

# COLLEGE


## NEWSLETTER



### SEPT-OCT EDITION

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year and what a wonderful start we have had. Yesterday we received the amazing news from the DfE that we are the BEST achieving non selective college in Trafford based on Progress 8. We are very proud of all the hard work and dedication of the staff and the students as we celebrate this success.

I would like to share with you all our new BTHCC motto which grew from Father Roberts sermon at our first Mass back in September.  
May God's love be our guide

'Our new motto is *May God's love be our guide*   
God's love is kind, patient, and hopeful. It always protects and perseveres. However, love is not easy, and it takes strength to open our hearts to all, as God's love is not guided by arrogance, resentment, envy, judgement, or selfishness. So, our daily prayer is may God's love be our guide in our college, in the classroom, in our decisions, on the playground, in our friendships, in our learning, in our curriculum, in our thoughts, in our conversations, in our welcome and in the person we are yet to become.'


We have so many positive stories to share with you from this half term so please enjoy and do not hesitate to contact college regarding any matters.

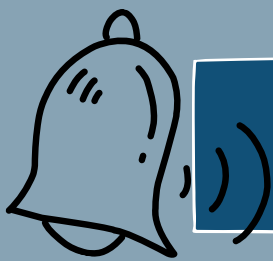
Thank you for your warm welcome and I will look forward to seeing you soon.

Mrs Hogg  
Headteacher



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

*May God's love be our guide* 



## OUR NEW YEAR 12'S

In September we welcomed 120 new students into our Sixth Form. Many of them joined us from the BTHCC main school and others from different local high schools. It has been an absolute pleasure to see how they have risen to the challenge of key stage 5 study and how they have embraced the opportunities available to get involved in the faith life of the Sixth Form. Along with our talented Year13s I feel very blessed to be surrounded by such amazing young adults!

## OUR NEW YEAR 7'S

Our new year 7's have settled in so well to the college and like myself are slowly navigating their way round. They have been very brave and I have personally loved seeing their happy faces when entering BTHCC each morning. They have had a very positive start and I look forward to seeing how they grow as individuals in the next term.



## YR 11 CLASSICS TRIP TO ATHENS

We visited sites in Athens & Mycenae to develop our knowledge of the Ancient Greek civilisation, temples, religion & way of life...

- The Acropolis & the Parthenon
- Parthenon museum & galleries
- The National Archaeological Museum
  - The Panathenaic Stadium
  - Kerameikos burial ground
- Mycenae & Tiryns citadels & archaeological museums
  - The Temple of Poseidon by the sea



## STUDENT FEEDBACK

I really liked being able to visualise what we had been learning – and visit some of the sites we have looked at in the last few months including the Acropolis, Theatre of Dionysos and city of Mycenae. It was good to see the culture of them both then and now, exploring the city with my friends, going to the beach and looking round museums. It was an amazing trip overall!



# Trips

## PGL YEAR 11 TRIP

During year 11 we run two PGL outward bound residential weekends. The first one took place between Friday 6th and Sunday 8th October. During the weekend the students took part in a range of outward bound activities such as zip lining, climbing, giant swing and laser tag. In the evening we had a camp fire and silent disco. The trip also has maths work shops to help support students increase their academic progress in the subject



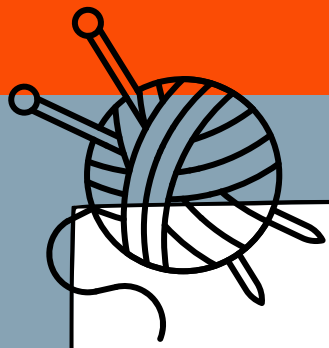
## STUDENT VOICE

What benefits do you get from the PGL trip?

- A better relationship with my peers
- It improved my self-esteem
- A positive affect on my well-being
- I get motivated to attend school more
- My resilience
- I feel a real sense of belonging in school



# Extra-Curricular



## STITCH AND KNIT CLUB

Due to popular request the Stitch and Knit Club will be meeting each week (instead of fortnightly), from 3.00 – 3.45pm in Room 29. Crocheters, cross stitchers and other textile crafters are welcome. If any students have ever been given a craft kit, and not been sure what to do with it, or have a project which they need to finish, do come along and we will help get things going again.

We hope some of the many Year 12s and 13s who learnt to knit last year during their extended curriculum time would come along and share their skills with any beginners.



