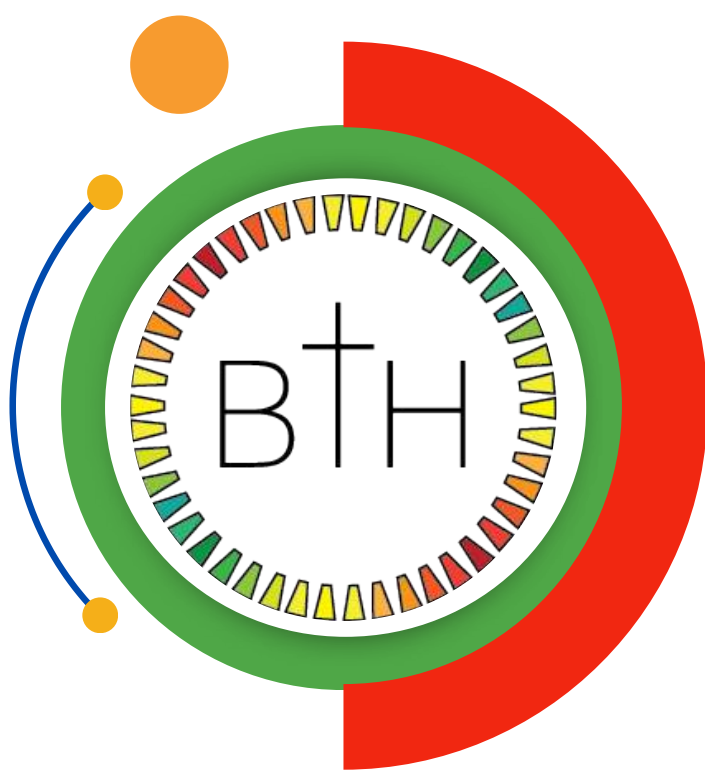




Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 

Weekly Newsletter



Dear parents/carers

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas surrounded by friends and family, and I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year.

Unfortunately, the college has had a couple of early finishes due to the weather and the impact on travel. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. Our dedicated site team have been working incredibly hard and continue to work to ensure the site is safe for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and continued support as it is never an easy decision to stay open or to shut. The students have been exceptional this week with all the changes, and I am very proud of each and every one of them.

As we begin this half term, we look forward to lighter mornings, longer days, and the opportunities they bring. This is an essential period for all our children, regardless of year group, to ensure their learning remains effective, productive, and focused on enhancing progress. In our lessons, we will continue delivering a broad, balanced, and diverse curriculum that develops our students into global Catholic citizens.

This January marks the beginning of the Year of Hope Jubilee in Catholic schools across the country, including within our own Blessed Thomas Holford family. This is a special time in the Catholic Church to reflect on and embrace the gift of hope in our lives. Throughout the year, we will celebrate this Jubilee with a range of activities, charity events, prayers, and reflections, beginning with dedicated Jubilee workshops in the coming weeks.



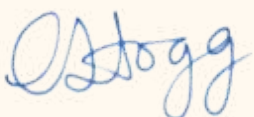
We are also delighted to share that last term we heard that our Progress 8 score was +0.23. Progress 8 is the academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications. The banding for BTHCC is 'above average' because the score is greater than 0 but lower than 0.5, and the entire confidence interval is above 0. This achievement reflects the collective effort of our staff, who consistently promote the importance of good attendance, the support of our parents/carers, and, most importantly, our children, who feel safe, happy, and motivated to attend and learn at BTHCC. Congratulations to all our students!

The new year also offers an opportunity for a fresh start. Form Tutors and Heads of Year will be reinforcing our high expectations around behaviour, uniform, attendance, and punctuality to ensure our BTH Way and standards remain consistently high. It will be fantastic to see our staff continuing to reward students who meet these expectations. Our rewards system includes prize auctions, one centrals, 'skip the queue' passes, and other incentives that recognise students who exemplify our BTH Way to be kind, work hard and develop your whole self. Well done to all our children for their continued efforts. Again, this term we have many exciting opportunities at lunch time to encourage new hobbies and interests. Please do encourage your child to get involved and try something new this term.

