



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 11 February Half Term Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again we find ourselves at the end of another half term, and it does not seem long ago that I was writing the October newsletter. But in what feels like only a short amount of time, there has been an immense amount of hard work and effort completed by Year 11 students and staff, including the mock examination period in December and the positive start to 2019. I am fully mindful of the pressures facing Year 11 students in this landmark year in their education, so the hard work and commitment that is evident in lessons is testament to the values of resilience, aspiration, and self-belief that we look for in all of our students.

Looking ahead, the next half term is a crucial time for exam preparation for all Year 11 students. By now, I hope that good habits and routines for revision are being embedded at home. Students will continue to receive guidance and support within school regarding the most effective strategies to revise for subjects, but the next couple of months will require greater independence from students as they prepare themselves for the summer examinations. I must stress that if any students or indeed parents are concerned about preparations for examinations, then they need only contact myself, or Miss Conroy, Assistant Head of Year 11.

Please find below some notices and guidance that I would like to raise for your attention.

Mock Examinations

The Year 11 mock examinations took place in December, with results published to parents on Thursday this week as part of the Year 11 reporting cycle. Year 11 students approached the mock examinations maturely, and have developed good habits of punctuality and organisation for the examinations that will relieve pressures when the public examinations window begins in May. There were plenty of successes emerging from the mock examinations, with hard work culminating in some impressive results that students are no doubt proud of. Across the year group, the results are encouraging, and indicate the potential for success this year group has to achieve. I am immensely proud of the efforts of students, and look forward to seeing what they can achieve in the summer.

As is often the case, there will likely be mock examination results that some students find disappointing. My advice to students is not to dwell too much on these results. The purpose of mock examinations is to provide an experience that reflects what students will be faced with in the summer, whilst highlighting areas of strength and areas to develop in students' understanding and examination technique. Take up the opportunity of receiving feedback from class teachers on what needs to be done to improve, and then work on these areas as part of independent revision. This is the key to building on the successes from the mock examinations, and setting and achieving higher goals in the summer.

Revision

Revision is a key focus across Year 11 in the school. Advice and guidance has been frequently reiterated to students over the last two half terms, with recent assemblies detailing the strategies we are promoting to students to revise effectively.

Principal - Mr K.McEvoy

Institute Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7EG

Tel: 0121 444 4161 • Fax: 0121 441 1552

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



Here's a reminder of six essential strategies to use when revising, collated in a handy leaflet by Miss Conroy that was distributed to students and parents at Parent Consultation in November.

1. **Spaced Practice** – effective revision needs to be spread over time. Starting now and completing over a number of weeks is far more effective than cramming. Review recent information mixed in with older content to keep things fresh.
2. **Interleaving** – switch between ideas and between different subjects in revision sessions. Go back over ideas in different orders to strengthen understanding, and try to make links between topics.
3. **Elaboration** – ask questions about how and why things work to gain a broader understanding of content. Try to make connections between different ideas, and see if you can link content to your own experiences.
4. **Concrete Examples** – collect as many examples of situations as you can, making the links between the content ideas and the examples. Explain examples to family and friends to build and demonstrate higher levels of understanding.
5. **Dual Coding** – look at visual representations of content, and explain them in your own words. Also take information you are trying to learn and create simple visuals to go with them to assist with memorising.
6. **Retrieval Practice** – put away all notes and revision materials, and test yourself on everything you know about a particular topic. Then check your notes for accuracy and anything you may have missed. Complete as many practice tests as you can.

Revision – Advice for Parents & Carers

The revision process in the build-up to the summer examinations can be a pressured time for Year 11 students, so here are some tips on how parents and carers can support students through this time.

1. **Support students in setting themselves up for revision.** Talk to them about what they would find helpful. Ensure they have a quiet place at home to sit and work, away from distractions. Help them set up a plan for their revision if they have not got one already.
2. **Support your child with their revision.** Hold them accountable to their revision plan, provide favourite snacks and water during revision periods, check with them regularly how their revision is going, and show an interest in what they are learning.

