being involved in planning Bishop Challoners World War One remembrance and celebration events.

## The Year of Health and Wellbeing

This year our focus is the year of health and wellbeing. In the six weeks since starting back in September Year 8 have completed the 'one mile challenge' in form time, they have also completed their own personal health and wellbeing booklets. In these booklets they were asked to think about ways they could 'give', 'connect', 'learn', 'take notice' and 'be active'. We hope students have shared these booklets with you at home and you can see some of the pledges they made, such as 'less screen time' coming into fruition.

Our biggest year group achievement so far is the 'fun run' in Kings Heath Park which the whole year group was invited to participate in on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. An opportunity to exercise, of which we know the health benefits, but also to spend time in the outdoors, appreciate nature and work together as a team, running and walking with each other, massively important for mental 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!

Linked to an area of health and wellbeing is that we have once again rolled out the Commit to Character praise initiative for Year 8. Students are rewarded for showing specific character virtues in lessons or for extra-curricular involvement. Those with certain amount of signatures will receive a Bronze, Silver or Gold award and opportunity to go on a rewards trip too. We hope this will inspire students to fulfil the Bishop Challoner mission statement of serving others and reaching their full potential.

You may have seen on the school website, one of our Year 8 students, Niamh who has shared her amazing story about working with St Mary's hospice. I urge you to read this. By sharing it, we hope that perhaps others in our wider school community would benefit from Niamh's experiences.



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### Shoe Box Charity Form Competition

To ensure Year 8 contribute to this vitally important project, we have added in an element of competition between form groups of making 10 minimum shoeboxes. Last year Miss Watson's form made 26 in total ... so the challenge is ON!

We would be grateful for all your contributions at home so please ask your child about this and what their form are aiming to do. 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.

As a pointer of how to 'build' a shoe box ... 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)

### Year 8 Assessments

Frequent and methodical assessment of learning and assessment for learning are common practice within a classroom on a weekly basis at Bishop Challoner. Work is strategically moderated and data is recorded to inform decisions on how to help students progress. However, it is important to acknowledge that the first set of formal year 8 assessments will commence in the Spring term, known as 'Transition 1' (T1s). Another Parent Consultation afternoon will held on Thursday 4th April.

In terms of how you can be helping your child prepare for these assessments in advance, I will reiterate previous advice from Mrs Milne, the learning support co-ordinator about 'good habits' for your child to develop and share useful links from departments. The school VLE is often the most important area for each subject area to find resources.

*Many students are slow at reading and have difficulty understanding text because they have not become fluent readers through regular practice. Reading for pleasure develops reading fluency and comprehension, improves vocabulary and increases general knowledge. It also develops the skills needed for writing and problem solving skills. Just 20 minutes reading a day could have a significant impact on your child's achievement.*

*Many students are slow at writing because they print, others have very untidy handwriting. **Touch-typing** is one of the most valuable skills you can learn. The benefits include speed and accuracy as well as time saved when writing and reduces tiredness. It helps you to focus on the content of what you are writing. It also gives you the option of correcting errors as they appear. Visit <http://www.typingstudy.com> for a free online course or search for one which suits your child better. The skill can be mastered quite quickly and once learned, is never forgotten.*

- For English: 20 minutes of reading aloud every day. Ask your teacher for a reading list.
- For Maths: **MyMaths** and [www.vle.mathswatch.co.uk](http://www.vle.mathswatch.co.uk)
- For Science: **Kerboodle** is also a helpful online tool to use for revision at home
- For French: Students are encouraged to use revision materials and activities at: <http://frenchbc.weebly.com>

### Extra-curricular involvement and Year 8 sporting success

As we very quickly discovered in Year 7, we have a very sporty year group, from mass participation at extra-curricular clubs (even at 7.45am) to competing locally, regionally and internationally in sporting competitions. This is totally awesome to see, and I promise I am not being biased as a PE teacher! 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 Tuesday and Friday mornings 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!

### Girls Football

The girls have played in the School Games 5-a-side competition with two teams of mixed Year 8/9 teams. We finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in the overall standings. Individual congratulations to Frankie for making the U14 girls County squad.



### Boys Football

The year 8 boys football team are so far undefeated in the league! The boys showing maturity during games and gelling well together as a squad.

### Cross Country

10 Year 8 students represented Bishop Challoner in the South Birmingham cross country competition. Special recognition to Lola for winning the Year 8 girls competition and James and Esrom coming in the top 10 of the boys competition. All therefore qualifying to represent South Birmingham in the next round of completion, the West Midlands schools.



### Netball

Year 8 netballers have continued their winning streak, beating Camp Hill 13-8 and Turves Green 15-8. Looking good for the top of the table position.



### Commonwealth games

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



### Trips

#### Inter Milan Trip

The boys in Year 7 and 8 have the fantastic opportunity to travel to Milan with Mr Wilson for the boys' football trip. The trip goes live on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October where a deposit can be paid. Shortly after this date, confirmation letters will be sent out to both Year 7 and 8 boys who have secured a place to inform parents/carers and students of all the future payment dates! A trip not to be missed!

### PGL-Lidington

PGL netball trip has now gone live on SchoolComms, students are able to sign up and pay a deposit! Please be aware there are limited spaces! Sign up as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

### 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](http://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 8- 96%

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in the '100 Club' draw and all won a £10 voucher-  
Maizie C, Abigail F, Joseph H, Harvey M, Jericho S

- 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Miss Hampson  
**Head of Year 8**

Mrs Conroy  
**Assistant Head of Year 8**

### **Key Dates**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November-**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November-

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November-**  
**Day**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November-

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November-

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November-

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November-

### **School Open**

All Saints Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

**Early Closure, 1.10pm- Year 11 Parent Consultation**

Canteen- Italian Day

Sixth Form Open Evening

Black Country Museum Trip

Shoebboxes Collected

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November-  
 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December-  
 Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December-  
 Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December-  
 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December-  
 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December-  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December-**  
 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December-

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December-

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December-**  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January-**

National Youth Sunday  
 Advent Services Start  
 Christmas Show  
 KS3 Christmaths Day  
 St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins  
 Year 8 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:	@BCMATHSDept	FOBC:	@bc_friends
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Design:	@BCCCDesign