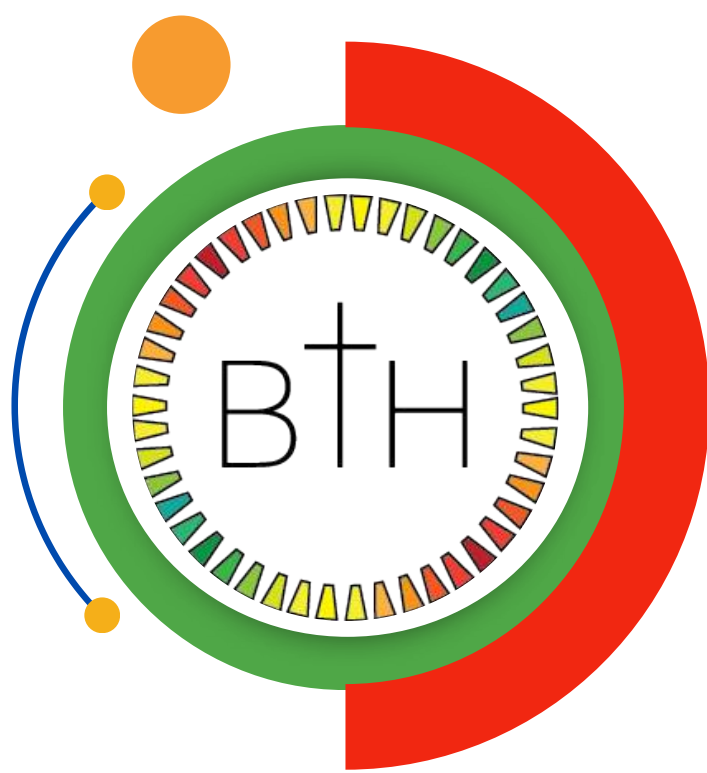




Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 

# Weekly Newsletter





## THE HAIL MARY

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of our death.*

*Amen.*

# Dates for the diary



2024

DEC

18

CINEMA EXPERIENCE  
Ticketed event

DEC

19

PRAISE AUCTION

DEC

19

WHOLE COLLEGE  
MASS  
All year groups

DEC

20

CHRISTMAS JUMPER  
DAY  
£1 to wear  
Christmas Jumper

DEC

19

CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH FOR ALL  
STUDENTS

JAN

06

BTHCC TALENT  
SHOW

JAN

06

RETURN TO  
COLLEGE





# Plans for final week



13th December 2024



## Thursday 19th December

***Students will wear school uniform***



9am – 10:25am Year 7, 9, 11 and 13 to celebrate Mass in the Sports Hall

10:30am Year 8, 10 and 12 to celebrate Mass in Sports Hall

12:30pm – 1:30pm Christmas Lunch for all students.

**Please note; Christmas Dinner is provided for free for the students if you completed the google form but they will either need to bring a drink to college or they will be available to purchase from the canteen, along with puddings.**

2:30pm Praise Auction



## Friday 20th December



***Students will wear non uniform/Christmas Jumper Day for a donation of £1 to Shrewsbury Caritas***

9am – 10:30am Year 7, 8 and 9 will be in the Talent Show

11am – 12:30pm Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be in Talent Show

12:30pm Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be dismissed from the Talent Show

12:40pm Year 7, 8 and 9 will be dismissed home for Christmas.



BTHCC ARE SUPPORTING THE

# Caritas at Christmas Appeal

Merry Christmas and wishing you a  
season of peace



[Donate here](#)

This year at BTH we are raising money to support the Bishops wishes for supporting the Caritas at Christmas appeal. It will include lots of fun and engaging ideas and celebrations for all our students top get involved in.

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Advent service at St. Vincent's RC Church, Altrincham on Monday night. The atmosphere was beautiful and prayerful and our students were wonderful - such talent! The musicians were magnificent and the St Hugh's Catholic Primary School Timperley students were a delight to listen to. [#bthway](#)





# Advent Service



13th December 2024





# Advent Service



13th December 2024





# Chaplaincy

This week we took some students to St. Joseph's church to celebrate Mass on Thursday. It was a lovely opportunity for students to experience a different church and be active in their faith. We had lots of parishioners come and say hello and say how lovely it was to see BTH students as their church during the day. The students loved the trip and said it was "inspiring" and something "different" to their usual family mass. We plan on doing more outings to explore different churches and communities, over the course of 2025.



Faith in Action

## Quote of the week:

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace." - Colossians 3:15  
Allow peace to shine through your hearts and be inspired by Jesus.

