

Welcome to our Thomas Estley Community College Newsletter

October 2020



Dear parents and carers,

I write to you at the end of a half term of hard work, commitment to learning and determination to overcome barriers. I am very proud of both students and staff—embodying all that it means to be a 'Community of Courage and Commitment to Success' in the most challenging times.

We have carefully followed national Covid guidance for schools and have been delighted to achieve half a term without any positive Covid cases in the college community. This has enabled us to protect learning and to begin to catch up progress gaps. Unfortunately, it has also curtailed many of our extracurricular opportunities, limited the styles of pedagogy available to teachers, limited our catering offer and movement around site, enforced virtual parents evenings, Y11 Awards evening and our usual Open College week, and seen us having to adjust many processes and policies. We have not felt much like a Community College this half term, which has been hard to bear and very different to our usual offer and provision.

Our half term has been bracketed by a pre-opening visit by the Education Minister Nick Gibb, who praised our 'Covid-secure' site, and a visit yesterday by Ofsted HMI inspectors, who listened carefully to our safeguarding, curriculum, online learning, attendance and behaviour adjustments around the challenge of Covid, to check out our approach and to take away some good practice for a national Ofsted report.

Although I am proud to receive this positive feedback, I am most proud of the fantastic attitude of our learners and our staff. They have persevered with positivity, with determination and with a smile (even if often underneath a face covering!) Since we wrote the 'coronavirus pledge' in March, we have focussed on the protection of mental health and wellbeing, as equal in importance to the protection of physical health and fitness. We have persevered with practical PE lessons—adjusted to Covid guidelines—unlike some providers; we have embedded a recovery curriculum into CRE lessons and we have trained staff in trauma and bereavement awareness and strategies. Our Modules Days this week have incorporated a focus on wellbeing, creativity and team work, as well as support for Year 11 post 16 choices. Year Eleven students have worked incredibly hard to catch up any gaps, focussed on their extra mock examination series and displayed such mature attitudes that their bubble zone feels like a sixth form block.

I spoke to all of our learners and staff at the start of the half term about taking opportunities to shine the light of positivity into the darkness that often surrounds us at the moment, and I have been delighted to see how hard they have worked to do this. Well done to you all.

Mandi Collins, College Principal

**LET YOUR LIGHT
SHINE SO BRIGHTLY
THAT OTHERS CAN SEE
THEIR WAY
OUT OF THE DARK.**

THOMAS ESTLEY CATERING

Covid regulations have been a real challenge to our catering team, who have worked really hard to provide food on site to all of our bubble zones, in their various areas.

After feedback that students were missing the wide range of options and the ability to make more healthy choices, the catering team recently added to the sandwich, panini and salad options for Years 9-11, hot baked potatoes with a choice of fillings. These are proving really popular, especially as the colder weather arrives. A reminder to ensure that pre order forms are filled in before break-time each day as late orders cannot be prepared in time.

We can't wait until we can return to our normal range of popular menus for all—meanwhile thank you to our catering team, who are doing their best in difficult circumstances.



Year Seven hard area

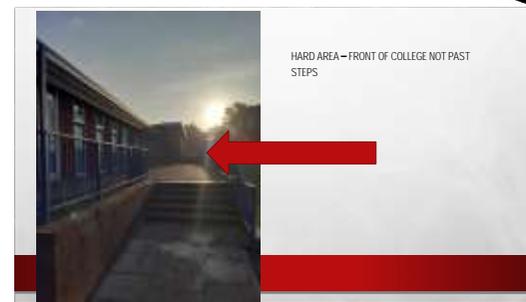


Year Eight hard area



We have made some changes to year Seven, Eight and Ten hard areas now that the fields are becoming wetter, to allow more hard area space nearer to bubble zone classrooms. We will be sharing these with students on Monday after half term, so that they are clear about where to go at break and lunch. Students should arrive at college and gather in their normal morning arrival zones meanwhile.

Year Ten hard area



If a student feels unwell at college **they must report to Reception** and ask to be seen in the medical room.

If necessary the college will phone home to seek advice or to ask for the student to be collected.



Please remind your child that **they must follow the procedure** above and not contact you themselves.

Thank you for your support with this.



