



BTHCC Newsletter



October 2025



It's hard to believe how quickly the weeks are flying by — and here we are already in October!

Our students have made a fantastic start to the year, and it's been especially lovely to see our Year 7s and Year 12s settling in so well. Their enthusiasm and positivity have really stood out.

Last week's Open Evening was a huge success. A big thank you to all the students who helped out — you were a brilliant representation of our college and made us proud.

We also celebrated the Feast Day of St Thérèse of Lisieux on Wednesday, with form groups coming together in liturgy and reflection, sharing food and time in a spirit of community.

Last Friday, I had the privilege of attending a session with Professor Steve Peters, exploring how the Chimp Model can help our students better understand how their minds work — a powerful tool for personal development and wellbeing.

We've also been busy supporting important causes. Last week, we hosted a wonderful Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising £300 and welcoming residents from Amberley Care Home for tea, cake, and conversation — a truly heartwarming event.



Next week, we'll be supporting World Mental Health Week, with a full programme of activities including assemblies, treasure hunts, wellbeing sessions, a yellow cake sale, and a pop-up stall from Thrive. It's a great opportunity to promote mental wellbeing across our college.

October is also Black History Month, and we'll be celebrating the voices, achievements, and contributions of Black individuals throughout history and today. Plus, next week is Dyslexia Awareness Week, with the theme "Raise the Volume" — amplifying the voices of young people with dyslexia.

Looking ahead, we're excited about our upcoming college production, and we've just launched our next big challenge — the Yorkshire Three Peaks, with 20 staff members taking it on!



There have been so many sporting achievements already this term, and our Year 11 Classics students are currently exploring Athens. Next week, our Year 7 Savio House trips begin — another opportunity for reflection, bonding, and growth.

And finally, yet equally important we are proud to announce that our chosen charity focus for this academic year is Caritas, supporting the incredible local work they do with St Aidan's.

Caritas is dedicated to helping those in need across our community — offering practical support, compassion, and hope. Throughout the year, we'll be organising fundraising events, donation drives, and awareness campaigns to support their mission.

We look forward to working together as a college to make a meaningful difference. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

There's so much happening, and it's wonderful to see our college community thriving in so many ways.



College Prayer

College Prayer

Dear Lord,

We pray:

'May God's love be our guide'

Guide us in all we do today —
in our learning, in our
friendships, and in how we
treat others.

Help us to be kind, showing
patience and respect.

Help us to work hard, using
our gifts with purpose.

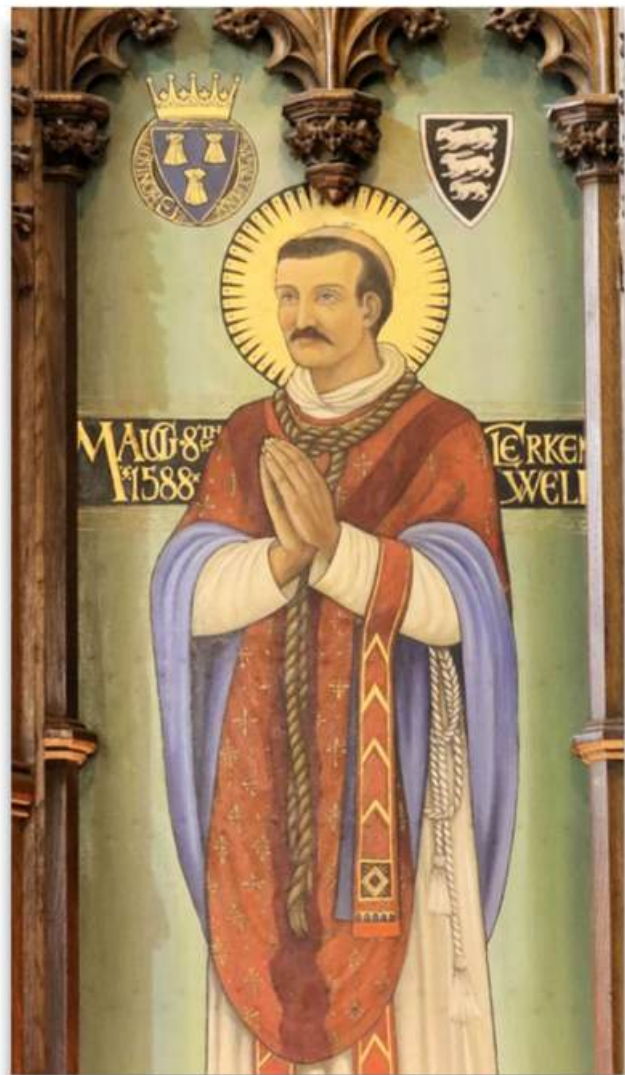
Help us to develop our whole
selves to grow, in faith,
wisdom, and responsibility.

