



#### Welcome Back!



A very warm welcome back to all of our students, parents and carers as we begin another exciting academic year at BTH. I would like to extend a particularly special welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students and their families, who are joining the BTH family for the first time. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to supporting you as you become part of our college community.

It has been wonderful to see the college full of energy again and I am delighted to report that we have had an excellent first full week back. Our students have returned looking enthusiastic, positive and ready to learn. I would also like to thank them for adapting so quickly and maturely to our new phone pouch system.

We are incredibly proud of our outstanding GCSE and A Level results this year. The hard work, dedication and resilience shown by our students has truly paid off, and we celebrate all that they have achieved.

Our thoughts and prayers go with our Year 13 students as they begin their next exciting chapter. Whether they are heading off to university, starting an apprenticeship, entering the world of work, or pursuing other opportunities, we wish them every success and happiness in the future.

We are confident they will continue to be excellent ambassadors for the college and make a positive difference wherever their journey takes them. Good luck, Year 13. We are so proud of you all.

For those families who are new to BTH, our newsletter will be published every two weeks and is one of the best ways to keep up to date with important information, key dates, celebrations and upcoming events. This first edition is particularly information-packed, and we apologise for the volume of messages, but the start of the academic year always brings lots of important reminders and dates for your diary.

I am very much looking forward to meeting many of you again in person at our forthcoming Welcome Masses (more information to follow on this). These are always some of my favourite events of the year, providing a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a faith community and celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

Looking ahead, I am excited about all that lies before us, particularly our work with our Charity of the Year, CAFOD. Throughout the year, students and staff will have many opportunities to support CAFOD's vital work through fundraising, awareness campaigns and community action. My own contribution begins this weekend when I will be taking part in the Great North Run in support of our charity partnership. Further information about our link with CAFOD, including how you can support our fundraising efforts, can be found on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish all of our families a happy, successful and rewarding year ahead.

Mrs Hogg



#### Summer Holiday Improvements....

Over the summer break, we have been busy making a number of improvements across the college to enhance our learning environments and facilities for students and staff. We are delighted to welcome everyone back to see the impact of these developments, which will support teaching, learning and the overall student experience.



Our summer improvements include:

- A brand-new Library
- New windows installed in key areas
- Air conditioning fitted in the three-storey block
- A new Drama Room
- New front gates to improve access and security
- New flooring and seating benches in the Sports Academy
- New carpets in several classrooms
- New flooring on the Fatima
- New external doors to our groundfloor science and music rooms to reduce congestion on corridors.

These improvements are only possible because of the continued support we receive through our School Building Fund which can be found on your **SCOPAY** accounts. The fund plays a crucial role in helping us maintain, improve and develop our facilities, ensuring that our college remains a fresh, welcoming and inspiring environment for all of our students.

If you are able to contribute to the Building Fund, we would be extremely grateful for your support. Every contribution helps us to continue investing in our college and providing the very best surroundings for our young people to learn, grow and thrive.

#### Enrichment Clubs..

At BTH enrichment activities are more than optional extras, they are a vital part of our mission to shape students into confident, capable and successful individuals. Our bespoke enrichment programme is crafted specifically for our college community, ensuring every student has the opportunity to leave with more than just outstanding examination results. These experiences empower our students to stand out from the crowd, equipping them with invaluable life skills that open doors to future success.

These clubs take place every lunchtime between 12.30pm and 1.30pm. There is something for everyone and a great opportunity for students to make new friends, try something new and have fun.

The full timetable can be found on the website under our **'Personal Development'** tab, then click on Enrichment.



## Student Leadership

Students across the whole college have the opportunity to develop their whole selves and become involved in student leadership which is an essential part of our culture at Blessed Thomas Holford.

It lies at the heart of building a sense of community and family at college, whilst helping drive school improvement. It allows our students the opportunity to take responsibility and monitor the impact of their actions and ideas. Our students work hard to make a difference to their own lives and to the lives of others in line with the key principles of our Catholic Social Teachings of Solidarity, Dignity of the Person and Working for the Common Good.

Our student council ambassadors take the lead on our charity and fundraising across the college. Participating in one or more of these opportunities allows our students to develop key leadership skills and qualities that can be applied to their future college, university, apprenticeship or career aspirations.

The Student Council Ambassadors represent the student body, their voices and democracy here at Blessed Thomas Holford. We aim to bridge the gap between students and staff, allowing them to interact and play an active role in decision-making across the college.

We will be speaking the students next week about student leadership team and the opportunities for them to be involved.

## Attendance Matters

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to remind parents and carers that good attendance is vital for both students' learning and wellbeing. Every day in college counts, and excellent attendance gives young people the best opportunity to achieve their full potential, build positive relationships and fully participate in college life.