School Transport

If your child travels via transport provided by the County Council it is a good idea to have a contingency plan with your child, for getting to school/home in the event that they miss their bus for any reason.

It is also useful to have to hand the contact number for any query with school transport:

0116 3050002.



Absence during term-time

If your child is ill please contact the college on each day of illness and leave a message on the absence line. Where possible make medical appointments outside of college hours. We will contact you by text message if we have not been given a reason for absence - please telephone us in response to the message.



College is closed to students from
19th October to 23rd October
(inclusive)

College re-opens to students on
26th October 2020

Winter Closure Procedure

In the event of the weather causing the school to close or causing a problem with school transport we will put out an alert via:

- ◆ **The school website - www.thomasestley.org.uk**
- ◆ **Radio Leicester**
- ◆ **Parentmail**

Mobile phones

Students are not allowed to use mobile phones in college unless they have express permission from a member of staff for specific learning purposes in lesson and when the BYOD choice is ticked on the board. This is to protect students' learning and is in line with our safeguarding policy.



Mobile phones used in contravention of the mobile phone policy will be confiscated until collected from reception by a parent/carer.

For persistent abuse of the policy a student will lose the privilege of bringing a mobile to college.

Headphones

The use of headphones is only permitted outside of the college building. Headphones visible inside college will be confiscated and, on the first occasion, will be returned at the end of the day. On any subsequent occasion they must be collected by a parent/carer.

Holidays Taken in Term Time

Government guidelines, which came into effect on 1st September 2013, prevent Headteachers from granting any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances (a family holiday does not fall under this category).

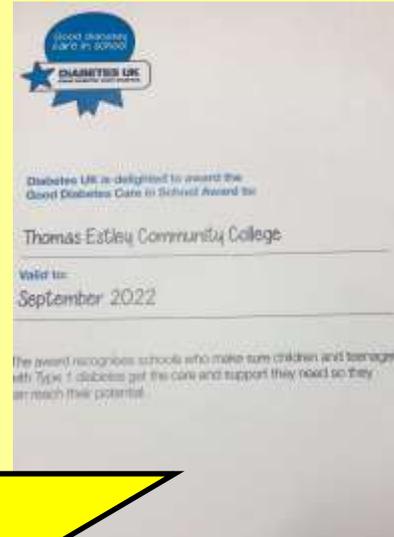
If a student has an absence recorded as a result of an unauthorised family holiday, Leicestershire County Council will be advised of the matter and will be requested to issue a Penalty Notice, in line with their policy.

We are absolutely delighted to hear that our own ex-student and Tommo football giant Libby Smith, a crucial part of our national cup winning team a few years ago, has now signed for our local team and partner Leicester City, on a pro contract.

Well done, Libby - we are so proud of you and so delighted that you are getting paid to do what you love.



We are equally delighted to have won an award from Diabetes UK for the exceptional level of care provided to our students with diabetes. This care is overseen by Kaylee Masters, our Pupil Health Administrator.



Success Stories

As, Emma, one of the LRI diabetes nurses, comments: ' Kaylee is really outstanding. I have worked closely with her since she joined TECC and we joke that she really is like the pupils' mum at school. She is so caring and knowledgeable. She has a wonderful rapport with the pupils she cares for and we really appreciate everything she does. We don't know what we would do without her. She is a real credit to your school.'

We are really proud of Kaylee, of the medical team, and also of our students, who do a fantastic job of self managing their diabetes to maximise their learning opportunities and protect their health. Well done to everyone involved!



Do you know of any student successes that we are unaware of?

Please email your information, ideally with photographs, to:

PAtothepincipal@thomasestley.org.uk

We would love to hear about successes of both current and ex-students.



Interested in training to teach?

Find out what it's like to teach in your community.

Every day you'll get the chance to inspire young people and use your skills to give something back – making sure every pupil gets the same access to a quality education and the opportunity to succeed.

