

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER


# Weekly Newsletter



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Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 



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May God's love be our guide 

8th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of some proposed changes to the structure of the college day here at BTHCC. They are:

8:55am	Students to be on site
9am – 9:25am	Together for Good with Form Tutor
9:25am – 10:20am	Lesson 1
10:20am – 11:35am	Lesson 2 Students will be given a 15-minute break before or after this lesson
11:35am – 12:30pm	Lesson 3
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch for all students Enrichment activities will be timetable Year groups will have access to the canteen at different times to prevent long queues
1:30pm – 2:25pm	Lesson 4
2:25pm – 3:20pm	Lesson 5
3:20pm	End of School Day for all Year Groups

Should the changes be approved, they will come into force from September 2024.

This increase will ensure that we are working towards meeting the Department of Education's new minimum expectation of a 32.5-hour school week.

We believe that these changes will be beneficial to the BTHCC community and will have a positive effect on your child's education.

The information in this letter has also been sent to the local authority, the diocese, local schools, public transport, staff, parishes, and governors. We will work together so that there is minimal disruption.

I appreciate that these changes may affect you in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and you may have questions related to your child's education. For this reason, I would like to invite you to please share any feedback that you have by sending it to [structureofday@bthcc.org](mailto:structureofday@bthcc.org)

We will release the results of the consultation by 23rd January 2024 and will share the outcome in our college newsletter.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C S Hogg

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[www.bthcc.org.uk](http://www.bthcc.org.uk)



# Monday 11th December



please join us for a

## FAMILY ADVENT SERVICE

Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College  
invite you to a Family Advent Service on;  
Monday 11th of December at 6pm

Parish of St. Vincent de Paul  
2 Bentinck Road  
Altrincham  
WA14 2BP

Please join us for refreshments  
and mince pies after the service

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

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

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

*You're Invited!*





# Mary on the Mantle



Forget Elf on the Shelf, we have Mary on the Mantle for our Year 7's this year.

Advent is a time for kindness, prayer, charity or service so our Year 7's have been tasked with doing some acts of kindness.





Today Canon Pat Munroe and Deacon Dr John McKay celebrated Mass at BTHCC on the feast of The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Afterward they met with Yr. 12 and Yr. 13 students to talk about the awareness of well-being and disability as an essential part of our pastoral ministry. The sixth form students asked some insightful questions and Fr Pat finished by quoting a soldier who was disabled during the Iraq War in 2004.

'What I was I will never be, who I am I will always be.'

Dr John was also able to share his many years of medical experience and will be visiting BTHCC again to support our medic students and our career events.

Today Mary said 'yes' to the unknow as she had complete faith in God. We pray may God's love be our guide as He asks us to say yes to his call.

# Christmas Market



We want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for those of you who attended or had stalls at our Christmas Market on Sunday. We had a wonderful festive day welcoming lots of BTHCC families and we raised just over £1000 for the school. We are really proud of our Concert Band and the Capriccio's who played and sang beautifully and we received some lovely feedback from external stall holders and the local community.





# What's going on - Week 11th-15th

**MONDAY**

Advent Appeal

Week 2: Hope

(11th-15th Dec): Toiletries



Family Advent Service  
St Vincent's Church 6pm

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

Classics Trip to London  
and Cambridge

BTH Has Got Talent  
Auditions

**TUESDAY**

**Wednesday &**

Room 54 at 8.30am

**Wednesday**  
**Word**

**Wednesday**

True Life Conference -  
Sixth Form &  
Year 10 Science Trip

Year 10 Parents Evening -  
Online

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

College Mass - 8.15am G3

# Confirmation

## Sacrament of Confirmation for those in Year 8 and above

For those in the parishes of St Joseph's Sale and Holy Family, Sale Moor

### **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024, which will be the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone at St. Joseph's.

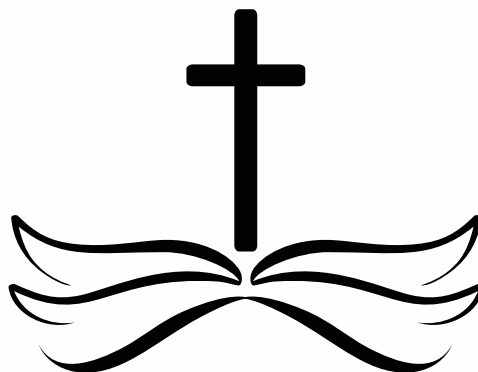
Forms are available in the sacristy for anyone in Year 8 and above wishing to be confirmed next year.

The Confirmation Programme will begin in the New Year & registration must be received before the programme begins.

For those in the parishes of All Saints, Ashton-On-Mersey, St Margaret Ward, Sale and Our Lady of Lourdes Partington

### **CONFIRMATION 2024**

Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 24th April at 7.00pm. Registration forms now available in both sacristy's at Our Lady of Lourdes and All Saints. Any teenager baptised from year 8 above may enter this journey. This will begin in January. So, Please take a form and return as soon as possible.



