



# BTHCC Newsletter



October 2025



Well, the end of term has come around so quickly, and what a remarkable eight weeks it's been at BTH! I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible range of events, achievements, and experiences that have taken place across our school community.

From outstanding sporting triumphs and vibrant open evenings to our Macmillan Coffee Morning, Catholic Social Teaching Awards, and joyful celebration assemblies, it's been a term full of excitement and pride. We welcomed our new Year 7s with a beautiful Mass, stood united for Show Racism the Red Card, and enjoyed unforgettable trips to France, Savio House, Greece, and the Harry Potter Studios, just to name a few!





We also launched our chosen charity for the year, Caritas St Aidans, and proudly ran the Altrincham 10K in support of The Christie. Our feast days, World Mental Health Day, and Black History Month gave us powerful moments of reflection and learning.

So much happens at BTH, and none of it would be possible without the dedication of our incredible staff. Thank you for everything you do, both in and beyond the classroom, to give our students so many opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive.

A special mention to Mr O'Neill, who will be travelling to Rome this week to represent BTH at the World Congress: Educational Constellations, A Pact with the Future. He'll be attending the Jubilee Audience of Educators with Pope Leo, passing through the St Peter's Holy Door, and joining Holy Mass where Pope Leo will officially declare St John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church. Mr O'Neill will be proudly carrying the BTH flag with him, what an honour!



Wishing everyone a restful and well-deserved half term break. I look forward to welcoming you all back for another exciting chapter of learning and discovery.



## **Useful Dates for the Diary - Autumn/Winter Term**

Monday 3rd November - Return to college

Monday 3rd November - Year 9 assessment week (2 weeks)

Tuesday 4th November - Year 11 Mock GCSE's (2 weeks)

Wednesday 5th November - Success in Year 8

Friday 7th November - Year 12/13 Alton Towers trip

Thursday 13th November - English Trip, Friends House, London

Wednesday 19th November - Drama Trip, The Lowry, Blood Brothers

Monday 24th November - Year 12 assessment week (2 weeks)

Thursday 27th November - Year 11 Review Evening (ONLINE)

Thursday 27th November - English trip, EMC English Language Conference  
London

Friday 28th November - INSET DAY

Wednesday 3rd December - Tesco's Carol Singing, Choir

Thursday 4th December - Year 10 Review Evening (ONLINE)

Monday 8th December - Year 13 assessment week (2 weeks)

Tuesday 9th December - Oldfield Bank Care Home Carol Singing, Choir

Saturday 13th December - Choir singing with Altrincham Choral Society

Tuesday 16th December - Christmas Advent Service, St Vincent's Church,  
6pm

Thursday 18th December - Whole College Mass

Thursday 18th December - Christmas Lunch for all the BTH family

Thursday 18th December - English Trip, The Stoller Hall Hunts Bank

Friday 19th December - Talent Show and Activities

Friday 19th December - Break up for Christmas



# Upcoming Events

November is  
Empathy Action Month



Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person, essentially "walking in their shoes". It is important because it builds stronger relationships, improves communication, and fosters compassion in different settings. Empathy helps create a sense of connection and understanding and reduces conflict.



## Family Advent Service

### "COME TO THE MANGER" ADVENT SERVICE

Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College invite  
you to our Family Advent Service on;  
Tuesday 16th 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

# BTHCC Catholic Life



## *Feast Day of John Paul II*

On Wednesday, we celebrated the Feast Day of Saint John Paul II, one of the most beloved and influential popes in modern history. Known for his charismatic leadership, deep love for youth, and global outreach, he served as pope for 27 years and played a pivotal role in the fall of communism in Europe.

Form groups came together during their Together for Good time to take part in a special liturgy, reflecting on his message of compassion, courage, and conviction. Students enjoyed a non-uniform day, and shared pain au chocolat and juice together — a simple but lovely way to mark the occasion.





November

- 1 – All Saints' Day
- 10 – Start of anti-bullying week
- 12 – Reconciliation
- 18 – Whole College Mass
- 20 – Odd Socks Day
- 21 – Remembrance Mass
- 21 – World Youth Day and Celebration of St Theresa of Calcutta

December

- 3 – Advent Begins
- 3 – International day of Persons with Disabilities
- 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Open Mass)
- 10 – Human Rights Day
- 16 – Family Advent Service
- 18 – Whole College Mass
- 18 – Christmas Lunch

## Enrichments with the Chaplaincy Team

The chaplaincy team continues to offer a range of enrichment clubs designed to help students grow in faith while having fun! These include opportunities for prayer and reflection, creative activities inspired by Gospel values, and service-based projects that encourage living out the faith in practical ways.

<b>Open Prayer Time</b> 8:45-9:00 CONNECT TO GOD EVERY PRAYER TIME	<b>Rosary Group</b> 8:45-9:00	<b>Wednesday Word</b> 8:30-9:00	<b>Rosary Group</b> 8:45-9:00	<b>Friday Family Mass</b> 8:15-9:00
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b>Youth SVP</b> 12:30-1:00	<b>Faith in Art</b> 12:30-1:00 NATRE Worship!	<b>Prayer Group</b> 12:30-1:00	<b>Rosary Group</b> 12:30-1:00	<b>Youth SVP</b> 12:30-1:00
Bring a great conversation for a quiet time!	Bring a great conversation for a quiet time!	Engage ourselves with to pray and reflect	A moment of quiet to focus on the Rosary	Bring a great conversation for a quiet time!

## Reflecting on October



### Savio Retreats

'The Bridge' was the theme of the Year 7 Retreat. They focused on team building exercises, and lots of games!



### Holy Rosary

We successfully recited a decade of the rosary each day, following Pope Leo's message praying for peace



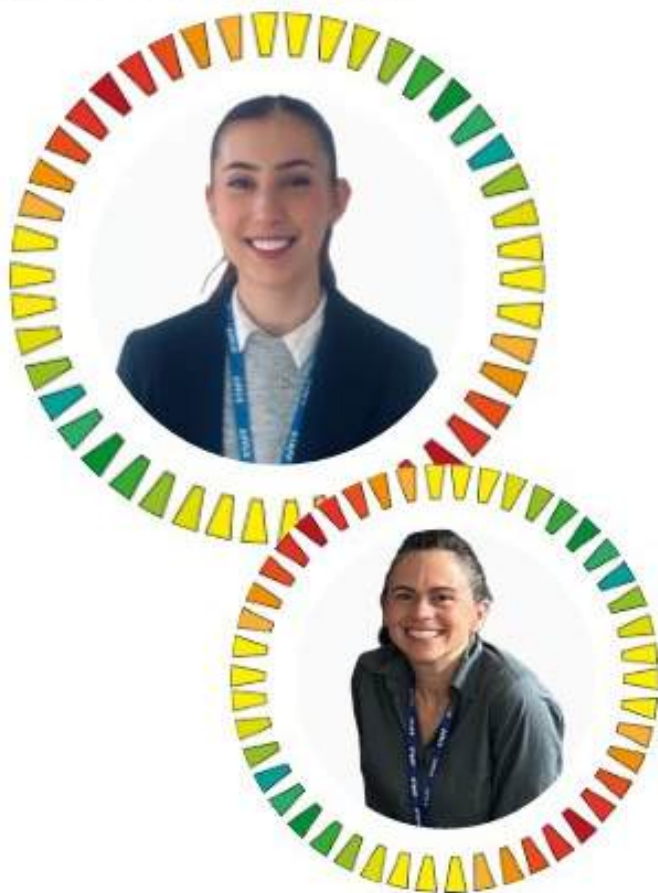
# The BTH Chaplaincy Team

*“The role of the school chaplain is an essential part of preserving and strengthening the catholicity of our schools. The chaplain is appointed in order to promote the spiritual and human development of all members of the school community.”*

**Diocese of Shrewsbury – A Vision of Catholic Education**

## **Our Mission**

As chaplains, our vocation extends beyond guiding pupils in school to creating opportunities for them to encounter their faith more deeply through pilgrimages and wider experiences of the Church community. We are committed to building the foundation for spiritual development, enabling young people to grow in confidence as they take responsibility for their own prayer life. By providing support, encouragement, and formation, we help pupils to discover their capacity to lead themselves and others in faith, nurturing a lifelong relationship with God.