Such traditional crafts are a proven means of stress relief, as well as a great way to chat and do something purposeful at the same time. And you get to make great gifts for friends and family too.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

Miss Akintoye

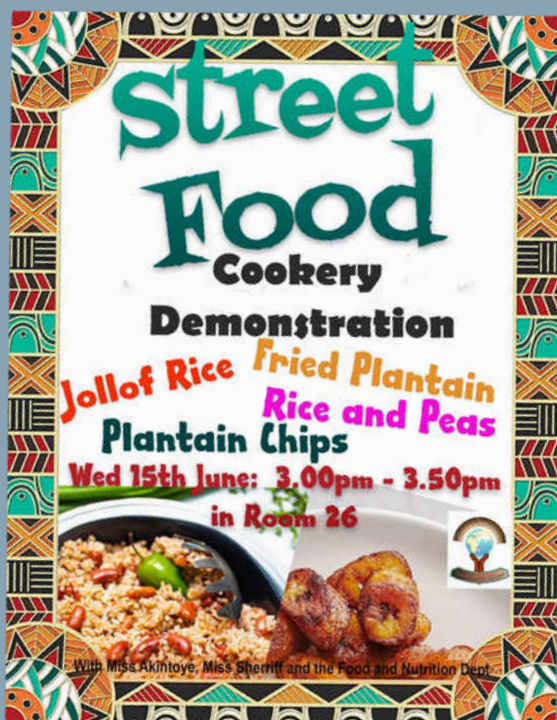


## GLOBAL STUDENTS

We are re-introducing the Global Students Group following a brief hiatus last year. The group is open to all students from Year 7 – 10 who have an interest in global, cultural and environmental issues. In the past, we have arranged fundraising events on behalf of an orphanage in Uganda, developed resources for Black History Month, enjoyed cooking demonstrations, but would like to do much, much more to celebrate the diversity and heritage of as many students as possible.

The group will be led by the interests of the students and supported by myself and other members of staff.

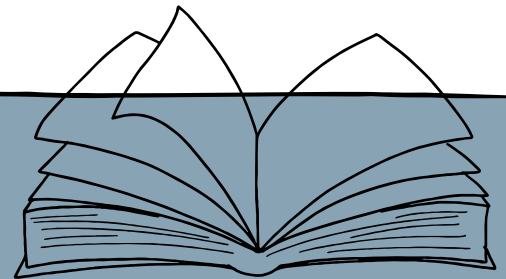
If you think your child might be interested, ask them to come along to our meetings which take place fortnightly, with the next one being on Thursday 9th November.





## OLDFIELD BANK RESIDENTIAL

What a blessing it is to be able to spend time with the residents at Oldfield Bank residential home in Bowdon. Reading, chatting and listening to some interesting tales of rationing and evacuation. They also enjoyed a lovely cup of tea and biscuits.



## STUART ROWSON - AUTHOR

Stuart Rowson a local children's author came into school to talk about his new book, Izzy and the Tumble Thunder A fast-paced adventure story about a girl who doesn't fit in, as she learns to understand her magical, time twisting powers and find her missing father.

Year 7 and 8 loved hearing about his exciting career as a journalist and working at the BBC. He kindly signed copies of his latest children's book

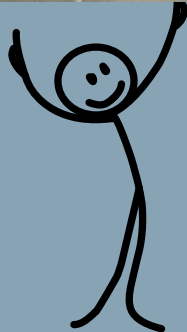


## OPEN EVENING

We enjoyed a successful Open Evening in September with lots of positive feedback. Below is some feedback from a parent;

*I attended your Open Evening last night and wanted to feed back to the school, the absolutely exemplary conduct of the two Year 7 boys who showed my group around.*

*I attended with my brother and friend (both of whom are teachers) and we were so impressed with their confidence and great attitude -such a credit to the school. I thought it important to let the school know what a positive impression they made on our party.*



## YEAR 7 REWARDS BREAKFAST

Our wonderful year 7 students were treated to breakfast for helping out on our Open Evening. They did the #BTHCCccfamily proud last week considering they had only been in the school themselves for a matter of 4 weeks. Well done helpers and we hope you enjoyed the waffles



# Languages

## LOVE LANGUAGES AT BTHCCCC!

*Gracias*

Here at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College we love learning languages, they play a pivotal role for our young people in helping them develop into conscious and active global citizens. So why learn a language? Here are just a number of reasons why:



*Merçi*

## LANGUAGENUT

◆ Student Name

Alex Adriel

Rennie Daniel

Rodrigues Kayden

Lenferna De La Motte Nicholas

Detoperez Jhaidien

Our students use an engaging and exciting online platform called Languagenut to complete their home learning. Feedback from students states that they enjoy the interactive games whilst learning and revising vocabulary, grammar and phonics. Why not ask your child if you can take a look at their next home learning activity? To the left are our top 5 point scorers on Languagenut so far:

## TRIPS

We have some exciting trips planned for this academic year!

