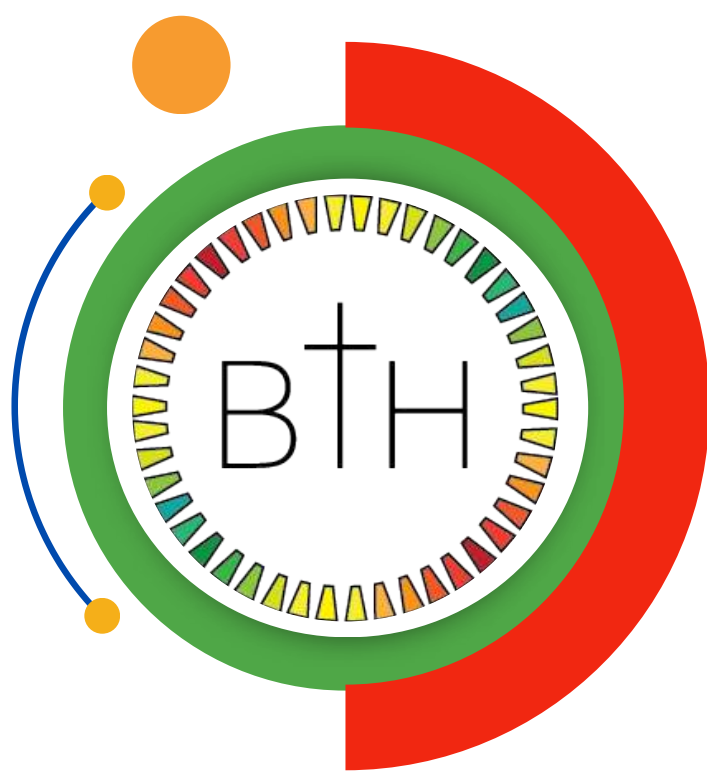




Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 

Weekly Newsletter



Dear parents/carers,

During this season of Advent our beautiful college is sparkling with three magnificent Christmas Trees, our crib scenes and Advent Wreath. When the mornings and evenings are so dark I love this time of the year when our faith brings such joy and light. On Monday we will be welcoming you all to our Annual Advent Carol Service at St Vincent's Church in Altrincham at 6pm. It is a wonderful evening of music, prayer, and mince pies.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle, sometimes called the "Bethlehem Candle," is lit. This candle represents love and peace - both God's love for us and ours for him and others - and symbolises the manger where Jesus was born. The manger is a vivid reminder of the great lengths to which the King of Creation went, humbling himself for his people. He deserved a regal procession into the city with much fanfare. Instead, we see him born in a manger, living in poverty with no place to lay his head. Lighting the second Advent candle reminds us of Jesus' life of love for us. During Advent we live this message by supporting the Caritas Appeal ensuring our BTHCC family always remember those less fortunate, and we try to spread the message of Advent to all.

The four Sundays in Advent focus in turn on the virtues of hope, peace, joy, and love. On this second Sunday, we also reflect on peace. We invite our students to use their God-given gifts to understand the dynamics that disrupt peace. Asking them to join in solidarity with others to pray for and to build communities of hope, peace, and reconciliation.

Please do share with your children the importance of this time of Advent as we all prepare for the Christmas season.



This term we have invited experts into BTHCC to review our ongoing journey to excellence. The feedback has been incredibly positive with one example below. However, we continue to be an outward, research led improving college which strives daily to be an excellent Catholic college for all. This programme of external reviews will continue ensuring we only provide the best for the young people in our care.

***'Students were overwhelmingly positive about the school, they are well supported by staff and felt they had lots of opportunities to do different things.'* School Improvement Service Quality Assurance Record of Visit November 2024**

And our Sixth Form Students

- ***Teachers are passionate about their subjects and that rubs off on you.***
- ***It's a great community here. Adults want you to grow academically but don't forget about developing you as a person.***
- ***Our teachers are constantly giving you support in the real world not just for your exams.***
- ***Teachers inspire you to be the best version of yourself.***

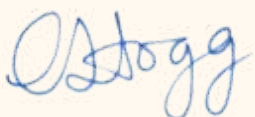
Peter Cox

The Department for Education Performance Tables were finally issued this week and the BTHCC data evidence a very encouraging upward three-year trend.

In 2022 progress was +0.03, In 2023 again positive progress of + 0.20 which was well above national and BTHCC was the best nonselective school in Trafford and this year 2024 our students have excelled once again. Our progress score is +0.23 again well above national. Congratulations to all the students for all their hard work and dedication and to all the staff who go that extra mile to ensure they succeed.

We will continue to build on this fabulous success, but our students are so much more than a score or grade. They are just so marvellous! Their commitment, their enthusiasm and their joy are contagious and ensure we continue to shine bright as a beacon of God's love.

Thank you for your continued support and care.