## **Faith in Action**

Promoting faith is central to inspiring passion within our students, encouraging them to see God in every aspect of life, both in times of joy and in times of challenge. By creating opportunities for reflection, celebration, and remembrance, we nurture a deeper awareness of faith as a guiding presence. Our outreach extends not only to pupils but also to staff, ensuring the whole school community is supported in living out and sharing the values of the Gospel.

We seek to form pupils who embody the Gospel call to service through active engagement in fundraising and community initiatives. By animating a spirit of solidarity and social justice, our aim is to inspire students to respond compassionately to local needs at St. Aidans, transforming faith into meaningful action that reflects the mission of the Church in the world.

Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & RSE Newsletter



Real issues. Real growth. Real life.

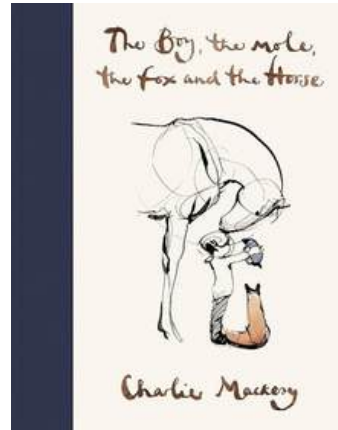
TERM 1

Hello!



Welcome to our Personal Development & RSE newsletter. In every termly issue, we'll keep you up to date with what's happening in PDE & RSE at BTHCC, including what we've learnt, Catholic Social Teaching links, and ways to reflect on our learning and values.

## Book of the Term



## CST REFLECTION PROMPT OF THE TERM

How can we show solidarity with people who are struggling?

Think about how small acts of kindness help build a stronger, caring community.



## What did we LEARN?



Year 7	What is PD?, Careers and your future, show racism the red card
Year 8	Employability skills, Careers and aspirations, Show racism the red card
Year 9	From failure comes success, Saving and managing money, Show racism the red card
Year 10	Insta and Tik Tok generation, Rights and responsibilities, Show racism the red card
Year 11	Relationships and AI, Show racism the red card
Year 12/13	Anxiety, UCAS, Show racism the red card

## Career of the Term

**Youth Worker**—Supports young people with personal development, mental health, and life skills. A role built on compassion, listening, and respect.

## WHAT TO WATCH

**INSIDE OUT (DISNEY+)**  
A POWERFUL FILM ABOUT UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTING EMOTIONS - INCLUDING SADNESS AND GRIEF. A GREAT STARTING POINT FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION.



**twerOmRIDy**  
Solidarity – standing

with others, especially those in difficulty or suffering.

**Question Time**

**What does the Catholic Social**

**Teaching principle of the Common Good mean?**

- A) Working for the benefit of all
- B) Focusing only on yourself
- C) Ignoring other people's needs

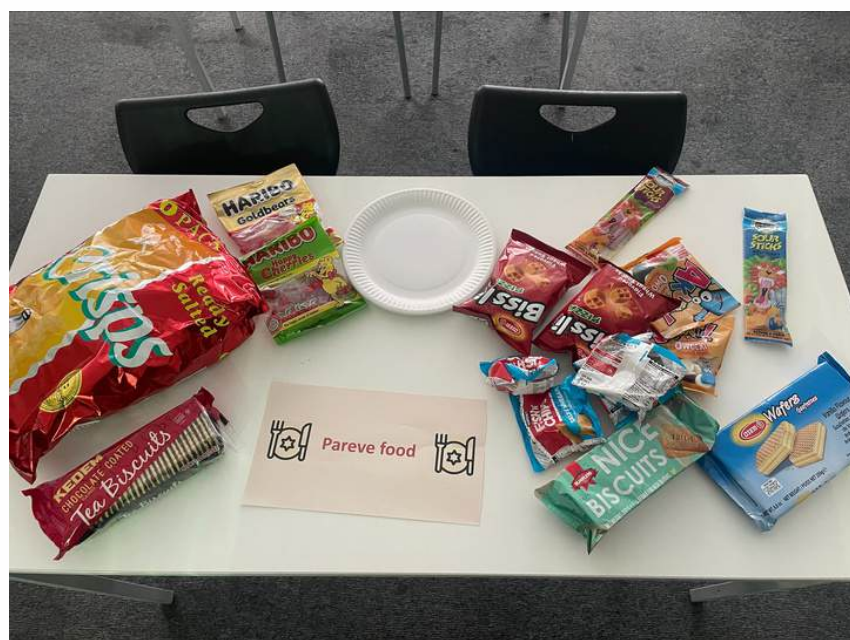
# BTHCC Catholic Life



Miss Mellett's Year 10 RE class have been diving into Judaism this term, exploring key beliefs and practices – with a special focus on Kosher food! As part of their learning, students enjoyed tasting some Kosher snacks and dishes, bringing the topic to life in a delicious way.

They also explored four major Jewish festivals and the traditional foods linked to each celebration. This topic has built beautifully on their Year 9 Food & Nutrition lessons, where they were first introduced to religious dietary practices.

A brilliant example of cross-curricular learning and curiosity in action!





# Lunchtime Activities



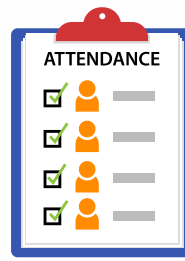
**October 2025** Attendance at an Enrichment Club = One Central Awarded