Even what may seem like a small amount of absence can have a significant impact over time:

- 95% attendance = around 9 days missed each year
- 90% attendance = around 19 days missed each year
- 85% attendance = around 29 days missed each year
- 80% attendance = around 38 days missed each year
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A student with 90% attendance misses the equivalent of nearly four weeks of learning across the college year. This can make it much more difficult to keep up with lessons, coursework and assessments.

We ask all parents and carers to support us by ensuring that students attend college every day, arrive on time and only miss school when absolutely necessary. Together, we can ensure that every student has the best possible chance of success.

**Every day matters. Every lesson matters. Every student matters.**

## Careers at BTH: Can You Help?

At BTH, we are incredibly passionate about careers education and the opportunities we provide for our students. We believe that every young person deserves access to experiences that inspire ambition, broaden horizons and help them make informed decisions about their future.

We pride ourselves on offering a wide range of opportunities for students to engage directly with employers, universities, colleges, apprenticeship providers and industry professionals. Our annual Careers Fair is always one of the highlights of the college year, giving students invaluable opportunities to explore the many pathways available to them.

As we begin a new academic year, we would like to reach out to both new and existing parents and carers to ask for your support. Many of our parents have a wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise that could make a real difference to our students.

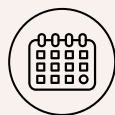
If you feel you could help in any of the following ways, we would love to hear from you:

- Supporting our annual Careers Fair
- Conducting mock interviews with students
- Delivering a career talk about your profession or industry
- Speaking to students within a specific curriculum area or subject
- Contributing to assemblies or themed careers events
- Offering insight into apprenticeships, higher education or training routes
- Providing workplace visits or work experience opportunities



By sharing your experiences, you can help inspire the next generation and give our students valuable insights into the world of work. If you would be interested in supporting our careers programme in any way, please contact the college. Your time and expertise could have a lasting impact on a young person's future.

**Together, we can help our students to aspire, achieve and succeed.**



# Dates for the diary

We understand how important it is for families to have key dates in advance so that you can plan ahead and support your child's busy school life. To help with this, we have included a schedule of the main events and activities planned for the Autumn Term. Please note that, whilst every effort is made to keep to these dates, they are subject to change. Occasionally, circumstances beyond the college's control may require us to amend, postpone or rearrange events at short notice. We therefore ask that families regularly check college communications, including newsletters, emails, the website and social media channels, for any updates.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work together to provide the best possible opportunities for our students.

**Please note: all dates are correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change.**

## Autumn Term 1 (September - October)

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> of September - Success in Year 12 evening (Main Hall)  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of September - Success in Year 11 evening (Main Hall)  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of September - School Photographs for Year 7 & 12  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of September - Success in Year 13 evening (Main Hall)  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of September - Whole College Mass (AM)  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of September - Open Evening 5pm-8pm  
*(students will finish at 2.25pm that day so we can prepare the college for open evening)*  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of September - Science trip for Year 13  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of September - Success in Year 8 evening (Main Hall)  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of September - French trip meeting (Year 8)  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of October - Success in Year 10 evening (Main Hall)  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of October - Year 8 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of October - Year 7 Savio House Retreat (2 forms)  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of October - Year 7 Savio House Retreat (2 forms)  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of October - Success in Year 7 evening (Main Hall)  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of October - Year 13 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of October - Year 7 Savio House Retreat (2 forms)  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of October - Year 7 Savio House Retreat (2 forms)  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of October - Success in Year 9 evening (Main Hall)  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of October - Shakespeare Schools Workshop (Year 8)  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> of October - Sixth Form Alton Towers Trip  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of October - Year 8 trip to France (MFL)  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of October - Year 7 Savio House Retreat (2 forms)  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of October - Year 7 Savio House Retreat (2 forms)  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October - Sixth Form Open Evening 6pm-8pm  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October - BREAK UP October half term (1 week)**

## Autumn Term 2 (November-December))

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November - Year 11 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of November - Year 7 Welcome Mass and Bingo  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> of November - Year 8 residential trip to Savio House  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of November - Year 10 parents evening ONLINE  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of November - Year 8 parents evening ONLINE  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November - Year 9 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of November - Year 10 and Year 11 Flu immunisations  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of November - Year 7 and Year 8 Flu immunisations  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of November - INSET DAY (college closed to students)  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of November - Year 12 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December - Year 13 parents evening - Hybrid (online and in person)  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of December - 2026 Year 11 cohort Certificate Evening (more information to follow)  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of December - Advent Service at St Vincents 5.30pm  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of December - Whole College Mass  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of December - 2026 Year 13 cohort Certificate Evening (more information to follow)  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of December - BREAK UP (return to college on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2027)**



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 