May God's love be our guide
today and always.

Amen.

Blessed Thomas Holford

Pray for Us



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 



College Hymn

College Hymn

May we have the courage to do what's right
May we have our futures full of light
May we have the wisdom to be wise
May we have God's love be our guide

Let us take pride in who we are, knowing these days will take us far
Being ourselves through honesty, good without partiality,
Let us work well each and every day, open our hearts when we pray
Hold faith in everything we do and let our best selves shine in you

May we gather in your name as one
May we listen to your will be done
May we respond to all you say
May our mission follow the BTH way

Let us take pride in who we are, knowing these days will take us far
Being ourselves through honesty, good without partiality,
Let us work well each and every day, open our hearts when we pray
Hold faith in everything we do and let our best selves shine in you



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 

BTHCC Catholic Life



Feast Day of St Thérèse of Lisieux

Today we celebrated the Feast Day of St Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower, with a beautiful sense of community and joy.

Form groups came together during their Together for Good time to take part in a special liturgy, reflecting on her message of love, humility, and kindness.

Students enjoyed a non-uniform day, and shared pain au chocolat and juice together — a simple but lovely way to mark the occasion.

We're still collecting toiletries until Friday as part of our donation drive in honour of St Thérèse's spirit of giving. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far!



Friday Family Mass



Our weekly gathering 'Friday Family Mass' is in the 'The Heart of BTH' where all students, staff and members of our wider college family have a weekly opportunity to celebrate Mass at 8.15am on Fridays.



Following the celebration of Mass the congregation joined together for complimentary refreshments and an opportunity to discuss how they will go forth, transformed by the word.



This is our new crucifix created by Leanne Northover an ex teacher here at BTH.



Join Us
in
Celebration

FRIDAY



BTHCC Catholic Life



Our Year 7 students have been diving into the idea of Imago Dei, the belief that we are all made in the image of God. Standing in front of the iconic painting *The Creation of Adam* (which proudly hangs in our RE corridor), students became 'art critics,' analysing Michelangelo's masterpiece as if they were in a gallery in Rome.

They asked brilliant and thought-provoking questions about the artwork. We analysed why is God reaching out so close to Adam's hand and what this moment tells us about being created in God's image. Their curiosity and insight sparked some deep reflections about faith, identity, and what it really means to be human.

Moments like this show how RE isn't just about learning facts, but about seeing the world differently through art, questions, and big ideas.



BTHCC Catholic Life



One of the most wonderful celebrations in the Catholic Church is when a new member of the Church is welcomed in Baptism. Today Year 8 students explored how the meaning of Baptism is shown through the signs and symbols used in the sacrament. Our candidates Margaret and Robert were welcomed by name with their parents and Godparents at the door of our chapel. The Godfather lit the baptismal candle and a white garment was worn as a sign of purity.





Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide

Lunchtime Activities



October 2025 Attendance at an Enrichment Club = One Central Awarded

Wednesday

Club & Location & Time	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12	Yr13
Badminton with Mr Thorpe (12:30) & Mrs Burrows (13:00) in Sports Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outdoor Football with Miss Dawid (12:30) & Miss Hodgkin (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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

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Lunchtime Activities



October 2025 Attendance at an Enrichment Club = One Central Awarded

Thursday

Club & Location & Time	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12	Yr13
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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide

Lunchtime Activities



October 2025 Attendance at an Enrichment Club = One Central Awarded

Friday

Club & Location & Time	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12	Yr13
SVP with Mrs Holland (12:30) and Miss Mellett (13:00) in Heart of BTH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Upcoming Events

