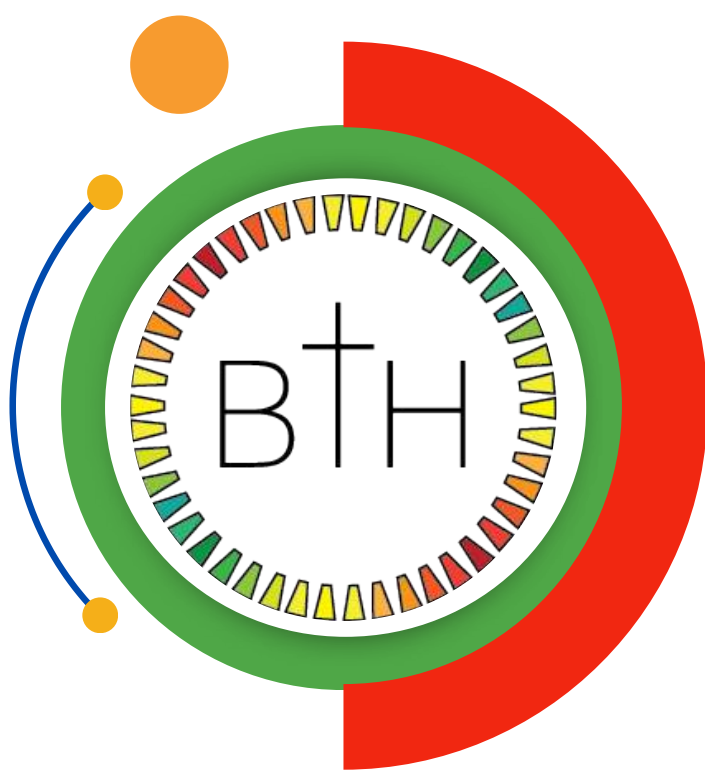




Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 

Weekly Newsletter



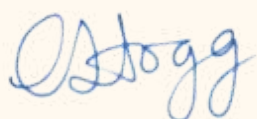
Dear parents/carers

Student voice is important for empowering and engaging students. Students need support to learn how to use their voice, whether to advocate for themselves, express their opinions or stand up for a friend.

This week I had the honour of listening to the views of our talented students as they gave feedback from the different ministries. I was so proud and impressed with their maturity and confidence in articulating their thoughts and ideas. The students voice has played a vital role in the development of our BTH family. There has been so much implemented based on their ideas. Including the change to the college day, the building and in the lessons. I look forward to our next meeting.

High standards and expectations have been re-iterated again this week to ensure all students flourish and grow at BTH. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends regularly, is punctual, smart and organised. We really appreciate the support from home.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'C S Hogg'.

Mrs C S Hogg



Mrs. Hadfield has recently visited two local primary schools as part of her role as Primary Strategic Lead, St Margaret's Ward and St Vincent's. During her visits, she had the opportunity to meet with staff, and gain valuable insights into the learning environments. Mrs. Hadfield is excited to continue these visits in the coming weeks and looks forward to collaborating closely with school leaders to plan together and share best practices for the benefit of all students.

Mrs Hogg and Mrs Hadfield are looking forward to inviting the leadership teams from the feeder primary schools into BTH after half term so they can meet former students, enjoy coffee, cake and a catch up and start to plan next steps for the new Year 7 cohort starting in September 2025.



Before Christmas, we sponsored a Christmas Tree for the St Luke's Christmas Tree Festival to raise vital funds for the hospice. Below is a lovely email from St Luke's to thank us for the sponsorship.



"Firstly we just wanted to say a huge thank you for sponsoring a tree in our Christmas Tree Festival. This was our second year and we made it bigger and dare we say it, even better than last year! We are very proud of what we achieved and the feedback has been hugely positive.

The weekend was amazing with momentum building right across the 3 days, thousands through the door, and all the sponsored trees being a "sell out".

The event raised £24,000 after expenses and we are absolutely thrilled. Thank you for being a part of it and let's be honest, without the trees there would be no festival!"



Year 9 Options Evening



31st January 2025

We hope you will be able to visit the college in person on Thursday 13th of February 2025 for our Year 9 Options Evening in the Walsingham building from 4pm.

Click on the booklet below to see more information.



CHAPLAINCY

Jubilee Launch Day celebrations at BTHCC

On the 24th of January, along with the rest of the world, BTH celebrated the Jubilee launch day for schools.

Students were engaged with videos made by staff, to understand the idea of being Pilgrims of Hope and how they can make an impact on the rest of the world.

Students had fun in their lessons with Jubilee themed knowledge and activities as well as the beautiful displays around school to symbolise our dedication to faith and this very special year!

