



LIFE TO THE FULL

FORTNIGHTLY UPDATE

[Click here](#) for the College calendar
 • [Click here](#) for more information on the importance of good attendance
 • Please remind your children that chewing gum is prohibited at Carmel College.

CATHOLIC LIFE



Week Commencing Monday 12th January 2026

Theme: Beloved – “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

This week the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord, where Jesus is revealed publicly as the Son of God and affirmed as beloved by the Father. As Jesus steps into the waters of the Jordan in humble obedience, his saving mission begins. This feast reminds our school community of something powerful and life-giving: in baptism, each of us is also named and claimed as beloved, called to live with humility, trust, and joyful service.

Week Commencing Monday 19th January 2026

Theme: Redemption – “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

This week we reflect on the theme of Redemption, as John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Jesus is not simply a good teacher or moral example, but the One who gives his life for us, restoring our relationship with God. In Carmel, this invites us to recognise the saving power of Christ and to live as people set free: free from guilt, fear and barriers, and able to embrace the full dignity and hope that comes from being redeemed.

Weekly Mass at Carmel

Holy Mass is offered every Wednesday at 12:30pm in our College Chapel. All students, staff, parents and visitors are welcome to join us for this peaceful moment of prayer as we gather around the altar and place our week before the Lord.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT PICKING YOUR CHILD UP FROM CARMEL

We are becoming increasingly concerned about dangerous and inconsiderate parking around The Headlands and Clare Avenue. Poor parking and congestion at drop-off and collection times place our students, parents, and neighbours at serious risk.

To protect everyone, please follow our Carmel Parking Pledge:

- Use the one-way system: Enter via Hummersknott and exit via Carmel Road to keep traffic moving.
- Park safely: Only on the left-hand side, facing downhill, and let children out onto the pavement.
- Respect restrictions: Do not park on the driveway, yellow lines, or across residents' drives.
- Pick up further away: Please collect your child five minutes from Carmel to reduce congestion.
- Be considerate: Keep verges, pavements, and access routes clear.

Every small act keeps our community safe.

Let's work together to protect The Headlands, Clare Avenue, and our Carmel family.



[CURRICULUM
OVERVIEW](#)



[CATHOLIC
LIFE](#)



[CARMEL
SIXTH FORM](#)



[LATEST
NEWSLETTER](#)

KEY DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 13th January 2026
Year 12 Psychology & Sociology Parents' Evening	Tuesday 13th January 2026
Politics Trip - Parliament trip to London	Friday 16th January 2026
Year 11 Mock Interviews	Wednesday 21st January 2026
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 27th January 2026
Online Safety Forum at QE with MP Lola McAvoy	Friday 30th January
VEX Robotics Event	Thursday 05th February
GCSE MacBeth Theatre Trip	Friday 06th February 2026
Maths Challenge FINAL	Monday 09th February 2026
KS3 Spring Assessments	Tuesday 9th February – Friday 13th February 2026
Years 12 & 13 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 10th February 2026
Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)	Wednesday 18th February
WWI Battlefields trip	Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd February
Break for Half Term	Friday 20th February 2026
New York Trip	Saturday 21st – Thursday 26th February 2026
Ski Trip	Sunday 22nd – Saturday 26th February 2026
Y7 & 8 Retreat	Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th March 2026
Return to College	Monday 2nd March 2026
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 28th April 2026
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 19th May 2026



CARMEL COLLEGE



ACADEMIC

Year 11 Mock Results and GCSE Preparation- Our Year 11 students were celebrating their mock results this week, as they were issued on Wednesday 7th January in the Atrium. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, resilience and determination shown by students across this challenging assessment period. Hard work truly pays off, and for many students this has been a moment to recognise how far they have come. Following the results day, students who have made exceptional progress from their individual starting points met with Mrs Kane to celebrate their personal achievements. These moments of recognition matter, and we are delighted to acknowledge students who are demonstrating ambition and commitment as they prepare for their final GCSEs. All Year 11 students are now involved in a structured programme of GCSE intervention and preparation, designed to support revision, close gaps and maximise confidence.

