

Wednesday 15th May 2024

BTH HIVE



“Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”

Proverbs 25:25

Welcome to the first edition of the BTH Sixth Form Newspaper! This term we have worked hard to produce a newspaper that reflects interests and knowledge of the Sixth Form student body. Our team of contributors, editors and IT hope that you enjoy reading what we have created. It has been clear since our initial meeting that we are a sixth form full of ideas, opinions and creativity and we are pleased to show you the amalgamation of these in this paper. We would love to welcome new contributors for next term's issue; please contact Ria Dawber (dawberr@bthcc.org.uk) or Ellie Connaughton (connaughtone@bthcc.org.uk) to learn more.

Happy reading!

Ellie Rose Connaughton and Ria Dawber

Editors-in-Chief

BTH Hive

Are you a fan of both golf and football?

BY OLIVER MCDERMOTT



Then we have the perfect opportunity for you! Here's how you can support the junior members at Altrincham Golf Course.

We are raising money to decorate the clubroom in the clubhouse for our junior members, and we need **your help**. Join us every Friday for a fun and exciting weekly football card. Simply enter and bring 50p, and you could win a fantastic £10 prize!

WHY NOT COME DOWN, HAVE SOME FUN, AND SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE?

Not only will you have the chance to win some cash, but you'll also be helping to create a welcoming and enjoyable space for the future of golf at ACC.



BY NIKHIL PRANAAV VASANTHAGANESH

Wesley Vissers Triumphs at Arnold's Classic UK 2024



London, UK - The Arnold Classic UK 2024 showcased some of the best talents in bodybuilding, but it was Wesley James who stole the spotlight with his impressive performance, taking home the coveted title.

The Arnold Classic UK, held annually, is one of the premier bodybuilding competitions in Europe, attracting top athletes from around the world.

Wesley Vissers, aka the Dutch Oak, a rising star in the bodybuilding world, made a lasting impression with his impeccable conditioning, size, and stage presence. His flawless performance wowed the judges and audience alike, earning him the top spot and the title of Arnold Classic UK champion.

With this significant win under his belt, rumors are swirling about Wesley James' potential to become the next Mr. Olympia. Winning the Arnold Classic UK is a prestigious achievement and often a stepping stone towards competing at the Mr. Olympia level.

However, Vissers remains humble and focused on his journey, acknowledging the hard work ahead. "It's an honour to win the Arnold Classic UK," said Vissers. "But the road to Mr. Olympia is long and challenging. I'm taking it one step at a time, staying dedicated, and striving to improve every day."

If you're a fan of bodybuilding or interested in Wesley Vissers' journey, it'll be exciting to follow his career and see how he progresses in future competitions!

As Wesley Vissers continues to make waves in the bodybuilding scene, fans and enthusiasts eagerly await his next competition and follow his journey towards potential Mr. Olympia glory.



BY USMAN GHANI

THE DOWNFALL OF LIVERPOOL



- **UEFA Champions League (2019)**
- **UEFA Super Cup (2019)**
- **FIFA Club World Cup (2019)**
- **Premier League (2020)**
- **Community Shield (2022)**
- **EFL Cup (2022/2024)**
- **FA Cup (2022)**
- **EFL Cup (2024)**

The Reds initially secured their place at the top of the Premier League early into the season. However, at the time of writing, they have dropped down the table to third. Are we expecting a comeback before the season ends?

I'm sure there's a few Liverpool fans around the sixth form, but who has their recent performance *really* affected the most? You might think it's the fans, or the players or the coaches. However, it was in fact, the manager himself. Earlier this year, Jurgen Klopp announced that the 23/24 season would be his last at Liverpool. A man who has accomplished so much with the team now faces a horrible performance from the Reds before his departure. Let's take a quick look at his achievements.

Liverpool had a strong win at the start of the month over Sheffield. But, following that; a draw at the theatre of dreams, Old Trafford. You might think; 'what does Man united have to do with any of this...?' not much - it's all eyes on Liverpool. They drew with the same team that knocked them out of the FA cup back in March. United are simply a mere obstacle stopping Liverpool from taking anything home with them this season (apart from the EFL of course). A week later, Liverpool conceded a goal at Anfield against Crystal Palace, a team not even in the top 10, giving them their first loss in a long time. But it's not just the premier league.

Not 1, Not 2, but 3 goals conceded at Anfield against Atlanta. Following that, a goal from Salah in the second leg but it still wasn't enough. It seems their Europa league dreams are gone as well. Back in the Premier League, Liverpool ended their losing streak with a win over Fulham but it all went downhill again when losing 2-0 to Everton, a team who's closer to relegation than the top ten and a draw with West Ham.