It is with great sadness that I end this week's newsletter with the very sad news of the passing of Mr John Shuttleworth who has been a governor at BTHCC for many years. Last year before he became ill, he stepped up as Chair of Governors and supported the college in a time of substantial change and development. John was a great ambassador for BTH as he loved the college family dearly. His own sons attended, and his much-loved grandson is a student in Yr 13. John only ever wanted the best for the students at BTH and every decision he made was firmly rooted in his strong Catholic faith and commitment to our family. He will be deeply missed, and we send all our love and prayers to Liz and his family.

***Eternal rest grant unto John, O Lord,
and let Your perpetual light shine upon him.
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.
Amen.***

As always thank you for your continued support for BTHCC!



Mrs C S Hogg



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe
Secondary | January 2025



What is sextortion?
Sextortion is a form of online exploitation where a perpetrator coerces or blackmails a victim into providing explicit videos or images.

In this issue:

- Sextortion
- Self-harm
- App focus: TikTok

How can parents protect their children from sextortion?

- Foster open communication**
 - Encourage your child to talk about their online experiences
 - Talk to them about how sextortion happens
- Teach smart online practices**
 - Encourage them to limit personal sharing online
 - Remind them that not everyone they meet online is who they say they are
- Use technology for safety**
 - Set up app privacy settings
 - Use monitoring tools and parental controls
 - Teach them how to block and report
- Encourage online awareness**
 - Recognise the warning signs of grooming
 - Understand how children can be manipulated online
- Have a plan for if it happens**
 - Stay calm
 - Do not comply with any demands for money
 - Report to the -Police immediately

Sextortion can affect anyone, but children and teenagers are frequently targeted because they may be perceived as being more easily manipulated. How sextortion works:

1. **Initial contact:** the predator will contact the victim through social media, gaming platforms or messaging apps, sometimes posing as someone their age or someone they know or has mutual connections with.
2. **Building trust:** the perpetrator builds trust through conversation, compliments and manipulation.
3. **Obtaining explicit material:** the predator may convince the victim to send explicit photos or videos, often by sharing fake images of themselves first.
4. **Blackmail:** once the predator has compromising material, they may demand money, threatening to share the material with friends and family.

Artificial Intelligence: the use of AI has significantly increased the risks of sextortion for children by making it easier for perpetrators to create realistic fake identities, manipulate content and exploit vulnerabilities.

AI can generate deepfake images or videos that appear to show the victim, even if they've never shared explicit material of this kind.

Warning signs of sextortion: parents should be alert to changes in their child's behaviour that may indicate they are being targeted for sextortion. Key warning signs include; increased anxiety, depression or withdrawal from family and friends; reluctance to use devices or secrecy surrounding online activity; and sudden requests for money or attempts to conceal financial transactions. Recognising these behaviours early can help parents intervene and provide the necessary support to protect their child.

What to do if your child is a victim of sextortion
If your child becomes a victim of sextortion, it's crucial to handle the situation with care and understanding. Start by reassuring your child that they are not to blame and that you are there to support them unconditionally. Avoid complying with demands or threats and instead focus on documenting the situation by saving any messages, images or evidence related to the incident. Report the situation to the police, who are experienced in handling these cases and are there to help, not to judge. Your child may feel anxious or ashamed, so remind them that they are not alone and that seeking help is the right step. Encourage open communication and if necessary, consider professional support to help address their emotional well-being. It is important to let pastoral staff at school know as they will be able to support your child when they are at school. You can also report the image to Childline who will remove any images that have been made public. You can do this here: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Understanding self-harm

Self-harm is a complex and sensitive issue that affects many young people, often serving as a way to cope with overwhelming emotions or distressing situations. While it can be difficult for parents to confront, understanding self-harm is a crucial step toward providing support and fostering healing. It's important to recognise that self-harm is not a sign of weakness or attention-seeking, but rather a signal that a child is struggling and needs help.

Social media has become a powerful influence on the lives of young people, shaping how they connect, express themselves, and view the world. While it can foster positive relationships and provide a sense of community, it also poses risks, especially for those struggling with mental health. Exposure to harmful content, such as graphic images of self-harm or portrayals of perfection, can increase feelings of inadequacy, isolation or distress. It's important to engage with children about their online experiences and help them navigate digital spaces safely and with resilience.