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



MONDAY 5TH-FRIDAY 10TH

MONDAY

Monday Messages

THURSDAY

Yellow Cake Sale



TUESDAY

Treasure Hunt
Tuesday



FRIDAY

Wear it Yellow Day
(Yellow accessories)




WEDNESDAY

Wellbeing Wednesday



mental
Health
Matters

Upcoming Events



**Dyslexia
Awareness
Week 2025**

Monday, October 6th, to Sunday, October 12th

Monday 6th of October kicks off with the theme '**Raise the Volume**'.

This year's theme will focus on the voices of young people with dyslexia - their stories, challenges, and successes. By "raising the volume," we want to make sure their experiences are heard loud and clear in schools, families, workplaces, and beyond.

Sixth Form Open Evening




**SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING**
Thursday 16th of October 2025
from 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Admission talks: 6.15pm & 7.15pm


Year 7 Welcome Mass


Welcome Mass



Join Us for Our Year 7 Welcome Mass
We warmly invite all Year 7 students and their families to our Welcome Mass as we come together in faith to mark the beginning of their journey at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College.

 Date: 22nd October 2025

 Time: 17.00pm-19.00pm

 Location: Blessed Thomas Holford

This special celebration is a chance to reflect, give thanks, and ask for God's blessing on the year ahead. We look forward to seeing you there as we welcome our newest members of the BTH family.



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

Word and book of the week



Book of the Week

Burl can't take any more bruises from his bullying father, so one day he runs away with just a penknife and a fishing lure in his pocket. Despite his survival skills, Burl knows he won't last long in the frozen Canadian wilderness, so he is filled with hope when he stumbles across Ghost Lake, and a secret that could save him. But his father is after him and Burl is dragged back into his dangerous games...

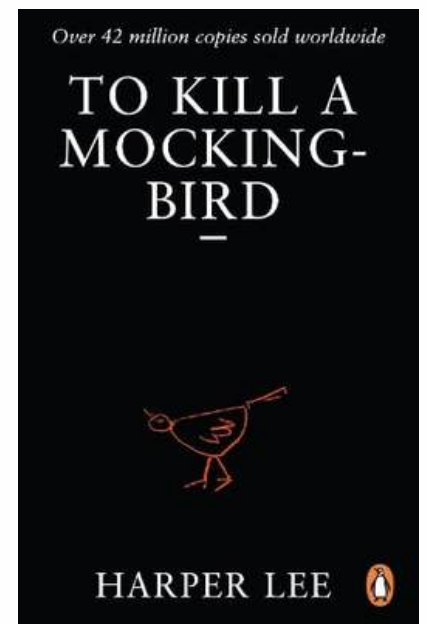
KS3



Book of the Week

A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much. A must read and a classic!

KS4/5



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

BENEFIT

benefits | benefitted | benefitting

NOUN

1. Advantage or profit gained from something
2. A payment made by the state to someone entitled to it
3. An event intended to raise money

SYNONYMS:

sake
interest
welfare
advantage
reward
merit
profit

ANTONYMS:
disadvantage
drawback
detriment

P.E. "The benefits of exercise are endless."
 ECONOMICS: "People with disabilities can access benefits."
 GEOGRAPHY: "The region would benefit from increased rainfall."
 HISTORY: "The new laws benefitted the country."

VERB

To receive an advantage or profit

SYNONYMS:
be of advantage to
profit
gain
exploit
help
aid

ANTONYM:
damage

Who would use this word?

politician
economist
marketing team
civil servant
doctor

bene facere
(Latin: do good)

→ bienfet (Old French)

→ benefit (late Middle English)



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 Readers

Malachy Bailey

Callen Whitehead

Grace Akiode

Josh Rodreigo

Joseph Hampton

Oscar Ward

Evie Mae Rough

Flavia Calo

Owen Ryan



SUPERSTAR SPEAKERS

JAKUB PAJAK

KIAN REILLY

CalLEN WHITEHEAD

HARRY TOPPING

WILL MOXON



Year 11 Classics Trip

On Monday, our Year 11 Classics students took a virtual journey through the heart of Ancient Greece, diving into the rich history and culture of Athens.