BY DECLAN BARBER AND SAM OSIVWEMU

REVIEW: DELUXE FRIED CHICKEN



Food reporters Sam and Declan paid a visit to Deluxe Fried Chicken in Timperley and gave the BTH Hive their thoughts...

DRINKS SELECTION **3.5/5**

The drinks were all in cans, and we would have preferred more bottled options to drink on the go. We would have appreciated more flavours to choose from, such as strawberry mirinda (Sam's recommendation).

CUSTOMER SERVICE **3/5**

The server was a little quiet and spoke only when necessary.

Atmosphere **2/5**

The car park had too many holes in it, there was a broken chair in the store and a washing machine in the middle of the floor. The store itself wasn't lacking too much and the menu and signs were all illuminated and looked pretty cool. Cleanliness wasn't an issue, the whole store was clean and polished and they had a **5 star rating** on food hygiene from the government. A big let down we faced, was that there was nowhere to eat in or around the location so visitors have to **find somewhere to eat**, which for us, was the met stop. 😞

Price **4/5**

The prices were pretty unbeatable- for a 3 piece chicken meal with chips, a drink and gravy, we paid £8.50; a burger and **a large bag of popcorn chicken** was £10; a burger meal and wings came to £12 - so no issue with prices. We even ended up with 5 wings in each portion so **price clears**.



VERDICT: The food was phenomenal - the burgers were perfectly cooked and weren't dry. The peri peri chips were elite; we got double the amount you would from Nando's **for half the price**, and you wouldn't be able to tell the difference. The wings weren't as spicy as we had hoped they would be, **but still tasted perfect**, so there are no complaints from either of us.

BY MADDIE FISHER

STRESS AWARENESS MONTH – APRIL 2024

Last month was stress-awareness month. As with all things mental-health related, the more you know, the more power you harness to act. Many of us think stress is a bad thing and something we have to get rid of, but that's not necessarily the case. The right amount of stress means we can get things done. Stress is a physical response when the brain detects danger in the environment and goes into a “fight or flight” mode. This causes an increase in blood pressure and an elevated heart rate, causing us to panic and feel on edge.

Three modes of stress that people go through are:

Fight - When our body is in a state of stress we become aggressive and agitated, which does help us in situations where we need to focus on survival, but it can be negative in unnecessary situations where we could hurt people we love, which, in turn, leads to relationships being affected.

Flight - Some of us avoid the stressful situations by removing ourselves from the cause of stress, rather than tackling it. In everyday life, this can make situations worse for ourselves because we then realise the stress will just keep building and building until we choose to face and tackle what is bothering us.

Freeze - This is when stress makes us dysregulated and the stress becomes locked in the nervous system. This causes us to physically “freeze” and it can be seen when we dissociate or our breathing starts to become shallow.

What are the signs you are being negatively affected by stress?

Stress manifests itself differently from person to person.

Emotional - stress may cause moodiness, panic, feeling anxious, frustrated and overwhelmed.

Cognitive - we may see self doubt, forgetfulness or an inability to concentrate in someone who is stressed.

Behavioural - stress can cause us to sleep too much or too little, to isolate yourself, or demotivation.

All of these signs appear when we have the odd “bad day” but it is about realising when a pattern occurs, for example, if you feel any of these symptoms for 5 days in a row.



How to cope with stress, and improve your wellbeing:

- Adopt a positive mindset
- Always get a good night's sleep
- Learn to say no - taking on too much will increase your levels of stress.
- Fuel your body and eat a balanced diet - this will improve the way you view situations and also how you act in them
- Try journaling - if you don't want to speak out about how you're feeling, writing it down to get things off of your chest always helps.

Support that is available:

- Stress management society
- www.mind.org.uk
- www.nhs.uk
- www.mentalhealth.org.uk
- www.samaritans.org
- You can also reach out to a trusted friend, or teacher in school for support.

BY JACK WORSWICK

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TEAM NEXT SEASON

Altrincham F.C have placed much above expectations, reaching fourth place in the national league. After such a momentous season, why wouldn't you want to watch the Robins?

With players like Chris Conn Clarke and Justin Amaluzor, Altrincham have created a unique, direct style of football. In addition, there has been an abundance of goals this season; netting 6 in one game on three occasions.

Despite the goals coming easy, great defensive displays have also become a feature of this Altrincham side. This is exemplified by Goalkeeper Ethan Ross winning Players' Player Of The Year. His performances have stood out in the latter stages of the season.

This season, Altrincham have kicked on in their second season of full-time football. Entertaining, direct and attacking football is always on display at the J Davidson Stadium.

A high level of football on your doorstep, with a greatly ambitious side performing brilliantly on a miniscule budget. National League sides heavily rely on volunteers and the community to drive the club. By buying tickets and getting behind the team, it will make a major difference.