Mrs C S Hogg



Dates for the diary



DEC
09

CHRISTMAS ADVENT SERVICE
St Vincents Church
Advent Service 6pm

DEC
13

SIXTH FORM FETE
Sixth form students are selling items to raise money for Caritas

DEC
19

WHOLE COLLEGE MASS
All year groups

DEC
20

BTHCC TALENT SHOW & CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
Students take part in a talent show

DEC
20

BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS

JAN
06

RETURN TO SCHOOL





BTHCC ARE SUPPORTING THE

Caritas at Christmas Appeal



Merry Christmas and wishing you a season of peace



[Donate here](#)

This year at BTH we are raising money to support the Bishops wishes for supporting the Caritas at Christmas appeal. It will include lots of fun and engaging ideas and celebrations for all our students top get involved in.



Advent Service



6th December 2024

BTHCC invite you to join us for a very special "O COME O COME EMMANEUL - GOD IS WITH US" advent service taking place at St Vincent's Church in Altrincham on Monday 9th of December at 6pm. Enjoy Carols by Candlelight & refreshments & mince pies after the service #advent #bthfamily

"O COME O COME EMMANEUL - GOD IS WITH US" ADVENT SERVICE

Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College invite you to our Family Advent Service on; Monday 9th 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

All students to attend in full school uniform and friends, family and neighbours are all invited!

Please could you complete the google form to let us know that you will be attending -

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdc9tLLqapab1TsYS-GDp6UCQD8hwh6wEmKNCVWI51tzQrz4Lw/viewform>

Chaplaincy

Last week as part of our live simply award we have been creating our Kindness cards to send out to our local community.

They have been thanking you notes and words of inspiration to share to those around us in our local community. The children have really engaged in this activity and have learnt about the power of kindness and how it makes a difference to those around us. A simple act like a card can show that people are always cared for and valued and never alone. This lives out our Catholic faith and embraces how Jesus lived his life! We have been inspired by his work and the work of CAFOD to make a difference through small acts of kindness.



FOR THE POOR

May God's love be our guide

Faith in Action

Quote of the week:

“He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Prepare for the birth of Jesus!

Events this week:

Wednesday word: 8:30 am in the chapel

Family Mass: Friday 8:15 am in the Chapel

Faith in Action: Tuesday and Wednesdays 1pm in W06

Philosophy club: Tuesday-Thursday

SVP: Every Thursday 12:30-1:30pm in The Chapel with Miss Giles

Weekly Challenge:

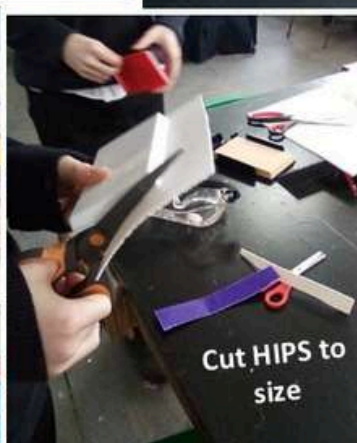
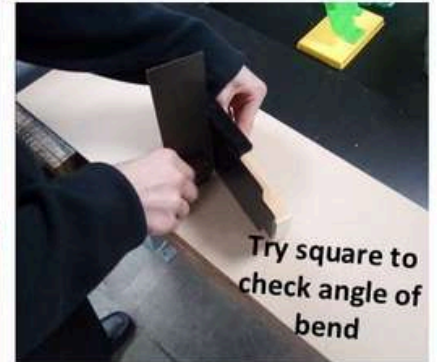
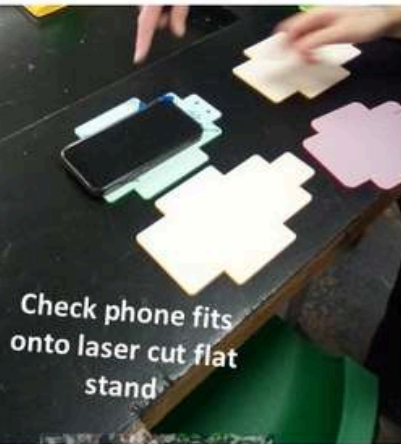
How can you make a difference this advent in our Caritas at Christmas appeal?



This week's key word:
Advent

Here are photos of the Year 10 putting their theory knowledge about plastics into practice.

They have been studying the polymer theory. Life cycle, fractional distillation, working properties, types of polymers and how plastic product are made in industry. Last week they used all this theory knowledge and worked with HIPS and acrylic to make a phone stand which they took home.



Our year 11 Classics students exploring the Parthenon galleries at the British Museum and ice skating.



Last week we took some of the students to Haworth for a creative writing session. We visited the Bronte museum and the gorgeous countryside.