	Club & Location & Time	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12	Yr13
<b>Monday</b>	Indoor Football with Miss Dawid (12:30) & Miss Hodgin (13:00) in Sports Hall		✓	✓				
	Outdoor Football with Mr Hunt (12:30) & Mr Goldrick (13:00) on 3G Pitch	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	SVP with Mrs Holland (12:30) and Miss Mellett (13:00) in Walsingham06	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Politics Film Club with Miss Morton (13:00) in Fatima07						✓	✓
	E-Sports with Mr Bolton (12:30) and Mr Mason (13:00) in Rome24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Film Club with Mrs Neilson (12:30) and Mrs Wilson (13:00) in Lourdes05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	The BTH Opera House with Mrs Goldrick in Fatima06 (13:00)						✓	✓
	Foodie Fun with Miss Ritson in Rome31 (13:00)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Amnesty International with Mrs Kneen in Fatima05 (13:00)					✓	✓	✓
	Orchestra with Mrs Whitfield and Miss Peilober in Rome08 (12:30)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Darts Club with Mr Gates (12:30) and Mr Chase (13:00) in Walsingham10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Further Maths with Miss Curle (13:00) in Walsingham08				✓			
	Debate Club with Mrs Wood (12:30) and Miss Price (13:00) in Lourdes06	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Knit & Stich and skills club (Yr 10 only) with Miss Ali (12:30) in Rome33	✓	✓	✓	✓			
<b>Club &amp; Location &amp; Time</b>	<b>Yr7</b>	<b>Yr8</b>	<b>Yr9</b>	<b>Yr10</b>	<b>Yr11</b>	<b>Yr12</b>	<b>Yr13</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Basketball with Mrs Regan (12:30) and Mr Gubbins (13:00) in Sports Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Science Club with Mrs Fitzsimmons (12:30) and Miss Sherriff (13:00) Rome06	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Outdoor Football with Miss Lydon (12:30) & Mr Musgrove (13:00) on 3G Pitch	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	The BTH Opera House with Mrs Goldrick in Fatima05 (13:00)						✓	✓
	Foodie Fun with Miss Ritson in Rome31 (13:00)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Bubble Club with Mrs Kneen in Fatima05 (12:30)	✓						
	Further Maths with Mrs Hilton in Walsingham02 (13:00)				✓	✓		
	Board Games Miss Bardill (13:00) in Walsingham01	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Junior Choir with Mrs Whitfield and Miss Peilober (12:30) in Rome08	✓						
	Art Club with Mr Quigley (12:30) and Mrs Whatmough (13:00) in Rome08	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Darts Club with Mr Wilde (12:30) & Mr O'Brien (13:00) in Walsingham10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Sparx Reader Club with Miss Price (12:30) and Mrs Wood (13:00) in Lourdes02 Epic History	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Club with Mr Neilson (12:30) and Mr McGuinness (13:00) in Lourdes17 Faith in Art with	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Miss Dickinson (12:30) in Heart of BTH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Club &amp; Location &amp; Time</b>	<b>Yr7</b>	<b>Yr8</b>	<b>Yr9</b>	<b>Yr10</b>	<b>Yr11</b>	<b>Yr12</b>	<b>Yr13</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	Badminton with Mr Thorpe (12:30) & Mrs Burrows (13:00) in Sports Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Outdoor Football with Miss Dawid (12:30) & Miss Hodgin (13:00) on 3G Pitch	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	Creative Writing with Miss Hellewell (12:30) in Rome02	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Duke of Edinburgh with Mr Gordon (12:30) in Rome04				✓			
	Drama Club with Miss Wiggett (13:00) in Fatima18		✓	✓				
	Further Maths with Mrs Hilton (13:00) in Walsingham02				✓	✓		
	Choir with Mrs Whitfield and Miss Peilober (12:30) in Rome08	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Darts Club with Mr O'Brien (12:30) & Mr Wilde (13:00) in Walsingham10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Art Club with Mr Quigley (12:30) and Mr Healy (13:00) in Rome08	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	EPQ with Mrs Wood (12:30) drop in (13:00) whole group meeting in Fatima10						✓	
	Philosophy Club with Ms Andreone (12:30) in Walsingham07					✓	✓	
	Cookie Club with Mrs Miller and Mrs McCurry (13:00) in Fatima First Floor Meeting Room					✓	✓	
	Prayer Group with Miss Dickinson and Mr C O'Neill (12:30) in Heart of BTH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Club &amp; Location &amp; Time</b>	<b>Yr7</b>	<b>Yr8</b>	<b>Yr9</b>	<b>Yr10</b>	<b>Yr11</b>	<b>Yr12</b>	<b>Yr13</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	Cricket with Mr Hunt (12:30) and Mr Goldrick (13:00) in Sports Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Football with Mr Harwood (12:30) & Mr Musgrove (13:00) on 3G pitch	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	Sri Lankan Dancing with Mrs Peiris (13:00) in Fitness Suite	✓			✓	✓		
	Esports with Mr Bolton (12:30) & Ms Bhaker (13:00) in Rome24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Creative Writing with Miss Hellewell (13:00) in Rome02	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Drama Club with Miss Wiggett (12:30) in Fatima18	✓						
	Darts Club with Mr Szczap (12:30) & Mr Chase (13:00) in Walsingham10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	EPQ with Mrs Wood (12:30) drop in (13:00) whole group meeting in Fatima10							✓
	Pizzicato with Miss Peilober Rome08 (13:00)	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Knit & Stich with Miss Akintoye (12:30) in Lourdes03	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Knit & Stich and skills club (Yr 10 only) with Miss Ali (12:30) in Rome33	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Epic History Club with Mr Neilson (12:30) and Mr McGuinness (13:00) in Lourdes17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	SEND enrichment with SEND team (12:30) in Rome11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Rosary Group with Miss Dickinson (12:30) in Heart of BTH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Friday	Club & Location & Time	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12	Yr13
	SVP with Mrs Holland (12:30) and Miss Mellett (13:00) in Walsingham 06	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Dodgeball with Miss Lydon (12:30) and Mr Harwood (13:00) in Sports Hall Football on 3G with Mr Thorpe (12:30) and Mr Gubbins (13:00)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Politics Film Club with Miss Morton (13:00) in Fatima07			✓	✓	✓		✓
	Film Club with Mrs Neilson (12:30) & Mrs Wilson (13:00) in Lourdes05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Duke of Edinburgh with Mr Gordon and Mrs Hilton (13:00) in Rome04				✓			
	French Café with Miss Ludlow (13:00) in Rome20					✓		
	Board Games with Miss Moloney (12:30) & Miss Williams (13:00) in Walsingham01	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Darts Club with Miss Bardill (12:30) & Mr Szczap (13:00) in Walsingham10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Keyboard Club (Nota) with Mrs Edwards (13:00) Rome08	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
E-Sports with Mr Bolton (12:30) and Mr Mason (13:00) in Rome24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Further Maths with Miss Curle (13:00) in Walsingham08				✓				
SEND enrichment with SEND team (12:30) in Rome11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Faith in Action with Miss Dickinson (12:30) in Heart of BTH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	



# BTHCC Attendance



## Attendance Matters: Every Day Counts, Every Moment Matters A Warm Welcome to All Our Families

As we settle into the new term, we are delighted to see all our students back in school, ready to learn, grow, and live out our values as a Catholic community. Every day in school counts, and being present and on time is key to success for every child, in every year group.

### What's Important for Each Year Group:

- Year 7: We are so happy to have our Year 7 students as part of our school community. They have done so well settling in, building routines, friendships, and confidence – attending every day helps them continue to thrive.
- Year 8: Developing independence and taking responsibility for learning; regular attendance ensures they consolidate knowledge and build strong study habits.
- Year 9: Making choices about future subjects and pathways; being present allows them to stay fully engaged and make informed decisions.
- Year 10: Starting Key Stage 4, students must stay on top of coursework and begin effective revision habits – every day counts toward exam readiness.
- Year 11: With GCSEs approaching, students need to maximise every lesson and revision opportunity; strong attendance directly impacts their results and post-16 options.
- Year 12: Beginning their sixth form journey, students must develop independence, organisation, and study discipline – being present every day is essential for success in A-levels or vocational courses.
- Year 13: Focused on final exams and next steps, students must maintain consistency, resilience, and accountability; every day in school sharpens knowledge, hones skills, and strengthens readiness for college, apprenticeships, or employment.