## Events this week:

Wednesday word: 8:30 am in the Chapel

Family Mass: Friday 8:15 am in the Chapel

Faith in Action: Tuesday and Wednesdays 1pm in W06

Philosophy club: Tuesday-Thursday

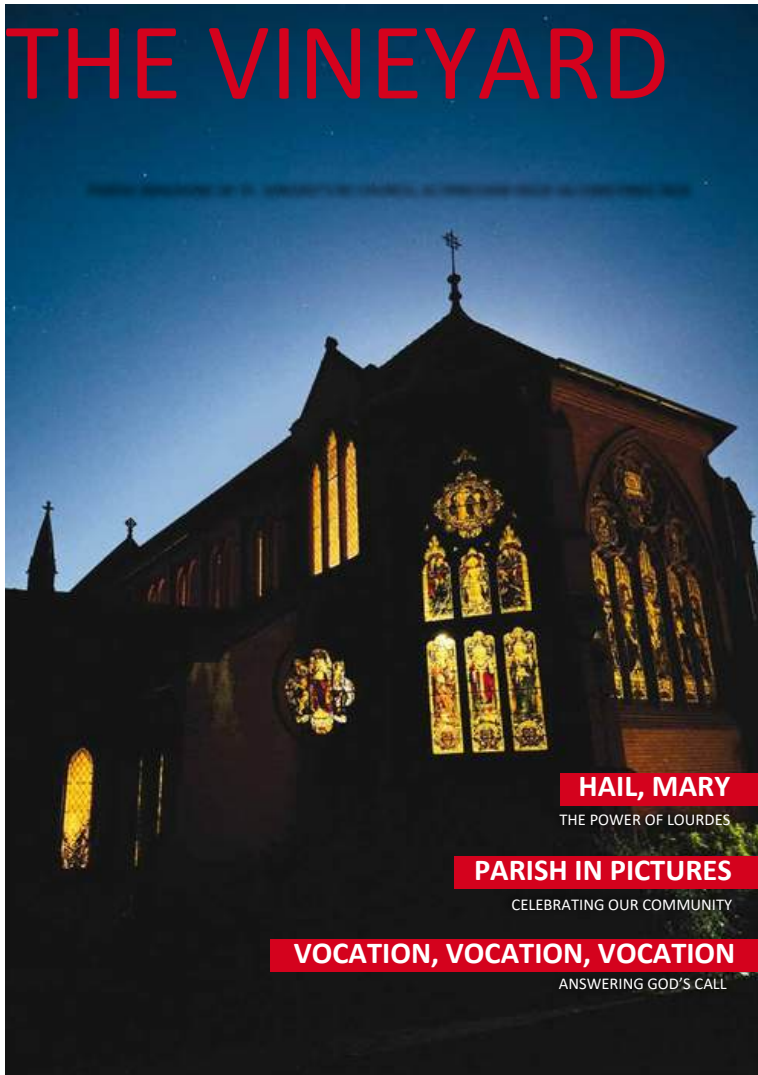
SVP: Every Thursday 12:30-1:30pm in The Chapel with Miss Giles

## Weekly Challenge:

Say a prayer for those in need the Christmas.

This week's key word:

**Peace**



PARISH IN PICTURES



## THE PARISH IN PICTURES



14 THE VINEYARD CHRISTMAS 2024 15

BTHCC feature lots in this edition of the Vineyard, St Vincent's parish magazine. We will be sharing this via parentmail today so you can have a read through.

## INSPIRING FAITH



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College's new lay chaplain, Charlotte Giles, described her first term as "incredible." She added: "It really is a privilege to work somewhere where faith permeates every part of life."

A former England competitive swimmer, Charlotte explained that her own school chaplain had a "massive impact" on her career choice: "It was at the heart of the school. It provided a positive place to help understand your faith, but also a safe space to support students. I was encouraged and inspired to follow my heart in sport and in prayer. I embraced both passions and it led me to a calling in chaplaincy."

Weekly and full school Masses, celebrating the Wednesday Word, retreats, student-led Rosary groups, Mini-DASH events with Diocesan schools, linking with Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team, daily faith groups, practical opportunities for outreach and faith in action...these are just some of the current chaplaincy activities. And Charlotte said there are "big plans for the future."

She said: "We are looking forward to celebrating the Jubilee Year as 'Pilgrims of Hope.' We are planning a local pilgrimage to spread hope in the community, there's the opportunity to enjoy Diocesan pilgrimages to Lourdes, and we are organising LiveSimply activities to demonstrate how we are living sustainably and in solidarity with communities around the world experiencing poverty."