May God's Love be our Guide



On Monday we had our Year 11 success evening. Thank you to our year 11 parents who attended, it was amazing to see so many of you. If you want to revisit what was discussed or missed the evening please [visit our website](#) where you will find the information



Today the Y12 EPQ students had the opportunity to watch model presentations from some of the Y13s who achieved an A* in their EPQ. Lots of good questions and fantastic advice on how to succeed in the EPQ! Thank you to Sinead, Linus & Jacob. And well done on a brilliant start to the EPQ Y12.



On Wednesday we celebrated Chinese New Year, the year of the snake. Thank you to the kitchen staff for making some fabulous dishes. The children loved eating all the different options.



Anna in year 10 has raised a whopping £237.47 from her bake sale and all the proceeds will go towards Lola Quigleys mums go fund me page.

Anna stood for 12 hours on Sunday and baked back-to-back cupcakes even though she has medical issues of her own and has just undergone an operation to make walking easier.

Anna already has the Heart of BTH award, and it is clear to see why.



DINOSUIT[®]

WEARABLE FOSSIL KIT



Year 8 have spent the last term learning about mechanisms. They were then tasked with designing and making a scaled point of sale stand for the company Dinosuit, to sell their Dinosuits from.



The most effective point of sale stands featured moving parts (from their mechanisms knowledge), were flat packable, could hold 5 or more Dinosuit packages and attract their target audience.

We have been blown away by the confidence and professionalism our students displayed when they gave their class presentations.

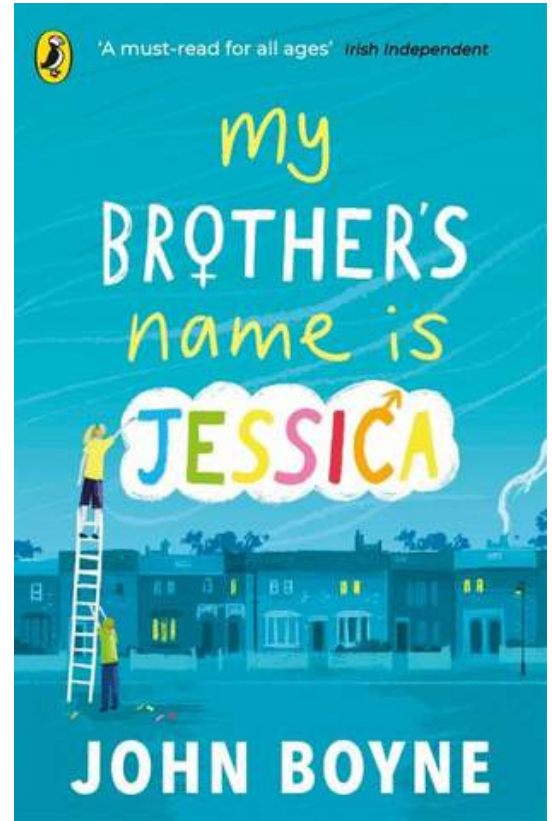
These are just a few stands from 8AW.





Book of the Week

Sam has known his sister Jessica all his life. Tonight is the first time they're going to meet. Sam Waver has always been a loner: bullied, struggling at school, with parents who have very little time for him. The one person he has always been able to rely on is his beloved older sibling - but when they announce that they are transitioning, Sam's life is thrown upside down. He's convinced nothing will ever be the same again - but as Sam is about to discover, nothing is more constant than love. A moving and heartfelt portrait of one family's journey to acceptance, from a master storyteller. A great story to learn more about the experiences of transgender people and their families.



This week's Book of the Week will be displayed in the Library until Friday, but available for the rest of the year.

subdue

- verb. conquer, repress, control, reduce

subdue
subdued
subduing

sub-due

Latin: sub (under)

Latin: subdere (to place beneath)

Who might use this word? welfare rights officer, politician, interior designer

Drama: How would we physically portray a character who is subdued?

History: By the end of the battle, the uprising had been subdued.

Art: The colour palette here is less vibrant; more subdued.

BTH will be celebrating National Storytelling Week from February 3rd until 7th.

This year's theme is 'Reimagine your world.'

The power of sharing stories helps us to:

Step into someone else's shoes.

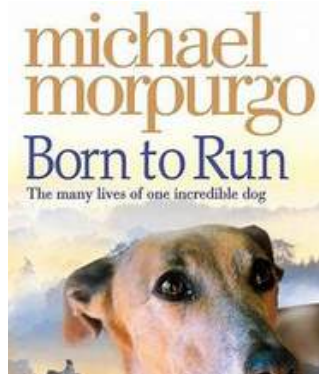
Show and feel different emotions.