## Every Day Counts

Why it matters:

Every school day is an opportunity for your child to learn, grow, and live out Catholic values. Attendance and punctuality show respect for learning, teachers, peers, and self.

Attendance Facts:

- Missing 1 day every 2 weeks = nearly 3 weeks of learning lost per year
- Being 10 minutes late every day = over 6 days of learning lost per year

Parent Tips:

- Encourage strong morning routines
- Avoid appointments or holidays during school hours
- Communicate promptly if your child is unwell

Every day in school is a step toward your child's full potential — academically, socially, and spiritually.

## Attendance = Preparing for the Future

Why it matters:

Colleges, apprenticeships, and employers value reliability and commitment. Your child's attendance record often speaks louder than grades.

Attendance Facts:

- Regular attendees are more likely to achieve higher grades
- Builds resilience, responsibility, and confidence
- Employers value punctuality and dependability

Parent Tips:

- Talk positively about the importance of attendance for the future
- Talk positively about the school.
- Encourage punctuality and consistency
- Remind your child attendance builds life skills employers seek

Attending school every day teaches more than subjects — it builds life skills, work habits, and character.



# Working Together for Your Child's Success

## Our Expectations:

- Attend school every day unless unwell
- Arrive on time and prepared
- Parents support routines and communicate challenges early

## Attendance Facts:

- Students with 95%+ attendance are more likely to achieve higher grades
- Missing 10+ days a year impacts learning and confidence

## Parent Tips:

- Celebrate your child's commitment to being present
- Encourage perseverance and responsibility
- Contact the school if obstacles arise — we are here to help

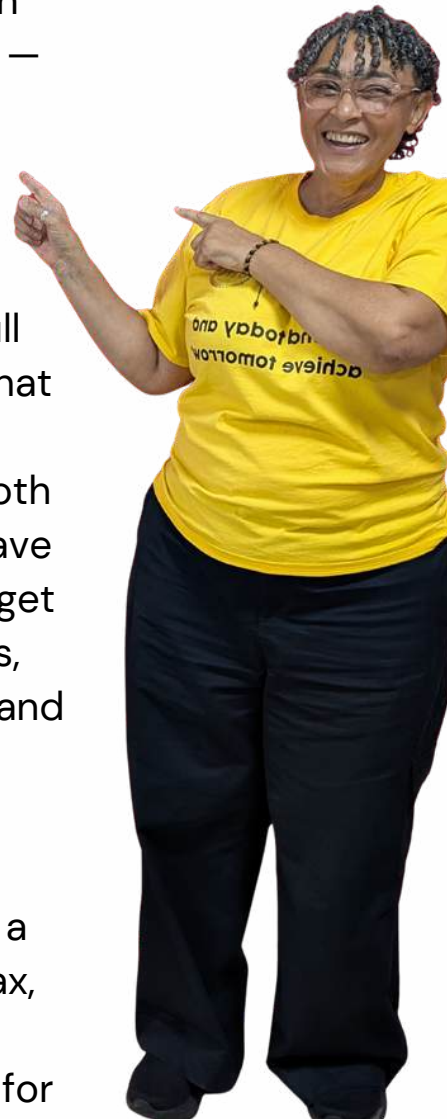
Every day counts. Every moment matters. Together, we can help your child thrive academically, socially, and spiritually — ready for the opportunities ahead

## Together in Support

At Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College, we are committed to supporting every student to achieve their full potential, academically, socially, and spiritually. We know that maintaining excellent attendance and punctuality can sometimes be challenging, and we are here to work with both students and parents to overcome any obstacles. If you have any concerns or need guidance, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Together, we can ensure your child thrives, feels confident, and continues to grow in a safe, nurturing, and faith-filled environment.

## A Message from the Attendance Team

The Attendance Team wishes all our students and families a restful and enjoyable break. We hope you have time to relax, recharge, and enjoy special moments together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for a new term of learning, growth, and opportunity.



# BTHCC English



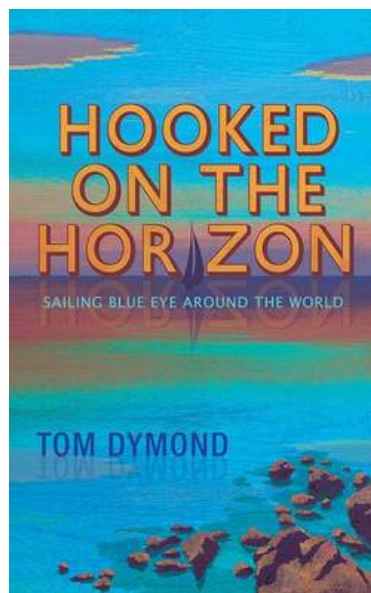
## Year 7

Terror-stricken. Stunned. Petrified. The English Department has been left speechless by our students' own spine-chilling Gothic tales. This half term, Year 7 have delved into the eerie world of Gothic literature, exploring what truly defines a text as 'Gothic.' Students have refined the accuracy of their written communication by revisiting key grammar knowledge from KS2, while expanding their literary horizons through extracts from some of the most iconic and haunting Gothic texts in history. We've been incredibly impressed by your chilling creativity. Parents, it seems you're in for a spine-tingling Halloween.



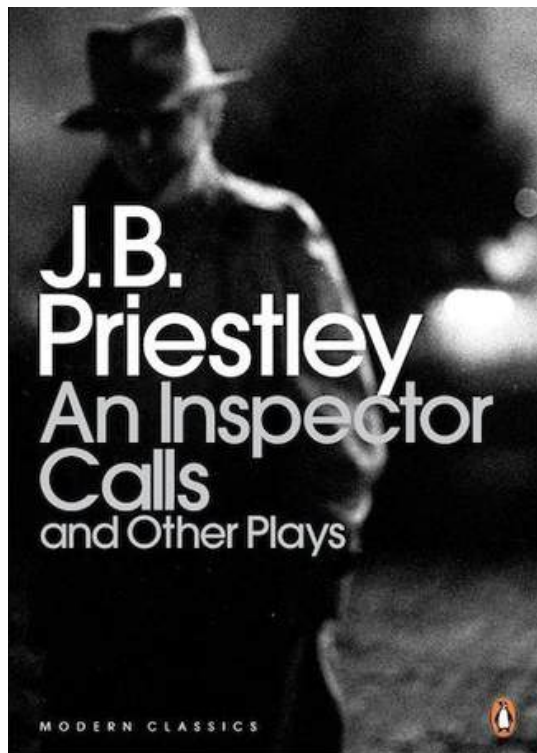
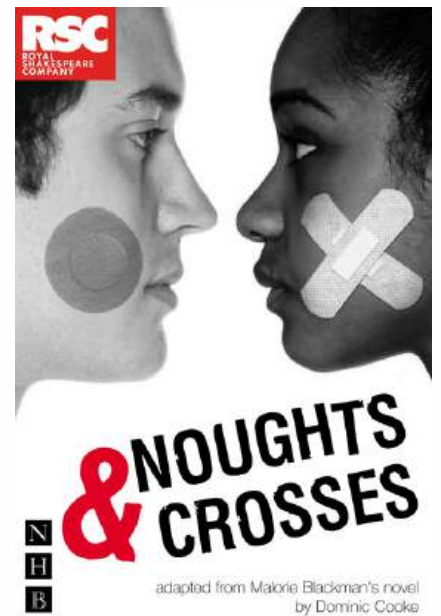
## Year 8

This half term, Year 8 have immersed themselves in the thrilling world of global sailing expeditions. Together, we have explored how writers use language and structure to convey their thoughts and feelings about extraordinary experiences – from perilous sea voyages and life-threatening pirate invasions to the unexpected challenges of using the loo onboard a ship, and the awe of an unforgettable underwater dive. Our students have navigated these texts with curiosity, courage, and creativity, gaining a deeper understanding of how powerful storytelling brings adventure to life. As the final wave crashes on this half term, one thing is certain—Year 8 are no longer just readers of journeys, but writers of their own.



