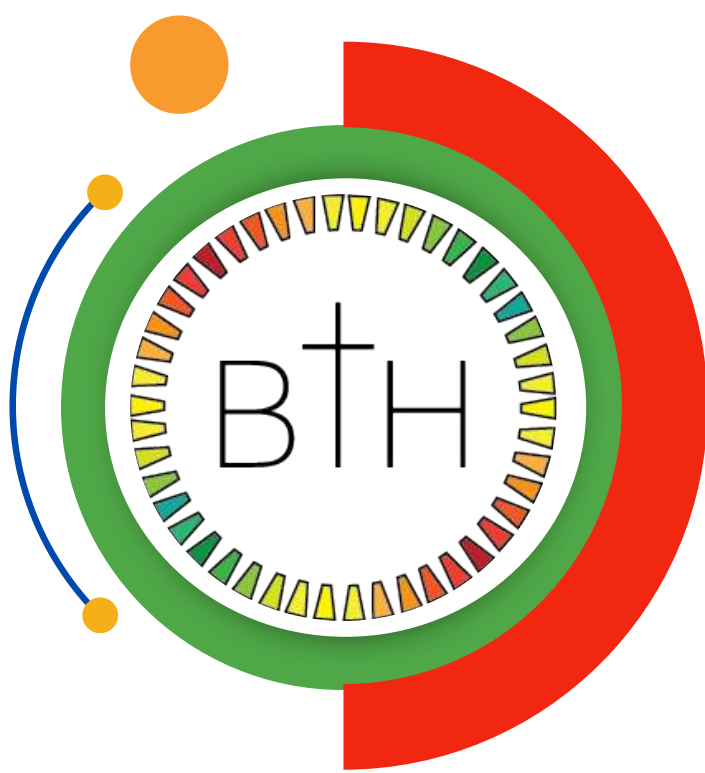




Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 

# Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you all had a good rest over the half term break. Many of our Year 11 and 13 students came into college over the half term for revision classes with their teachers. The students are working so hard as we support them through this exciting time of examinations.

This week we celebrate Oliver who has been nominated as the Junior Captain at Altrincham Golf Club this year. This is an amazing opportunity for Oliver, and we also congratulate Peter Higgins one of our much-loved Governors who will be captain at the same time.



Still on marvellous sporting achievements we celebrate Charlie who shone brightly at the National Cycling Championships this week. We are so proud that our students are excelling and developing their God given talents.



All it takes is one good person to restore hope!' Pope Francis, Laudato Si'  
Pope Francis has asked us to be signs of hope for others. He encourages us to put Catholic Social Teaching into action through caring for our common home and supporting our sisters and brothers who are experiencing war, hunger, or poverty.

We know that the world is facing many of these challenges. By joining together with millions of others in this Jubilee Year, we can help to bring the light of hope and the message of God's love to every part of the world.

We are all connected

We can all be pilgrims of hope and make a positive impact in 2025 by hearing both the 'cry of the earth' and the 'cry of the poor'. We can recognise that everything is connected. We want to ensure BTHCC is more ecofriendly so we visited The Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall for inspiration as demonstrate ways of living that better care for our common home and all creation, that are practical, and can be replicated across parishes, homes, schools, and communities.



Afterwards we had lunch at Cornerstone Day Centre which is a day centre for people who are homeless, have no settled address or are cut off from family and other support networks as we want to be involved in the work of caritas in a practical way fighting for social justice and putting Catholic Social Teachings into practise. If you are a gardener and would like to offer any of your expertise, we would greatly appreciate your help. (PICTURE)

This week we also enjoyed cake and balloons with Father Godlove who celebrated a special birthday with us. Father Godlove celebrates Family Mass with us every Friday morning at 8.15am. Everyone is welcome to join us in a chapel the Heart of BTH.

**Mrs C S Hogg**



## BTHCC Ski Trip 2025

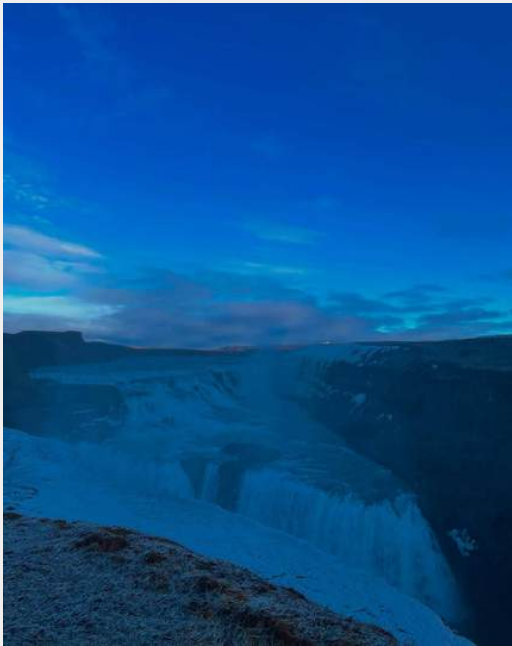
A massive thank you to the ski instructors and also the BTH staff. This trip couldn't run without them!