Why Should You Go To An Altrincham FC Game?

A ticket to an Altrincham game costs as much as £15 and promises to be an enjoyable affair. This price compared to Premier League ticket prices is far more proportionate.

Goals are always on display; 143 times the ball has found the net; averaging 3 goals a game. Furthermore, the gulf in quality between the clubs in the National League is much closer compared to the Premier League. This allows for the feeling that anybody can win.

As they play in the national league, there are no allocated seats at the J Davidson Stadium. This allows for safe standing and a unique opportunity to watch a game in a way you can't at Old Trafford or The Etihad. This allows spectators to be much closer to the action and feel more engaged as a result.



Looking to the Future

As for next season, the Robins remain in the National League. After reaching the play-off semi final, Altrincham came up short to eventual winners Bromley. Despite this, the future is still bright for Phil Parkinson's side. They have many young and exciting players, which has led to many predicting the club to win promotion.

BY GRACE WOODHEAD

POWER OF POP CULTURE AND SOCIAL MEDIA



Selman Hosgor

In today's digital age, pop culture has become a vital part of teenagers' lives. From music and movies, to fashion and social media trends, pop culture plays a significant role in teenagers' lives and how they view themselves and the world around them.

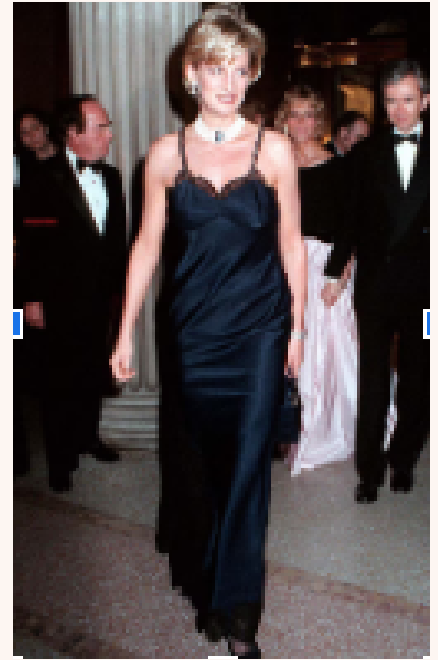
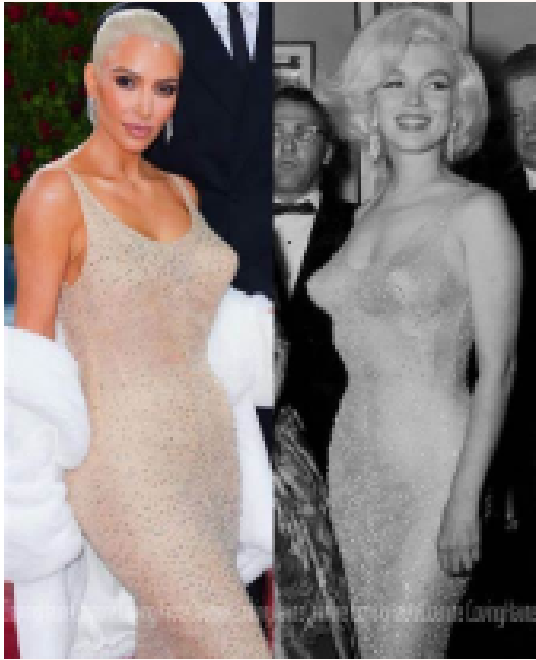
Pop culture provides teenagers with a platform for self expression and identity formation. Through music, fashion, and various forms of media, teenagers are the most likely to find inspiration and role models who reflect their values and aspirations. Whether it's through adopting a certain style or following a particular artist, pop culture allows teenagers to express individuality while also feeling like part of a group, and being able to relate to someone or something they have created. Social media also plays a critical role in shaping the norms and behaviours amongst teenagers. Media's representation of relationships, body image, and lifestyle choices can impact teenagers and how they perceive and navigate through these aspects of their lives. However, it is important to also recognize the positive and negative impacts of these influences and encourage critical thinking. For example, trends in the media started by popular social media stars can change the way teenagers act in certain situations or how they act towards each other, in order to find common values or 'fit in'.

The power of pop culture in music

Pop music has an incredible influence on society, shaping trends impacting emotions, and even sparking social movements. With catchy melodies and relatable lyrics, pop music has the ability to connect with people on deeper levels. Music can transcend boundaries and bring people together with one common interest, creating a shared experience that can both be uplifting and thought-provoking. One of the greatest strengths of pop music is its ability to empower different individuals. Pop songs have the power to inspire, motivate and instill confidence - they become the soundtracks of our lives, giving us the courage to chase our dreams, overcome obstacles and embrace our true selves. Pop music can have a way of making us feel invincible.