Highlights included:

The awe-inspiring Acropolis Museum

The iconic Parthenon

The bustling Ancient Agora, once the centre of Athenian life

From mythology to architecture, students explored how ancient ideas continue to shape our world today. A brilliant day of learning, curiosity, and classical discovery!





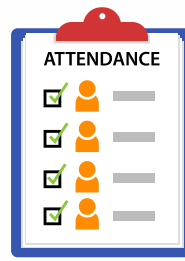
Exploring Mycenae & a Beach Break!

Today, our Year 11 students journeyed back in time to the ancient citadel of Mycenae, uncovering the mysteries of one of Greece's most iconic archaeological sites.

From the Lion Gate to the Treasury of Atreus, they explored the heart of Bronze Age civilisation — and topped it off with a well-earned stop at the beach!
A perfect blend of history, sunshine, and smiles. Well done, Year 11!



BTHCC Attendance



All In for October – Attendance Matters!

This month, we're going ALL IN on attendance – because being present every day matters. Attendance isn't just a number – it's about learning, friendships, wellbeing, and success. It's everyone's responsibility – students, staff, families, and the whole school community. Our Attendance Team will be out and about this month, chatting with students about why showing up every day makes a difference. Let's make October count – let's be ALL IN.





Congratulations to Our Cross Country Stars!

A huge well done to all the students who took part in the recent cross country event – your determination, resilience, and team spirit were truly inspiring!

Team medals:

Gold medals for y8/9 girls team
Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for y7 girls
Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for y7 boys

Individual medals:

Eleanor, Carlota (y8-11 girls)
Harry, Scott, Jake (y7 boys)
Bella, Nancy-Marie, Lilly (y7 girls)

Thank you for representing our school with such energy and enthusiasm – we're so proud of you all!



A title card with a green background and a torn paper effect. The text 'WENDY & PETER PAN' is written in a dark green, serif font. There are faint illustrations of a pirate ship on the left, a skull and crossbones on the right, and a bow and arrow at the bottom left.

**WENDY &
PETER PAN**

We're Off To Neverland

We're thrilled to announce that our college will be staging a magical production of Peter Pan next March!

Auditions are open to all students!

Whether you're a seasoned performer or trying something new, we'd love to see you take part.

Auditions:

Date: Tuesday 14th October

Time: 3:30 PM

Location: Room F18

Come along to collect your audition pack and find out more about the roles available both on stage and behind the scenes!

Let your imagination take flight — we can't wait to see you there!



MEET THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Welcome to a new school year.

Our first week has been filled with exciting activities and new discoveries in the Music Department:

- Year 7 are diving into ukulele and singing.
- Year 8 are rocking out with famous guitar riffs.
- Year 9 are forming pop bands to learn "Seven Nation Army."

Choir rehearsals have already started with a bang – from energetic K-pop to leading the more serene singing at Mass.



MEET THE TEACHERS

Mrs. Whitfield : Head of Department

Miss Peilober: Head of Department and teacher of RE

Mrs. Edwards: Teacher of Music, RE & Food Tech

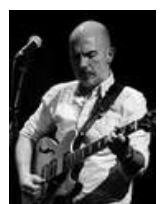


VISITING INSTRUMENTAL STAFF

At BTH we are very lucky to have a wonderful team of peripatetic instrumental and vocal teachers who visit us every week. We currently have spaces for lessons - look out for the parent mail coming soon! We also have a range of instruments available for loan if you choose to have lessons in school including violin, flute, saxophone and clarinet. If you wish to find out more about loaning an instrument please email Miss Peilober at f.peilober@bthcc.org



Mr. Agnew - Drum Kit



Mr Farr - Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar & Bass Guitar



Miss Kelly Edwards - Violin & Piano



Miss Thackray - flute, clarinet & saxophone



Miss Cooper - piano

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday: Concerto (Orchestra) 12.30pm

Tuesday: Junior Capriccio (Choir Y7)

12.30pm

Wednesday: Capriccio (Choir Y7-11)

12.30pm

Thursday: Pizzicato (Guitar & Ukulele Group)

1pm

Friday: Nota (Keyboard Club) 1pm

All clubs are in Rome 08.