## Year 9

This half term, Year 9 have stepped into the gripping and emotionally charged world of *Noughts & Crosses* by Malorie Blackman—a novel where society is turned upside down, and power, privilege, and prejudice collide. Students have explored themes of segregation, injustice, forbidden friendship, and the consequences of inequality, analysing how Blackman uses character, structure, and shocking plot twists to challenge readers' perspectives on the world we live in. From heated debates about moral choices to creative tasks imagining life on both sides of the divide, Year 9 have not just read the novel—they've lived it. With every chapter, they've questioned: What would I do? Whose side am I on? And how do we change a divided world? Be prepared—if the dinner table turns into a passionate discussion on fairness, rights, or power... you can thank Malorie Blackman!

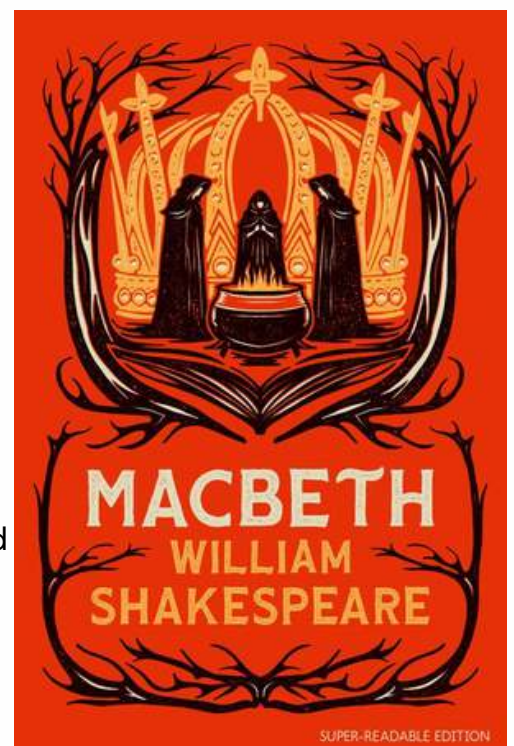


## Year 10

This half term, Year 10 have stepped into the tense, suspenseful world of J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. As the mysterious Inspector unfolds the story of a young woman's tragic death, students have explored themes of social responsibility, morality, and the ripple effects of our choices. They've examined how Priestley's clever use of structure, dramatic irony, and character reveals forces audiences to think critically about justice and society. Between gripping class discussions, role-play interrogations, and investigative tasks, Year 10 have discovered that every action—big or small—has consequences. Parents, watch out: your children may now be a little too eager to hold everyone accountable at home!

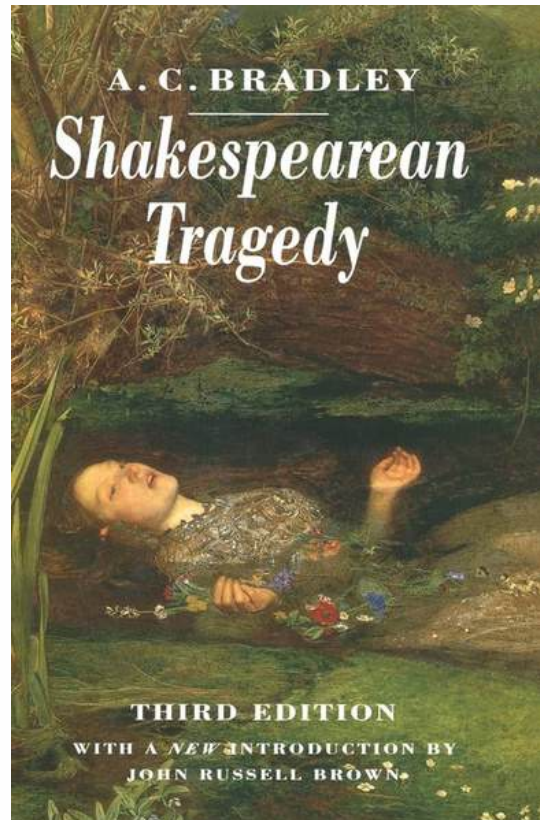
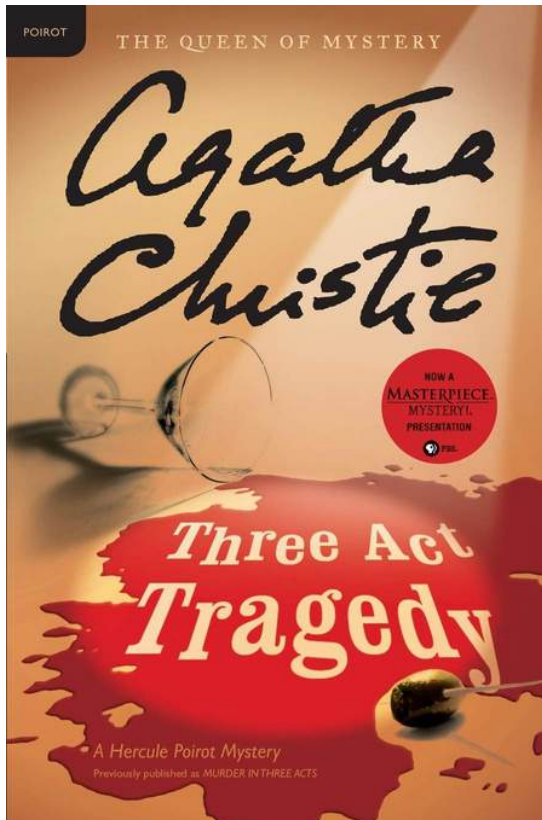
## Year 11

This half term, Year 11 have plunged into the thrilling and sinister world of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. From witches' prophecies to bloody power struggles, students have explored themes of ambition, guilt, fate, and the consequences of unchecked desire. They've analysed how Shakespeare uses language, imagery, and dramatic tension to create suspense, horror, and moral complexity that still captivates audiences today. Through debates, performance work, and close analysis, Year 11 have examined how characters' choices spiral into chaos—and learned that in *Macbeth's* world, nothing is ever quite as it seems. Our students may now be quoting witches, plotting strategies, or dramatically declaring, "Out, damned spot!" at the most unexpected moments!