Further information please see Mr Fishwick ([MrFishwick@bthcc.org.uk](mailto:MrFishwick@bthcc.org.uk))



# SEND

The December 2023 issue of the LINK SEND newsletter is now available!

This newsletter is for parents and carers of children and young people who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, as well as those who work with them.

We hope you will find this newsletter useful and informative.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter they can sign up using the short [online form](#).

Let us know if there is anything you'd like to see in future editions by emailing [FLS@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:FLS@trafford.gov.uk)



# Christmas Card Competition

A couple of weeks ago we ran a Christmas Card competition in school with the theme being 'The Birth of Christ' and this week we picked the winner....

1st - Kai in Year 8



2nd - Tracy in Year 7



3rd - Amelia in Year 9





# NHS Advice

As we go into winter, common illnesses can keep children and teenagers away from their classmates and studies. One of the best things we can all do to avoid illness is to practice good hand hygiene.



Good hand hygiene helps stop infections from spreading, which means less disrupted learning time. Teach your child to wash hands properly for 20 seconds and stay away from others when sick. The [e-bug resources](#) for all ages can help you to explain and discuss hygiene habits – and why they are important - to your child or teenager.

To avoid catching bugs or passing it on to others wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water. This is most important following an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, after using the toilet, before eating or preparing food, after changing nappies, as well as cleaning up vomit or diarrhoea. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are not effective against some infections. Anyone who has diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay at home. Do not return to work or send children to school until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped and do not visit your GP or hospital while symptomatic. If you are concerned about your symptoms, talk to your GP by phone, contact NHS 111 or visit the [NHS web pages](#). For useful handwashing tips please have a look at the [following NHS video](#)

# Health and Social Care

I am just emailing to inform you of some extra revision webinars ran by a company called tutor2u, this is a company who produces fantastic resources we use in Sixth Form regularly. They are free 30-minute sessions which run from 5-5:30pm and will be beneficial for your daughter to access in preparation for their Unit 2 examination on Monday 15th January 2024. I have attached the schedule for these sessions alongside the link to access them. Please can you encourage your daughter to engage with these revision opportunities.

WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER - DOCTORS, NURSES, HEALTHCARE ASSISTANTS & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER - SOCIAL WORKERS, YOUTH WORKERS, CARE MANAGERS, CARE ASSISTANTS, SUPPORT WORKERS

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER - DATA & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT. ENSURING SAFETY

WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY - MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM WORKING. BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES

WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY - MONITORING THE WORK OF PROFESSIONALS. INSPECTION AND REGULATION OF SERVICES

SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY - ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE. EMPOWERMENT, RIGHTS AND CHOICES

The link to access them is <https://www.tutor2u.net/live>

If you have any questions regarding these or anything else to do with the course/ the exam or your daughters progress in Health and Social Care please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself on

[missconnolly@bthcc.org](mailto:missconnolly@bthcc.org)

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Connolly





# Careers - DoctorsLive

We are a group of doctors passionate about inspiring the next generation of students into Medicine, Nursing, and other Allied Health Professions. We are thrilled to announce that our popular weekly Anatomy Club is back this year.

The Anatomy Club is a 3-month after-school programme covering all 12 organ systems. The sessions run for 2 hours weekly, every Tuesday evening, led by two practising doctors. We cover the body systems in a fun and interactive manner by dissecting our virtual anatomy model. We also cover diseases affecting the organ system and try to solve anonymised real-life patient cases together.

The sessions are aimed at any students interested in Science and Healthcare who want to learn something outside of the school curriculum. Our passion is to inspire students to learn about human science in an engaging and affordable manner. The course suits all students aged 13 and above. Certificates will be provided for participation. Below are some further details:

DoctorsLive - Virtual Anatomy Club Weekly (February 2024 to April 2024) -  
Live Every Tuesday 6pm-8pm

1. Learn about the fascinating workings of the human body from the comfort of your home
2. Cover all 12 organ systems
3. Solve real-life patient cases, including history taking and anonymised scans
4. Live virtual operations - showing step by step how common surgeries are carried out
5. A chance for students to interact with practising surgeons and doctors
6. Each live session is recorded and can be accessed anytime

The entire three-month program, including handouts, recordings and certificates, is priced at £59 per student. For more information and to enrol, please visit the link below:



<https://doctorslive.co.uk/anatomyclub/>

# Christmas at St Vincent's

Below is the leaflet regarding Christmas at Saint Vincent's Church, detailing the dates and times of Advent Services and Christmas Masses.

P.S- The Children's Christmas Mass at 10am on Christmas Day will have a very special guest of the animal kind!!

## *Advent Services*

During the holy season of Advent, we have a variety of services to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas:

### **Advent Prayer Services**

Following the 7pm Masses there will be a short services of prayer, readings and songs based on particular themes:

- Friday 1st December - 'Hope'
- Friday 8th December - 'Peace'
- Friday 15th December - 'Joy'
- Friday 22nd December - 'Love'

### **Advent 'Carol' Services**

- Monday 11th December at 6pm - Blessed Thomas Holford Advent Service
- Sunday 17th December at 3pm - Parish Carol Service
- Monday 18th December at 6:30pm - St Vincent's Primary Christmas Service

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

We have our normal times:

Fridays: immediately following the 12:15 Mass

Saturdays: 11am-12pm & 4:30pm-5:15pm

Also, on Sunday 17th December (3rd Sunday of Advent) following the 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am & 6:30pm Masses.

