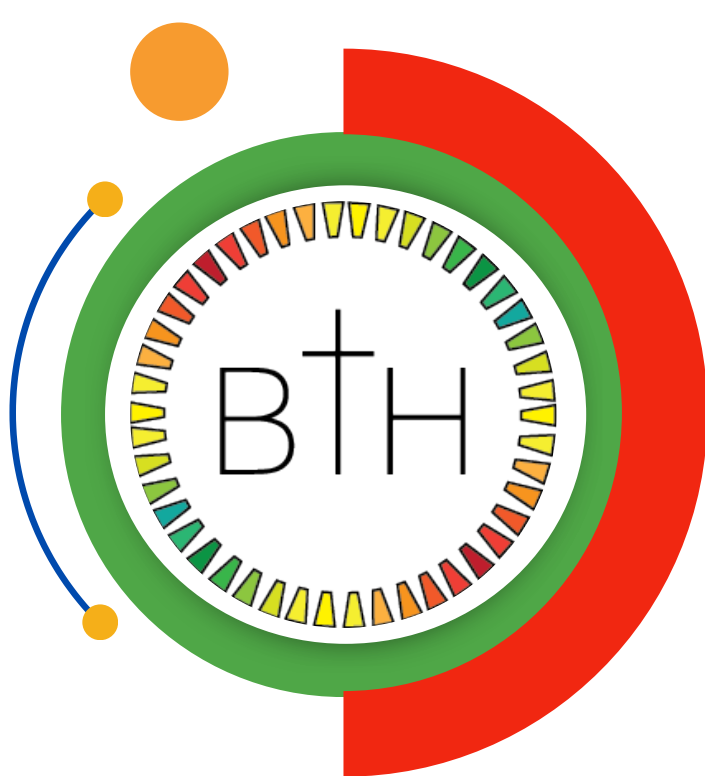




Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 

Weekly Newsletter



Dear parents/carers,

As we draw towards the end of our Advent term, we have much to celebrate and give thanks for.

At our Wednesday Word this week Ms Andreone spoke about a call to charity asking us to rethink how we view our possessions, our priorities, and our responsibilities to others. John the Baptist does not ask us to fix the whole world. He asks for something practical, tangible, and immediate. I am so very proud of how our students have taken on these words through the Caritas Appeal. There have been different events each day – The Advent Fete, run and organised by our sixth formers, the table tennis competition – staff v students, hot chocolate sales, Christmas Jumper day and all the beautiful crafts made during enrichment which have been sold for the Caritas Appeal. Well done to you all for putting your faith into action.

Over the last few weeks there has been a programme about children and Smart phones which has created a dialogue about how harmful overuse can be. At BTHCC we insist that students turn their phones off at the gate and they can only use them once they leave the gates of BTHCC. We have very strict rules about this, and I thank you for your support. However, we also have apps which help learning and I know many children enjoy this type of learning. We believe that children need to be educated on how to use a phone responsibly and safely. Our advice about phones is to monitor how many hours your child is using the phone and keeping an eye on what they are following or looking at. I would always say a phone should stay downstairs away from the child at bedtime so they have a good night sleep. Children need to know that there will always be a record of what they write or search on their phones and it is hard to be totally anonymous. The idea of influencing and fake news needs to be openly discussed, and students need a safe place in college to discuss and explore these issues. One of the thoughts behind our enrichment programme was to introduce children to sports, crafts, games, and other activities so they have hobbies away from their phone. However, phones are now part of our life and can be a wonderful resource for learning and socialising so we need to find a healthy balance while keeping our children safe.

When we return to school in January, please remember to be Ready to Learn. This includes students being equipped for learning and arriving before 8.45am with a school bag, pen, pencil, ruler, and a calculator. To be dressed smart for learning, no false eyelashes or jewellery, no false or painted nails, no trainers. BTHCC jumpers are optional, but blazers are not. We are so proud of all our students which is why we keep and value these high standards for all. Thank you for your support.

It has been such a joyful week at BTHCC with the BTHCC cinema, the celebration of Mass, the free Christmas dinner for all, the 6th form Christmas Market trip, the prize auction and the Talent Show. The students have been amazing and I do hope they enjoyed all the fun. May I take this opportunity to wish you all every happiness this Christmas and may you receive the peace, love, joy and hope of Christ. Looking forward to seeing you on 6th January 2025!



Mrs C S Hogg



**COMING UP...
ONLINE PARENT
WORKSHOP**



KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

A virtual webinar designed to support parents in keeping their children safe online



DATE

TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2025



TIME
6.00PM

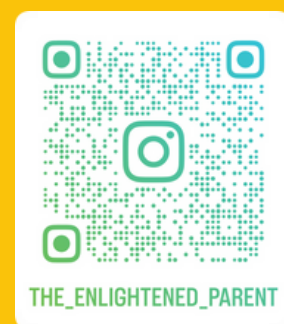


WHERE

ZOOM



Delivered by
The Enlightened Parent



Following a busy autumn term, I am excited to announce that bookings are now open for spring term online parent workshops.



All topics and content can be tailored to suit your specific context and needs; however, the most sought-after workshop currently focuses on online safety.

These workshops aim to:

- Inform parents of the realities of social media
- Advance their knowledge around the laws on image sharing and hate crimes
- Arm parents with practical safety tips for the most popular apps
- Provide them with pointers for digital etiquette in group chats
- Support them with how to encourage their child to have a healthy tech life

All workshops include:

- 50 minute interactive presentation on Zoom
- 10 minute Q&A session
- Time for individual questions to be asked after the session
- A takeaway sheet for school to send out after the workshop

Workshops cost £200 per school for up to 100 parents.

Please feel free to get in touch for a chat.