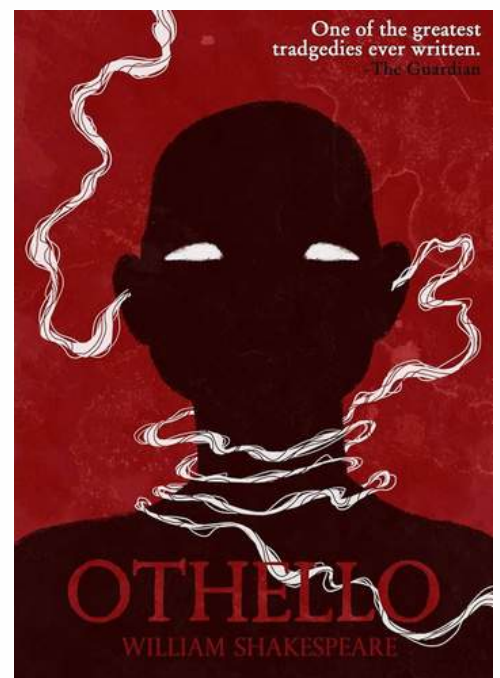
## Year 12

Lights, suspense, action! This half term, Year 12 have dived headfirst into the dramatic world of storytelling, exploring the origins of tragedy in Ancient Greece and discovering how these age-old techniques still shape literature today. They've analysed how themes of fate, morality, and human weakness drive gripping narratives and unforgettable characters. Additionally, students have also plunged into the thrilling realm of crime writing, unpicking how authors build suspense, craft clever twists, and keep readers on the edge of their seats. From tragic heroes to cunning detectives, Year 12 are mastering the art of tension, intrigue, and the power of a well-told story. Parents, brace yourselves—your teenagers may now be interrogating every plot twist in novels, TV shows, and even the news with the precision of a seasoned literary detective!



## Year 13

This half term, Year 13 have been tackling some of the most challenging and exciting aspects of AQA Literature Specification B. Students have embarked on their independent Non-Examined Assessment (NEA), applying critical theories—Marxism, Post-Colonialism, and Feminism—to texts of their choosing, exploring ideas of power, identity, and society with sophistication and insight. In parallel, they've begun their journey in analysing Shakespeare's *Othello*, exploring the tragedy through multiple lenses: from the corrosive effects of jealousy and manipulation to questions of race, gender, and social hierarchy. Through discussion, debate, and close textual analysis, Year 13 have begun to hone their ability to construct compelling arguments and engage critically with complex ideas. Parents, prepare yourselves—your young adults may now challenge you on every power dynamic, social injustice, and gender stereotype in books, film, and everyday life!



# BTHCC

## Black History Month



♥ Celebrating Black History Month at BTH

Throughout October, our college proudly celebrated Black History Month—a time to honour the achievements, culture, and contributions of Black individuals past and present.

As part of our celebrations, we launched a student poster competition to encourage creativity and reflection. Students were invited to design posters that highlight key figures, moments, and messages that inspire change and celebrate diversity.

We're thrilled to announce that Evie in Year 9 was our winner! Her powerful and thoughtful design truly captured the spirit of Black History Month. As a reward, Evie and her form enjoyed a delicious waffle breakfast and juice—a well-deserved treat!



## Word and book of the week



### Book of the Week

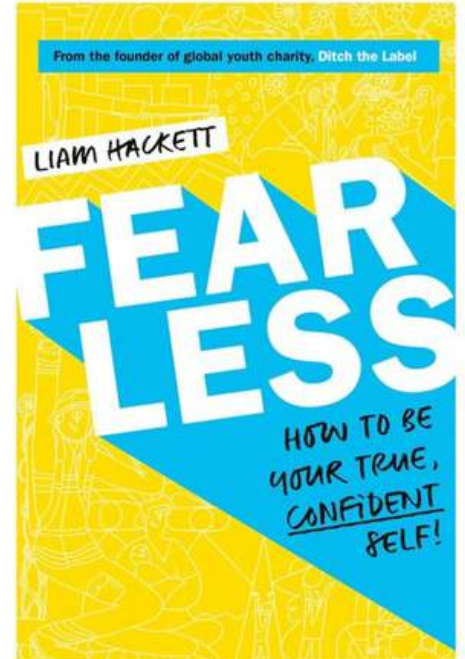
*Fearless* helps you find the confidence to be your true self.

With vibrant colour illustrations throughout, *Fearless* shows that by breaking free from labels and stereotypes, together we can build a generation who are healthy, happy and can truly realize their full potential.

*Fearless* explores how stereotypes influence *everything* – from how you feel about your body, to your interests and career aspirations.

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

KS3



### Book of the Week

*'Some people are coming here today, now you will have a companion.'*

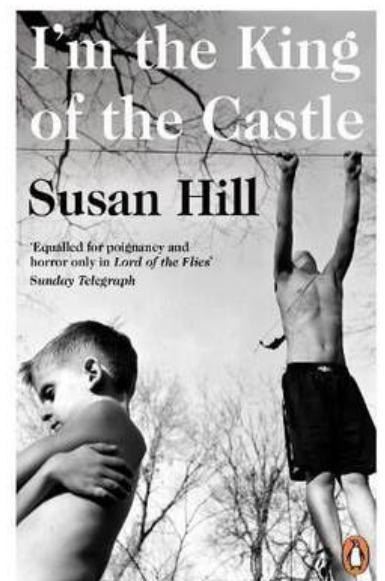
But young Edmund Hooper doesn't want anyone else in Warings, the rambling Victorian house he shares with his widowed father. Nevertheless Charles Kingshaw and his mother are soon installed and Edmund sets about persecuting his fearful new playmate.

From the dusty back rooms of Warings through the gloomy labyrinth of Hang Wood to the very top of Leydell Castle, Edmund pursues Charles, the balance of power slipping back and forth between bully and victim. With their parents oblivious, the situation speeds towards a crisis...

Darkly claustrophobic and morally ambiguous, Susan Hill weaves a classic tale of cruelty, power, and the dangerous games we play as children.

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

KS4



# CONTEXT

NOUN: The setting for an event, statement or idea

plural noun: contexts



con- (Latin: together)



texere (Latin: to weave)

SYNONYMS:  
circumstances, conditions, factors, setting, backdrop, atmosphere, frame of reference, subject, theme, topic

LITERATURE: "The historical context out of which the novel arose."

HISTORY: "The quote taken out of context trivialises a terrible crime."

POLITICS: "In the wider context, dementia services need to be considered."

Who would use this word?  
Artist, Author, Playwright, Composer, Philosopher, Theologist, Journalist, Academic

PHRASES:  
IN CONTEXT: considered together with the surrounding words or circumstances.  
OUT OF CONTEXT: not fully understandable due a lack of surrounding words or circumstances



Catholics believe that the gospel can **benefit** everyone - teaching people to be stewards of peace and protectors of the environment.



# BTHCC

## Superstar Readers and Speakers



## SUPERSTAR SPEAKERS

HUDSON DE FOUW

MAX FOX

AARON JIJI

MALACHI MOYO

DAREY LEKE

JAMES POWELL

# BTHCC

## Sparx

### Reader



#### SPARX Reader!

As you will be aware, our English homework for years 7 – 9 is now on Sparx reader. SPARX Reader is a digital platform which provides your child with a selection of appropriately challenging texts for their reading ability. Students are then asked to choose the text they prefer and read a portion of the text. The platform creates the opportunity for meaningful, independent reading every week, which is vital for building reading stamina, improving literacy skills, and promoting perseverance.

#### Why SPARX Reader?

It's really important that young people are able to practise careful, silent reading for a decent amount of time, without distraction. Sparx Reader reassures teachers and parents that focused reading is happening, and that readers of all abilities feel successful and motivated. Careful readers earn points, meaning they can prove they've been focusing and ultimately climb the league table! Once students have answered the questions correctly, they will then earn some Sparx Reader Points (SRP), which count towards their homework task. Studies have shown that students who regularly engage with Sparx reader increase their reading age by 9 months.