The geography department took 40 students to Iceland for 4 days. They visited the Blue Lagoon, the Great Geyser and Seljalandsfoss a stunning waterfall located in southern Iceland. It drops 60 meters from the Seljalands River. From speaking to the students this was their favourite place that they visited!!! The students were absolutely amazing and all staff all really enjoyed themselves.





On Tuesday, Mrs Hadfield, our Primary Strategic Lead, had the pleasure of welcoming six primary headteachers to Blessed Thomas Holford College.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for our guests to catch up with former pupils and share some heart-warming stories.

The group also discussed transition – how to make that big leap from KS2 to KS3 as smooth as possible. They even formed a focus group on how we can improve maths transition between these key stages. It's all about ensuring that the journey from primary to secondary is as seamless as possible for our students!

We look forward to seeing what great ideas come out of these discussions. It's a great step towards stronger collaboration and supporting our young learners every step of the way!



A 2-1 win in the Trafford Cup yesterday afternoon for our Year 8 B team.



Well done to our students who took part in the KS3 ENGAGE indoor athletics competition yesterday at Manor Academy, and we were the overall winning school!

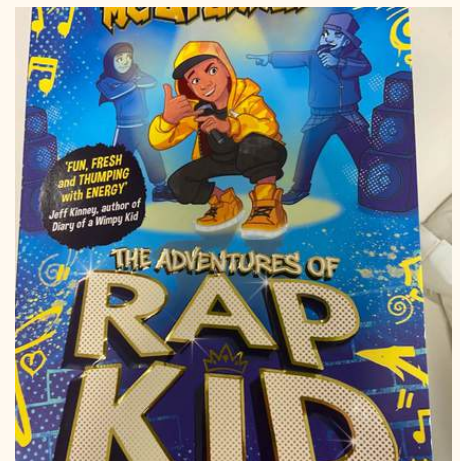
Charlie Holt in Year 11 competing in the National Championships last weekend!



On Monday we had the pleasure of hosting the award winning teacher, World Book Day ambassador, lyrical genius MC Grammar & Waterstones and 7 primary schools in our sports hall.

It was an amazing experience for the children and they loved rapping and singing with him! Plus he signed his new book 'The Adventures of Rap Kid' for all of them!

A day they won't forget!





In 58 days 16 staff members are going to be doing the Manchester Marathon on the Sunday 27th April 2025 to raise money to invest in the necessary resources to provide exceptional care for families, students and staff to support them with their grief, loss and bereavement.

It would be amazing if you could come down and support us on the day -  
[See route map here](#)

If you could sponsor us we would really appreciate it. Every donation, no matter how small, will help us provide vital resources and care for those in need during these difficult times. If you could take a moment to donate or share the link, it would mean so much to our community. Thank you!

[Sponsor here](#)

'EEK



BLESSED THOMAS HOLFORD



# CAREERS DAY 2025



## DATE

Friday 14th March  
2025



## TIME

09:00 AM - 03:00 PM



Blessed Thomas  
Holford Catholic College



**For more information**

please email :

[Careers@bthcc.org.uk](mailto:Careers@bthcc.org.uk) OR

[I.hussain@bthcc.org](mailto:I.hussain@bthcc.org)



**We still need around 10 businesses to make this a huge success!!!**

We're hosting a Careers Fair on Friday March 14th 2025 for all BTH students in our Sports Hall.

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

If you could help support us and would like more info please email [Careers@bthcc.org.uk](mailto:Careers@bthcc.org.uk) or [I.hussain@bthcc.org](mailto:I.hussain@bthcc.org)



# Full House February



We jumped into February with a game of **BINGO**. Each form received a **BINGO** card and every time they had a full house we stamped their bingo cards to be in with a chance of **REWARDS**. Attendance is everyone's business and we want to instil the importance of attendance and punctuality within our students. Thank you to the students and form tutors who really got involved. Winners will be announced next week and the rewards will be given out in assembly.

## Full House February



7ES



Attendance is EVERYONE'S business

Attendance Matters

## Full House February



11CS



Attendance is EVERYONE'S business

Attendance Matters

## Full House February



8DB



Attendance is EVERYONE'S business

Attendance Matters

## Full House February



7JP



Attendance is EVERYONE'S business

Attendance Matters

Dear Parents,

We understand that some students may face challenges with school attendance, whether due to emotional difficulties or anxiety. To support students and their families, Trafford are offering a series of sessions focused on School Attendance Difficulties & Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance.