Charlotte described the challenges for today's students: "They face huge societal pressures and must navigate the online world. I try to explain that faith and life can go hand in hand. By providing a safe space for honest discussions about our faith, offering opportunities for practical action and time for reflection, I'm trying to inspire and engage young people. My door is always open."

Charlotte added: "I would love every young person to understand their value, their strength and talents. This can be through the strength God gives and His love, but also by unlocking their own inner confidence and spirit."

So what have been the highlights of her first term? Charlotte said: "Discovering the wonderful gifts and talents of the BTHCC students, the way I've welcome I've received, and deepening my own faith through witnessing the students in action." She added: "I have also learned to give the minibus and have received wonderful thank you notes from students. It's a privilege to make a difference to people's lives."

## GRIEF ENCOUNTER

As part of Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College's 60th anniversary, more than 30 members of staff – including Father Godlove – have been running to raise funds for bereavement resources.

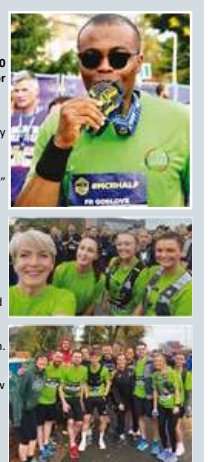
Clare Hogg, Headteacher, said: "Grief, loss and bereavement will affect everyone at some point in their lives. Sadly, some of our families, students and staff have already experienced the loss of a loved one. Our diamond year celebrations aim to raise funds to create a dedicated bereavement area to provide exceptional care and comfort to the grieving. As Our Lord said: 'Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.' (Matthew 5:4)"

The College's 60th anniversary commemorations include multiple events for students and staff, past and present, with the Manchester half marathon kick starting the 'BTHCC Ultimate Challenge' of fund-raising.

Father Godlove joined more than 24,000 competitors who tackled Manchester's half marathon in October, and he is now training for the full marathon in April. He said: "It was a unique experience. I have played sports for many hours, but running non-stop for two hours was new to me. It allowed me to pray the Rosary (I wore a finger rosary) and reflect. Each mile I ran was offered for my family, friends and parish. The final three miles was offered in honour of my father, Prof. Athanasius Amungwa, and beneath my running top I wore a memorial T-shirt. He died in July 2023 and never got to witness my graduation."

"A spiritual analogy can be drawn between the charity run and our faith journey. At times I felt like slowing down, but the cheers from the crowd, mutual encouragement with fellow runners, and high-fiving excited children along the route, spurred me on. This mirrors the benefits of sustaining each other on our faith journey."

Father Godlove added: "I enjoyed the run but could not walk the following day. This enabled me to pray and reflect on those with mobility issues."



## GOD'S INFLUENCER

Teenagers, who were among thousands of pilgrims visiting the relic of the heart of Blessed Carlo Acutis at St Anthony's in Wythenshawe, have described the powerful impact of 'God's influencer' on their own faith.

Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College student, Claran, described the moment he knelt in prayer and veneration: "A profound sense of peace enveloped me, as if the gentle hand of Carlo Acutis was guiding me. Amid the whispers of prayers and the soft glow of candlelight, I felt a deep connection to something greater, and a presence that whispered, 'You are not alone.' It was a breathtaking religious experience. My soul was uplifted and my spirit renewed."

Many students described Blessed Carlo as "one of us." St Ambrose College student, Edwin Sabu, said: "He ate Nutella, played computer games and enjoyed sport. He's just like us and relatable. He shows us that life should not be wasted and how it's OK to be close to God."

Known as 'God's influencer' because he used social media to evangelise, Carlo Acutis was born in London to Italian parents. In 2006 he died in Italy from leukaemia, aged 15, after launching a website that catalogued every reported miracle connected to the Eucharist.

In 2020, Carlo was beatified after the healing of a Brazilian was attributed to his intercession. In May, Pope Francis approved as miraculous the healing of Valeria Valverde, a 21-year-old Costa Rican involved in a cycling accident. Hearing her daughter was likely to die during emergency surgery, Valeria's mother prayed for her at Blessed Carlo's tomb in Assisi. That day, Valeria began to breathe without artificial assistance.

"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan."  
Carlo Acutis

Due to become the first 'millennial saint,' Acutis will be canonised during the Jubilee for Adolescents in April 2025.

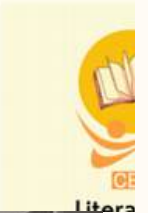
Charlotte, from Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College, said the pilgrimage "truly deepened my inner faith." She added: "Carlo Acutis' life inspires reflection. The peaceful atmosphere of the veneration, the miracles associated with Blessed Carlo, and the opportunity for prayer and contemplation all contributed to a profound spiritual experience. It's in these moments of quiet reverence that you find your faith strengthened and the understanding of your beliefs deepened."