Year 10 are heading to Catalonia in June for a few days exploring the cultural sites in Barcelona, spending some time at the beach and visiting a theme park.

Year 12 are going for a cultural immersion in Malaga, visiting a range of cultural heritage sites, eating local food and practicing their language skills.

Look out very soon for news of French trips currently being planned for Year 7 and Year 9!



If you would like to know more, please follow this website link to see even more reasons to learn a language! It also has handy tips on how to support your child at home with their language learning.

[BBC - Learn a language? Why? Which? How?](#)

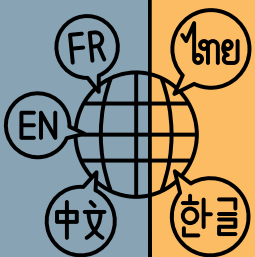
### **Careers in MFL- where can languages take you?**

Each newsletter will bring a focus on a particular career linked to studying languages.

This week we are looking at being a Travel Consultant

Follow the link to watch a video on how Kate uses Spanish as part of her role.

[How to become a travel consultant: Kate's story - BBC Bitesize](#)



# Fundraising



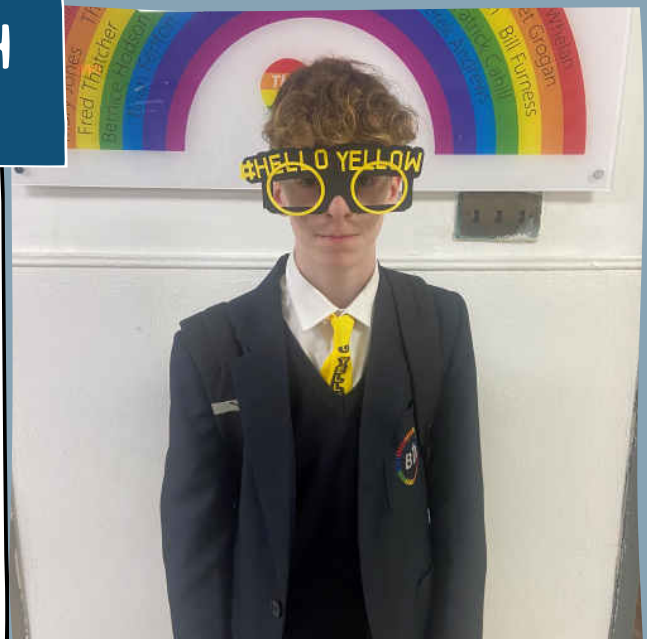
## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 29th of September our wonderful Sixth formers held a Macmillan coffee morning and raised a whopping £450.00. All the donations received go towards the vital services that Macmillan offer and we love supporting this important charity.

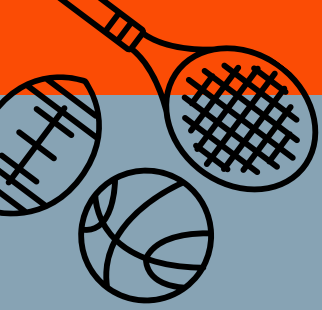


## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On the 10th of October we joined Young Minds with their #HelloYellow day and joined thousands of people wearing yellow across the country to stand out and show up for young people's mental health. We did a treasure hunt, had a raffle, sold badges and raised £525 to support the young people out there who suffer on a daily basis with their mental health.



# Sport



There is always so much going on in our PE department that it is impossible to cover it all so here are some amazing pictures of the students and teams.