Creative writing trip

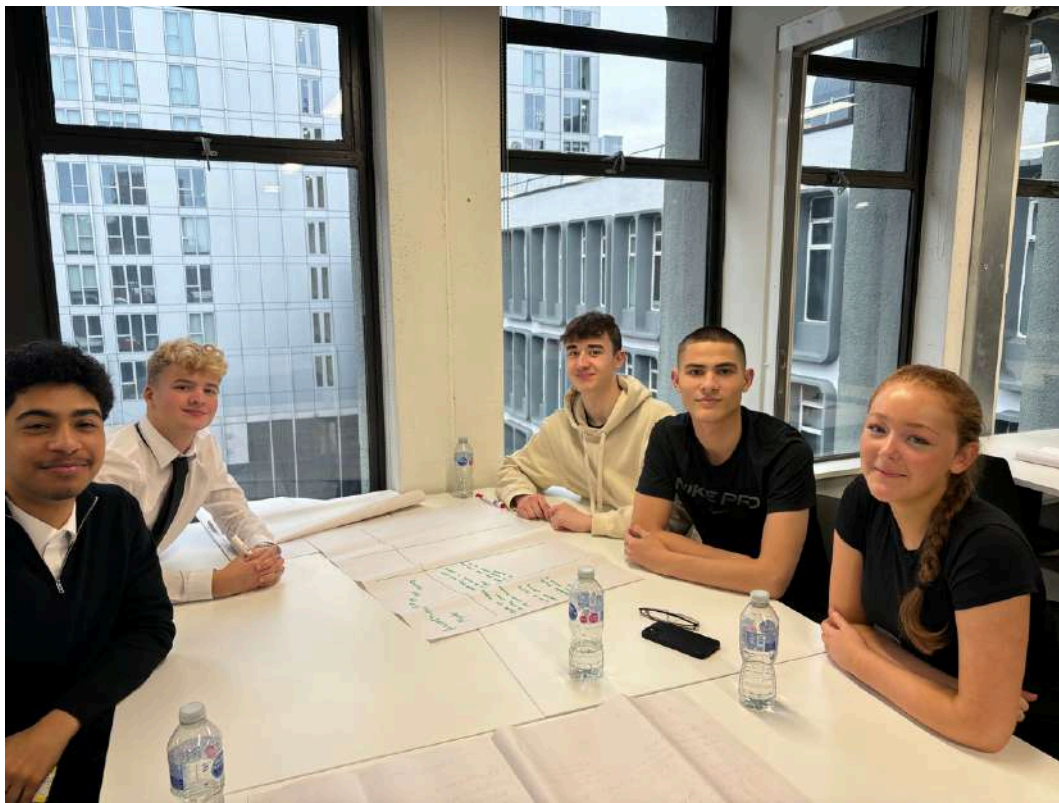


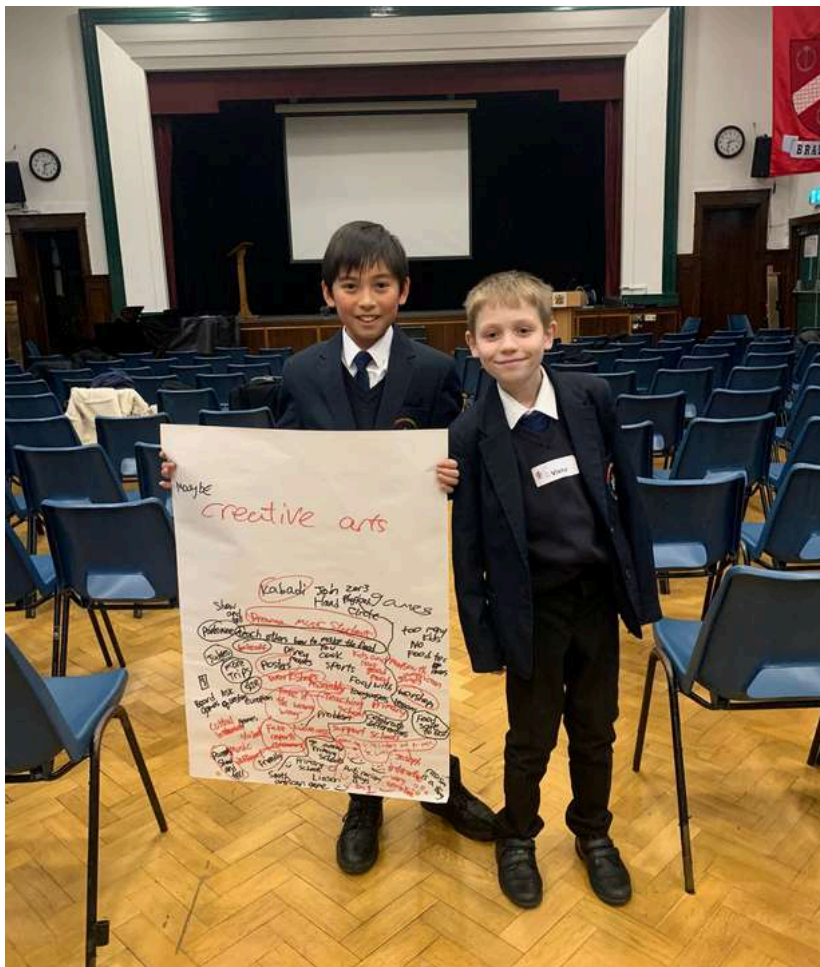
6th December 2024





On Wednesday, 10 business studies A Level students visited the UA92 Business school in Manchester City Centre. The workshop was to help support the students with developing their video pitch that they will be submitting as part of a competition to develop a business idea that will benefit Greater Manchester in any industry, including sport, education or technology





Yesterday the student council went to a TARA (trafford anti-racism alliance) at Altrincham boys school where they discussed how and ways schools can encourage anti-racism.