GCSE support timetable (this fortnight):

- 📌 Week commencing Monday 19th January
- Interventions in PSHE
- Tuesday to Thursday: Form Time Interventions
- Exam preparation lunchtime: Monday to Friday
- 📢 After-school revision begins week commencing Monday 2nd February 2026
- 🕒 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday until 4:30pm

PARENTS' EVENINGS 2025-26- We are pleased to confirm the Parents' Evening dates for this academic year. These evenings offer important time for families to speak with teachers, celebrate progress and plan next steps.

- Year 11 – 13th January/Year 12 Psychology and Sociology – 13th January
- Year 9 – 27th January/ Years 12 and 13 – 10th February/ Year 8 – 28th April
- Year 10 – 19th May/ Year 7 – 9th June

We look forward to meeting families and continuing our strong partnership of support.

Homework & Revision Support- All homework and revision tasks continue to be shared via ClassCharts to help students organise their time effectively.

Further support materials can also be found on our website:

- Revision resources: carmel.bhcet.org.uk/carmel-curriculum-intent/revision
- Curriculum information: carmel.bhcet.org.uk/carmel-curriculum-intent

PSHE

ASPIRATIONS FOR LIFE- Students are beginning a new PSHE module: Aspirations for Life. This unit encourages pupils to explore their gifts and talents, reflect on future pathways and consider how they can set meaningful goals as they grow.

This module links closely with the lead up to Careers Week later in January, supporting students to think intentionally about their future, their strengths and the opportunities open to them. 📌 **Coming up:** Year 7 will take part in an NHS careers fair/ Year 11 will complete mock interviews on 21st January/ Students will also complete a healthy lifestyle survey this week, encouraging active choices and positive habits

YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS (CALLING PROFESSIONALS!) 📌 We have our Year 11 Mock Interviews on Wednesday 21st January (9:00am-12:30pm) in the JC Hall, and we would love professionals from any career background to volunteer (questions provided, no prep needed) – please email carmelcareers@carmel.bhcet.org.uk ❤️



PASTORAL

Attendance Challenge: How Long Can You Keep Your Streak? ⏳- This half term we are running a 7-week Attendance Streak Challenge for all students in Years 7-11. Every day in school builds your streak, and if it breaks, you start again and aim higher, just like levelling up in a game! To reward great attendance, there will be a weekly sweets draw, plus a £20 voucher prize for one winner in each year group. Students earn one raffle entry for every full week of 100% attendance, with bonus entries available for a perfect streak. Every day counts, so keep your streak alive! ✨

A gentle reminder:

- Holidays must not be taken during term time. Medical and dental appointments should, where possible, be arranged outside school hours. Arriving on time sets a calm, focused tone for the day.**

If your child is experiencing any issues with attendance, wellbeing or engagement, please contact their Pastoral Learning Manager via admin@carmel.bhcet.org.uk so we can work together to provide support.

Uniform Expectations Reminder 🎓- Thank you for your continued support in maintaining our high uniform standards. A reminder that students must wear plain black shoes, may wear one pair of stud earrings only, and acrylic nails, nail polish and false lashes are not permitted.

Cold Weather Reminders ❄️- As temperatures drop, please ensure students wrap up warm for the journey to and from college (with coats removed indoors). Warm indoor spaces are available at break and lunchtime, and we encourage students to bring a water bottle and stay hydrated. In the very unlikely event of a closure due to adverse weather, updates will be shared as early as possible via MCAS, the Carmel College website and our social media channels.

Safeguarding - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Thornton, Vice Principal (Pastoral). Our Deputy DSLs are Mr McCann and Mrs Parnaby.

If you ever have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please contact the safeguarding team through the main school office.

SIXTH FORM UPDATES

Examinations, Feedback and Next Steps- Over the past two weeks, a small number of Sixth Form students have sat external examinations as part of their vocational courses. We wish them the very best and thank them for their focus and preparation.