# Student Shout Out



## KIAN & ZACH



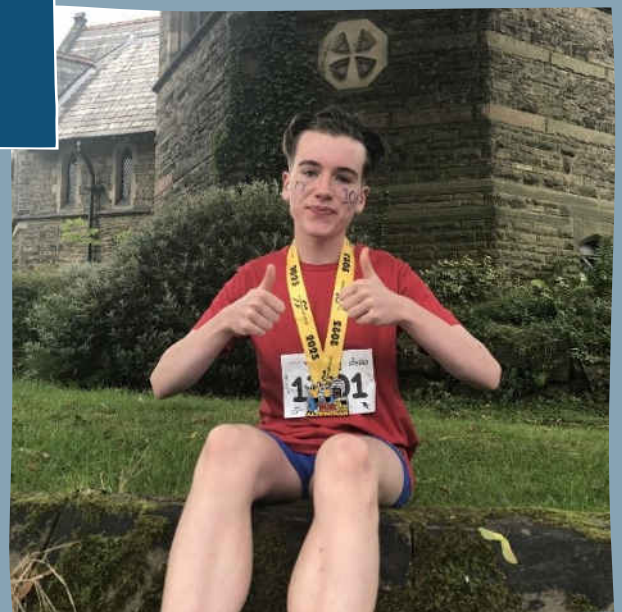
On Sunday Kian Giblin and Zach Smith represented Lancashire in the U15s Referees trophy County Championships playing against Cheshire at Heaton Mersey Lacrosse Club. Lancashire won 12-11 by Golden Goal!

Kian scored two goals & assisted in the Golden Goal!

## RYAN MAXWELL

Ryan Maxwell, one of our senior prefects, ran the Altrincham 10k last weekend in an amazing 50 minutes. He is raising money for Children with Cancer. He said any donations would be greatly appreciated!

<https://gofund.me/24dd8f4a>.





## QUESTION TIME



Five of our Sixth form politics students successfully applied for tickets to a Thursday evening 'Question Time' which was filmed in Sale. High point of the evening was Grace being asked the first big question about reducing knife crime and holding our leaders to account! What a great experience for them.



## CONSERVATIVE PARTY

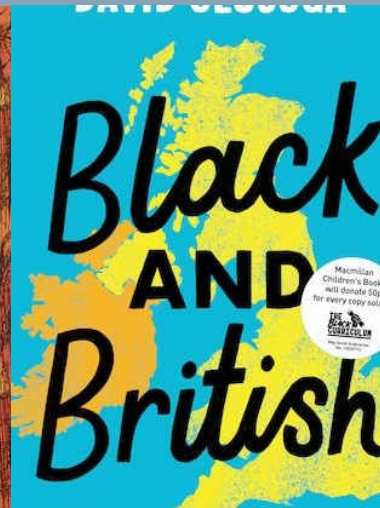
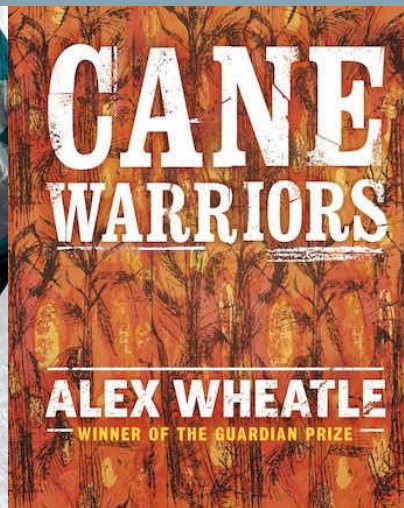
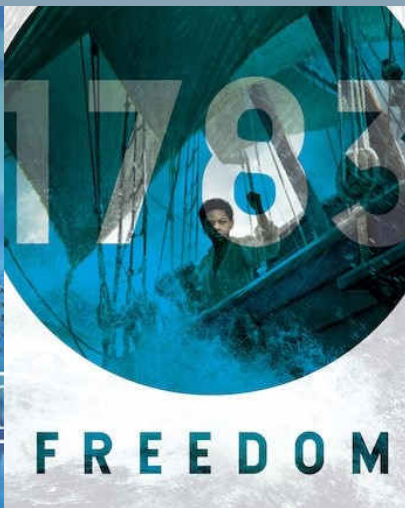
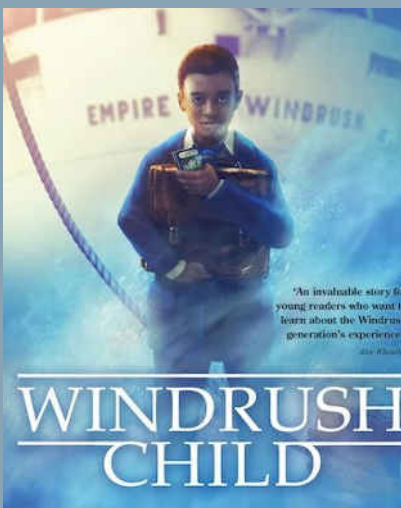