TikTok- understanding the risks

TikTok can be dangerous for children due to its addictive nature and exposure to harmful content, such as self-harm, body image issues and dangerous trends. The app's algorithm often pushes age-inappropriate videos, which can negatively affect children, especially those struggling with emotional challenges. TikTok also promotes peer comparison, leading to feelings of inadequacy, and its comment section can expose users to cyberbullying. While TikTok offers entertainment, its design and content can pose significant risks to children's well-being, making parental monitoring and open discussions about online safety crucial.

TikTok- the safety features

TikTok offers several safety features designed to help protect users, particularly younger audiences, and promote a safer online experience. These include:

Restricted mode: this setting filters out content that may be inappropriate for younger audiences.

Privacy settings: TikTok allows users to set their accounts to private, ensuring that only approved followers can view their content.

Family Pairing: this feature allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's, providing tools to manage their child's experience. Parents can set screen time limits, restrict the ability to send and receive messages, control privacy settings and monitor the content their child interacts with.

Restricted messaging: TikTok has the option to limit who can send messages. For users under 16, the direct messaging feature is disabled by default.

Seamless Transition – Building Strong Foundations for Success Introducing Mrs Hadfield

At Blessed Thomas Holford, we are committed to ensuring a smooth and confident transition from primary to secondary education. This will be supported by the work of Mrs. Hadfield, an experienced educator with over 20 years in primary education.



As a former primary school headteacher, Mrs. Hadfield has led and supported staff, fostered a love of learning in children, and contributed to school improvement. Her experience as a local authority Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 SATs moderator highlights her ability to maintain high standards in assessment and learning.

Mrs. Hadfield's focus on the primary curriculum and her efforts to improve teaching and learning practices directly will benefit students as they move into Year 7. Her approach ensures that the foundation built during their primary years is effectively carried forward, helping students access a consistent and high-quality education at BTHCC.

By working closely with partner primary schools, Mrs. Hadfield will ensure the academic transition process is smooth. This collaboration enables our Heads of Department to align their schemes of learning with a clear understanding of the primary curriculum and teaching methods. As a result, students are well-prepared to continue their learning journey and achieve their potential at BTHCC.

Mrs. Hadfield's work will help make the academic transition to Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College a positive and supportive experience, setting students on a path to success in secondary education and beyond.

BLESSED THOMAS HOLFORD

CAREERS DAY 2025



DATE

Friday 14th March
2025



TIME

09:00 AM - 03:00 PM



Blessed Thomas
Holford Catholic College



For more information

please email :

Careers@bthcc.org.uk OR

I.hussain@bthcc.org



We need you!!!

We're hosting a Careers Fair on Friday March 14th 2025 for all BTH students in our Sports Hall.

We are seeking a range of organisations to promote careers within their sectors and possible pathways to employment or further education.

If you could help support us and would like more info please email Careers@bthcc.org.uk or I.hussain@bthcc.org



Enrichment Lunch Clubs



10th January 2025

Enrichment – Your Path to Excellence and Success!

At Blessed Thomas Holford School, enrichment activities are more than optional extras—they are a vital part of our mission to shape students into confident, capable, and successful individuals. Our bespoke enrichment programme is crafted specifically for our college community, ensuring every student has the opportunity to leave with more than just outstanding examination results. These experiences empower our students to stand out from the crowd, equipping them with invaluable life skills that open doors to future success.

Our extensive enrichment offerings are available during lunchtimes for all students, with additional sessions held before and after college in specific subject areas. These activities are designed to inspire students to explore new interests, broaden their knowledge, and develop essential skills while forming lasting friendships. Whether trying something new, deepening an understanding of the world, or gaining practical experience, every enrichment opportunity at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College enhances a student's personal and academic growth.

These unique experiences give our students a competitive edge when preparing personal statements, college applications, apprenticeship submissions, or job applications, ensuring they are fully equipped for the challenges and opportunities of life beyond college.