Empathise with other people.

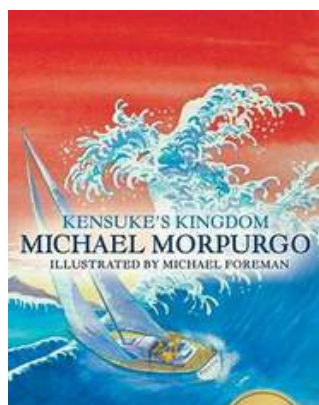
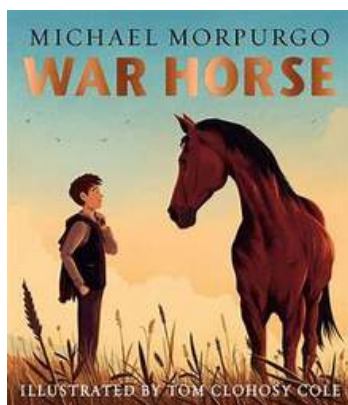
Escape our everyday life.

Relax and unwind.

Develop our own literacy skills.



Celebrating Michael Morpurgo Month 1st-28th Feb 2025. This means you have 28 days to celebrate and discover the works of one of Britain's best-loved children's authors.



COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWSLETTER



Byte into the Future – One Week at a Time!

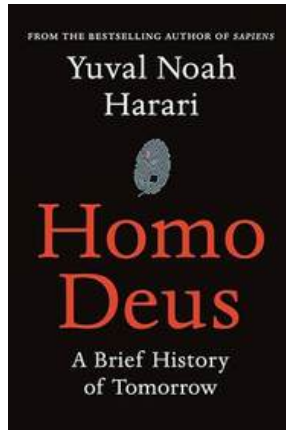
ISSUE 16

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



DeepSeek AI, a Chinese-developed artificial intelligence model, has been making headlines as it emerges as a competitor to ChatGPT and other AI systems. With its advanced language processing capabilities, DeepSeek is gaining traction in global markets, raising concerns about security, technological dominance, and geopolitical influence. Governments, including the U.S. and Australia, are scrutinizing its potential risks, while the tech industry is evaluating its impact on AI innovation. As DeepSeek continues to evolve, its role in shaping the future of artificial intelligence remains a key topic of debate.



What are we currently LEARNING?



Year 7	Year 7 have been going through feedback from their first Summative Assessments!
Year 8	Year 8 have been introduced to databases and why/who uses them in today's world.
Year 9	Year 9 have begun their journey looking at Basics of Python Programming.
Year 10	Year 10 have been completing their first exam style PPE! Good luck Y10!
Year 11	Year 11 have been recapping knowledge of Computer Networks and Databases.
Year 12	Year 12 have been looking at relational databases and why we use them.
Year 13	Year 13 have been recapping data structures for their exams.

Career of the Week



Tech Ethicists analyze the impact of technology on society, ensuring AI, data, and digital systems are used responsibly and ethically!

WHAT TO WATCH



CLICK - A WEEKLY TECHNOLOGY SHOW COVERING THE LATEST IN AI, CYBERSECURITY, GAMING, AND DIGITAL TRENDS. KEEPS STUDENTS UPDATED ON NEW COMPUTING DEVELOPMENTS.



weekly

"Edge Computing": Processing data closer to its source instead of relying on a central cloud, reducing latency and improving efficiency.

Question Time

What was the first message ever sent over the ARPANET, the predecessor to the modern internet?

Last weeks answer: Deep Blue



Keeping our Children Safe in a Digital World

Parent workshop
by The Enlightened Parent



Key Questions:

What are our children exposed to when they use the internet?

How can I protect my child when using specific apps?

What boundaries help children stay safe when using internet connected devices?

Exploring the Risks and Safety Features of TikTok



Risks:

- It's easy for young people to access adult content, which can be suggested to them through the "For You" feed
- While it offers a creative outlet for young people, it also exposes them to negative feedback and comments.

Safety features:

- **Family pairing:** Parents can manage their child's account from their own device.
- **Privacy settings:** Users can control who can view their content and filter out inappropriate material.

Exploring the Risks and Safety Features of Snapchate



Risks:

- Messages disappear after they've been viewed, encouraging risky behaviour
- The Snap Map feature allows users to share their location, which can be dangerous
- The Discover feature gives access to inappropriate content
- Children can receive unwanted contact from other users, including unknown adults
- Huge group chats

Safety Features:

- Family centre gives parents an overview of how their child has been using the app
- Turn on Ghost mode to prevent other users from seeing your child's location
- Use your child's true age for their profile

Exploring the Risks and Safety Features of WhatsApp



Risks:

- End-to-end encryption means that only people in the chat can read the messages
- Live location sharing means that children and young people can put themselves in a vulnerable position
- View once allows content to be sent and read by users only once before disappearing
- Disappearing messages means that content disappears after either 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days

Safety features:

- Privacy settings allow you to block who can see your status and live locations
- Users can block, report and delete contacts

How do we go about protecting our children?