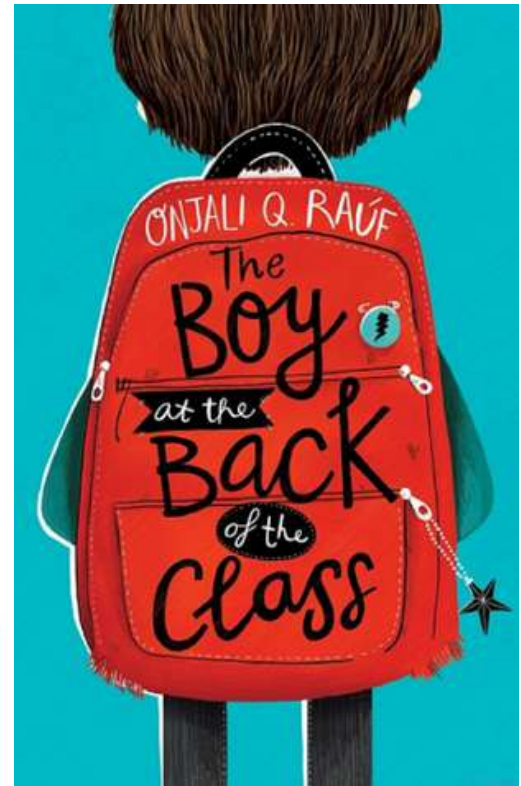
It was a really interesting trip and the children had some amazing ideas



Book of the Week

There used to be an empty chair at the back of Mrs. Khan's classroom, but on the third Tuesday of the school year a new kid fills it: nine-year-old Ahmet, a Syrian refugee.

Told with humour and heart, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* offers a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.



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

mediocre

- adj. average, undistinguished, middling, uninspired

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

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



medi-ocre

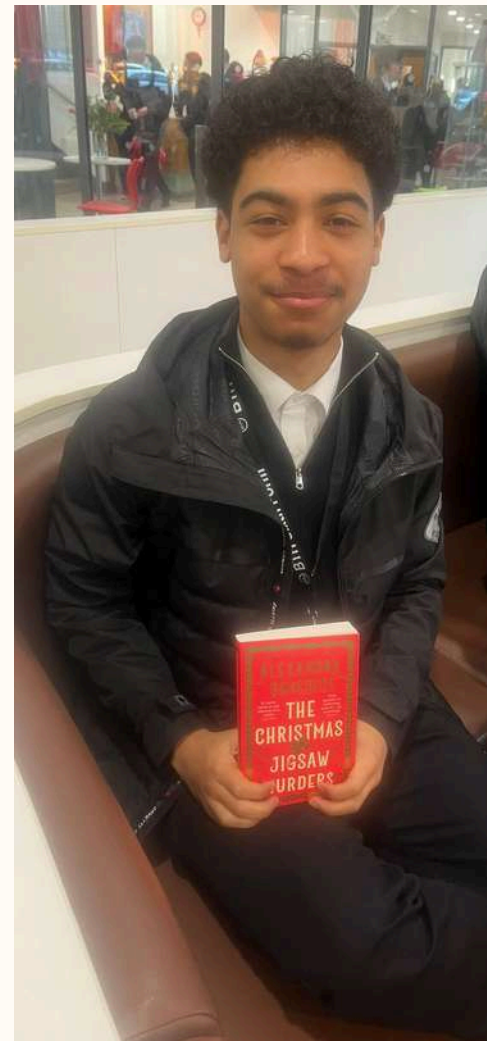
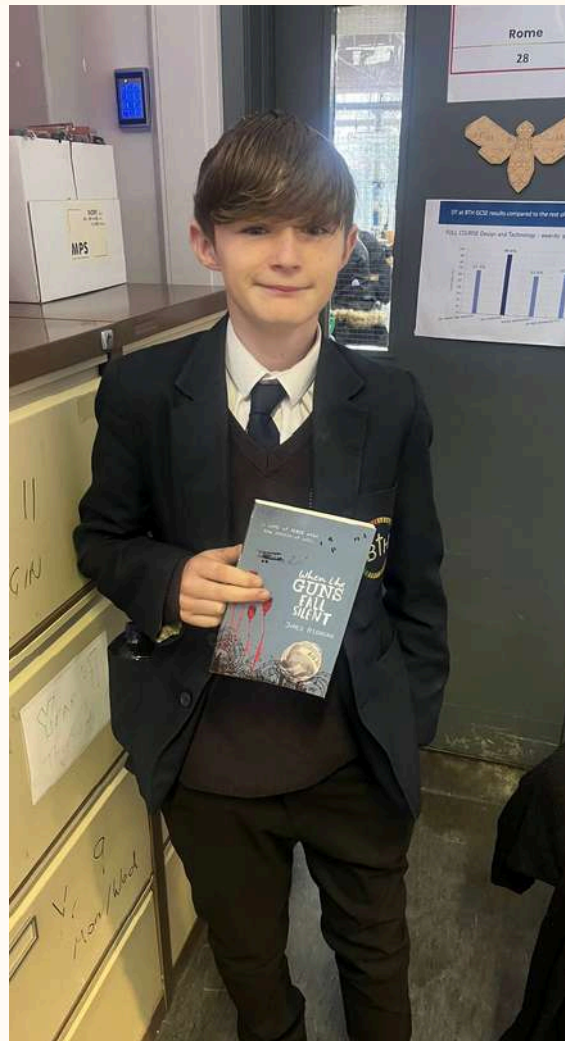
Latin: medius (middle)