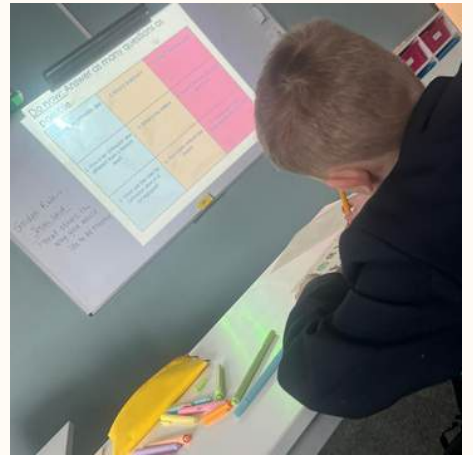
	Year 10/11/12	Year 7/8/9/13
12.30pm-1.00pm	LUNCH	Enrichment(Lunch 12.45pm- Year 7 Only)
1.00pm-1.30pm	Enrichment	Lunch



Enrichment Lunch Clubs



10th January 2025



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

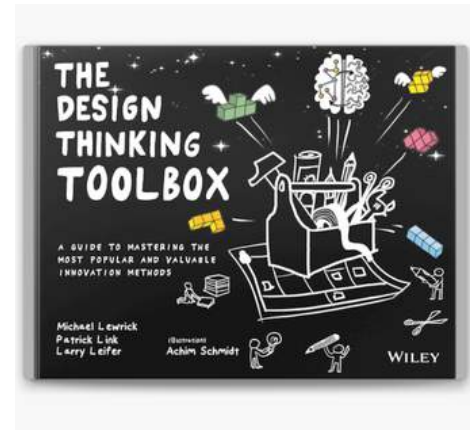
MORE INFO



Book of the Week

The Design Thinking Toolbox explains the most important tools and methods to put Design Thinking into action. Based on the largest international survey on the use of design thinking, the most popular methods are described in four pages each by an expert from the global Design Thinking community.

This book is recommended for students who are interested in engineering, science and maths. It's an interesting read that will give you some exciting new methods to help with your projects.



mediocre

- adj. average, undistinguished, middling, uninspired

Textiles: The finish is poor because the quality of materials is mediocre.

PE: Because the team hadn't practiced, their performance was mediocre.



medi-ocre

Latin: medius (middle)

Latin: ocris (mountain - height)

Who might use this word?

construction manager, database architect, artistic director

POETRY ESCAPE

Break the silence -
what matters to you?

'When the
whole world
is silent,
even one voice
becomes powerful.'

- Malala Yousafzai,
Teenage Nobel Peace
Prize Winner.

POETRY COMPETITION FOR 11-18 YEAR-OLDS

POETRY ESCAPE

Break the silence,
Tell your truth.

Give your students the opportunity to let the world know what matters to them! **POETRY ESCAPE** has been designed to inspire your students to express themselves through poetry, to provide them with a platform to voice their opinions, thoughts and feelings, to break down barriers, destroy stereotypes and liberate their creativity.

IT'S EASY TO TAKE PART

- Use the enclosed entry forms, photocopy them or request as many as you need by giving us a call, email or request them online at www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/poetry-escape2019
- Ask students to write their poem, ensuring their name, surname and age are included on the entry form. (Students can include a pen name to be published under should they wish to, though we still require their real name too!)
- Send your entries, along with your school entry form (found on the reverse of the letter), to:

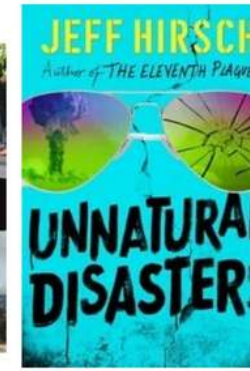
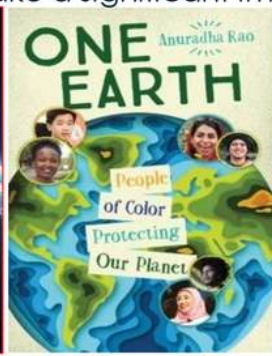
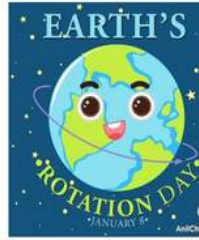
FREEPOST RSLY-ALLIA-RAHY
Young Writers SS
Remus House
Coltsfoot Drive
Peterborough
PE2 9BF
- Alternatively, you can upload work at www.youngwriters.co.uk/uploader/

DON'T FORGET ENTRIES NEED TO REACH US BY THE 15TH FEBRUARY 2019!