Further advice and guidance can be found at www.getrevising.co.uk and www.justincraig.ac.uk/a-levels-gcse-revision-tips/.

Health & Wellbeing

The school year has continued with a focus on health and wellbeing. Students and staff have all been encouraged to make pledges on how they can protect or improve their health and wellbeing. In addition, students have recently voted for our school charity for 2019, which is the British Heart Foundation. In assemblies and personal tutor sessions we are promoting ways to maintain good physical and mental health. A series of fundraising activities were held on Thursday 14th February, and after half term all students will have the opportunity to learn the lifesaving skill of CPR. I would like to see Year 11 students being creative in organising some fundraising activities in the run up to Easter, as it is a great way to show support for our school charity, and also to take some time to focus on something other than their academic preparations.

The National Citizen Service 'The Challenge'

Year 11 students had an assembly with representatives from NCS The Challenge at the end of January, offering an exciting opportunity for students to boost their CV and develop important life skills. NCS is a 14 day programme in the summer involving a residential trip, developing skills by working on a project away from home, and carrying out a social action project that has an impact in the local community. For more information and to sign up, please visit www.ncsyes.co.uk.

Study Sessions – Reminder

Study sessions are an important part of the educational provision provided for Year 11 students at Bishop Challoner Catholic College. As such, attendance to all sessions is compulsory. If a member of staff needs to cancel a particular session, students will be informed. They may be required to work in a different subject area instead, and this will be at the discretion of staff and myself. If a student is to miss a particular study session for any reason, then a written request for absence needs to be handed to me in order for the absence to be authorised. I thank you for your support with this.

Examinations information

For your reference, the first public examinations in the auditorium commence on the week beginning 13th May 2019. The last day in the examination window is Wednesday 26th June 2019. Please ensure that your son/daughter is well equipped for the examinations with black pens, pencils, a ruler, and a calculator if necessary. This must be in a clear plastic pencil case. Water is permitted in examinations, but only in clear bottles with any labels removed.

Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom is scheduled for Friday 28th June 2019. Students will be given more information regarding ticket prices in due course, along with school incentives that can reduce the price of their ticket. This is a great way to come together and celebrate all the hard work and successes of students at the end of their examinations.

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

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 11 – 95%
- Whole school – 95%

The whole school attendance target is 97%, so as a cohort Year 11 are below expectation in terms of attendance. Attendance is one of the most impacting factors when it comes to student outcomes, so 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 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.

This academic year has been filled with hard work and effort from Year 11 students, and there is an excellent feeling in the school for the potential for success with this cohort. I would like to congratulate and commend students on their efforts, and wish you and your families a pleasant and restful spring half term break. School will resume on **Monday 25th February**.

Kind regards,

Mr J Wooler
Head of Year 11

Miss R Conroy
Assistant Head of Year 11

Key Dates

Monday 25th February-

Wednesday 27th February-

Tuesday 5th March-

Wednesday 6th March-

Thursday 7th March-

Wednesday 13th March-Thursday 14th March

Thursday 14th March-

Monday 18th March-

Thursday 4th April-

Friday 5th April-

Thursday 11th April-

Friday 12th April-

Monday 29th April-

School Open

Year 8-13 Careers Event

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

Early Finish 1.10pm

Year 8 Parents Consultation Afternoon (2-4.30pm)

KS3 Football Development Quiz Night

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

Teaching School: @teaching_school

Computing: @BishopChalComp

Biology: @BCCbio

PE: @BCPEDepartment

Geography: @BCGeogDept

Maths Hub: @CentralMathsHub

Science:

School Games:

Chaplaincy:

English:

Maths:

Science:

@BCSciDept

@BCSGO

@BC_Chaplaincy

@BC_EnglishDept

@BCMathsDept

@BCSciDept

