Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

Newsletter 3

October 23rd 2026

Well we made it to the end of our first half term! It is hard to believe how much we have already packed into the past few weeks. When I look back I am reminded just how much learning, laughter, opportunity and community spirit we have shared since returning in September.



Our students have enjoyed a wealth of experiences beyond the classroom from our Year 7 retreat days at Savio House and our Year 8 trip to France, our Year 11 PGL weekend to the trip to Greece and our visit to Bridgewater Hall. We have welcomed families into college for our Open Evening, supported our families and students at how to be successful at our Success Evenings and come together as a whole college community for Mass. We have also continued our commitment to charity and supporting others, demonstrating kindness and compassion in so many different ways.

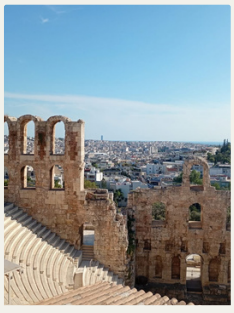


It has been wonderful to see our students getting involved in activities that help them grow in confidence, develop new interests and make memories that will stay with them for years to come. We have raised awareness of important issues, including World Mental Health Day and Show Racism the Red Card and our Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a Shakespeare Schools workshop. Experiences like these are such an important part of a BTHCC education, helping our young people develop their whole selves.



Our sporting teams have also enjoyed a really successful start to the year. I always look forward to hearing the results after each fixture or cross country running results and celebrating the commitment, teamwork and determination shown by our students. Well done to everyone who has represented BTHCC so positively.

Over the past few weeks, our Year 8 and Year 13 students have been working hard on their centre assessments and I have been pleased to see the positive attitude and effort they have demonstrated. Thank you to our staff for the encouragement and support they continue to provide, helping our students to achieve their very best.



Today, we announced our new Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Ministers, alongside our Student Council and their ministerial roles. This is an exciting development for student leadership at BTHCC and I look forward to seeing our students take on these responsibilities, represent their peers and help shape our college community.

Last night, we rounded off the half term with a fantastic Sixth Form Open Evening. It was a real pleasure to see so many of our own Year 10 and Year 11 students exploring the opportunities available to them, listening with enthusiasm and talking about the subjects they are excited to study in the future. It was equally lovely to welcome so many new faces from other schools. There was a real buzz around college and I would like to thank everyone involved in making the evening such a success.



I have also been very fortunate over the past few days to be in Rome attending the International Congress on School and University Pastoral Care. Inspired by the theme Drawing New Maps of Hope, the conference has provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on the future of Catholic education, particularly how we nurture faith, encourage peace and support the development of the whole person. It has been a privilege to take part in these conversations and bring that inspiration back to our own work at BTHCC.



As we reach the end of what has been a wonderfully busy half term, I think we can all agree that a well-deserved break is in order! Our students have worked hard, embraced opportunities and contributed so much to college life. I hope they enjoy some time to rest, recharge and spend time with family and friends.
When we return, we will begin another busy and joyful half term, filled with Advent activities, opportunities to serve others and moments to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you all.
Thank you, as always, to our wonderful staff, students and families for everything you contribute to making BTHCC such a special community.
I wish you all a restful and happy half term.

Mrs Hogg

Careers

Explore Career Opportunities with CrossCountry Trains
Spotlight on Apprentice Train Driver opportunities, including the skills and qualities needed, salary and benefits for school leavers.



Amazing Apprenticeships have just listed over 1200 apprenticeship opportunities at higher and degree level.... Have a look on their website for more details
https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/higher-and-degree-listing/



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 2 (November-December) 2026

Monday 2nd of November - Year 11 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)
Wednesday 4th of November - Year 7 Welcome Mass and Bingo
Friday 6th of November - Sixth form trip to Alton Towers
Monday 9th of November - Year 8 residential trip to Savio House
Tuesday 10th of November - Bank of England visit for Economics students
Thursday 12th of November - Year 10 parents evening ONLINE
Tuesday 17th of November - Year 8-10 music trip to Co-op Arena
Wednesday 18th of November - True Life Conference for Year 12/13
Thursday 19th of November - Year 8 parents evening ONLINE
Monday 23rd of November - Year 9 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)
Monday 23rd of November - School Book Fair
Tuesday 24th of November - Year 10 and Year 11 Flu immunisations
Thursday 26th of November - Year 7 and Year 8 Flu immunisations
Friday 27th of November - INSET DAY (college closed to students)
Monday 30th of November - Year 12 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)
Tuesday 1st of December - Ski Trip meeting 5pm Main hall
Thursday 3rd of December - Year 13 parents evening - Hybrid (online and in person)
Monday 7th of December - 2026 Year 11 cohort Certificate Evening (more information to follow)
Saturday 12th of December - Altrincham Choral Concert
Tuesday 15th of December - Advent Service at St Vincents 5.30pm
Thursday 17th of December - Whole College Mass
Thursday 17th of December - 2026 Year 13 cohort Certificate Evening (more information to follow)
Friday 18th of December - BREAK UP (return to college on the 4th of January 2027)

Spring Term 3 (January- March) 2027

Monday 4th of January - Year 10 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)
Thursday 7th of January - Year 11 Parents evening - Hybrid (in college or online)
Friday 15th of January - Careers Fair
Monday 18th of January - Year 11 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)
Thursday 21st of January - Year 12 Parents evening - Hybrid (in college or online)
Tuesday 2nd of February - Year 9 DTP / ACWY Immunisations
Monday 8th of February - Year 13 Centre Assessments (2 weeks)
Wednesday 10th of February - Year 9 Parents evening for Maths, English & Science (online)
Thursday 11th of February - History trip to Berlin for Year 11
Thursday 11th of February - Year 9 Options evening - Walsingham building
Friday 12th of February - Break up for February half term
Saturday 13th of February - Austria Ski trip for Year 7 & 8

A Prayer for Autumn

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.
As we embrace this autumn time of half-term rest,
May the earlier setting of the sun remind us to slow down and rest.
May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the beauty and gifts of each day.
Be with us in our relaxation, our travel, and our time with family and friends.
Refresh our minds and bodies, and keep us safe in your loving care.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.
Blessed Thomas Holford Pray For Us