BY RIA DAWBER

SLEEPING BEAUTIES – REAWAKENING FASHION



The chosen theme for this year's Met Gala 'Sleeping Beauties - reawakening fashion' means 'Using the natural world as a unifying visual metaphor for the transience of fashion'. This event took part at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on Monday 6th May 2024.

The Met Gala has been an annual tradition since 1948 where invitations have been A-listed and hand-picked carefully. There is a strict no phone policy and a social media ban at the event to keep the exclusivity intact. Anna Wintour has co-chaired the event since 1995 and has sole power to send invitations to 600 celebrities. A single ticket to the gala can cost approximately \$50,000 USD and to secure a table for the event can cost up to \$300,000USD just for one night. The ball raises millions of dollars for the costume institute at the Metropolitan Museum.

This year, we saw pieces that have rarely been seen before and that were displayed in new ways. Original pieces from Christian Dior, Yves Saint Laurent, Elsa Schiaparelli and Hubert de Givenchy were on display as the celebrities took to the carpet. The theme 'Sleeping Beauties' hinted to include historically significant pieces that are too fragile to even be worn again; including one of the most fragile pieces by Charles Frederick Worth in 1877; an Elizabethan bodice and silk satin ball gown.

The Met Gala has given us some famous looks over the years, including Princess Diana in 1996. She made her one and only appearance wearing a blue slip dress by Dior and the iconic blue sapphire pearl necklace. In 2022, Kim Kardashian created uproar in the original dress Marilyn Monroe wore to sing 'Happy Birthday' to President John F Kennedy in 1962 designed by Jean Luis, containing 2,500 hand-sewn rhinestones. Finally, Blake Lively wearing Versace in 2022 (pictured above right). This dress was inspired by the Empire State Building with a rose gold gown that transformed on the red carpet into an aqua blue train with designs inspired by Grand Central Station.

BY GRACE BOOTH

The Race to the White House!

This is the most critical year in politics, since 4 billion people will go to the polls to vote in various elections across the world. One of the most important elections this year is the US presidential election, which will take place this November. But how do candidates get to run for president?

The US candidate selection system, known as the primary election system, is a process that takes place from January to early June. It decides which candidate should represent their party to run for president. It is likely that Biden and Trump will be competing against each other for the White House! This is a long awaited rematch Trump has been aching for since his humiliating defeat in 2020.

Each one of the 50 American states gets to hold a primary or caucus election, to choose the candidate they want to go forward to run for president. The first state to hold their election was Iowa, a caucus state (where the electorate votes in a meeting). New Hampshire was the first state to hold a primary election which is a ballot vote. It was a nail biting sprint to capture New Hampshire. This made Niki Haley a threat for the ex-president Trump!

Iowa and New Hampshire are seen as very influential early elections. Candidates want to do well to gain momentum to continue throughout the states. If a candidate is doing particularly well, such as Trump and Haley, they are more likely to get funding to help their campaign. Vivek Ramaswamy, a Republican candidate, admitted defeat after he received only 3 delegates in Iowa. Shortly after this, more and more candidates dropped out of the fight, falling like dominos.

'Super Tuesday.' 15 states held their primaries/caucus', meaning a tsunami of delegates were up for grabs, which, if acquired, could lead to a landslide advantage to one candidate. Trump easily cruised to victory in 14 out of 15 states leaving Haley with a minuscule majority in Vermont.