These sessions are designed to provide helpful strategies and resources for both parents and students. They aim to address the underlying emotional challenges that may affect a child's ability to attend school regularly and to offer guidance on how to manage these situations effectively.

We invite you to attend any of these sessions. Your involvement can make a significant difference in supporting your child's emotional and academic well-being.

Please refer to the attached schedule for dates and times.

## PARENT AND CARER INFORMATION AND ADVICE SESSIONS 24 - 25:

# School Attendance Difficulties & Emotionally Based School Non- Attendance



**Is your child struggling or reluctant to go to school?**

Trafford's Educational Psychology Service are hosting a series of advice and information sessions throughout this academic year. Each session will begin with some information about school attendance difficulties and what support can be offered, followed by a chance to ask questions and chat to other parents and carers. Each session will last around 90 minutes.

### Online (via Teams):

1pm, Friday 29th November  
10.30am, Monday 3rd February  
6pm, Thursday 8th May

### Firwood Community Centre:

1pm, Friday 6th December  
6pm, Wednesday 5th March  
10.30am, Thursday 12th June

### Urmston Library:

5.30pm, Tuesday 19th November  
10.30am, Thursday 20th March  
1pm, Monday 23rd June

### Altrincham (TPF):

10.30am, Wednesday 6th November  
1pm, Tuesday 11th March  
6pm, Thursday 19th June

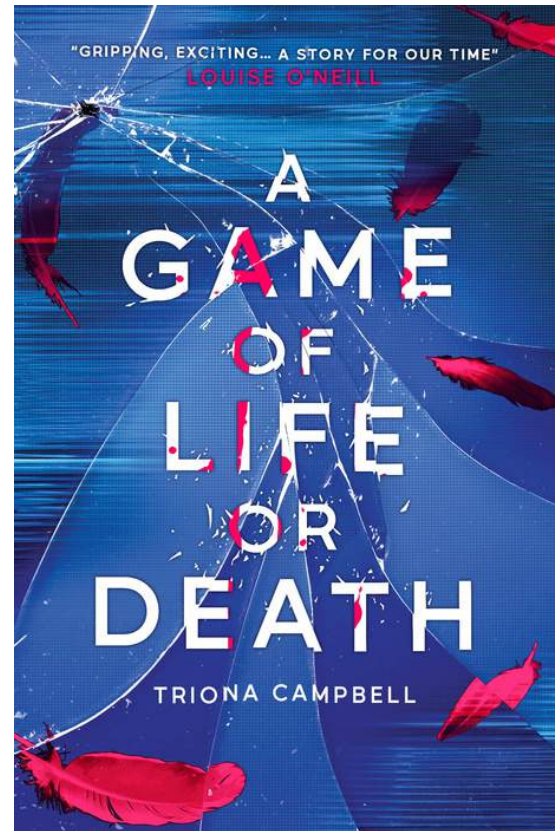
Book your free place today via: <https://forms.gle/dNUkh96KRwwnhdSNA>



## Book of the Week

When sixteen-year-old Asha Kennedy discovers her older sister Maya's dead body in their home, her world falls apart. Desperate for answers, and to stay out of the hands of the social services she grew up in, Asha turns to her hacker friends for help. Her search leads her to Zu Tech, the hit games studio where Maya was a lead coder. As Asha begins to unravel the riddle of her death, she realises that the only way to uncover the truth is from the inside.

Asha ghosts her old life and infiltrates a Zu Tech eSport tournament as they launch 'SHACKLE', the revolutionary Virtual Reality video game Maya was working on - and which hides a monstrous secret... Perfect for fans of The Hunger Games and A Good Girl's Guide to Murder



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

**subsidy**  
- noun. help, aid, assistance, contribution

RE: The Holy See provides an annual subsidy for the maintenance of churches and clergy.  
Further Education: If you are from a low income family, you could receive subsidies if you go to university or college.  
Theatre: If you go to see a play at the theatre, you can get a subsidised ticket if you are under 18 years of age.  
Politics: Farmers receive a subsidy from the EU.

subsidy  
subsidies  
subsidise  
subsidised

sub-sidy

Latin: sub (behind, near)      Latin: sedere (to sit)

Who might use this word? university admissions tutor, charity worker, headteacher

Sp Adobe Spark

**WORLD BOOK DAY**



**WORLD BOOK DAY**

**World Book Day will soon be here, if you would like to win a £25 voucher email [A.rowe@bthcc.org](mailto:A.rowe@bthcc.org) with a photograph of your pet reading your favourite text!**

**Final Call for all pet pics reading before World Book Day 6th March**



**With World Book Day fast approaching we will be giving all students a £1 book token.**

**The voucher can be used to purchase a WBD book or to get £1 off any book of their choice costing over £2.99. The theme of this years WBD is 'Read Your Way'.**

**Research shows that, book talks between teachers and students can help to increase the motivation and children's engagement in reading.**

**Please tell your child that they can pick up any additional vouchers from the library.**



# SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe

Secondary | March 2025

Knife crime is a growing concern in many communities, affecting young people and their families. While most children will never become involved, it's important for parents to stay informed and engaged. Understanding the risks, recognising warning signs and having open conversations can help keep our children safe.