Latin: ocris (mountain - height)

Who might use this word?

construction manager, database architect, artistic director

READING ADVENT CALENDAR





Cognitive development: Reading can help children develop their vocabulary, comprehension, and concentration skills. Studies show that children who read from a young age may develop higher intelligence later in life.

Easy to send: Books are easy to send as gifts, especially for those who live far away.

5 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD GIFT A CHILD A BOOK THIS CHRISTMAS

Social skills: Reading can help children build their social skills, communication skills, and critical thinking skills.

Inexpensive: Books can be an economical gift, with many paperbacks costing under £10.

Stress reduction: Reading can help children relax and reduce stress.



Such a wonderful idea!! As Christmas is fast approaching why not give the gift of a book for every month of the new year!! Helping your child get into the routine of reading for pleasure. A book doesn't require batteries, chargers or WiFi but will encourage a love of reading for a lifetime to come.



An undefeated Y7 team with a 6-3 win in the English schools competition in terrible weather last tonight. Goals from Arella (4) and Sofia (2)





Congratulations to our Year 8 boys football team, who have progressed to the round 6 of the ESFA cup! They showed great determination to come from behind and win 3 – 1. Goal scorers: Plowman and Durkan . POTM: Plowman & Cartner.



Another great win for our Y8A team 🏆
POM
L.Smith 🏆



Cross Country Saturdays Fantastic races by all our BTH athletes - well done all Year 7 girls - GOLD medals Year 7 boys - GOLD medals Year 8/9 girls - GOLD medals Individual medals for C.Martinez-Whitaker, C.Donald, E.Pearson, and L.La-Band





**Laser cut
Christmas tree
decorations!**

**Wednesdays
12.30-1pm**

Come along, learn how the laser cutter works and make some decorations to decorate your tree with



Want to know how things you use every day are made?

How It's Made

**Tuesdays
12.30 – 1pm
R19**

COMPUTER SCIENCE NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 11

Hello!



Welcome to the Computer Science department's newsletter! In every issue we will keep you up to date with everything going on in Computer Science at BTHCC as well as things you can watch/listen/read and see that are all brimming with technology!

Book of the Week



IN THE NEWS

Sony's PlayStation marks its 30th anniversary, with leaders Hermen Hulst and Hideaki Nishino highlighting AI's potential to transform gaming while stressing the importance of human creativity. The PS5 remains a success, but the company faces challenges such as job cuts and the failure of the game Concord.

More here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce9gpdrx829o>



What are we currently LEARNING?



Year 7	Year 7 have been introduced to binary and why computers use it.
Year 8	Year 8 have finished their movie posters and have uploaded!
Year 9	Year 9 have been looking at the risks of the metaverse in the modern world.
Year 10	Year 10 have been looking at data RLE compression and huffman coding.
Year 11	Year 11 have been recapping pseudocode and using core 4 revision strategies.
Year 12	Year 12 have been looking at the consequences of computing.
Year 13	Year 13 are carrying on with their NEA projects.

Career of the Week

Robotics engineers design and build robots that can perform tasks, from assembling cars in factories to assisting in surgeries or exploring space.

TECHSTUFF - EXPLORES HOW TECHNOLOGY WORKS, DELVES INTO THE HISTORY OF TECH, AND COVERS CURRENT INNOVATIONS.



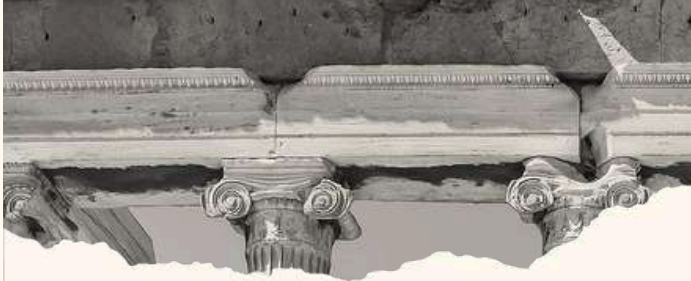
weekly

In computer architecture, a **backdoor** is a hidden method of bypassing normal authentication or security measures in a system.