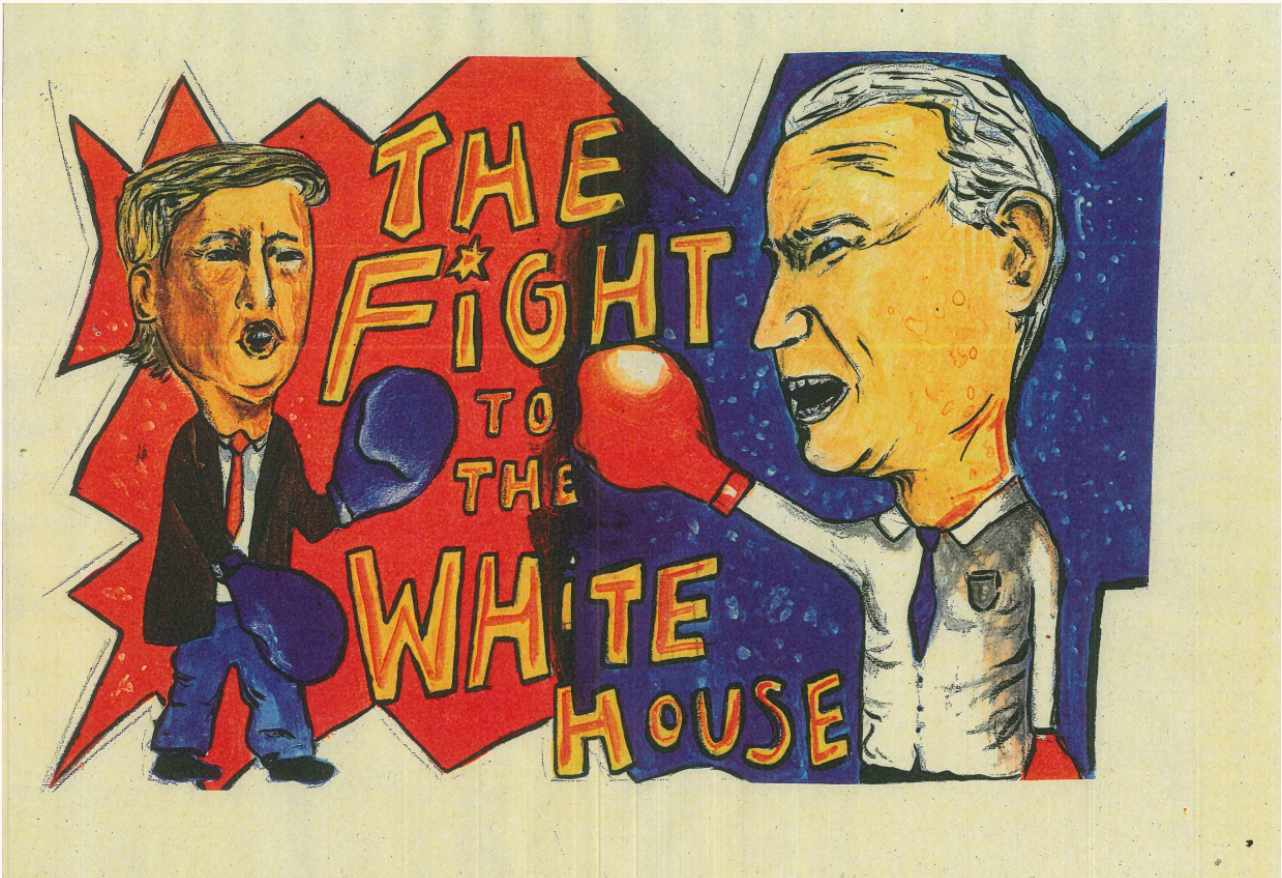


ILLUSTRATION BY MATILDA SMITH

The National Nominating Convention confirms which candidates will be running for president. This takes place around July or August and it is a 4 day long event. The Democrats and Republicans each have their own separate convention. However, whilst this race is going on, Trump is currently on a hush money trial. So will this affect his ability to be able to run for president? This is just one of the many scandals that this sleazy former president has become entangled in.

This trial showcases Donald Trump denying allegations of his manipulative move to pay off an adult-film star who he allegedly had an affair with in 2016.

Overall, this is just the start of the race to the White House. After the National Nominating Convention, there is an intense 3 months of campaigning. Each state has an opportunity to decide who they think is best to sit on the 'throne' in the White House. Until then, the press will be eagerly waiting at their feet to report on the latest updates on this vicious fight to the White House.

BY RIA DAWBER

OVERTOURISM IN THE CANARY ISLANDS

Protests that started at the end of April in the Canary Islands have been caused due to an increase of housing prices on the Islands. International tourists are accused of buying holiday homes in these warmer islands for the summer or to be rented out. This is leaving more than 800,000 of the Canary Island population at risk of poverty, social exclusion and homelessness. In 2023, the Islands welcomed 14 million international tourists, which was a 13% increase from 2022. This is around six times the Island's population of 2.2 million. Protest motivations from locals on these islands include struggling to afford housing, and protecting land from being built on, destroying farmlands and wildlife reserves.



The Canary Islands:

- Tenerife
- Gran Canaria
- Lanzarote
- Fuerteventura
- La Palma
- La Gomera
- El Hierro

Stresses have been made to the media that the protests are made towards the government, not the tourists. Tourism makes up 35% of the Canary Island economy and provides a wealthy income to local holiday-home owners, restaurants and agencies, so is valued by the locals. The protests are asking the government to do more.

As a result of an increase in tourism, Tenerife has experienced a rise in vandalism and graffiti cases. Tourists are known for destroying the land and agriculture within these Islands. The islands have experienced biodiversity loss, increased frequency of natural hazards and reductions in water availability. These protests aim to put a limit on the number of tourists that visit the Islands each year and to put a stop to the planned buildings of two luxury hotels in Tenerife, which will take away valuable land.