#### During last academic year, what was the impact of Sparx reader?

- 3,045,982 words read by your students
- 456 hours of careful reading completed by your students.
- 278 books completed by your students
- 292 pupils have completed their SPARX Reader points for three weeks in a row!

#### How can I support my child with their reading?

- Sparx Reader adapts to each student's reading level, so it's important that you don't help by answering questions for them. If you help them, Sparx Reader might think they're a very strong reader and show them books that are too difficult.
- You can help by providing a quiet space for your child to focus on their reading homework each week and encourage them to read carefully.
- If your child doesn't like a book, encourage them to keep trying! If they still don't get on with it, they can give the book a low rating and they'll be able to swap to another book.
- The best way to support your child is to ask them about the book they're reading; what aspects they're enjoying, or what characters and events they've recently read about.
- You are able to see how your child is getting on with their reading using the link to the Parent Portal, available in your weekly Sparx Maths homework emails. When clicking through the link, you will be able to keep track of any Sparx system that your child uses. Here you can keep track of previous homework as well as the book your child is currently reading.
- Sparx club is on every Tuesday in Lourdes 2: 12.30–13.30.
- Year 11 can read the abridged version of 'Macbeth' to support with their revision.
- Any questions please contact your child's English teacher.

# BTHCC

## Home learning



Home learning supports your child's learning by reinforcing classroom lessons, building essential skills like responsibility and time management and deepens learning. It encourages independent thinking and helps prepare them for future academic achievement. Your support and encouragement at home can make a big difference in developing strong study habits and success!

At Key Stage 3, students will be set weekly home learning tasks by class teachers in core subjects as indicated below:

- Maths – Sparx Maths
- English – Sparx Reader
- Science– Sparx Science
- Religious Education

Foundation subjects (such as History/Geography/Food and Nutrition etc.) will set home learning to support and enhance learning experiences when it is relevant to curriculum content. This will be set less frequently than core subjects and not weekly.

At Key Stage 4, students will be set weekly home learning tasks by all subjects. Home learning will support revision, retrieval and application of GCSE content.

We ask for your support in checking the My Child At School (MCAS) app to encourage students to complete the work on the day it is set to establish good routines.

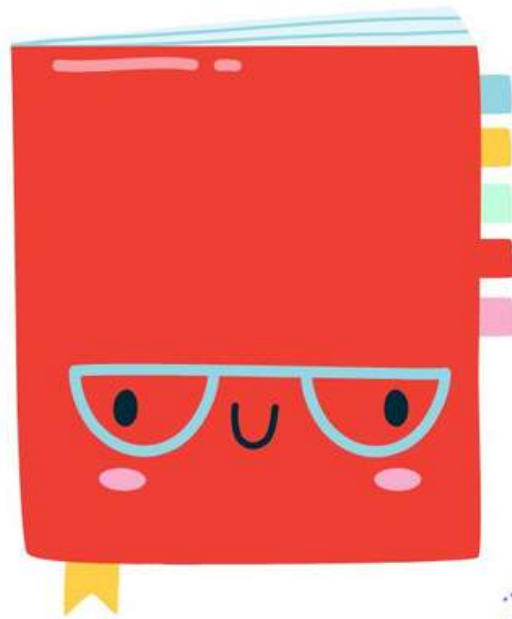
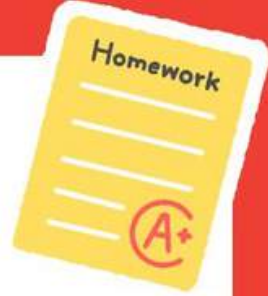
If your child requires further support with home learning, there are designated spaces available to all students before school, at lunch time and after school to complete home learning. These areas are staffed and resourced as indicated below:

- Before (8.30 – 9.00) and after school (3.20 – 4.20) – The Library
- Lunchtime – The Library, Fatima 19 and 20 (computers available)

What can my child do beyond what is set by their teachers?

Research consistently shows that students who read regularly develop better vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills—all of which support achievement across subjects, not just in English. Reading also improves focus, creativity, and overall cognitive development, laying a foundation for lifelong learning!

# Homework Support Club



**Day: EVERYDAY**

**Classroom: F19/20**

**Time: 12.30pm**

**Year group: ALL**



# BTHCC Trips



## *Year 8 French Trip – A Fantastic Experience!*

Our Year 8 French trip was a huge success! Students fully embraced the opportunity to speak French with local students, showing great enthusiasm and politeness throughout their visit.

They enjoyed a real taste of French cuisine and explored a variety of cultural and historical sites, gaining valuable insights into French life and heritage. It was a week filled with learning, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

We hope this experience has sparked a lasting interest in language learning and global citizenship. Well done to all involved—you represented BTH brilliantly!



# BTHCC Sport



The Year 7 B team have had an excellent start to the school year. In our first three games the boys have won all three, have scored 21 goals and conceded only one. The highlight from our opening games is undoubtedly our 5-1 away win against Wright Robinson College in the national ESFA Cup competition. So far a total of 18 different players have featured in the B team squads, a testament to the high number of competitive players we have in this new year group.



# BTHCC

## Sport - Student Shout Out

Huge congratulations to Alannah, who recently was in Czechia representing the Republic of Ireland in a week-long international football experience!

Despite only knowing one other teammate, Alannah has embraced the challenge—stepping outside her comfort zone and growing in confidence and maturity every day.

Back home, she continues to shine for Manchester United U16s, recently helping her team win the Peer v Peer tournament in Derby against top PGA teams like Arsenal, Chelsea, and Man City.

We're incredibly proud of you, Alannah!



# BTHCC Drama



From thrilling show announcements and exciting auditions to standout Year 10 performances, Drama Club games, and incredible performances in the Key Stage 3 lessons, it's been a truly spectacular first half term in Drama!

Our first GCSE Drama cohort has made an excellent start. Over the last six weeks, students devised a site-specific performance using Theatre of Cruelty techniques, based on the theme 'Ghost Stories'. Working as one team, they created and performed an original site-specific performance in the library to friends and family. The chilling tale followed a teacher haunted by the mystery of her six missing students, keeping the audience fully engaged as the truth was revealed scene by scene.

Year 7 students have been exploring pantomime and developing key characterisation skills. They brought 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to life in their final lessons as a whole class, using strong expression and exaggeration. We look forward to seeing their creativity grow next half term as they write and perform their own pantomimes.

Year 8 students are developing their devising skills to create meaningful and thought-provoking drama. They have worked with stimuli from Shaun Tan's 'The Arrival' and the real-life story of Hiba, a young Syrian refugee. Students have shown maturity and empathy, creating performances designed to engage with their audiences' emotions and provoke reflection.

## WENDY & PETER PAN

# BTHCC Drama



Year 9 have been working on a scheme linked to their English study of 'Noughts and Crosses'. This has helped them explore characters in depth and adapt scenes creatively. A highlight was their recent lesson in which students wrote and performed their own interpretations of a key scene. The standard of both the writing and performances were exceptional.

Drama Club continues to flourish each week for Key Stage 3. Year 8 and Year 9 students meet on Wednesdays, and Year 7 on Thursdays. Students have been building confidence, making new friendships, and developing their creativity through engaging drama games and activities.