'Achieve with TELA' offer School Based Teacher Training in local Primary and Secondary Schools

Find out more at one of our virtual events:

Train to Teach with Achieve with TELA - Virtual Information Event 6:30 to 7:30pm (ZOOM)

Monday 12 October 2020

Monday 2 November 2020

Wednesday 2 December

We welcome applications of all ages and experience, educated to degree level

To reserve a free place email: tela@thomasestley.org.uk

For more information, call Jo Robotham 01455 283263 ext. 3206

www.telaonline.co.uk

Rising Stars of Y11, Class of 2020

	Highest Achievement	Achievement & Progress
RE	Rebekah Harris	Ethan Boffin
History	Rebekah Harris	Harry Stevens
ASDAN		Katie Lakin
RM	Charlie Cartwright	Harry Robotham
Dance	Emma Cleaver	Megan Clydesdale
French	Harry Townsend	Brianna Joseph
Health and Social Care	Meltem Erez	Ella Taylor
Business	Alexandra Hughes	Callum Yeomans
Economics	Harry Stevens	Daniel Taylor
English Language	Mia Bladon	Aaron Cox
English Literature	Mia Bladon	Holly Webster
Psychology	Rebekah Harris	Isabelle Ruane
ICT	Lewis Hill	Daniel Bunting
Computer Science	Kimberley Ball	Callum Massey
Fine Art	Harry Townsend	Sasha Goldingay
Food	Sophie Wright	Adam Booley
Textiles	Lucy Manson	Belle Millergill
Spanish	Harry Townsend	Chloe Ennis
Maths	Samuel Proctor	Ella Taylor
Geography	Chloe Ennis	Mia Bladon
Chemistry	Rebekah Harris	Erin Willmott
Physics	Samuel Proctor	Mason Iley
Biology	Rebekah Harris	Mia Bladon
Double Science	Kimberley Ball	Kimberley Ball
PE	Sophie Wright	Ellece Cooper
Music	Samuel Proctor	Bethany Graves
Drama	Molly Pentony	Jessica Bell
Citizenship	Daniel Taylor	Joe Aston
GCSE Achievement Award	Daniel Brown	
	Sarah Herbert	
	Hannah Lines	
	Charlotte Keetley	
	Megan Bryan	

Year 11 – 2020 Leavers Awards Evening

On Tuesday 13th October we hosted a fabulous evening of celebration for our leavers of 2020. Albeit remote via Zoom, the Award Winners (listed left) and their parents enjoyed an evening of well-deserved recognition for their work during their time with us at Thomas Estley.

The Highest Achievement category recognises the student with the best grade achieved in that subject and the Achievement and Progress Award recognises swift and sustained improvement with a fabulous attitude to learning.

The 5 GCSE Achievement Awards recognise students that may not have been the highest in one particular subject, but have exceptionally high grades in a vast number of areas.

Award winners are invited to come into college, socially distanced, between 9am and 1pm during the half-term week Mon 19th – Fri 23rd October to collect their gift bag containing their trophy, certificate—copy of the speech, programme and some edible gifts from us.

The video of the evening is available to view on our website.

Well done all!

Mrs Hartley – Assistant Principal



Our Resourceful Resource centre

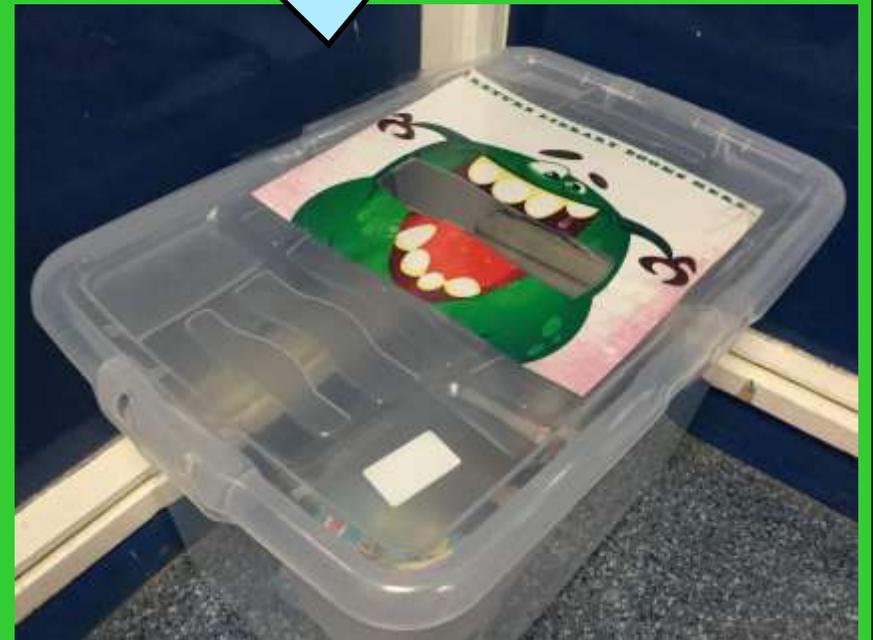


Always determined to find a way around any barrier, our wonderful library is still in operation for college students, as well as Centre students and our preschool.