In this issue:  
Knife crime  
Sexism and misogyny

## The reality of knife crime

Knife crime is not just a problem in major cities; it can happen anywhere. Although most young people do not carry knives, those who do—whether for self-defence or due to peer pressure—significantly increase their risk of harm.

## What you can do as a parent:

- **listen without judgment** - children need to feel safe talking to you. Create an environment where they know they can share their worries without fear of punishment.
- **know who they're with** - peer pressure is one of the biggest influences on a child's decisions. Encourage positive friendships and stay aware of who they are spending time with.
- **check their belongings if you're worried** - if you suspect your child is carrying a knife, don't ignore your instincts. It is your right and responsibility to ensure their safety.
- **reach out for support**- if you are concerned, there are organisations that can help. Schools, local youth services and even the police can provide guidance and intervention before it's too late.

### CONVERSATIONS ABOUT KNIFE CRIME

These can feel difficult but the way you approach it makes all the difference. Here's how to start the conversation:

### MAKE IT NATURAL, NOT A 'BIG TALK'

What while doing everyday things like driving, shopping or washing up. Use news stories as conversation starters.

### BE HONEST ABOUT YOUR FEARS

Carrying a knife doesn't keep them safe, it puts them in more danger. Walking away isn't cowardly, it's smart. The risks? Injury, arrest or even losing their life.

### HELP THEM MAKE SAFE CHOICES

Talk about signs that a friend might be getting involved and how to say 'No' if someone asks them to hold a weapon.

### STICK TO THE FACTS

The law is clear: carrying a knife without a valid reason is illegal. They can be searched, arrested and face up to four years in prison, even if they haven't used it.

Early intervention can prevent a tragedy. Having regular, open conversations, and staying informed about the risks, can help keep your child safe.

Knife crime can impact any family, regardless of your identity or background.

Be vigilant for these warning signs:

- ✓ Unexplained cash or new possessions
- ✓ Secretive behaviour or sudden mood changes
- ✓ Avoiding school or staying out late
- ✓ Carrying a knife for 'protection' or because it was 'found.'



# SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

## Safeguarding against sexism and misogyny

Sexism and misogyny are increasingly present in online spaces, shaping how young people perceive gender and relationships. Social media, gaming and online influencers can promote harmful ideas that normalise disrespectful behaviour toward women and girls. These influences can impact how teens interact with relationships and view their own self-worth. As parents, understanding these issues is essential in helping people develop respectful, healthy attitudes towards gender equality.

## Spotting the signs

Recognising early signs of exposure to sexist or misogynistic content can help parents intervene before these views take root.

What to look out for:



## How social media and gaming contribute

Many online spaces subtly (or overtly) reinforce sexist views. Here's how:

- **social media algorithms:** platforms like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram use algorithms that push out controversial content, sometimes leading young people down a path of increasingly sexist narratives.
- **gaming culture:** online multiplayer games often contain toxic environments where sexist language and behaviours are normalised. Female gamers frequently report harassment, reinforcing a culture of hostility.
- **influencer culture:** certain influencers cater to young male audiences by portraying women as inferior, blaming feminism for societal problems, shaping how boys and young men perceive gender roles.
- **memes and dark humour:** sexist jokes and memes can desensitise young people, making them think these attitudes are harmless or just 'edgy humour.'

## What parents can do

Helping your child develop critical thinking skills and fostering open conversations can counteract harmful influences. Here's how:

### 1. Encourage open conversations

- Ask non-judgmental questions like: "What do you think about how women are portrayed in media?" "Have you noticed any sexist comments in your online spaces?"
- Share real-world examples and encourage discussion.

### 2. Challenge harmful views

- If your child repeats a sexist stereotype, ask them where they heard it and gently challenge it with different perspectives.
- Teach them to critically evaluate online content and question sources.

### 3. Be a role model

- Demonstrate respect and gender equality at home.
- Avoid reinforcing traditional gender roles and challenge stereotypes in everyday conversations.

### 4. Set digital boundaries

- Monitor your child's online activity.
- Encourage a balanced media diet, including positive representations of gender equality.
- Use parental controls where necessary but prioritise open dialogue over strict monitoring.

By staying informed and engaged, parents can play a crucial role in shaping their children's perspectives on gender and respect. Open discussions and guidance help young people develop the tools they need to navigate online influences and build respectful relationships in the real world.