



# All Hallows Catholic College

## Newsletter - Epiphany Term

Issue 16



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Friday 10th January

Dear Parent / Carer,

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday and after two weeks' break I expect you are all pleased that College has started again. 2020 promises to be another exciting, successful year for everyone at All Hallows and we shall continue to provide the best possible all-round education for every child and young person.

In assemblies this week I have been talking to students about New Year's Resolutions and 'Never Saying Never'. The only way to progress in life is to try new things, and 'if at first you don't succeed, try, try again' – but by trying slightly different approaches, otherwise we will continue to get the same results. I also wanted all our young people to be positive about their own situation, and to know that no matter how much they are struggling, whether it be with school work, or behaviour, then they can make the necessary improvements, no matter how difficult it might seem at first.

On that note, Year 12 & 13 personalised resits will be taking place the week commencing 20th January, and they will soon be receiving their academic reviews, to help them build upon the work they have done so far. Likewise, Year 11 students will be receiving their written reports the week commencing 20th January, and the Parental Gateway is now open to make appointments for Year 11 Parental Consultation Evening on Thursday 30th January, Year 13 on Monday 3rd February, and Year 12 on Tuesday 11th February. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, do please contact your their subject teacher, Form Tutor or Year Learning Leader.

A few reminders at the start of the New Year. Please ensure your son/daughter leaves for College in plenty of time. College begins at 8.50am and we expect everybody to be punctual and on site by 8.45am. If they arrive after 8.50am, youngsters risk being marked as late and given a detention. We are aware that there is a lot of disruption in the local area due to roadworks, so if a College bus is late, students are not given a detention. If you need to buy the correct uniform, visit our principal supplier, Finesse Schoolwear, 98-100 Mill St, Macclesfield. If you have any queries or concerns regarding uniform, please contact your child's Form Tutor or Year Learning Leader. We expect our uniform to be uniform, so please check you are buying the right shoes, trousers, skirt, jumper, tie and blazer. Students are not allowed to wear outdoor coats inside the school building, and we do not allow hooded tops or fleeces to be worn beneath blazers indoors.

Thank you for your active support and involvement in your child's education. If you wish to communicate with me on any issue, please do not hesitate to email me via my PA, Mrs Metheringham, at [principalpa@allhallows.org.uk](mailto:principalpa@allhallows.org.uk).

Tim Beesley, Principal

## **Faith in Action Weekly Prayer**

Blessed God,

We give you our school.

Father, we give you all the teachers and staff who work here,  
We give you all the students who study here.



Lord, we ask our school would be a place of great discovery, adventure, and creativity.  
Make it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,  
a place where every person is respected and all are extremely valued.  
We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Assembly Theme**

This weeks assemblies were lead by the College Principal, where he provided an opportunity for students to reflect of the value of making resolutions to change, be resilient and 'Never say Never'.

Our Assemblies next week will are on the theme of 'Being Proud to be British'.

## **Fundraising:**

On the day we broke for Christmas the Sixth Form Student Council organised a show to enable students across all year groups to showcase their talents and, in doing so raised almost £500 for the India project. Well done to all involved and thank you.

## **St Alban's Parish Church: Come & See Confirmation Evening**

There is a Come & See Confirmation Evening on Tuesday 14th January 2020, at 7.30pm, in the Parish Centre. Parents and their young people, who are in Year 8 and above and from St. Alban's Parish and thinking about being confirmed in 2020, are invited to this meeting of information about the Confirmation Programme. For further details ring Rosemarie- 01625 422621 or see the Parish website.

## **Form Attendance: Week Ending Thursday 19th December**

### **Well done to all!**

7 Siena—96.1%

8 Romero—100%

9 Avila—97.8%

10 Siena—96.1%

11 Barlow— 91.1%

12/13 More—92.4%



## **PTA News**

Upcoming trips: Please email Mrs Heaton to reserve tickets: [a.heaton@allhallows.org](mailto:a.heaton@allhallows.org)

Saturday 8th February

Tubing at Stoke Ski Centre. Just £15 per person. Includes coach and includes a hot meal after 1 hour of tubing.  
Please pay on Parent Pay. Places are limited. For further details contact Mrs Heaton as above.

## Term Dates 2020

Epiphany Monday 6th January - Thursday 13th February

Easter Monday 24th February - Friday 3rd April

All other term dates can be found on the school website.

## Evening Events in the Epiphany Term

Thursday 30th January—Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening 3.45—7 pm

Monday 3rd February—Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening 3.45—7pm

Tuesday 11th February—Year 12 Parent consultation Evening 3.45—7pm

All other dates can be found on the school website.

## ECO Tip for the Advent Season: Cheshire East Hospice Christmas Tree Collection Service

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th January 2020

After you have registered your tree for collection all you need to do is leave your tree outside in an easily accessible location and our team will do the rest! All the costs of running the collection are covered by local business sponsorship. This means that every penny of your donation will go directly to supporting the Hospice.



For more details: 01625 708939 or [eastcheshirehospice.org.uk](http://eastcheshirehospice.org.uk) .

