



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Year 8 February Half Term Newsletter 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As I write to you in my final newsletter before I leave to go on maternity leave I want to formally introduce Mrs Dawson who has been Assistant Head of Year 8 since September and congratulate her on taking on the role of Head of Year in my absence. New Assistant Head of Year will be appointed shortly.

### Breakfast Revision Sessions

I would like to congratulate Year 8 on their diligent preparations for their T1 assessments, Mrs Dawson and myself were pleased to see over 40 students regularly on a Wednesday and Thursday morning revision breakfast sessions which shows their dedication to their studies. A Parent Consultation afternoon will held on Thursday 4th April post-T1 assessment results.

### Assemblies

Year 8 have also taken ownership of our Year group assemblies, with several students involved in a 'tooth paste' experiment in an assembly looking at kindness and the whole of Miss Watson's form producing an assembly on the Holocaust for their peers.

### Sports

As a year group we continue to show sporting dominance both at a local level, but also regionally too. Individual successes feature: AJ coming 6th place in a regional trampolining competition, Noelle playing county Rugby, Frankie playing county football and William and Adriano going to Spain with the Birmingham City FC Academy.

Within school this half term we have had Year 8 students represent Birmingham City FC in the EDF Girls Football Cup, they finished 4th overall, losing in the group stages to the eventual winners, West Bromwich Albion FC.

Boys and Girls competed in the Indoor athletics Sports Hall competition with the boys coming 3rd and the girls winning to qualify for the next round.

Basketball for boys and girls has also been a success with multiple wins in the league for both teams and a dominance of year 8s at the extra-curricular Basketball club. We also had a 'Bishops Got Talent' Basketball game of year 8 versus year 9 girls and unfortunately the year 8 team lost by 2 baskets in a hotly contested match.

The English department set up a murder mystery activity in the library for year 8 students to develop their investigative techniques and critical thinking skills. This event was thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff.



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### **Health and Wellbeing**

All of year 8 were encouraged to write pledges in form time to continue our whole school focus on health and wellbeing. Linked to an area of health and wellbeing is that we have once again rolled out the Commit to Character praise initiative for year 8s. 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. At Christmas we did a trip to the cinema and there will be another fun activity for students in the last week of March.

### **Charity**

We now have a whole school focus of the British Heart Foundation for our whole school charity. I would hope the generosity shown by Year 8 with the Shoebox appeal at Christmas is reiterated with our whole school charity fundraising activities. The year group are a competitive bunch so I hope they will be motivated as forms to raise the most money as possible.

### **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](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.

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 8- 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.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Hampson  
Head of Year 8

Miss Dawson  
Assistant Head of Year 8

### Key Dates

#### Monday 25th February-

Wednesday 27th 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-

Wednesday 27th March-

#### Thursday 4th April-

Friday 5th April-

Tuesday 9th April-

Thursday 11th April-

#### Friday 12th April-

#### Monday 29th April-

### School Open

Year 8-13 Careers Fair

English KS3 Readathon

Canteen- Pancake Day

Ash Wednesday, whole school service

KS3 & KS4 Student Voice

BGT Event

Canteen- International School Meals Day

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection Begins

Year 8 Girls Vaccinations

KS3 Malypmics

Year 8 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:	@BCCDesign