WORDSEARCH

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JESUS
 DIOSES
 CONFIRMATION
 FATHER
 SISTER

CHRIST
 BROTHER
 EXEMPTION
 ORDINARY
 VENERABLE

CATHOLIC
 CONFESSION
 FAITHFUL
 RELIGIOUS
 VOW

BY MADDIE FISHER

TOP 5 TIPS TO MANAGE YOUR WEEK!

*A Little
Progress
Each Day
Adds Up To
Big Results*

Quality over quantity Don't compare the amount of hours you have spent revising to how long your peers have spent. It is more than possible to work a shorter amount of time, but more effectively.

Stay realistic Don't push yourself too hard. Always take breaks, especially when you start to feel overwhelmed.

Start with what you enjoy If you have no motivation to revise, but you need to get things done, start with a subject you enjoy the most to help you.

Grades don't define you It is so important to remember that your grades do not define your self worth - you're still the same person you were before you received a grade you are not particularly happy with.

Believe in yourself. Believing in yourself will enhance your self confidence and will benefit you in the long run, when you start your exams.

BY ELLIE ROSE CONNAUGHTON

GET TO KNOW FATHER GODLOVE



It was a delight speaking to our school chaplain and local parish priest of St Vincent's Catholic Church, Father Godlove. Father Godlove holds a key role within our local community of Altrincham, but particularly at our school where he hosts a weekly Friday Mass, located within our sixth form.

Father Godlove was born in Cameroon and lived there through his childhood and teenage years, and found it "great fun". A key aspect that Father Godlove associates with his upbringing in Cameroon is how "family orientated" his neighbourhood was; he grew up in a large and very close family, where his cousins and friends were always at his house and always finding themselves all together, whether on a day-to-day basis or for celebratory occasions. It was clear when speaking with Father Godlove that living in a everyone-knows-everyone neighbourhood allowed him to become the approachable and kind individual, who now holds a place within our BTH family.

Throughout these years in Cameroon, Father Godlove told me how he and all the local children would go round house to house playing, noting how whoever house all the children would be at, lunch would be provided for all. The Cameroonian community treated everyone's child in the neighbourhood as their own, a core cherished memory of Father Godlove's.

When discussing our English schooling system, Father Godlove expressed how the schooling experience he grew up with in Cameroon was very different in many aspects. Father Godlove was able to educate me on how Cameroon is a bilingual country with the two main languages spoken being English and French, as well as having over 280 local languages, allowing schools to be



very diverse, enabling flowing communication as well as talent as children could speak a minimum of fluent English and French. Father Godlove found the whole Cameroonian schooling experience very interesting, full of respectable children who payed 100% attention to their studies, something we hope corresponds through our children at Blessed Thomas Holford.

Whilst on his path to achieving his vocation of being a Priest, Father Godlove was unable to visit Cameroon for 5 years, however, recently has been able to go to his home country at least once a year. Father Godlove visited Cameroon in 2023 after the upsetting passing of his father yet has already been able to visit his home town this year, with another trip planned in the summer; with Father adding his famous quote "*if the lord spares me*" and something that since meeting Father Godlove, after joining the St Vincent's Parish, has personally stuck with me. Although he was born there, Father Godlove found that there were several things he had to adapt to when going back to Cameroon after 5 years, including the side of the road to drive on and the lack of pedestrian crossings.

Father Godlove is from a family of seven children, whom, with the exception of his eldest sister who lives in Canada, all still reside in Cameroon, as well as his mother. When speaking to Father Godlove, I questioned him on how hard it must be, being far from his mother and his

siblings, but also the community he grew up in, due to how heavily family orientated it was. He expressed how, whilst there are no doubts he faced many challenges, yet Father reminded me that due to his personal understanding of his vocation to the priesthood he had known from a young age that he would have to live far away from his family.

Interestingly, a part of this preparation to living completely separate from his family and from where he had grown up, was that Father Godlove went to a Boarding school for his Secondary school years, which meant for around 9 months of the year, Father would live away without his family. Particularly in the beginning, Father Godlove found this difficult yet became used to this, as through by living in a different country now was meant to be. However, Father had left Cameroon several times in his youth to Rome, Madrid and Lourdes, etc. but only on short trips, giving him a taste of life outside Cameroon.

In his teenage years, when he started seriously considering a professional role associated with his faith, Father Godlove wanted to be a missionary, to go out and help others; so knew he would be leaving Cameroon.

A key part of Cameroonian culture is socialising and getting together. Whether it be a funeral, wedding, graduation or baptism, all communities would come together, where no invitations are sent out and it is common knowledge that everyone is invited. At these gatherings, everyone will bring food and drinks that will be shared out amongst all the guests.

Cameroonian communities will find any way to spend time all together, whether it be in celebration or sad times.