## Upcoming Geography Trips

### Year 8—Knowsley Safari Park

The Geography Department has arranged a trip for Year 8 students to Knowsley Safari Park on Wednesday 29th January. As part of their Geography lessons, students complete a unit of work that links to some of the content covered during this trip, particularly ecosystems.

This trip is very highly recommended to extend your child's learning. The day includes:

- Classroom workshop looking at the impacts of habitat loss on Rhinos
- Walking tour
- Sea lion show
- Bird of prey display

We have tried to keep the trip cost as low as possible, the cost per pupil is £25. Please pay this via parent pay. Students will meet at 8.55 am (we will wait for any student on a bus if it is late) on the day of the trip, after a brief registration in form and return to school for 15:15. Further details are on the letter available on Show My Homework.

As with all educational visits, we do not wish finances to prevent your child from attending. If you are in receipt of free school meals or have questions regarding finances, please contact Mrs Foulkes in the Finance department [finance@allhallows.org.uk](mailto:finance@allhallows.org.uk) or via reception.

## **Iceland Trip**

A reminder, the final payment date is: Monday 27th January at 3.30 - final balance payment is £365.

In order to provide time to purchase any items your child may need for the trip, please see the packing guide below.

### **Packing guide:**

- Swimwear and towel for swimming
- Waterproof or ski coat, and trousers if you have them
- Walking boots or snowshoes – these are required for the glacier walk in order to wear crampons
- T-shirts for 4 days
- Warm trousers. Jeans are not recommended for outdoor activities; they are not warm enough and stay wet for a very long time
- Warm socks
- Thermals—recommended but not essential
- Hat, gloves and scarf
- Underwear
- Fleece and/or warm jumpers
- Pyjamas
- Small rucksack for daytime
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Toothpaste, tooth brush, soap and other toiletries
- Adaptor (European)
- Money. All food and excursions are included, so students don't need to take a lot of spending money but we recommend approximately £40
- Chargers as required for phones
- Camera - not essential and at your own responsibility
- Any medication your child will need. Please make sure details of this are included on the C form. We are unable to give your child any medication, including paracetamol and ibuprofen, unless you provide it for us.

Please remember your child is responsible for carrying all their own belongings and so they should not overpack! The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to items you bring with, although we do have insurance. Expensive or valuable items are best kept at home.

Any questions, please email trip leader: [N.Sandler@allhallows.org.uk](mailto:N.Sandler@allhallows.org.uk).



# Online Safety Information for Parents

As part of their Wake-Up Wednesday campaign, please see the latest poster below from the National Online Safety campaign. Log onto the following website for further information, <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/>



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

# TIKTOK



## MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

## INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the unfathomably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing other users' videos on the app.

## TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor Musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

## ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



## ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

## IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 18,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



# Safety Tips For Parents

## TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



## USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media stardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



## ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



## EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



## LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



## MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



## Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



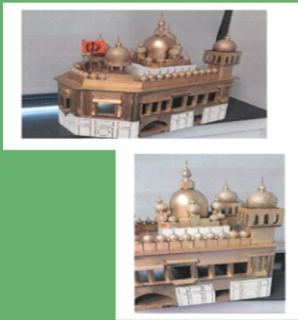
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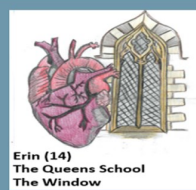
Do you love to be creative? Are you fantastic at painting? Amazing at sculpture? Why not enter our new art competition? Everyone is welcome to take part.



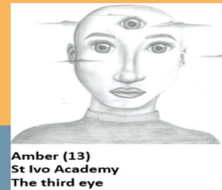
Spirited Arts is a nationwide competition for students aged 4–19. There are different age categories as well as many different forms of art that can be submitted i.e. photography, sculpture, media and traditional forms such as painting and drawing.



Perdy (12)  
BBG Academy  
Golden Temple



Erin (14)  
The Queens School  
The Window



Amber (13)  
St Ivo Academy  
The third eye



Laila (14)  
The Latymer School  
God Complex

Come and find out more at our meeting. . . .

Thursday 23rd January (blue week) D1 Break 2

## Students Work Together To Tackle Anxiety Issues

Ms Lankester, a Teaching Assistant in the SEN department, leads three groups for students with autism, anxiety issues or students who just need a bit of extra support. The groups are held during lesson time and take place once on red week and twice on blue week. Last term, the students were busy creating vision boards to put in their bedrooms at home. These boards are collages of images and affirmations designed to inspire and motivate, whenever a setback occurs. The vision board will always be there to act as a reminder and to encourage students to think positively. There are eight girls in the year 8 group and four girls in the year 7 group.



Examples of the boards the girls have created.



## 6th Form News

### Holocaust Memorial Event

You could hear a pin drop in the chapel on Wednesday afternoon, as our Year 12 students listened to a talk by Tomi Komoly from the Holocaust Educational Trust. This event is part of a series nationally, to recognise the upcoming Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27th January.