Entry forms can be collected from the library

January 8th EARTH ROTATION DAY

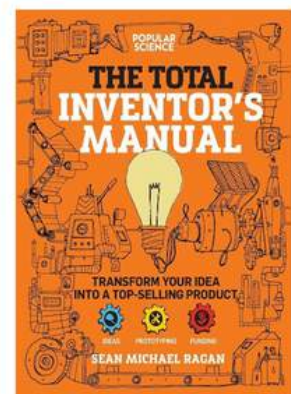
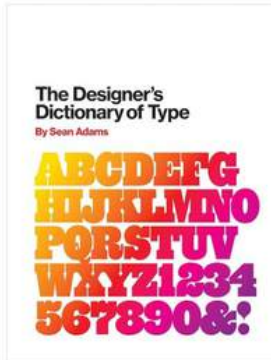
- Earth's Rotation Day celebrates the discovery that our planet rotates on its axis every 24 hours.
- In 1851 the French physicist, Leon Foucault proved this theory.
- The theme for Earth Day 2025 is "**Our Power, Our Planet**," with a focus on promoting renewable energy as the key to a sustainable future.
- **Focus on renewable energy:** This year's Earth Day theme specifically highlights the importance of transitioning to clean, renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.
- **Empowering individuals:** The "Our Power" part of the theme emphasizes that individuals can make a significant impact by choosing renewable energy options.