Sir Graham Brady invited Mr McGuinness, Mrs Kneen and the fabulous Yr 12 & 13 politics students to the Conservative Party Conference. We might not all be conservative supporters but what an experience it was for them! The high point of the day was listening to the Home Secretary, Suella Braverman in the main theatre deliver her key note speech.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



In the month of October we have been marking Black History month. It gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture. This year's theme is 'Before Windrush' - an exploration of the lives and stories of the Black Britons who were living in the UK before the arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1948. Although we celebrate equality and diversity throughout the year, we have been focussing on our students developing their cultural knowledge even more during October. We are extremely proud that our school library has a large array of texts that all our students can recognise themselves in. Here are just a few texts that you can borrow from our library.



We have once again focused on the black historians of the future, two brand new diversity displays and with presentations up in the hall for the past three weeks, featuring over 35 different personalities of black or Afro-Caribbean origin in a wide range of fields such as music, science, mathematics, politics and activism, poetry, history, economics, and academia as well as sport and entertainment.



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Vincent is a Belgian professional football manager and former player who is currently manager of Premier League Club Burnley. He played for Manchester City for 11 seasons, and was captain for 8 of these.



### Vincent Kompany



Vincent also represented the Belgian national team for 15 years, 7 as captain.

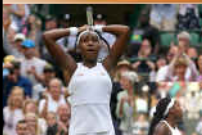
Vincent is the only black



Coco rose to stardom at Wimbledon in 2019 beating her hero and former five times Wimbledon Champion Venus Williams in the first round at aged just 15 years.



### Coco Gauff



"I've tried my best to carry disappointment with grace and I've been doing my best so honestly, to those who thought you were putting water on my fire, you're really adding fuel to it. And now



ht now," said Coca 2023 US Op

But this wasn't all that Claudia did. After fighting injustice in the UK, where some black people were even attacked, Claudia wanted a way for black Britons to celebrate and support each other.

She decided to bring a Caribbean carnival to London! The carnival was a grand event held in St Pancras Town Hall filled with music and dancing. This event eventually became the Notting Hill Carnival!



### Claudia Jones

Activist/Organiser

Claudia Jones was born in Trinidad. She spent her early life in America where she was a journalist. She wrote about the unfair treatment of black women that she saw and experienced.

In 1955 she came to live in London. She was shocked to discover that finding a place to live was hard if you were black. There were no laws then to protect people from being treated unequally because of the colour of their skin.



### Learie Constantine

Cricketer/Member of the House of Lords

Learie was born in Trinidad in 1901. He was brilliant at cricket. He helped to win big games and important awards in Trinidad and on trips to England. After playing in a big charity cricket match in London, Learie and his family were turned away from a hotel. They were refused the room based only on the colour of their skin.

He knew this was unfair and that he must do something about it. He took the hotel to court to prove that they had treated him and his family unfairly. And he won!

Asquith Xavier: Train named after guard who fought 'whites-only' rule



### Asquith Xavier

Avanti West Coast has recently named a train after a railway worker who overturned a racist recruitment policy.

Asquith, overturned a decision not to employ him as a guard at London's Euston Station when he applied for a job there in 1966.



Asquith Xavier

### Katherine Jenkins

Mathematician, physicist

Long before computers – or even calculators, Katherine was an American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics in the early 1960s as a NASA employee were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed spaceflights.



HIDDEN FIGURES



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



All students are encouraged to read through these while they are on display as the life stories of these individuals are all incredibly inspiring. In addition, on Friday 20th October staff and students were encouraged to wear red and donate a small amount to the Show Racism the Red Card Charity Campaign.

Miss B Akintoye  
Equality and Diversity Facilitator



## 'BRENDA THE VENDER'

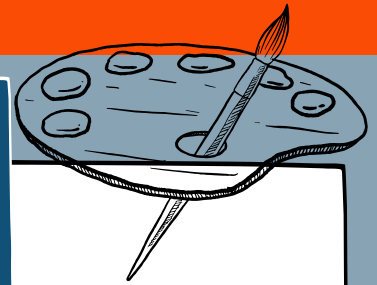


SCAN ME



This is our exciting new book vending machine. Our aim as a school is to get more children reading!! We created an Amazon Wishlist and shared with our parents and on our social platforms and we are truly blown away with the support we have received from everyone. If you want to support our mission to fill the machine the QR code is above.