Father Godlove also noted how religious the Cameroonian culture is. He personally admired the priests he grew up with who acted, in his words, '*selflessly*', allowing the call to serve to be even more appealing to him.

Father Godlove's parents went to church everyday, and as a whole family, all seven children would join them for the weekly Sunday service.

However, Father Godlove too would want to join his parents at going to church daily. He opened up about how he would even get upset if he had woken up late and his parents had already left for church.

Father Godlove is worldwide, having lived in Cameroon, Spain, France, America and England.

After jokingly stating that he should be diplomatic and say his dream destination to live in was England, Father Godlove stated how he would really love to live close to a Marion Pilgrimage site, such as Fatima, Lourdes or Guadelupe or a religious site in Mexico. This would allow him to not only be close himself to Mother Mary, but also to pilgrims whom he would be able to help and assist.

When asking Father Godlove if he would ever return permanently to Cameroon, he explained that yes it was a possibility, however no he did not plan on doing it.

This was due to him feeling this need to go out and serve God outside of his country, and does not see it as a goal to return.

Father Godlove is an extremely educated individual, particularly with his language skills, being able to speak 11 languages, with different levels of fluency.

Most impressively and inspirationally, Father Godlove also learned sign language. During our conversations, he demonstrated some of his skills, including how he can sign both words as well as the alphabet depending on how a person understands.

However, Father Godlove has not yet used this talent whilst being a priest at St Vincent's.

One motivation to learning sign language was a question Father Godlove asked himself: How were those with hearing impairments or speech impairment able to access the scriptures and sacraments, the homily or to take part in prayer in church. Father Godlove chose to learn so many languages due to the desire to welcome everyone and to spread the good news to all. The inspiration came when he was in Lourdes one night, where he met a man in a wheelchair, he approached this man and asked if he needed assistance. After talking to him in French, English and Spanish, the man looked and said "German, German, Deutsch" which Father did not know, and did not have access to what would be used now, such as Google Translate, yet wanted to help him.

So after leaving his pilgrimage to Lourdes, Father Godlove promised himself that with

God's help, he would learn as many languages as possible so that he could help others and speak to others in the same language that they spoke to him. This has helped him in his priesthood, particularly recently in Fatima where he was able to help with confessions, which he noted he was very very grateful for.

Father Godlove finds it fun being able to speak and understand so many languages, as well as opening up his horizons to being of assistance to others.

One example of this was when Father was in the US, and whilst at border control an Italian speaking lady was visibly upset and started shouting in Italian if anyone spoke Italian. Father Godlove was able to approach, offer his assistance, help communicate and resolve the issue.

There was a combination of influences that helped Father Godlove choose the priesthood, including the desire to serve, gospel readings, to celebrate Mass, and to be a part of the sacraments.

Father described his understanding of his vocation as gradual. When he was growing up in Cameroon, he saw that priests were always smiling, being welcoming and being attentive to be people, something that Father Godlove himself wants to embody and try to do everyday. At this point of our conversation I was able to provide Father Godlove with the reassurance that he definitely fulfils all the characteristics of priest which he witnessed when he was younger, particularly his approachability.

When discussing his long journey to priesthood, Father Godlove explained that although there were moments of doubt and shortcomings,

he was happy and found it an adventure, allowing him to meet many people from different countries all working together towards a common goal. A personal choice Father Godlove chose was to eat the food that was common in that area. He has tended to not go out to African restaurants, however many African families have been kind enough to bring him home-cooked African meals.

When informing his family of his choice of priesthood, Father describes his parents reaction as supportive, with his mum being all-in, and says he received advice from his father to take his time to discern and understand.

A main aim that Father Godlove wants to achieve is to be able to lead others with the grace of God, to God. Father Godlove reminded me that like God, priests want to remain humble and each individual religious title does not hold any more or less meaning than those regarded higher positions.

It is important to infer that, unlike Father Godlove who understood his vocation at a young age, many people struggle to find their vocation within life, so Father Godlove's advice would be to simply talk to people, whether you feel you may want to be a banker or accountant; go and speak to an experienced person within that field and ask them questions about what it is like, or speak to those who are married if you feel you would like to get married.

One thing Father did himself that he would suggest to others would be to read, particularly in the areas in what you feel you may be interested in, to get to know the reality.

Many people may lose their faith and in response

Father Godlove would say to give it a try, everybody's story with their faith is different, but do not be afraid to return. Here Father referenced St Paul's story. Father Godlove reminds all that with your faith some things may work for others that do not work for you, but suggests that you could say the rosary or spend time in-front of the blessed sacrament.

A key takeaway Father Godlove has for all readers is that the church is 'you and I' and is not the building or for the older generation, we all must respond to the call from God.