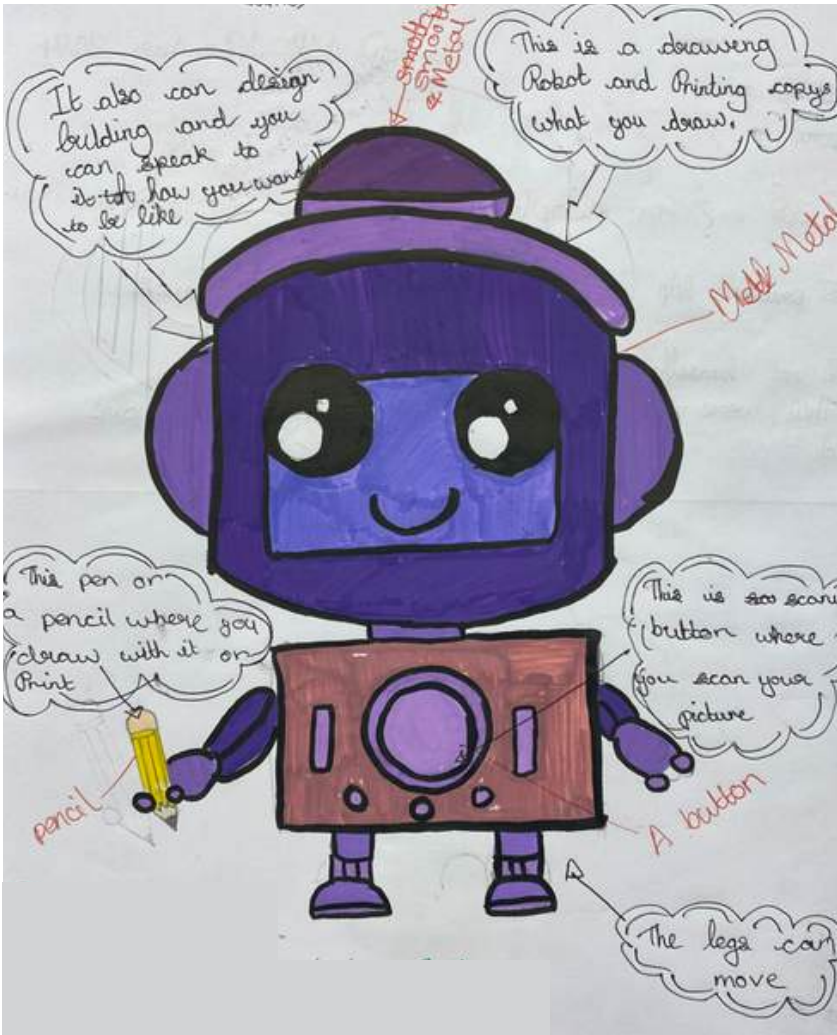


January 17th KIDS INVENTORS' DAY

Kid Inventors' Day is celebrated annually on January 17 to honour young students who use critical thinking to solve real-world problems. The day is also significant because it's the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, an American inventor, scientist, and politician who was born on January 17, 1706. One of Franklin's most famous inventions as a child was swimming fins/flippers, which he created in 1717 at the age of 11.

This day celebrates the creativity and ingenuity of young people all around the world. You would be surprised to know how so many of the things that we use every day have been made by kid inventors! Kids have invented all sorts of things that have become common fixtures in our life. This includes earmuffs, popsicles, trampolines, Braille, and even the television.





OUR BTH INVENTOR Niya 7CA

A drawing robot

This robot can draw and print what you draw. It can also scan your picture.

Some people like to design things, but they are unable to do so as they do not have hands.

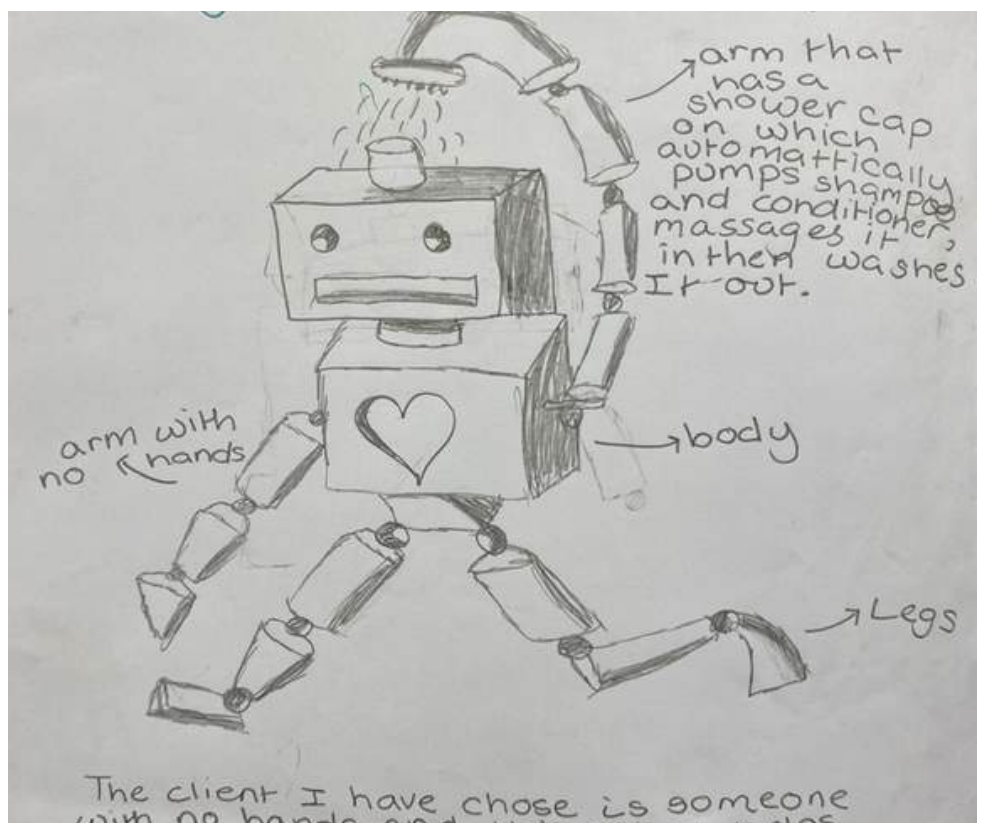
This robot draws what you tell it to.

It can draw buildings!

OUR BTH INVENTOR Isla 7AW

The hair washer

Shampoo, conditioner, massage, hair wash..... It does it all!



January 27th HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY.

