

**Mengage –  
Thomas Becket took part in a fabulous opportunity for Sixth Form boys:  
Mentoring Males.**

As a school, we have been putting forward new initiatives for the Post 16 students to gain valuable leadership skills and values. Mengage is a programme that specialises in teaching 16-18 year old men how to mentor younger students. In addition, the Post 16 students gained a valuable Level 2 qualification.

15 young males from the sixth form were specially chosen to take part in this project so that they were able to develop their leadership knowledge further, as well as being able to build on their understanding of how to correctly communicate with the lower years of the school and act as role models.

The sessions consisted of discussions on how to develop practical and theoretical knowledge of leadership, as well as involving the students in debates on how they would handle difficult situations with younger pupils. After the session the students gave a 100% satisfaction rating and one student even stated

***“This has really helped to build on my leadership experience. I’m really happy that I took part.”***

Jason, the Mengage project leader, was very impressed with the maturity and interest shown by the participants.

***“The attitude expressed by the students was excellent to say the least. They have shown themselves to be brilliant ambassadors for the school and will be strong role models towards the younger pupils.”***

Initiatives such as Mengage are going to be used more frequently in order to help our student’s progress further in their learning. This will also give them the opportunity to develop their leadership abilities and to mature into well-rounded young adults.

The ‘next step’ phase will be to organise group coaching sessions. The focus will be on our current Year 8 male students, in order to focus them on to their studies and enable them to move forward with a sense of purpose.

**Jack O Connor  
Post 16 Student**

Mrs Chubb commented,

“This is a strengths – based approach to work with young males in the role as mentors and is a really exciting initiative for Thomas Becket Catholic School.

The building and sustaining of mentor – mentee relationships will be our next step and we aim to evaluate this programme at the end of the academic year. The outcome is that our Post 16 students have been trained to peer – mentor boys in the lower year groups. This not only strengthens their employability skills and student leadership within Thomas Becket Catholic School but most importantly, help to raise the overall achievement of all the bots involved.

**Mrs R Chubb  
Assistant Principal  
Director of study for KS5**