Family Webinar Series



Autum Term 2025

Free webinars for parents and carers across Trafford packed with practical strategies for supporting your child's mental health and wellbeing.

Register now for 



Supporting Young People With Anxiety

30/09/25 9.30 am - 10.30 am
Scan the QR code or follow this [link](#).

Supporting Young People With Low Mood

04/11/25 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
Scan the QR code or follow this [link](#).



Trafford Thrive in Education

Questions? Contact us:
traffordthrive.education@mft.nhs.uk
0161 549 6451



What parents need to know about vaping

Vaping has become increasingly common among teenagers, and many parents are understandably concerned. E-cigarettes were originally designed to help adults quit smoking but they are not safe for children or young people.

The rise in brightly packaged, sweet-flavoured disposable vapes has made them particularly appealing to young people, despite the health risks.

Research shows that more teenagers are experimenting with vapes each year, often without realising how addictive and harmful they can be.

Why vapes are dangerous for children

Although often marketed as 'safer than smoking', vapes still carry serious risks:

- **nicotine addiction** – many vapes contain high levels of nicotine, which can cause dependency and affect brain development in young people
- **harmful chemicals** – new research shows vapes can contain toxic substances such as formaldehyde, acrolein and metals like lead. These can damage the lungs and cardiovascular system
- **respiratory effects** – vaping can irritate airways, trigger asthma and cause long-term lung problems
- **unregulated products** – some disposable vapes, especially those bought online or from informal sellers, may exceed legal nicotine limits or contain banned substances. More recently, tests have even found some vapes laced with illegal drugs such as Spice, making them extremely dangerous.

Why young people are drawn to vapes

- Bright packaging and sweet flavours – flavours such as bubblegum, mango and cotton candy make vapes seem harmless and child-friendly, masking the fact that they often contain addictive nicotine.
- Peer pressure and social media trends – vaping is frequently shown on TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram, making it appear fun, fashionable, or a way to fit in with friends.
- Belief that 'everyone is doing it' – many young people think vaping is common and safe, not realising the health risks or that many of their peers actually choose not to vape.

Secondary | October 2025

In this issue:

Vapes

Child Criminal Exploitation

Supporting your child to avoid the risks of vaping



The law on vaping

- It is illegal to sell vapes or e-cigarettes to anyone under 18.
- It is also illegal for adults to buy vapes on behalf of under-18s.
- Schools treat vaping on site in the same way as smoking – it is strictly prohibited.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

What parents need to know about Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) happens when children and young people are manipulated, coerced or forced into committing crimes for someone else's benefit. It can affect boys and girls from all backgrounds and often begins without a child realising they are being exploited. Understanding how CCE works is key to protecting children and knowing when to step in.

What is Child Criminal Exploitation?

CCE is when adults, gangs or organised networks exploit children to take part in criminal activities. This can include:

- **County Lines drug dealing** – transporting or selling drugs between areas
- **carrying weapons** – being pressured to hold or use knives or other weapons
- **theft, burglary or shoplifting** – committing crimes on behalf of others
- **online exploitation** – being recruited or directed through apps, social media or gaming platforms.

The role of the online world

Criminals don't always approach children in person – many now use the internet to make contact. Social media, messaging apps and gaming chats are common recruitment tools.

Exploiters may:

- start with friendly conversations to build trust
- use games or group chats to identify and target vulnerable young people
- offer money, free items or a sense of belonging online
- move conversations to private messaging, where they apply pressure or give instructions.

Because online communication is hidden, parents may not see what's happening until the child is already involved.

Criminals often exploit children, targeting those who seem vulnerable. They may:

- offer gifts, money, food or clothes
- create a sense of owing a debt in exchange for the gifts. The debt is paid by undertaking criminal activities
- provide friendship or a sense of belonging
- use threats of violence.

Watch for signs of exploitation in your child, such as:

- unexplained money or new possessions
- secretive behaviour about online interactions
- sudden changes in friendships, including unfamiliar adults
- signs of anxiety or reluctance to explain actions.

