FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER

Weekly Newsletter

READ MORE

Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide

IMPORTANT DATES, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear parents/carers

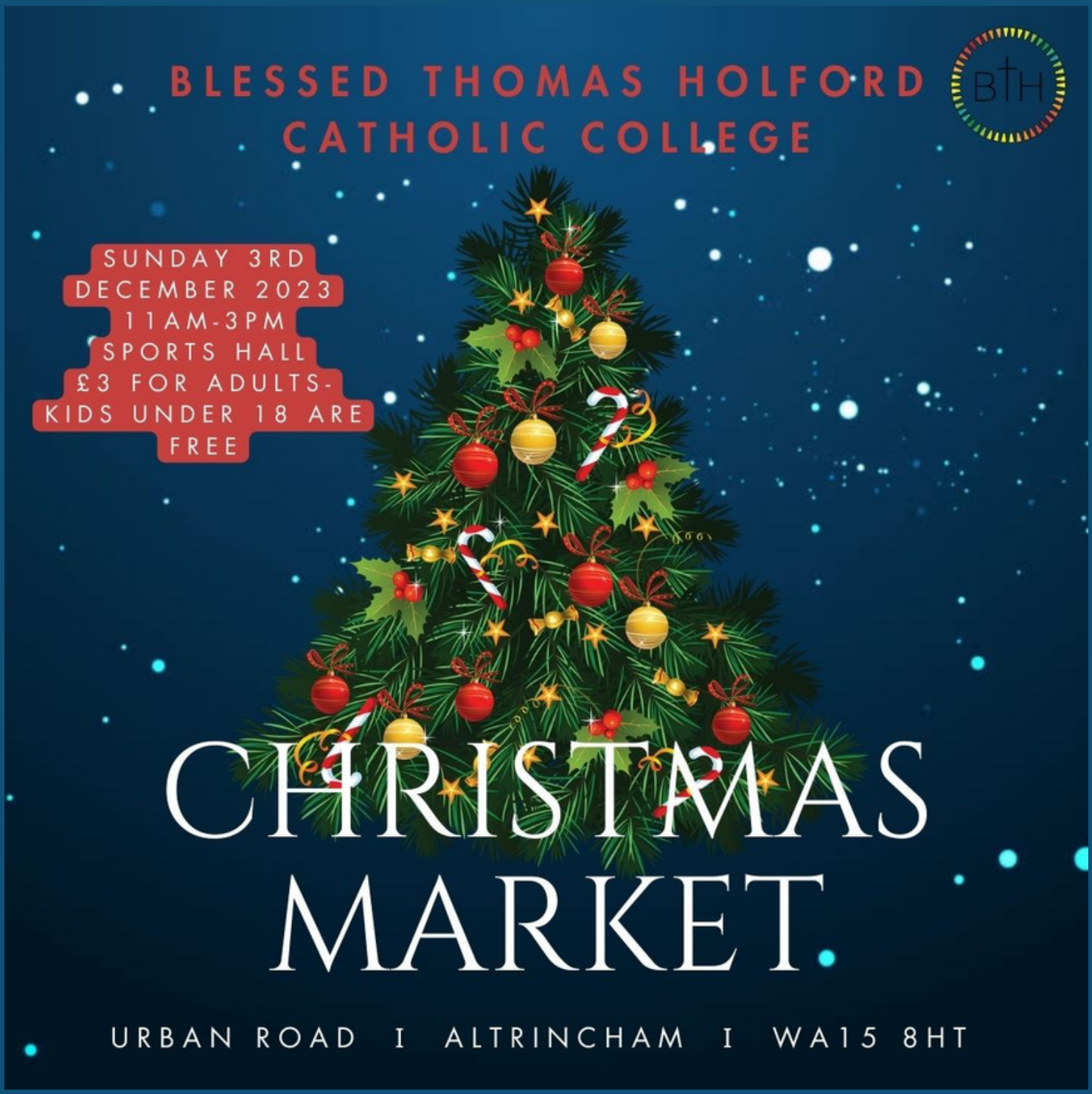
During Advent, as we wait for Christmas and the joy of Jesus' birth, it's important to remember that some things can't wait. For families around the world, time is running out to get the vital supplies they need to survive the winter.

Your role this advent;

Each week there will be a different theme. You need to try and gather at least one item to donate that week. It will be collected and stored in your form's Advent box.

- Week 1 (4th-8th Dec): Non-perishable goods (e.g. tinned foods, instant coffee, squash, tea, cereal etc)
- Week 2 (11th-15th Dec): Toiletries
- Week 3 (18th-22nd Dec): Christmas treats (e.g. selection boxes, tins of chocolates, biscuits)

Sunday 3rd December



SEE YOU Sunday

What's going on - Week 4th-8th

MONDAY

Advent Begins in school

Week 1: Hope

(4th-8th Dec): Non-perishable goods (e.g. tinned foods, instant coffee, squash, tea, cereal etc)

Young Carers Trip — **MONDAY**

WEDNESDAY Word — **Room 54 at 8.30am**

Flu Immunisations — **WEDNESDAY**

THURSDAY — **Ski Trip Talk - Main School Hall**

College Mass - 8.15am G3 — **FRIDAY**

Events

Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College
May God's love be our guide

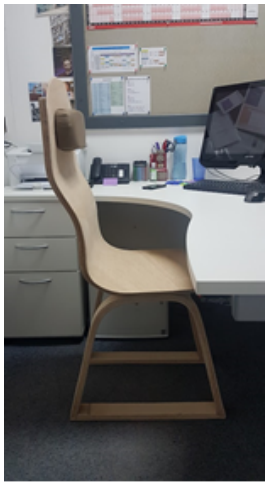
Please join us for refreshments
and mince pies after the service

Blessed Thomas Holford invite you to join us for a very special 'Family Advent Service' taking place at St Vincent's Church in Altrincham on the 11th of December at 6pm.

