



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 7 Ball Crew Trials - The Birmingham Classic

Dear Parent/Guardian,

9th March 2018

On Tuesday 6th March Year 7 boys and girls attended the first Ball Crew trial for the Birmingham Classic 2018! We had an amazing turnout and are delighted that so many of our pupils are interested and inspired to be involved. The legacy that our pupils, past and present, have created from their previous hard work speaks volumes; from our 15 years of service to the International Women's Tournament 'The Birmingham Classic' and our involvement in The Davis Cup tournament three times.

As a school we are extremely proud of our Ball Crew prestige and we can truly say that the squad would not be the quality it is without the amount of pupils who put themselves forward to trial and train, as they increase the levels of competition and therefore push each other to perform to the best of their abilities. This year The Birmingham Classic is bigger than ever in terms of the quantity of highly ranked players entered. Our total number of pupils from year 7/8/9 will be a squad of 70, based on this our selection process will be exceptionally demanding. It is great to have an excellent number of pupils interested, making the trials very competitive and therefore increasing the overall standard.

The next stage of trials is Friday 9th March, from here a group of year 7s will be asked to continue onto the next phase of the Ball Crew process which will be to attend training sessions lead by members of Bishop Challoner staff with over 20 years of combined experience as Ball Crew co-ordinators, over a series of weeks. Later in the training process there is also input from the LTA directly to help inform our final decision in selecting the best squad of pupils from Key Stage 3. The tournament runs from **Saturday 16th June to Sunday 24th June 2018**, any pupil willing to be involved will need to be available for all of these dates if selected.

Please be aware that all training takes place in lesson time, if you do not wish for your child to miss lessons then at this stage we ask you to have a discussion with them about continuing the process further. In relation to this, if any member of the Ball Crew candidates does not show progress in their lessons or ask teachers to catch up on missing work, they may not be able to continue with training. This is also true of any individual who does not show a positive attitude to learning or school life.

If your child is not selected from the trials, or does not succeed in gaining a place in the final squad through the training process we realise that this will inevitably cause some levels of disappointment. Hopefully your child understands the rigorous selection criteria, as this has been verbally explained to all pupils repeatedly.

We would like to formally acknowledge the commitment which all pupils showed by turning up to trials and thank them for being so dedicated. It is certainly possible for Year 7 pupils to re-trial again next year and we would encourage them to do so if they wish.

Kind regards,

Mr Wilson, Mr Moon & Miss Hampson

Ball Crew Co-ordinators

Principal - Mr K.McEvoy

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