- **For a Better Future is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025.**
- 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi camp. Every year the Holocaust Memorial Day takes place and encourages remembrance in a world scarred by prejudice. We remember the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust and the many whose lives were changed forever.



January 29th CHINESE NEW YEAR.

- The year of the Snake.
- In Chinese tradition, each year is represented by one of 12 zodiac animals: The rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, ram (or goat), monkey, rooster, dog and pig. In 2025 Chinese New Year begins on January 29th, this marks the change from Year of the Dragon to Year of the Snake.
- Lunar New Year is a celebration of the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new year on the lunisolar calendar. It is the most important holiday in China, and it is also widely celebrated in South Korea, Vietnam, and countries with a significant overseas Chinese population.



Virtual Work Experience with the NHS next week

The NHS are offering students virtual work experience opportunities next week as part of National Work Experience Week 13th – 17th January 2025

Our career challenges are designed to develop key employability skills such as problem solving, data literacy, storytelling, and presentation. Hosted on Microsoft Teams, these sessions take place outside of school hours, making them easily accessible.

Students will enjoy: • A 45-minute briefing with the NHS • The opportunity to complete a career challenge at their own pace • Certification upon completion

These events provide valuable insights into emerging careers and help students build skills that will enhance their future education and employment choices.

Tuesday 14th January at 4.30pm (virtual session hosted on MS Teams)
Student year groups 7-9 England & Wales, S1-S3 Scotland, 8-10 Northern Ireland

"Quick with the facts, help the NHS be swift to react!"

- A 45-minute briefing with the NHS team
- Complete the career challenge at their own pace
- Certification awarded on completion
- Register now! (students)

Wednesday 15th January at 5pm (virtual session hosted on MS Teams)
Student year groups 10-13 England & Wales, S4-S6 Scotland, 11-14 Northern Ireland

After a sudden bump and fall, should they visit A&E or is first aid enough for all?

- A 45-minute briefing with the NHS team
- Complete the career challenge at their own pace
- Certification awarded on completion
- Register now! (students)

More virtual events coming up in February for National Apprenticeship Week!

COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWSLETTER



Byte into the Future – One Week at a Time!

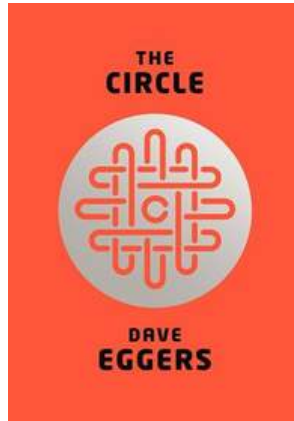
ISSUE 13

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

Apple faces calls to withdraw its AI news summary feature after it generated false claims, including inaccurate BBC headlines. Critics, including journalism bodies, argue it risks spreading misinformation and undermining trust in news. Apple plans updates to clarify the summaries are AI-generated but insists the feature is optional and in beta. Critics say this response is insufficient, urging its removal to prevent further errors.

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 started the computing crimes database module.
Year 9	Year 9 have been looking at the computer misuse act and why it is in place.
Year 10	Year 10 have been looking at data types in python and hardware/software.
Year 11	Year 11 have been looking at the digital divide and computing laws.
Year 12	Year 12 have begun their databases module.
Year 13	Year 13 are carrying on with their NEA projects.

Career of the Week

Cloud engineers design, manage, and maintain cloud-based systems and services.

WHAT TO WATCH

WARGAMES (1983) - THIS CLASSIC FILM FOLLOWS A YOUNG HACKER WHO ACCIDENTALLY TRIGGERS A NUCLEAR WAR SCENARIO BY HACKING INTO A MILITARY SUPERCOMPUTER. IT RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CYBERSECURITY.



weekly

"Virtualization": The creation of virtual versions of hardware, storage, or networks to run multiple systems on one physical machine.

Question Time

What is the name of the infamous computer bug that caused global concern as the year changed from 1999 to 2000?

Last weeks answer: Margaret Hamilton

BUSINESS STUDIES

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the Business Studies department newsletter! Here you will be able to find out about what the students are learning in Business Studies at BTHCC, as well as updates of what is going on in the business world.