## COMMUNITY ART PROJECT



During Covid some of our lovely students did a recovery Art project with Making Momentum. At the end of September they were finally ready for their new home and installed at Altrincham Interchange.

We took the students down to see their amazing efforts in all their glory last week and they were chuffed to bits.

We couldn't be MORE proud of everything the students achieved so well done 🙌 for creating these amazing masterpieces.



## SIXTH FORM PRESIDENTS



This September students in our sixth form elected their Student President and Vice Presidents. It was brilliant to see such engagement from our young people keen to bring forward their ideas to further enhance the student experience in both the Sixth Form and main school. Congratulations to Tim, Petra and Nirinjana. They are going to do great things!

# Upcoming Events

## CHRISTMAS MARKET 3RD DECEMBER

After the HUGE success of our first Christmas Market last year, we are happy to announce that we will be holding our second Christmas Market on Sunday the **3rd of December at 11am-3pm**. This will be a perfect way to kick off the festive season.

This is an open event, and everyone is welcome so bring family and friends to enjoy a wonderful Christmassy day.



## CAREERS FAIR



We are hosting our annual Careers Fair after the huge success of last years on Friday the 2nd of February 2024 here at BTHCC in our sports hall for all students.

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

This is a fantastic opportunity for employers to seek out young talent and is a great chance to develop your company's reputation through public interaction and brand awareness.

If you would like more information please email [Careers@BTHCC.org.uk](mailto:Careers@BTHCC.org.uk)

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Welcome back to all our BTHCC family, parents, carers and students, and a big fat welcome to our new year 7 cohort and their parents and carers.

Just to keep you all updated, we have made an excellent start to the year regarding our school attendance, we need to keep our finger on the pulse and keep supporting our students to attend school every day on time.

We all know students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have a regular attendance.

Just to put attendance into perspective for this early, in the year if a pupil has had:

1 days absence their attendance will be 96.15%

2 days absence their attendance will be 92.31%

3 days absence their attendance will be 88.46%

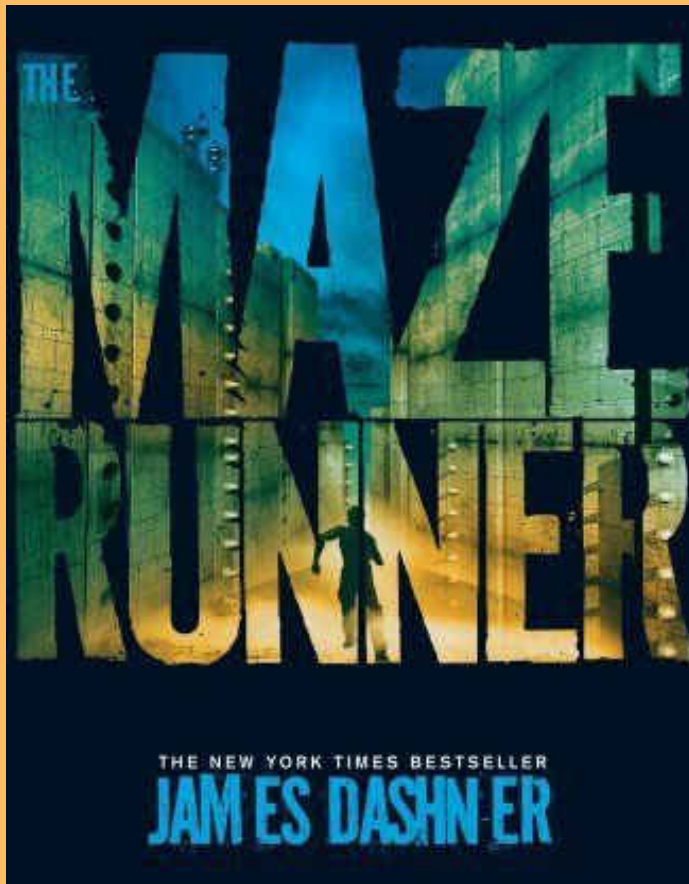
Our aim is for all our students to have an attendance score of **96%** and above.