In his childhood days, Father Godlove also considered being a paediatrician, a translator, or a sports player, in particular tennis.

After returning from living in Spain, Father Godlove lived in Shrewsbury Cathedral, to gain a feel for the Shrewsbury Diocese, which led to him applying to the Seminary where he was accepted by the Bishop for training. He was then sent to St Mary's College in Birmingham where he finished his seminary, which he had previously started in Spain. This further led to his placements at parish churches, including Sacred Heart in Birmingham, St Hugh's in Timperley, and currently St Vincent's, which he describes as 'everyone's parish' and something that he loves about Altrincham; how you have both the elderly and the children, which he personally finds enriching being a priest to an area filled with a variety of lovely people.

A question that many people will wonder is what do priests' day-to-day lives entail, so I asked Father Godlove to give us an insight to a typical day for him:

- *Wake up at 6:30*
- *Morning prayers*
- *Shower*
- *One hour before the blessed sacrament*
- *Attending meetings*
- *Answering phone calls*
- *Responding to emails*
- *Parish preparation, including arrangements with bereaved families before funerals*
- *11AM the blessed sacrament is exposed at church again*
- *Lunch time Mass*
- *Lunch*
- *School visits, particularly at neighbouring primary school St Vincent's*
- *Rosary*
- *Hospital and care home visits*
- *Prepare and eat dinner with the fellow priest at St Vincent's Parish*
- *Vespers*
- *Evening meeting, including couples preparing to get married who may be occupied in the day*
- *Play or watch sport, particularly tennis or football*
- *Phone calls to family*
- *Night prayer*
- *Go to bed*

A key role that priests have, is to be 'on call' for the hospital, meaning if somebody was passing away, a priest would be phoned to give the sacrament of The Last Rites, as well as being a comfort to the family. Father Godlove is 'on call' on a Monday between 8AM until Tuesday 8AM, and carries a phone (separate to his personal phone) which he carries around with him for the whole 24 hours, aside from the hours spent celebrating Mass.

This time holds a great deal of uncertainty, where you can go all day without a phone call and right before you go to bed the phone rings. However, Father Godloves also describes this role as joy fulfilling as you are able to assist the sick and dying in their time of need.

Some days include more sport than others, including Tuesday nights where Father plays table tennis, as well as football in some of the evenings, whereas his tennis is mostly played within the daytime.

Father Godlove told me his love for sport has been a large part of his life from when he was younger to now, including football, tennis table tennis, swimming, martial arts and as he described in his own words '*hitting the gym*'.

Tennis is Father Godlove's favourite sport and was the first sport he played when he was younger, training everyday and taking part in tournaments in Cameroon, following on from his father who was a semi-professional. Nevertheless, football is also one of Father Godlove's favourite sports, due to the community aspect and playing as a team, communicating together, training together and the banter between team mates, to achieve the common goal of wanting to win, together.

Whilst at seminary, Father Godlove was able to play sports everyday, yet since his ordination he does not have as much time. He plays tennis 2 times a week, table tennis once a week, and football every couple of weeks.

However the talents don't stop there with Father Godlove's music abilities also making quite a list, including the keyboard, the organ, and several Cameroonian instruments such as the rattle and the pipe- and not the Scottish bagpipe - which Father quickly pointed out.

In some of the Christmas Masses in 2023, Father Godlove was able to play the organ at St Vincent's, contributing further to the parish.

When reflecting on yourself or any person it is important to understand and appreciate their strengths. When asked what his strengths as a person were- after jokingly saying causing trouble- Father Godlove decried himself as easy to be with, easy going, listening, and overall fun, explaining to me how he loves to perform pranks.

A message Father Godlove would tell his younger self is to spend as much time with family as you can, something we should all take away within our own lives.

Father Godlove's advice that anyone can do is to ask yourself a question everyday; we all have a purpose to find out within ourselves what that is.

'To be able to achieve something you have to know the what and why, before the how'

This will allow us to deepen our faith with God. It is prevalent today that many people do not attend church, whether due to parents stopping attending, laziness or other commitments of life, however Father Godlove asks to think why can't we spend an hour at Mass once a week on a Sunday, when we have 7, 24-hour days in a week, many hours of which may be spent just looking at phones? So why is it difficult to spend an hour a week at church?

On a final note it was important to ask Father Godlove a question in relation to our school:

One thing Father Godlove would like to achieve at BTH is to support both staff and students within their spiritual growth, and for all to be Christian and embody the Christian values.

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GOOD LUCK YEAR 13

As we head into exam season, all of us at BTH want to wish the Class of 2024 the best of luck, and hopes for a peaceful and successful exam period.

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
-Jeremiah 29:11*

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