BREAKING NEWS

BUSINESS IN THE NEWS

TikTok will appear before the US Supreme Court on Friday in a last-ditch effort to overturn a ban, in a case testing the limits of national security and free speech. The popular social media platform is challenging a law passed last year ordering the firm to be split from its Chinese owner or be blocked from the US by 19 January.



CAREER OF THE WEEK

Job Title: Senior Forensic Accountant

Salary: £100,

Job Responsibilities:

- Conduct background research on the economy, businesses and individuals
- Perform forensic research to trace funds and identify assets for recovery
- Attend court where required to give expert testimony



WHAT TO WATCH

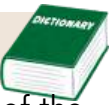
Bankrupt Billionaire tells the extraordinary story of Sean Quinn, believed to be the world's single biggest loser in the 2008 financial crash. Quinn went from being a school dropout to one of the world's richest men, worth a reported €6 billion, to nothing.



Title: Bankrupt Billionaire

Where: Amazon Prime

KEY TERMS INTRODUCED IN BUSINESS



Cash Flow: The money coming in and going out of the business.

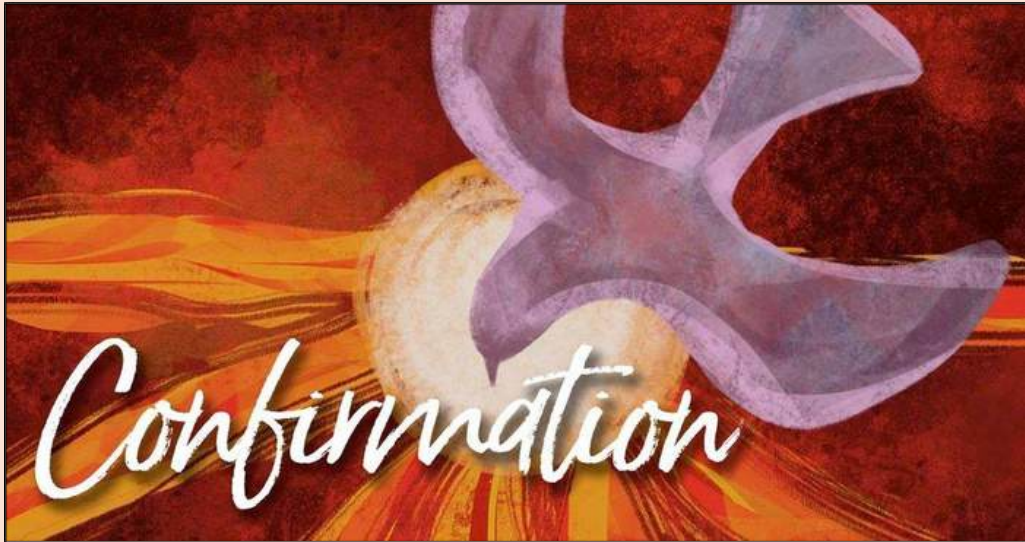
Average Rate of Return: Calculates the average return that a business receives on an investment over the investment's life span as a percentage of the initial cost of the investment.

Product Portfolio: The range of products or brands provided by a business

Digital Technology: The electronic technology which uses binary numbers to store, generate and process data

WHAT ARE WE STUDYING IN BUSINESS STUDIES?

Year 10	Year 10 have been looking at cash flow and different sources of finance for a business.
Year 11	Year 11 have been looking at calculating average rate of return and assessing business performance.
Year 12	Year 12 have been looking at the marketing mix, starting with product, price, place and promotion.
Year 13	Year 13 have been looking at the use of digital technology within a business.



Anyone in Year 8 or above who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation can enrol with local parishes

Anyone who attended
St Joseph's, Sale
Holy Family, Sale Moor
Primary Schools

Email to enrol
info@sjhf.co.uk

Confirmation Date
Friday 9th May 2025
Programme Starts in February
2025

Anyone who attended
All Saints, St Margaret Ward or
Our Lady's of Lourdes Primary
Schools

Email to enrol
our3parishes@gmail.com

Confirmation Date
Wednesday 14th May 2025
Programme Starts in
February 2025