PARENTAL ACCESS
Parents having open access to the devices. This includes knowing passwords and routinely checking devices.

SCREEN FREE TIME
Having specific limits on daily use of devices. Screen free activities. No devices in bedrooms

DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF 30 MINUTES BEFORE BEDTIME
Devices must be turned off 30 minutes before bedtime. Devices are not kept in bedrooms over night but are stored in a central place.

COMPLETE HONESTY ABOUT HOW AND WHEN A PHONE IS USED AND WHAT YOU ARE DOING WITH THE PHONE.
There must be complete honesty about how and when a phone is used and what you are doing with the phone.

DEVICE BOUNDARIES



Image-sharing To protect children, any indecent image of a child (under 18) is classified as **Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)**, including self-generated images. The law prohibits creating, sharing, possessing, or redistributing CSAM, which also covers AI or photoshopped images. Parents should avoid receiving such images on their devices and must report any images to the police immediately. This law aims to protect children, not to criminalise children who share images of themselves.

How to put boundaries in place.



A long term plan over days and weeks

Conversation starters:

Stage 1: 'Have you seen this article in the news today?' 'Have you heard about that incident?' 'What do you think about...?'

Stage 2: 'Have any of your friends experienced....?' 'Have you ever seen anything inappropriate online?'

Stage 3: 'It's my responsibility to keep you safe, what things do you think I should be doing?' 'What can I do, at home, to keep you safe online?' 'How about we ...*name one of the device boundaries*... for the next few days?' 'I think one of the things, I need to do, as your parent is...*name one of the device boundaries*. If I do this, I know you will be safer online'

Stage 4: Begin to implement the device boundaries one at a time.



Trafford Thrive produce really useful newsletters for our students. Below is a QR code where you can read this weeks anti-stigma newsletter for Children's Mental Health Week taking place next week.

NHS
Manchester University
NHS Foundation Trust

THRIVE NEWSLETTER

Trafford Thrive in Education
"Supporting you to thrive ... your way"

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK
CYP's mental health week is 3rd-9th February with the theme 'Know yourself, grow yourself.'

The theme for 2025 is focus is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself, with the aim to equip and empower children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them.

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

Place2Be's CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK
3-9 FEB 2025

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
Place2Be have joined forces with Here4You and through the characters of Pixar's Inside Out 2, the resources encourage children and young people across the UK to discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop.

THINK ON THIS
Our values are often what make us tick, so reflect on what really matters to you. As we get older, our beliefs can evolve. If you're feeling lost, take a moment to think about what drives you. It may help you understand yourself better and make choices that feel right for you.

TRY THIS
Take notice of your emotions and thoughts, either as they come up or maybe later on that day. You can use techniques like meditation or journaling to help you make sense of what is going on inside of you.

TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
"I have found that it is the small everyday deed of ordinary folks that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love."
- Gandalf

and Young People's Mental Health
Trafford Thrive in Education
New on Spotify

Check out this playlist while you read!

HERE4YOU IS A CAMPAIGN THAT AIMS TO IMPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UK.

Check out this video with Roman Kemp that looks at the importance of looking after your mental health.





TRAFFORD &
STOCKPORT
COLLEGE GROUP

APPRENTICESHIP WEBINAR



Wednesday 12 February



6pm-6:30pm

WHAT WILL THE WEBINAR COVER?

Delivered by our experienced and knowledgeable staff, this session will cover the following:

- Discover the wide range of apprenticeships available
- Hear about the success of our current and former apprentices
- Learn how an apprenticeship programme works
- Ask any questions

WHO IS THE WEBINAR FOR?

This session is ideal for students, parents, carers and educators looking to find out more about how apprenticeships work.

BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE

Once you have booked, you will shortly receive a link to attend the session.





STOCKPORT
COLLEGE

OPEN EVENT 2025



Thursday 20th March



4 :30pm-7:30pm



Stockport College

Don't worry if you missed our last event or are simply keen to have a second look around. Join us at our next Open Event to find out more about our courses, speak to our experts and explore the campus and facilities.



REGISTER HERE

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**





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**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



**REGISTER HERE
(ALTRINCHAM CAMPUS)**



**REGISTER HERE
(STRETFORD CAMPUS)**