During the four days of public prayer, veneration and devotion at St Anthony's in September, Bishop Mark Davies said: "What makes Carlo Acutis stand out as a witness, was what lay at the heart of his life, his interior life. For this young man discovered the heart of Jesus in the silence of the Eucharist; in the daily offering of the sacrifice of the Mass; in commitment to personal prayer; in the frequent confession of his sins as the path to holiness; and in love for Mary, the mother of Christ and our mother."



"And this love overflowed from his heart in a desire to share this same love, indeed, the great miracle of love, which is the Eucharist, with all his contemporaries, indeed with all the world via the internet. A love which overflowed in the ordinary duties and details of life in care of friends; in standing up to bullies; and in his practical concern for the poor."

# READING ADVENT CALENDAR





Our Year 11 A team are Trafford League champions, collecting the decisive three points on Tuesday. A particular 'well done' to the players from the B team who have stepped up this year so far. Goalscorers: Browne , Sheil , Breheny POTM: Sheil and Broderick.





# Cross Country Runners



13th December 2024



We had 38 students competing at the 'Trafford Schools Cross-Country Championships' on Tuesday. They were all fantastic!!

Eleanor Pearson (y7) has qualified to race at the Greater Manchester's in January - she came 7th (top 10 made it through).





# Cross Country Runners



13th December 2024



We're thrilled to announce that we have been accepted onto this season's Modulo programme at the Royal Northern College of Music. This is such an amazing opportunity for our students. I want to thank the music department for all their hard and commitment to music.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWSLETTER



Byte into the Future – One Week at a Time!

ISSUE 12

Hello!



Welcome to the Computer Science department's newsletter! In every issue we will keep you up to date with everything going on in Computer Science at BTHCC as well as things you can watch/listen/read and see that are all brimming with technology!

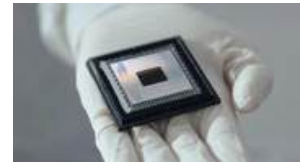
## Book of the Week



## IN THE NEWS

Google's new quantum chip, "Willow," solves problems in minutes that would take supercomputers trillions of years, marking progress in quantum computing. It improves error correction, a major hurdle, but remains experimental, with practical applications years away. Experts caution against overhyping its capabilities, though it shows promise for tasks like drug development and energy solutions.

More on the [BBC News Website](#)



## What are we currently LEARNING?



Year 7	Year 7 have been translating binary to denary.
Year 8	Year 8 have been completing their summative assessments.
Year 9	Year 9 have been looking at the risks of the metaverse in the modern world.
Year 10	Year 10 have been looking at components of the computers and how they work.
Year 11	Year 11 have been completing their december PPE's - well done for working hard!
Year 12	Year 12 have been looking at the consequences of computing, specifically AI.
Year 13	Year 13 are carrying on with their NEA projects.

## Career of the Week

**Data engineers** build and maintain systems that organise and prepare large amounts of data for analysis.

## WHAT TO WATCH

**HIDDEN FIGURES (2016)** - THIS INSPIRING TRUE STORY TELLS THE TALE OF THREE AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN WHO WORKED AS MATHEMATICIANS FOR NASA DURING THE SPACE RACE. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF STEM FIELDS AND THE POWER OF PERSEVERANCE.



## weekly

"Hardware Trojan": A hidden malicious modification in computer hardware that compromises security and raises privacy concerns.

## Question Time

**Which woman worked on the team that developed the software for the Apollo 11 mission, helping to land humans on the moon in 1969?**  
Last weeks answer: **The Bombe**





# Class of 2024

## A Level Certificate Evening

Join us at 6pm to  
celebrate your  
success on  
**MONDAY 16th  
DECEMBER**



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic **Sixth Form**  
May God's love be our guide 

**FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER**

# CHRISTMAS FUN-RUN

Charity no. 1620864 and a company limited by guarantee no. 09287396



## Run or walk!

With family and friends at:  
**Middlewood Way (viaduct  
next to St Gregory's Church),  
Bollington, Macclesfield, SK10 5JR**

Join us for a fun-filled day of fresh air,  
friendly faces and festive cheer!

[cafod.org.uk/bollington](http://cafod.org.uk/bollington)

**Adult £10 | Child £5 | Family £20**

Sign up now and  
get sponsored!

Scan here ↓



**SCAN ME**

**CAFOD** Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

**Volunteers also needed to help on the day. If you can  
help or want to know more email: [events@cafod.org.uk](mailto:events@cafod.org.uk)**