Question Time

What is the name of the machine built by Alan Turing during World War II to help crack the German Enigma code?

Last weeks answer: "WorldWideWeb"



Upcoming Trips
 Y11 - 4th December visit to the British Museum in London & Ice Skating
 Y10 - Athens & Mycenae in September 2025

CLASSICS NEWSLETTER

What are we currently learning...

Y10	are beginning their study of the Roman representation of Hercules through the story of his defeat of Cacus in Aeneid Book 8
Y11	have witnessed Odysseus' return to Ithaca to find his palace besieged by suitors courting his wife – how will he get his revenge?
Y12	have completed their study of 16 Greek statues from 600 – 300BC and are ready to give a presentation on their favourite one 😊
Y13	have been debating the love affair of Dido & Aeneas in Aeneid Book 4 – with a focus on who is to blame for her untimely death



Shout out to Y13 for their fantastic help in Classics for the Sixth Form open evening



Classics in the News

What ancient Greek and Roman philosophers thought about vegetarianism

Published November 20, 2024 12:04pm GMT



Pythagoras is considered the father of vegetarianism. © iLubovAndOksa/Shutterstock

<https://theconversation.com/what-ancient-greek-and-roman-philosophers-thought-about-vegetarianism-242968>

What to watch / read



In cinema in now...
 After his home is conquered by the tyrannical emperors who now lead Rome, Lucius is forced to enter the Colosseum and must look to his past to find strength to return the glory of Rome to its people.



The wonderful and vengeful myths of Hera - queen of the gods and wife / sister of Zeus...

Lessons lately...

Year 10 recreated the Temple of Zeus Heracles metopes using the age old medium of play doh. And Year 11 reenacted the contest of the bow from Odyssey Book 21 from toothpicks & marbles...



Play doh art credits: Izzy, Sean & Emily



FOOD AND NUTRITION

THIS WEEK

WHAT IS ON THE MENU?

Year 7: Festive bake

Year 8: Vegetarian diets

Year 9: Religions festivals/ sensory tasting

Year 10: Black forest gateaux

Year 11: NEA2

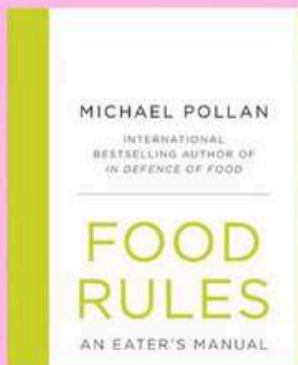


WHAT TO WATCH



Saturday kitchen live
BBC

BOOK OF THE WEEK



We recommend trying out, "Food Rules: An Eater's Manual" by Michael Pollan



CHEF OF THE WEEK

HARLEA YEAR 7

Harlea in year 7 made a festive bake

WORD OF THE WEEK

Vegan

Definition: Vegan refers to a lifestyle and diet that excludes all animal products, including meat, dairy, eggs, and honey, promoting ethical, environmental, and health-conscious choices.

CAREER OF THE WEEK

HEALTH COACH



Assisting clients in achieving health goals through nutrition and lifestyle changes.

AVERAGE SALARY - £25,000-£35,000

BUSINESS STUDIES

NEWSLETTER



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

BREAKING NEWS

BUSINESS IN THE NEWS

The sale of Royal Mail to Czech billionaire Daniel Kretinsky's EP Group is close to being finalised and could be confirmed in the next two weeks. Unions have been meeting with Kretinsky's advisors and while some are wary, the CWU says meetings have been constructive.



CAREER OF THE WEEK

Job Title: Research and Development Consumer Experience Graduate Scheme

Salary: £32,000

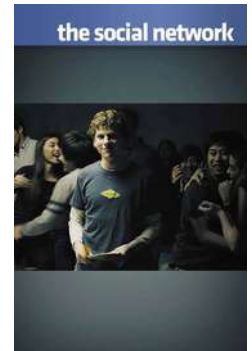
Job Responsibilities:

- Engage with stakeholders globally to create impactful results
- Work with the consumer and sensory insights network to refresh and develop new methods to support product development.

WHAT TO WATCH



Mark Zuckerberg creates a social networking site, Facebook, with his friend Eduardo's help. Though it turns out to be a successful venture, he severs ties with several people along the way.



Title: The Social Network

Where: Amazon Prime

KEY TERMS INTRODUCED IN BUSINESS



Gross Profit: The profit that a business makes after deducting the costs associated with making and selling its products.

The Sales Process: The process by which a business delivers the product to its customers.

Qualitative Data: Descriptive data that cannot be measured in numbers.

Retrenchment: The cutting back of an organisation's scale of operations.

WHAT ARE WE STUDYING IN BUSINESS STUDIES?

