



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 8 October Half Term Newsletter 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly I would like to introduce myself and Miss Hunter (Assistant Head of Year). We are both excited to be working with such a dynamic and committed year group. From the start of September Year 8 have proven how enthusiastic, driven and welcoming they can be and we are proud of all the achievements students have made so far.

## The Year of Community

This year our focus is the Year of Community. So far students have had assemblies and form activities around this theme. We are currently running a form board competition, this will allow forms to come up with their own motto and display relevant information about their form. As forms, students have also been supporting St Chad's collections and the Shoe Box appeal. Getting involved with these is a great way of reminding students that we are part of a global community and we need to help each other. Groups of students have also been involved in Bishop's Got Talent showcase events demonstrating their considerable skills to others. Detailed below are some other community activities students have been involved with:

## Challoner Weekly

Well done to an industrious group of Year 8 students for re-launching 'Challoner Weekly'. This is the only school newspaper run by and for the students. The group are regularly interviewing members of staff and combining this with relevant current affairs and environmental issues. They also include a recipe every week for any keen chefs amongst us! Reading articles that the students are clearly passionate about is fantastic and I look forward to reading upcoming issues!



We also have students interested in starting a digital news platform after half term.

## Pumpkin Carving

Students had lots of fun at the event organised by Mr Tsintas and here are the winning designs:

## Poetry Competition

Mia H submitted and was successful in winning a local poetry competition in Kings Heath. Well done Mia we are all proud of you.

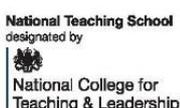


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PLATINUM SCIENCE MARK WINNER 2017-2020

### **Commit to Character Cards**

As members of the Bishop Challoner Community we want every student to reach their full potential and so once again we will be using the Commit to Character cards praise initiative for Year 8. Students are rewarded for showing specific character virtues in lessons or for extra-curricular involvement. Those with certain amounts of signatures will receive a Bronze, Silver or Gold award and the opportunity to be involved in rewards activities. These cards will form part of the required equipment in school and students need to have them every day. Myself and Miss Hunter are continually impressed with the positive attitude shown by so many students on a daily basis and we are keen to reward these students. We will be meeting those students with 95% or above attendance and zero conduct logs at the end of this half term to give them a little treat!

Many students have had 100% attendance this year and zero conduct logs, well done to all of you! Here are just a few who have been nominated for their impeccable attitude and conduct: Nedim S, Conor C, Grace D, Jay D, Ava M, Grace F, Willian McC, Ellis M, Cora Mae Ry, George A.

### **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. Parent Consultation afternoon will be held on Thursday 12th March.

In terms of how you can be helping your child prepare for assessments in advance, please read the advice below from Mrs Milne, the learning support co-ordinator about 'good habits' for your child to develop and 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 leading 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: Seneca learning is also a helpful online tool to use for revision at home (and buying a revision guide)

For French: Students are encouraged to use revision materials and activities at: <http://frenchbc.weebly.com>

### **Careers, Aspirations and Future Events**

In Year 8 we want to continue to build on students aspirations for the future. Every student has completed a Careers Survey during form time this half term and targeted careers advice and events will be planned using this information. As a starting point we are planning a trip to visit The University of Birmingham on Friday 29th November. Please look out for a letter coming home about this. Unfortunately spaces are limited to 100 students so sign up quickly!! Several other events will be coming up next half term including a visit from an Author and the Black Country Living Museum trip.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

It is pleasing to see how many students take part in Extra-Curricular Activities. We encourage all students to take part in at least one extra activity and many take part in several!

### **Athletics**

Bishop Challoner PE pupils from Year 7-10 participated in a really successful athletics workshop last week. Dean Miller, who works with British Athletics, came into school to deliver an athletics session and organised a range of athletic activities for the students. Pupils worked really hard and 15 pupils have been invited to the Street 2 Stadium Birmingham

athletics talent day at the University of Birmingham track. This is a brilliant opportunity for our pupils to get more involved in athletics and receive expert coaching for the day so a well done to those who attended the workshop.

### **Netball**

The after school netball competitions have begun and the Year 8 and 9 girls competed in the Secondary School Games last week, winning 3/4 of their games, finishing second overall. Well done to all girls who participated, the team worked really hard and played well against tough competition.

### **Catholic School Games**

Year 7 and 8 girls and boys football teams participated in the Catholic school games on Friday. The two teams competed fantastically and came out winning both trophies for the day. A huge well done to all involved!

### **Creative Writing Club**

Mrs Hodges who runs this club writes; 'This Club is open to all ages and abilities/interests. We read, we write, we share and we discuss. There is something for everyone - so far we've read and written poetry about everyday objects, written short descriptions of ourselves and fictional characters, and eventually we'll be publishing our favourite work in a group anthology.'



### **Shoe Box Appeal**

In the Year of Community, Year 8 have displayed excellent compassion to those less fortunate than themselves by contributing to our Shoe Box Appeal. The Shoe boxes will be sent to the charity Operation Christmas Child who send shoe boxes to children need every year. Students have donated their time, money, resources and small gifts to this worthy cause. If any students would still like to contribute, donations are being accepted until the 8th of November.

### **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](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 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 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. 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- 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 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Brown  
Head of Year 8

Miss Hunter  
Assistant Head of Year 8

## Key Dates

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November-**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November-**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November-

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November-

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November-

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November-

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November-

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December-

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December-

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December-

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December-**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December-

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December-

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December-

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December-**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January-**

## School Open

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

Sixth Form Open Evening

Canteen- Brazillian Day

Shoebboxes Collected

Black Country Museum Trip

Year 8 Rewards

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins

Christmas Show

KS3 Christmaths Day

Winter Soiree

KS3 STEM Fair

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

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection Ends

Canteen- Student Christmas Lunch

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:	@BCCDesign