



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 11 October Half Term Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week marks the end of the first half term of the 2018/2019 academic year, and it has been an extremely successful start for Year 11 students. We have been immensely proud of the way students have approached the start of this important year in their education. Students' attitudes towards learning, commitment, work ethic, and the atmosphere in lessons has been excellent, and we are excited to see the progress students will make over this year.

Below are a few important notices that I would like to raise for your attention.

Year 11 Tutor Team

There have been a few changes to the Year 11 team this year. We welcome Miss Conroy as Assistant Head of Year 11, as well as Mrs Phillips who joins Mrs Brown as a form tutor of 11MAC, and Mrs Whelan who joins Mr Ravenscroft with 11SCO.

This half term has seen our '100 Club' competition taking place, where students have been striving to achieve a 100% attendance and punctuality record for the whole half term. We are delighted that 84 students maintained 100% attendance this half term, and would like to see this number increase in the second half term before Christmas.

Five students from the 100 Club in Year 11 were selected as our winners for this half term, so congratulations go to Oran, Paul, Verity, Max, and India. Well done for exemplifying the values of commitment and punctuality for an entire 8 weeks!

Health & Wellbeing

Following the successes of the Year of Celebration, and the Year of Service, this year marks our Year of Health & Wellbeing. Here at Bishop Challoner we aim to ensure that every student is ready for the challenge ahead, so we have developed guides for every student focusing on Revision, and Health & Wellbeing. We feel it is important for all students to not only be prepared for their exams with effective revision timetables and techniques, but also make sure they are looking after their mental health. During our parent consultation afternoon, all students will be receive a guide to help them focus their revision with six essential tips. They will also be provided with a health and wellbeing guide to focus their minds on activities to support their stress levels throughout this time. More information on this below!

Year 11 PSHE Day

Friday 19th October was the Year 11 PSHE Day, where students were able to engage fully with the Year of Health & Wellbeing. They got the chance to discuss mental health issues, watch dramatic performances, and concentrate on their own wellbeing with a variety of sporting activities. The feedback from Year 11 was overwhelmingly positive and we hope they will be able to take some of the advice they received throughout the day to help them consider their own self-care throughout this important year in their time at Bishop Challoner.



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www.bishopchalloner.org.uk • email: enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



Year 11 Parent Consultation Afternoon

The first Parent Consultation for Year 11 students takes place on Thursday 8th November. At the consultation, you will receive your son/daughter's estimated grades, as well as an indication from subject teachers as to whether your son/daughter is on track to achieve this result or not. The afternoon provides an important opportunity to discuss the progress of students so far, and to discuss what needs to be done to further improve on current attainment. I therefore request that every effort is made to attend the consultation afternoon. Appointments are available between 2:00pm and 4:30pm, and can be arranged directly with your son/daughter's Personal Tutor, or by contacting Mrs Reynolds on r.reynolds@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk or 0121 441 6144.

Revision Information for Parents

We are conscious of the pressures Year 11 students are under during their examination year, and that effective revision will be crucial in guaranteeing successful outcomes in the summer public examinations. We understand that many students are not necessarily aware of how to approach revision, including how to organise a revision schedule and what strategies to use. In our Year of Health and Wellbeing, a key focus for Year 11 will be on supporting our students on establishing and embedding effective revision routines. We also appreciate that you, as parents and carers, may wish to know how you can successfully support your son/daughter with their revision.

We would therefore like to invite you to attend a short presentation outlining effective revision strategies, and how we will support Year 11 students across this year with their revision. Important information for students, parents and carers will be provided. Presentations will take place in the Auditorium on **Thursday 8th November**, in conjunction with the Parent Consultation Afternoon. There will be presentations at 2:30pm, 3:15pm, 4:00pm, and 4:45pm. We hope that repeating the presentation throughout the afternoon will allow as many of you as possible to attend.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

The Year 11 Mock Examinations will take place from the week beginning 3rd December, up until the end of the Autumn Term. Subject departments and class teachers will provide your son/daughter with information in advance on what will be assessed in the mock examinations. It is important that all students approach these examinations maturely and seriously as an opportunity to demonstrate their current levels of understanding. We would expect students to begin their preparation and revision for these examinations as soon as possible, if they have not started already. Students should attempt to utilise the effective revision strategies that are being communicated to them by class teachers, the Year 11 tutor team, and in the presentation on 8th November.

Post 16 Pathways – Bishop Challoner Sixth Form

Year 11 is not solely about focusing on GCSE examinations, but is also the time to consider which Post 16 pathway students wish to take. Year 11 students have already had an assembly this half term regarding their future studies and the options available to them here at Bishop Challoner, delivered by Mrs Nutt, our Associate Principal and Head of Sixth Form. Mrs Nutt advised students on their options for further study at Bishop Challoner and how to apply for the school Sixth Form. We look forward to seeing our Year 11s progress and develop their education post-Key Stage 4, and firmly believe that our Sixth Form should be the first place they consider for Post 16 education. For further information regarding the Sixth Form application process, please visit <https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/sixth-form>. The Sixth Form Open Evening is on Wednesday 14th November, 6:00pm – 8:30pm. We hope to see many of you there.

Study Sessions

Study sessions take place Monday to Thursday afternoons between 3:10pm and 4:30pm. Students should be aware of the start and finish times of their sessions, which are dictated by their class teachers. As part of the curriculum and provision we provide for Year 11 students, these sessions are compulsory for all students to attend. If a student is to be absent from a study session, a formal request of absence must be made to Mr Wooler in writing. If authorised, students should then notify their study session teacher to ascertain what work will need to be completed in their absence. Unauthorised absence from study sessions will result in sanctions from the school.

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 11- 95%

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in the '100 Club' draw and all won a £10 voucher- Oran C, Paul H, Verity J, Max P, India S-B

- Whole school- 96%

The whole school attendance target is 96%, so as a cohort Year 11 are below expectation in terms of attendance. An attendance figure of 95% already equates to around 12 hours of missed lessons or study sessions. It is imperative that students should always strive for 100% attendance, as every lesson of every day in every week plays an important part in the study and preparation for their examinations at the end of Year 11. While illness and other unexpected circumstances can affect attendance, it is important that your child makes every effort to attend school, and is only absent if absolutely necessary.

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 would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students on a fantastic start to Year 11, and wish you and your families a safe and pleasant half term break. School will resume on **Monday 5th November**.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Wooler
Head of Year 11

Miss Conroy
Assistant Head of Year 11

Key Dates

Monday 5th November-
Thursday 1st November-
Thursday 8th November-
Tuesday 13th November-
Wednesday 14th November-

School Open
All Saints Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)
Early Closure, 1.10pm- Year 11 Parent Consultation Day
Canteen- Italian Day
Sixth Form Open Evening

Monday 26th November-
 Sunday 25th November-
 Monday 3rd December-
 Wednesday 5th December-
 Monday 10th December-
Friday 14th December-
 Wednesday 19th December-
 Thursday 20th December-
 Non uniform Christmas Jumper day
Friday 21st December-
Monday 7th January-

Shoebboxes Collected
 National Youth Sunday
 Advent Services Start
 Christmas Show
 St Chad's Sanctuary Collection begins
School Closed- Year 7/9/10 Parent Consultation Day
 Canteen- Student Christmas Lunch
 Whole School Mass

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

Kind regards,

Mr J Wooler
Head of Year 11

Miss R Conroy
Assistant Head of Year 11

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Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy
Biology:	@BCCbio	English:	@BC_EnglishDept
PE:	@BCPEDepartment	Maths:	@BCMathsDept
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Science:	@BCSciDept
Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub		