Toni was born in Hungary in 1936 and described his experience of his family being separated and his father being sent to a forced labour camp in the 1940s. Aside from one brief visit, he never saw his father again, as he was reported to the Hungarian authorities who had allied with the Nazis. Toni gave a short but fascinating overview of the history of Hungary in the war, followed by a deeply poignant recollection of his family being ghettoised in Budapest. The students

listened intently as Toni talked about living with the fear of being herded onto a train bound for a concentration camp, as were hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews. He spoke of his experience as a refugee in Austria, fleeing the USSR and eventually settling in the UK after being given a university scholarship. Toni also spoke eloquently about the importance of remembering such events, especially when there are still ongoing genocides and refugee crises around the world today.

Log onto [www.het.org.uk](http://www.het.org.uk) for further information about the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

There will also be a display of books relating to the Holocaust in the AHCC Library next week.

### UCAS

Students have all now completed their UCAS forms and many have received offers. Offers from Oxford and Cambridge will be released over the next two weeks. Students have until 15 January to add any final choices that they have made, to their forms. Students should also notify Mr Park or Mr Howells if they have interviews this term.

### Apprenticeships

As well as university a number of our students go on to apprenticeships. Astra Zeneca have opened their scheme this week, details can be found here: <https://careers.astrazeneca.com/students>. Also A J Bell, in Salford, have invited some of our students to go to their open day on 5 February: last year two our students were accepted on to the scheme following attending this open day for schools. Students should see Mr Howells if they are interested.

### Work Experience

This week we launched our work experience program with year 12. It will run w/c 29 June for the week. Students need to find their own placements, so if you have any friends or relatives that can help it would be much appreciated. Also if as part of your work you could offer a placement for that week, please get in touch with either Mr Park ([t.park@allhallows.org.uk](mailto:t.park@allhallows.org.uk)) or Mr Howells ([d.howells@allhallows.org.uk](mailto:d.howells@allhallows.org.uk)), any help would be much appreciated!

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Opening Hours

Monday – Thursday 8.15am – 5pm  
Friday 8.15 am – 4pm

## Borrowing Books

Years 7 – 11 2 books 2 weeks

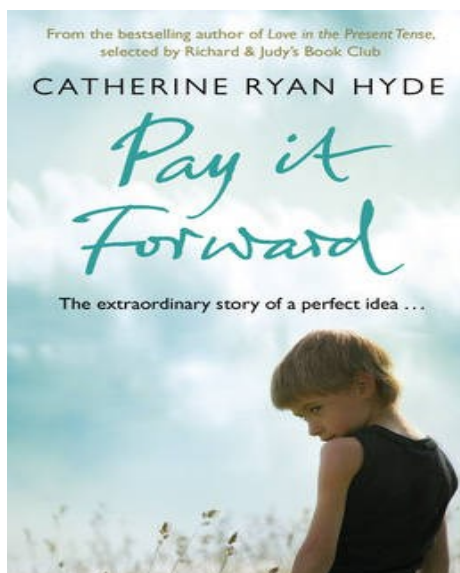
Years 12 & 13 3 books 3 weeks

Please return books on time! Items can always be renewed up to 3 times, at the Library desk.

## New Year, New Books!

### Recommended Read

**As one of our core values is compassion, why not read a great book that talks about helping others?**



It all started with the social studies teacher's extra-credit project: Think of an idea for world change, and put it into action.

Whilst this proved a little ambitious for most of his classmates, twelve year old Trevor thought he would start by doing something good for three people. But instead of paying him back, he would ask them to "pay it forward" by doing a favour for three more people. If it all went to plan, Trevor thought, it would be the start of a long chain of human kindness . . .

Sound unlikely to you? Well a lot of other people had their doubts too - Trevor's teacher, his classmates, his mother, in fact everyone in his small California town. It could never really work. . . could it?

Lots have new books have arrived over the Christmas holidays, so why not visit the library and have a look in the Book Nook for some reading inspiration?

## Book Amnesty

A significant number of books are not being returned to the library. Therefore, if you have any AH or ELS library books at home, I would ask kindly that they are returned, no questions asked. This will mean more books for our students to choose from and enhance the library stock, helping our budget go further. Thank you, in advance, for your support in this matter.

There are a number of GCSE study guides that have also 'disappeared' from the library and we would appreciate being returned so that year 10 & 11 students can use them.



# XCell Youth Group

For fun, friends, and tuck!

## Games Night



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7-9pm,  
St Alban's Parish Centre, opposite the church.

Snowball fight, table tennis, pool,  
musical chairs, Sweeper, and  
Twister!

**Come and join the fun!**



Everyone at secondary school (ages 11+) is welcome. Bring your friends, meet up with friends from primary school and make new friends.

Bring £1 entry & some money for tuck.

We'll also be collecting money in Jan (approx.£11) for a trip out in February - more details to follow by email.

### Next meetings:

28 February - Bowling, Lyme Green, Macclesfield

27 March - Irish Games Night - Parish Centre

For more information contact Anna & Greg Hughes:  
01625 614406 or [xcellyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:xcellyouthgroup@gmail.com)