Year 10	Year 10 have been looking at how to calculate gross and net profit margins.
Year 11	Year 11 have been looking at the sales process of a product or service.
Year 12	Year 12 have been looking at market research and the data that is collected.
Year 13	Year 13 have been looking at problems associated with business growth and how a business may need to go through retrenchment.

BUSINESS STUDIES NEWSLETTER

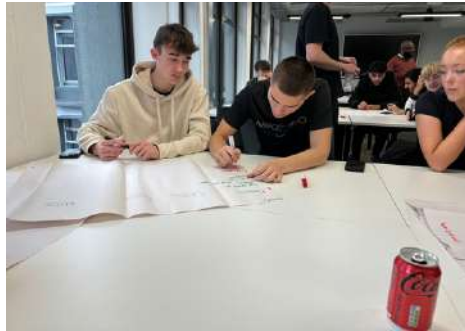


UA92 BUSINESS PITCH WORKSHOP WITH NATWEST

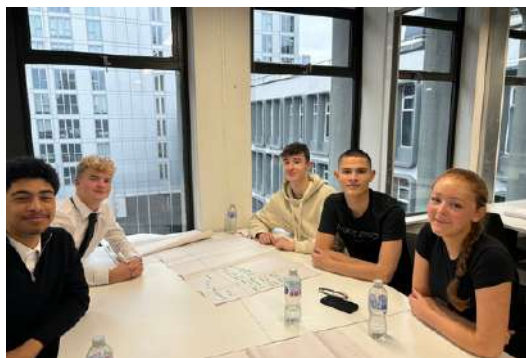
On Wednesday, 10 business studies A Level students visited the UA92 Business school in Manchester City Centre. The workshop was to help support the students with developing their video pitch that they will be submitting as part of a competition to develop a business idea that will benefit Greater Manchester in any industry, including sport, education or technology.



The students worked with the team from UA92 and Natwest, through 5 stages, including following the Disney dreamer method, to ensure that their ideas were thought through critically and are realistic.



We will be submitting two pitch ideas at the end of the month, after the two teams have completed market research for their ideas and developed a 5 minute presentation to be submitted.



I can't wait to see what they produce and for them to go through to the next round of the competition in January!



As one Church year ends and another begins, Bishop Marcus Stock, Chair of the Catholic Education Service and Bishop of Leeds, has written to all schools to offer a brief reflection on the season of Advent, and to share his gratitude to all who work in Catholic education for your dedication and service.

You can read his message in full [here](#) Advent message from Bishop Marcus to Catholic schools, colleges and universities

Wishing you a blessed Advent,

Lower entry requirements, a £1,300 bursary and all the support to get you to university. Apply by Sunday, 15 December.

Thinking about university? The Manchester Access Programme can help get you there. With lower entry requirements and a £1,300 bursary, programme details can be found [here](#). We believe all students should have the chance to go to university. If that's your ambition, we'll help you get there.

Applications close Sunday, 15 December.



GLOBAL ACADEMY MAKEUP • HAIR • PRODUCTIONS

PROM hair & makeup 2025

The Global Makeup Academy in Manchester is offering heavily discounted hair and makeup services for anyone attending their school prom in 2025.

Our talented Level 2 & Level 3 students will create stunning looks, giving you the full salon experience at a fraction of the cost.

We know times are tough, and this is our way of giving all students the opportunity to look and feel amazing on this special day.

Contact holly.niblock@globalmakeupacademy.co.uk

Global Makeup,
Hair and
Productions
Academy are
offering hair and
make up which will
be heavily
discounted, cost
will be £5 for
makeup and £5
for hair for school
proms next year.
07888875558

Warm Hub evenings return to Old Trafford

Earlier today, the club confirmed that the doors of Old Trafford will open up for the return of Warm Hub evenings to help those facing difficult months ahead.

This forms part of a wide range of initiatives with Manchester United Foundation to support people in need as temperatures fall and heating bills rise. The Red Café will provide a space to stay warm, chat and have a hot drink and snacks.

The area will be available to everyone, free of charge, every Monday, starting on the 25th November and will continue for a few weeks. They are running from 5 – 8 pm each Monday. People can arrive and register via the Sir Alex Ferguson Stand reception and will be guided to the Red Café.

In addition to the physical benefits of the warm space, the club want the Red Café to be a welcoming place for people who may feel lonely or worried during the festive period to spend time with others in safe surroundings.

Krispy Kreme®

DOUGHNUT SALE

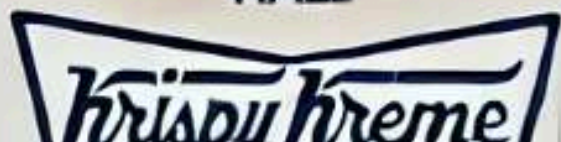
BREAK
AND
& LUNCH



**WEDNESDAY
11TH DECEMBER**

MAIN SCHOOL
HALL

ONLY £1!