The attendance team at BTHCC are very supportive, if you have any queries at all please don't hesitate to contact us, if its easier to email, please send to [AttendanceMatter@BTHCC.org](mailto:AttendanceMatter@BTHCC.org) and a member of the team will get back to you.

Please don't be shy, I like to get to know parents and carers. Have a lovely half term and enjoy some quality time with your family.

*Mrs Tarry*

# BOOK REVIEW



This book starts with the main character in a cage that is moving at high speed, he doesn't know who he is or why he's there.

When he arrives he finds himself in a field in the middle of a giant maze with groups of boys.

The longer he is there he remembers his name and little things about himself however he finds out that the mazes are the only way out and they are deadly he discovers they are stuck there.

The next day the first ever girl shows up and remembers his name later on they are all put in terrible danger and it looks like the mazes are the only way out.



## MAZERUNNER

Author : James Dashner

Genre: Dystopian society/  
horror



By Beth Conway  
Year 10

# MEET THE TEACHER

Bringing you the answers to the questions we want to know about our teachers asked directly by the students themselves.



## Mrs Butterworth

### 1. What is one of your hidden talents?

I don't know if I really have any hidden talents! I do love a sing song on karaoke and I don't get booed so I will go with singing...I think I sound good in the car but my children may disagree!

### 2. What is your favourite dish from the school cafeteria?

A tuna and cheese jacket potato. I used to love the parsnips...on their own with some gravy but they have seemed to disappear from the menu. Maybe I could start a petition to BRING BACK THE PARSNIPS.

### 3. What are your "trapped on a desert island" books?

There are A LOT so I will try and whittle them down. I love Where the Crawdads Sing, I read it about two years ago and it beautifully written with a great plot twist so I would definitely pack that. I also borrowed a book from Jorja in Year 11 last year 'The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo' and really enjoyed that too so I recommended it to the staff and quite a few people read it and felt the same...a great read. Finally, I would take a selection of Stephen King books: Carrie, Misery, Dolores Clairborne, The Institute. Stephen King was my go to read as a teenager and as I have got a bit older (21 now 😊) I have started to re-read them again and I am enjoying them just as much the second time round.

### 4. How does technology make teaching more simple or difficult?

Oooo good question. I think sometimes technology over complicates things and I would definitely say that children rely more heavily on technology which has had an impact on technical accuracy of writing and expression...but that is just the English teacher in me.

### 5. What would the students be surprised to find out about you?

I was born and raised in North Wales and moved to Sale 18 years ago to begin my teaching career at BTHCC. I can still speak a bit of Welsh...well tipyn bach (a little bit).

### 6. What inspires you?

I am not sure really. I love teaching English, I have recently started teaching Year 7 and I adore it as I usually tend to teach the older students but in terms of inspiration...I just want to be a great teacher and for students to enjoy their lessons.

### 7. Are there any embarrassing teaching moments you are willing to share? What are they?

Yes...I was teaching Year 11 a few years ago and literally fell into a box that was next to the board. It was hilarious but incredibly embarrassing!!

# An Interview with.....



## **Who is Ms Hogg?**

We've all noticed a new face around school, and that face is none other than the one and only Mrs Hogg!

Since she's here for the long haul, here at the BTHCC Newsletter, we thought it would be the perfect time to interview our lovely new head on the plans for our school and how she came to be here!

## **Why did you choose BTHCC as your next big adventure?**

"I was at Saint Thomas More Catholic High School for nine years, and everything was going well, and I was having a really lovely time! However, Blessed Thomas Holford had always been a school I wanted to know more about. It was like a beacon of education, always on the move with exciting things happening. So when I saw the headship position open up, I thought, 'I'll come and take a look.' I visited, and it was just such an exciting place to be. The students were engaged, and the conversations I had with the teachers were phenomenal. I thought, 'This looks like a great place,' and then I considered it my next adventure. My previous school was quite small, with around 650 students, so moving to a school with 1600 students was a big jump! But I wanted to be part of this beacon. When you drive up the road, you can see BTHCC from miles away with its lovely colours! Shining bright. It is like the people in the BTHCC family.

# An Interview with.....

## **Do you think your experience has prepared you to face the behavioural problems in our school?**

I believe that dealing with behaviour, especially in the context of COVID-19, is a significant challenge. Young people have experienced a traumatic time during the pandemic, which is something I never had to face when I was your age. I vividly remember the day when we were informed that schools would be closing due to the pandemic. I even had the emotional experience of locking up my school for the last time. I walked home with tears in my eyes, not just because of the uncertainty, but also because I knew that my Year 11 students wouldn't have the opportunity for a prom, and they were stressed about their exams. It was a sad moment because school serves as a home and a safe place for many children, providing structure and support.