Enjoy Carols by Candlelight and stay for refreshments and mince pies after the service

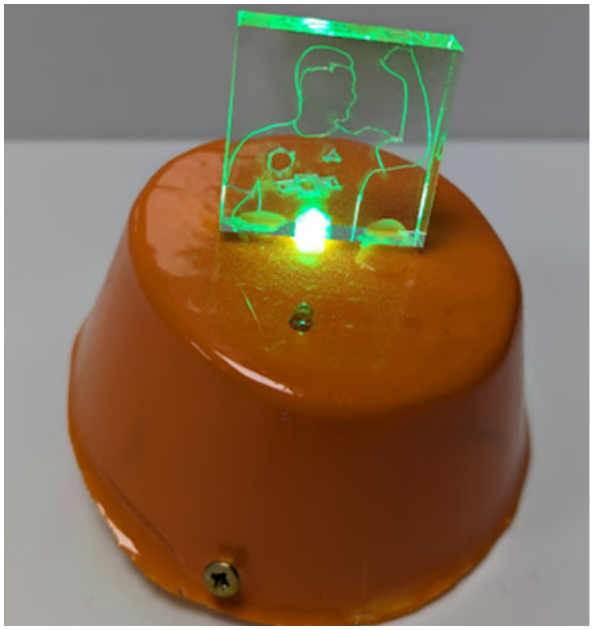
This is **NOT** a ticketed event so please bring family and friends to join us for this very special evening.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



In Design Technology we believe it is important that all pupils are able to work with a wide range of materials and tools. We also believe that all pupils should be able to take their work home free of charge. In recent years with the price of timber and other materials tripling, this is becoming more difficult.

If you are able to give a suggested donation of £3 to the department, we can keep working with a range of materials and producing good quality products the pupils can be proud of.
There is no obligation to give any money, but if you would like to support Design Technology and help keep our projects free to take home please use this link for Serco pay. www.scopay.com



If you work for a company or you have any materials you are able to offer us they would be warmly received.

Materials and resources pupils use at BTH which we supply:
MDF, pine wood, plywood, Flexi ply, wood stains, Danish oil, Posca pens, acrylic, HIPS, PP, EVA, PET, PLA, pewter, copper, electronic kits for mood lights, electronic kits for speakers, PVA, contact adhesive, microbits.

As a department we are really proud of the work pupils produce here, here are some examples of what our pupils make, so you can see what we do and what you would be supporting. We are currently looking to expand and offer textiles and more robotics.

Important Notices

THE YEAR OF PRAYER 2023-2024

Pope Francis has declared this new liturgical year a year of prayer. 'I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great "symphony" of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him.'

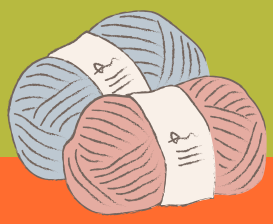
This is then a year for prayer, not a year about prayer, and a way we can journey towards the Jubilee Year.

The dedicated Jubilee 2025 website has a page for the Year of Prayer. https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/it/giubileo-2025/verso-il-giubileo/2024-anno-della-preghiera.html This page highlights the importance of individual and community prayer for our Catholic communities.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS - Being around teachers and friends in a school or college environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential.

Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care

If anyone has any donations of wool for Knit and Stitch club we would really appreciate.



We have some job vacancies within our college so take a look at our vacancies page on the website https://www.bthcc.org.uk/vacancies

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even *threaten* to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people *do* make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Environmental Youth Rangers

Take part in FREE nature conservation and climate action activities, make a positive impact, learn new skills and have fun!

Have a go at activities like tree planting, species conservation, green woodwork and much more!
Learn new skills including woodwork, tool use, species ID & nature mindfulness
Meet with other young people and improve **wellbeing and confidence**
Great work experience, CV boost or DofE volunteering hours.

Four themed sessions at Sale Water Park

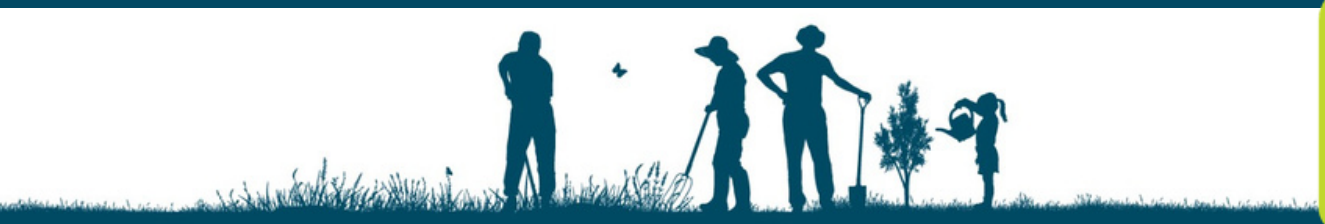
Halloween Youth Rangers on 23rd October 1-3.30pm and 24th October 10-12.30

Tree Youth Rangers on 18th November 10-12

Festive Youth Rangers on 2nd December 10-12

Open to ages 11-16

Booking Essential
Grab a ticket through Eventbrite using the QR code.
Alternatively the link is available on our social media pages @tcvmanchester



The Conservation Volunteers