CINEMA



Calling all students

On Wednesday 18th December at 1.30pm we will be showing 'Home Alone' in the Sports Hall for a donation of £1.00.

Please note there is only **250 tickets** available so it is first come first served. Tickets will be available on Friday 6th of December on Scopay.





Class of 2024

A Level Certificate Evening

Join us at 6pm to
celebrate your
success on
**MONDAY 16th
DECEMBER**



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic **Sixth Form**
May God's love be our guide 

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe
Secondary | December 2024



In this issue:

- Instagram Teen Accounts
- Gaming streaming sites

Instagram Teen Accounts

Earlier this year, Instagram introduced a new feature designed specifically for teenagers: the Teen Account.

This new account type aims to create a safer, more controlled environment for teens on Instagram, offering parents greater peace of mind about their children's safety while using the platform.

The Teen Account comes with additional privacy protections and safeguards tailored for younger users. These features include limitations on who can interact with teens and enhanced controls over the content that teens can access.

Parents will also have access to specific tools that help them oversee their child's Instagram experience, allowing them to guide and support safe and healthy social media use.

Currently, the Teen Account is available to some users in the United States and the United Kingdom. Instagram plans to expand this feature globally, making it available to all eligible users by early 2025.

How will Teen Accounts work?

Private accounts: Teen Accounts are automatically set to private, meaning only approved followers can see and interact with your teen's posts. Follow requests must be accepted by your teen, ensuring they have control over their connections.

Message restrictions: Only those who follow the teen can message them.

Sensitive content restrictions: Teen Accounts are automatically set to the highest level of protection against sensitive content. This means your teen will have the most restricted view, helping to ensure they only see age-appropriate content while using Instagram.

Limited interactions: Teens can only be tagged or mentioned in posts originating from those who they follow.

Time limits: Users are sent notifications after 60 minutes of use each day.

Sleep mode: Sleep mode is turned on between 10pm-7am which mutes notifications and sends auto-replies to direct messages.

The supervision feature gives parents more insight and control over their child's account. With this tool, parents can:

- view who their child is chatting with
- set daily time limits
- block Instagram access
- see the topics their child is exploring.

Teen Accounts provide an added layer of protection to help safeguard children online, but they are not a guarantee against all online risks. They work best when combined with the active involvement and monitoring of parents. Think of them as a helpful tool to support, not replace, your role in keeping your child safe online.



TOP TIP

Teen Accounts will only be applicable to your child's Instagram profile if they have indicated their age as 13 to 16 years old.

@THE_ENLIGHTENED_PARENT

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Gaming streaming sites Gaming streaming sites are online platforms that enable users to watch others play video games in real time or view recorded gameplay sessions. Much like tuning into a sports channel to catch a football match, these sites offer the chance to witness games unfold live. This experience can be both entertaining and informative for computer game enthusiasts, as well as for those seeking to gain insights into a game before diving in themselves. It is thought that over 83% of 12-15 year olds play online games, many of them through gaming streaming sites. Gaming streaming sites are also used to:

Watch others play: Viewers can watch players play popular video games in real-time for entertainment purposes. **Live interaction:** Viewers can chat with the streamer (the person playing the game) and other viewers. **Learn new games and techniques:** Many viewers watch streams to learn tips and strategies. Some popular gaming streaming sites are: **Twitch:** One of the most popular platforms for watching live video game streams. Streamers play games and interact with their viewers. Twitch has channels (separate groups) for nearly every type of game and is popular among younger audiences. **YouTube Gaming:** A part of YouTube dedicated to gaming content, where viewers can watch live streams or recorded videos. It's similar to Twitch but integrated into the YouTube platform. **Discord:** Though not a dedicated streaming site, Discord allows communities to stream games privately, often as a social activity among friends.

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH GAMING STREAMING SITES

1 Inappropriate content:

- bad language
- themes of violence, aggression, or crude humour
- adult discussions and images
- references to drugs and alcohol.

2 Unmonitored interactions and cyberbullying:

- chat features allow viewers to interact with streamers and users, risking exposure to inappropriate messages
- the prevalence of negative comments and trolling during streams.

3 Potential for grooming:

- predators use platforms to connect with and manipulate children
- some users may pose as friendly, asking personal questions that can lead to children inadvertently sharing private information.

4 THINGS PARENTS CAN DO TO PROTECT CHILDREN WHO USE GAMING STREAMING SITES.



FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS FUN-RUN

Charity no 160386 and a company limited by guarantee no 00457356



Run or walk!

With family and friends at:
**Middlewood Way (viaduct
next to St Gregory's Church),
Bollington, Macclesfield, SK10 5JR**

Join us for a fun-filled day of fresh air,
friendly faces and festive cheer!

cafod.org.uk/bollington

Adult £10 | Child £5 | Family £20

Sign up now and
get sponsored!

Scan here ↓



SCAN ME

CAFOD Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

**Volunteers also needed to help on the day. If you can
help or want to know more email: events@cafod.org.uk**