I strongly believe in the power of role modelling. To address behaviour, we must ensure that the adults in the school are modelling the behaviour we expect from students. For instance, if a student replies with a simple "yes" when speaking to me, I would wait for them to say "Yes, Miss" because it's a matter of politeness. On the other hand I would always greet students and hold open doors for them. I would explain the importance of such gestures as acts of kindness. It's about having these conversations and establishing a culture of caring for one another, looking out for each other, and fostering a sense of responsibility.

## **Do you think the school adequately supports students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)?**

This is an area which we should always be improving and researching. For instance, PowerPoints should be in SEN-friendly fonts, and the colours should be suitable for students with specific needs. White text on a black background, for example, might not be ideal for some students. There are students who require specific colors or overlays, and it's crucial that everything is accessible to everyone. We need to ensure that there are no barriers to learning.

Everything should be designed to accommodate every student's needs, whether it's an SEN need, a behavioral need, or an engagement need.

# An Interview with.....

It ultimately comes down to the teacher's role in planning and delivering a lesson to ensure everyone can access it. I've personally noticed how vital this is, as my eyesight is deteriorating, and I always need my glasses. Forgetting them and being asked to read something can be quite stressful, and it has made me more aware of what it might be like in a classroom. Therefore, it's essential to focus on the student experience and listen to their needs because they are the ones experiencing it. I can teach a lesson for an hour and think it's fantastic, but if you've been bored and haven't learned anything, it's not a great lesson. We need to address this.

I believe that when it comes to SEN, you can never achieve a perfect 100% because there's always more to learn and adapt to, given the ever-evolving needs of students. It's about remaining open to new perspectives and continually improving."

## **What is the one book you think everyone, especially young people, should read at least once in their life?**

There are so many books, but I am a huge Jane Austen fan. Last year, I took my school to the Jane Austen festival in Bath and we all dressed up as Jane Austen characters. It was phenomenal. I'm a huge fan of 'Pride and Prejudice,' but the book that I remember most is from when I was in year six. A teacher read 'Jane Eyre' to us, the Charlotte Bronte book. I always remember sitting in that classroom and listening to the teacher tell the story of 'Jane Eyre.' So I love Jane Austen and the Brontes, but there are so many beautiful books out there. I just love reading. For young people today, there are books that can help them with everyday situations, dealing with various issues. I'm quite romantic, so I love 'Jane Eyre,' 'Pride and Prejudice,' and 'Sense and Sensibility.' That's my romantic side. But there are plenty of contemporary books that are quite impactful and relevant to today's world, tackling hard-hitting issues. I love autobiographies such as Michelle Obama. I can't wait for the children to discover the books in 'Brenda the Vendor.' It's going to be great.

**Do you think that academic success, in the sense of GCSE results, is an honest reflection of a student's intelligence and future potential?**

No, I'll tell you why. I didn't perform exceptionally well in my GCSEs, and my A-levels were not outstanding either. I always managed to scrape by with what I needed to progress to the next stage. However, the way I was brought up emphasised other qualities. I was encouraged to read, engage in experiences, and communicate with people. We were never allowed to say we were bored; we were encouraged to stay active and explore the world around us. I believe that learning how to interact with others, project your voice effectively, and stay engaged is a valuable life skill. Sometimes, individuals may possess numerous qualifications but not make the most of them, while others with fewer qualifications continue to grow and thrive. Personally, I've found that my passion for learning has led to better academic performance later in life than when I was your age. This shift occurred because I pursued my dream of becoming a teacher. If you're the type of person who seizes every opportunity, such as contributing to a newspaper or joining a team or a debate, you can achieve great things. It's about having the mindset that welcomes challenges and new experiences, which can be just as important as achieving top grades across the board. Does that make sense to you? I hope it does!

***Make sure to try and say hi to Mrs Hogg in the coming term, and here's to the College Newsletter, we cant wait to see what she's going to do our school!***

# Have a lovely half term



See you on the 30th of October!

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,  
may the earlier setting of the sun  
remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves  
remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air  
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.  
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Thomas Holford Pray For Us