We also really enjoyed open evening and talking to the future students of BTH about our Drama curriculum and its growth here at the school! Well done to our Drama helpers who really helped the subject shine!

Finally, we announced our school play at the start of this half term and held auditions for 'Wendy and Peter Pan'. The cast has been announced this week and we can't wait to start rehearsals with our super talented students the first week back after half term!



# BTHCC Music



## Autumn Term Highlights

It's been a vibrant and creative term for the Music Department! Students across all key stages have been exploring a wide range of musical styles and skills:

Year 7s: Uke Can Sing – learning ukulele chords and singing. Learning the new college hymn

Year 8s: Bands: Famous Bass Riffs

Y9s: 7 Bands: 7 Nation Army

Year 10 & 11: Composing music

Concerto – Pirates of the Caribbean & prep for Christmas

Capriccio – prep for Christmas!

Boys singing group – first get together to sing a bit of Killers and Oasis

This term, our Year 10 and 11 Music students had the incredible opportunity to attend a live performance by the world-renowned Halle Orchestra. The concert featured several of the set works they'll be studying this year, including the powerful Beethoven Symphony No. 1.





## Year 7

Year 7 have been busy working on their Bee projects – looking at the symbolism of the bee through history and specifically Manchester’s connection to the worker bee. We’ve been slowly drawing an accurate pencil study, creating a textured thorax and abdomen. Pupil’s have made huge progress in their observational skills in a short space of time.

## Year 8

In year 8 we have been learning the proportional rules of drawing a portrait accurately and each student has really progressed with their realistic pencil sketches. We’ve studied the technique of Chiaroscuro and learnt about its impact in making paintings three-dimensional and dramatic.

## Year 9

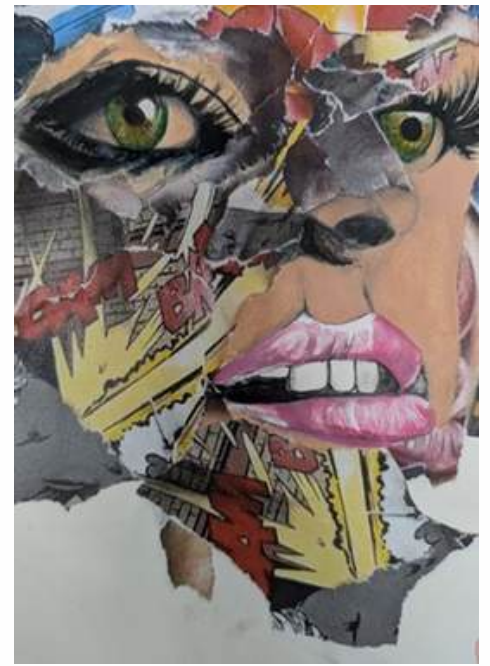
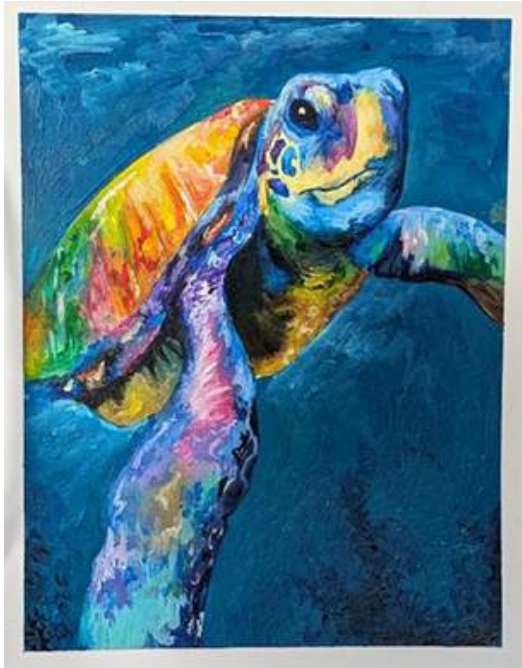
Year 9 have started their Skull project, and began studying the sculptor, Henry Moore. We’ve learnt about how to build up contour lines, to create 3D form and how these can be applied to the complicated shape of a skull. Henry Moore drew from an impressive elephant skull. In the department we haven’t quite collected any that big, but the students have enjoyed looking closely at our real collection of animal skulls and making observational studies from them

## GCSE

Year 10 have made a wonderful start on their Maps project, learning how to build layers of materials in various patterns. Students have experimented with new techniques and learnt more about how to present artist’s research in their sketchbooks.



Year 11 have been working so hard on their Mock Exam units. They've had more autonomy, and that freedom has meant pupils are really flying with ideas flowing.



A-level

Year 12 have had a wonderful half term of Workshops. Mr Quigley has been teaching the class about the theory behind paint mixing, and specialist techniques in building colours. They've been exploring different ways of recording and with a greater range of materials.



Year 13 have been working hard on their personal investigations. This is a topic that they've chosen to explore in greater depth and are passionate about. Pupil's sketchbooks show a huge variety of skills and techniques, with everyone pushing themselves to produce a large piece.

# BTHCC Food and Nutrition



## THIS WEEK

WHAT IS ON THE MENU?

Year 7: Fruit Salad

Year 8: Scones

Year 9: Meat Pies

Year 10: Sweet

Potato Soup and bread rolls

Year 11: Chicken Fajitas

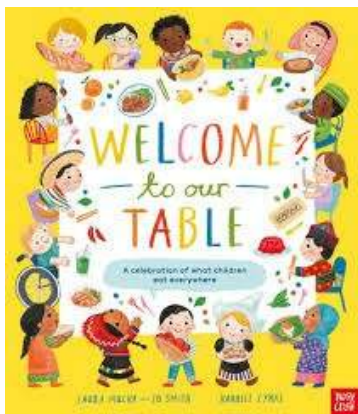


## WHAT TO WATCH

Great British Bake Off - Channel 4



## BOOK OF THE WEEK



We recommend trying out, *Welcome to Our Table* by Laura Mucha & Ed Smith



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Nutrient

Definition: A substance that provides nourishment essential for growth and the maintenance of life. Nutrients include carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals, and water—all of which play a vital role in keeping our bodies healthy and functioning properly.

## CAREER OF THE WEEK

### FOOD CRITIC

Writing about food, whether in newspapers, magazines, blogs, or books. Food critics often review restaurants, recipes, or trends, while food writers may write cookbooks or articles.



**AVERAGE SALARY - £30,000-£45,000**



# Join Trafford Thrive for a coffee morning at BTH to talk about anxiety and mental health.



**DATE**

• 7th November at 10:00am



Trafford Thrive in Education

Questions? Contact us:  
[traffordthrive.education@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:traffordthrive.education@mft.nhs.uk)  
0161 549 6451

# END OF TERM PRAYER



Loving God,

As we come to the end of this college term, we pause to give thanks for all the blessings of the past weeks.

Thank You for the learning, the laughter, the challenges, and the growth. Thank You for the friendships formed, the kindness shared, and the strength You gave us in busy moments.

We ask You now to watch over our college community as we begin our half-term break. Grant rest to those who are weary, peace to those who are anxious, and joy to all who seek renewal. May this time away be filled with Your presence—in quiet moments, in family gatherings, and in simple joys.

Bless our staff, students, and families. Keep us safe, and bring us back refreshed and ready to continue our journey together. We place all our hopes and plans in Your loving hands.

Amen.