Year 13 students made an excellent start with their mock examinations before Christmas, and staff are now supporting them through detailed and personalised feedback. This includes clear guidance on how to improve, strengthen written responses, and refine revision strategies in each subject.

UCAS Deadline- A reminder that Carmel's internal deadline for UCAS applications is:

📅 Wednesday 14th January ⏳ 4:00pm

Any student who needs support should speak to staff as soon as possible to ensure everything is submitted on time.

Year 12 Mock Assessments- Year 12 students will sit their in-class mock assessments at the beginning of February and are currently preparing well. These assessments are an important moment of reflection and will support long-term planning as students move further into their Sixth Form journey.

New York Trip (Half Term!)- We are excited that 46 students will be travelling to New York at half term for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The itinerary includes:

🏀 an NBA match 🎵 a Broadway show 🏙 iconic landmarks including the Empire State Building, Central Park and Grand Central Station What an incredible opportunity to build memories, broaden horizons and live life to the full.

Parents' Evening (This Week)- 🎤 Reminder that Year 12 Psychology and Sociology Parents' Evening takes place tomorrow: 📅 Tuesday 13th January 2026 ⏳ 4:00 to 6:00pm

A further reminder that: 📅 Years 12 and 13 Parents' Evening takes place on: Tuesday 10th February

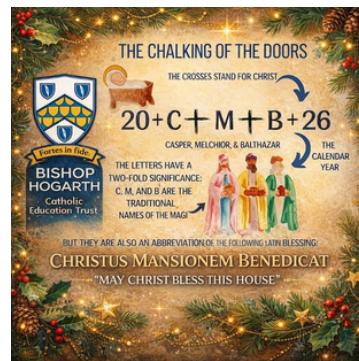


LIFE TO THE FULL AT CARMEL!

A Joyful Return: Epiphany at Carmel - It has been a wonderful joy to welcome students and staff back to Carmel last week as we began the new term together by celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The whole school community gathered via livestream for a joyful Celebration of the Word, reflecting on the moment the Magi knelt before the newborn King, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Epiphany reminds us that Jesus is revealed not only to a few, but to the whole world, and that Christ comes for all people.

As part of our celebration we shared in the Chalking of the Doors tradition, blessing each form room with the sign: 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters remind us of Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, and also the ancient prayer: Christus Mansionem Benedicat ("May Christ bless this house"). It is a simple but powerful sign that Christ is at the centre of our learning, friendships and form families each day.

We were also grateful to Father Barrie, who celebrated Holy Mass in the chapel, helping us to deepen our prayer together as we began the year. The Jubilee Year of Hope may have ended, but its message continues: like the Magi, we carry the light of hope forward and place our gifts before the Lord through kindness, service and love.



Renew Shop: Thank You for Your Support - A huge thank you to everyone who has donated uniform items to our Renew Shop. This wonderful initiative helps to reduce waste, keeping good quality uniform out of landfill while also providing affordable items for families. We are always grateful for further donations, especially: ties, blazers, skirts, trousers, shirts and PE kit. Every donation makes a real difference and helps us support our community in a practical, caring way.

Enrichment at Carmel: A Key Expectation - At Carmel, we believe life to the full includes opportunities beyond the classroom. We are proud to offer over 80 enrichment activities, and our expectation is that every student is involved in at least one enrichment activity each week. Whether it's sport, music, academic clubs, leadership, service or creativity, enrichment helps students build confidence, discover talents, make friendships and flourish as individuals. [Find our Enrichment Timetable here.](#)

Support Carmel Through The Parents Lottery - We are grateful for the ongoing support of families and the wider community through The Parents Lottery. This is a simple but powerful way for parents, grandparents, friends and neighbours to come together and invest in the future of our young people.

Each £1 ticket gives you the chance to win £25,000 every Friday, along with a range of other prizes, while also helping fund important projects that benefit our students. Contributions support essential resources such as library books, classroom technology and wider enrichment opportunities, helping our school community to continue to thrive. [Join here:](#)