



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 9 October Half Term Newsletter 2018



Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 have had a fantastic start back to Bishop Challoner; as a year group, we have fully embraced Bishop Challoner's Year of Health and Wellbeing in our first half-term partaking in events for our physical, emotional and communal/spiritual wellbeing.

Students, as well as staff, have been given time to reflect upon the important things in their lives and how to best enhance them whether that is making time for more exercise, joining clubs, getting adequate sleep or trying to avoid sugary foods and drinks. All Year 9 started this term by making a pledge and we aim as a year group to improve our Health and Wellbeing throughout this academic year. Year 9 have led the way in terms of having a focus on mindfulness and meditation which is engaged with during form time, including but not limited to a special session with Mrs Hodges, the Assistant Head of Year, in the knowledge that our mental health is equally as important as our physical health.

Extra-Curricular

Physical health, as always, is one area where Year 9 excel with many students continuing to attend myriad clubs with great success. Indeed, all of Year 9 have taken part in a one mile run around the school campus that students and staff alike could walk, jog or run. Indeed, some of our competitive year group went that extra mile to run more than necessary. Well done to all of you.

It would be brilliant to see more Year 9 turn up to the clubs on offer so please come and collect a copy of the extra-curricular timetable from the PE office! 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.

Football

The Year 9 boys' football team are also into the second round of the Birmingham cup and the West Midlands Cup after beating John Henry Newman (Birmingham Cup) and Aldridge (West Midlands Cup). They are due to play the second round of the Birmingham Cup on Monday 22nd October against close rivals St. Thomas Aquinas School and face a tough league encounter with Wheelers Lane on Tuesday 24th October. Hopefully the boys can maintain their unbeaten start and continue towards cup success!

Netball

Year 9 girls have had a committed start to the netball season. The girls won their first match last week against King Edwards VI Ways and winning 21 – 8, with Ellie Harris being player of the match! Well done girls, great start to the season! Keep it up for your next 5 games after half term!



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Student Football Coaches

In the spirit of Health and Wellbeing, I am very excited for the upcoming event whereby some of our young aspiring footballers are going to teach their skills to staff in a collaborative effort for improved health across our school community. This is one of many opportunities Year 9 will have to showcase and celebrate their skills within our community.

Outside of sports, many other extra-curricular clubs including cookery, art, and book club amongst many others are available. All students are most welcome to attend any and many of our clubs to continue to fully embrace and be immersed in school life.

Mental Health

Earlier, the idea of mental health was broached whereby we can think of ways to effectively reduce stress, particularly in the build up to the P3 assessments which occur after half term. We recommend students eating breakfast and getting enough sleep to aid their concentration in school. One effective method of stress reduction in the face of assessments is feeling adequately prepared. To this extent, small and regular chunks of revision per subject enable students to keep abreast of their studies and to retain the new information. The mathematics department suggest that 10 minutes a day of maths is more beneficial than 70 minutes in one setting. Handy hints like these pop up on the screens of all computers in the school when students log in and they are good short tips to enable successful learners. Likewise, the completion of homework in a timely fashion enables students to consolidate their learning with independent revision; some of our students use the homework club in E4 after school whereby they can be fully organised and ready for the next day. Well done. This is open to all students and a member of staff is always present to help students with their homework needs. Indeed, if they are worried, nervous or struggling with a topic, they can see their class teachers, form tutor or the pastoral team for both academic and holistic support whilst at school.

100 Club

Likewise, being ready for learning, both in terms of punctuality and equipment, will enable students to be fully prepared for the learning of the day. To this extent, the 100 club has been launched school wide to reward those who have had excellent attendance and punctuality. Year 9 have had the extra benefit of being part of the APE group; this is a specific, Year 9 form based reward for the form with the best attendance, punctuality and equipment across the year group. During Thursday's assembly, the last day of term, the winners will be announced.

Charity

Outside of health and wellbeing, Year 9 are still engaging in various acts of charity in order so that they can live out our mission statement of giving glory to God through our 'service to others'. A special congratulations must go to Mr Sarcevic's form, who, this year and last, have a collection pot at the front of the room form where 9LIV give up their small change. This act last year raised well in excess of £100! Amazing. Some Year nines have already been on trips to go and help within the community by going to St Chad's for which we have been collecting items necessary for those whose lives have been blighted by suffering.

Fox Hollie's School

However, a key event this year, for which the first training session has already commenced, is the opportunity for year 9 to go and help on an afternoon a week at Fox Hollies school: a school for children who have myriad special needs. The first group of Year 9 students who have volunteered to take part have already had some training in sign language and they had a seminar with the Deputy Head of Fox Hollies. This is a phenomenal activity for pupils to be involved in and it is a great way for students to help in our local community.

Brighten Up For Cafod

Lots of year 9 took the opportunity to partake in the 'Brighten up for CAFOD' day on Friday 5th October. At this time, they purchased glow-bands, had their nails painted bright colours and even had their faces painted.

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 9- 95%

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in the '100 Club' draw and all won a £10 voucher- Isabella B, Niamh F, Maja M, Carter M, James 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 5th November**.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Beard
Head of Year 9

Mrs Hodges
Assistant Head of Year 9

Key Dates**Monday 5th November-**Thursday 1st November-**Thursday 8th November-****Day**Tuesday 13th November-Wednesday 14th November-Monday 26th November-Sunday 25th November-Monday 3rd December-Wednesday 5th December-Monday 10th December-Thursday 13th December-**Friday 14th December-**Wednesday 19th December-Thursday 20th December-**Friday 21st December-****Monday 7th January-****School Open**

All Saints Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

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

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins

Year 9 Rewards Trip

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

Canteen- Student Christmas Lunch

Year 9 and 10 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:	@BCCDesign