## *Christmas Masses*

### **Christmas Eve Vigil Masses**

4pm for the elderly and vulnerable

5:30pm for Children

7:30pm for adults

### **Christmas Day**

Midnight Mass

8:30am, 10am & 11:30am

Please note that there is no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

The clergy would like to wish everyone a blessed Advent, a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

# Important Notices

## PREPARING THE WAY: RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT

*Do not fear.*  
Is 41:10



*"There are people who are afraid to go to confession, forgetting that they will not encounter a severe judge there, but the immensely merciful Father"*

POPE FRANCIS

Pupils and staff will have an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on Friday's throughout Advent

Lost Property will be on display in the hall for the final two weeks of the term. Parents can come into school any night after 4pm to look through items. Items not collected by 21st December will be donated to a local clothing collection.

## TALENT SHOW

Auditions take place tues/WED 12th & 13TH 3PM-4PM music department rm 17



## JOB VACANCIES AT OUR COLLEGE.

- \*Teacher of Maths
- \*Teacher of RE
- \*School Caretaker
- \*Attendance Officer
- \*Admin Officer
- \*Pastoral/Reconciliation Co-ordinator Hub
- \*Sixth Form Student Support Officer

Join  
Our  
Team



APPLY NOW

<https://www.bthcc.org.uk/vacancies>

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



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

### BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

### PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

### ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

### ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.

### TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

### ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

### ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

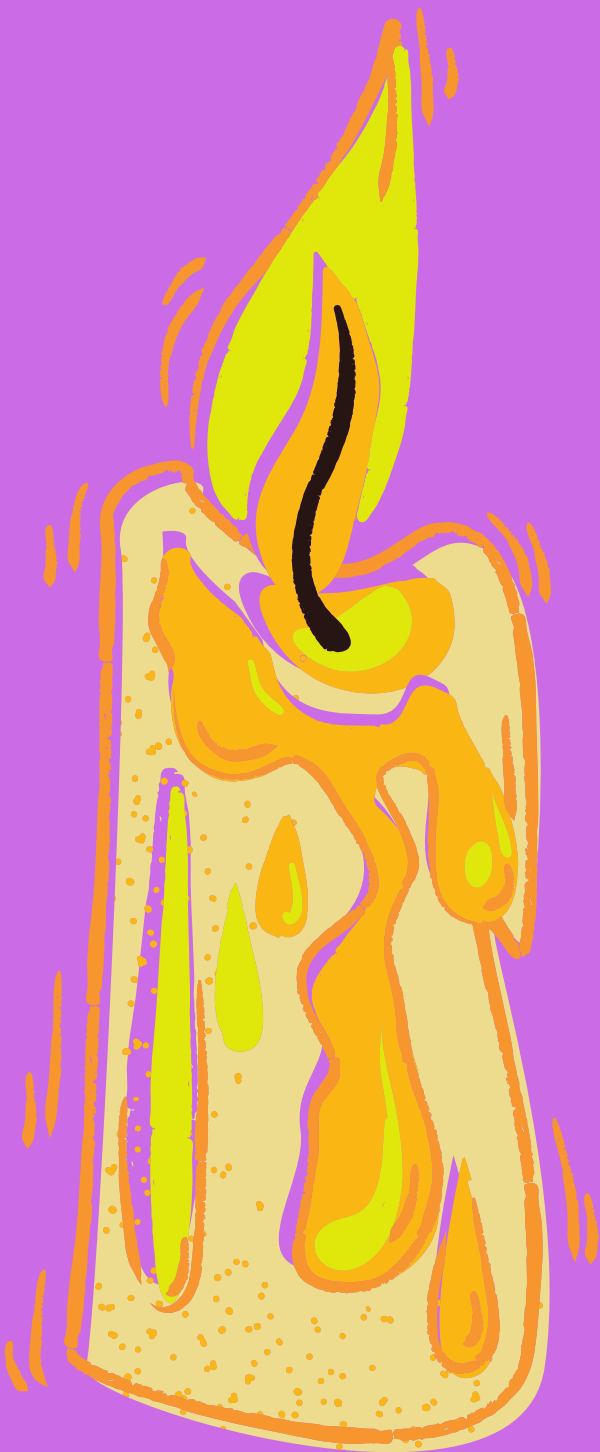
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Father, all-powerful  
God, your eternal Word  
took flesh on our earth  
when the Virgin Mary  
placed her life at the  
service of your plan.

Lift our minds in  
watchful hope to heart  
the

voice which announces  
his glory & open  
our minds to receive the  
Spirit who prepares  
us for his coming. We  
ask this through Christ  
our Lord. Amen.



Hope