Covid regulations mean that books have to be 'rested' as a protective measure after being handled so our librarian Mrs Smith is operating an ordering, delivery and return system with remote encouragement and feedback which is Covid-secure but still allows our students to grow their love of reading.

Well done, Mrs Smith!





The Maths Department



Mrs Taylor – Head of Department

Hello to our new year 7s! I'm Mrs Taylor and I teach maths in M4. These are strange times that we find ourselves in but I'm very much looking forward to meeting you all and welcoming you into the maths department. No matter who your teacher is next year, they will be amazing as I have a fantastic team and I am sure that you will love them too. We all share a passion for maths and we love teaching young people. In my spare time, I like to bake – and eat my creations – as well as spending time with my family and friends.

Mr Gladwin – Maths teacher

Hello Year 7! I'm Mr Gladwin and I teach maths in M3. I hope you're all really excited about coming to Thomas Estley. It's a lovely, warm and friendly place to learn. I've not enjoyed lockdown much and I can't wait to meet you all. In my spare time I like growing things and play lead guitar in a band! Have a lovely summer. See you all soon! Stay safe and look after each other.



Ms Ducey – Second in Department

Hello new year 7s. I hope you are looking forward to coming to Thomas Estley as I'm really looking forward to meeting you all. I'm Ms Ducey and I teach maths in M1. I've been at Thomas Estley for 5 years now so I may have taught your brothers and sisters. When I'm not teaching or running around after my three boys, I like to go on long walks, watch films and spend time with my family and friends.



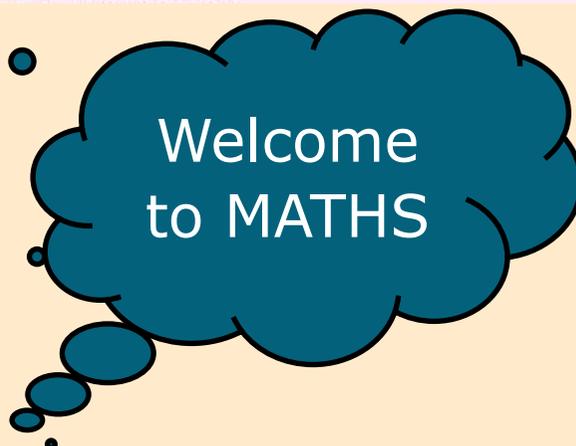
Mr Norris – Maths teacher

Hi, I'm Mr Norris and I teach maths in M6. My room normally has a variety of music coming from it and it also has a boxing bag and a dart board. These are two of the things that I like to do in my spare time. Schools haven't been the same for a long time now, but rest assured we are really looking forwards to meeting you all and beginning our new journey together.

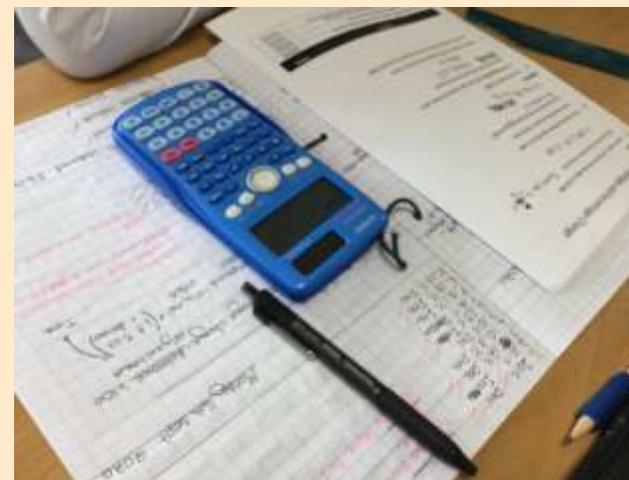


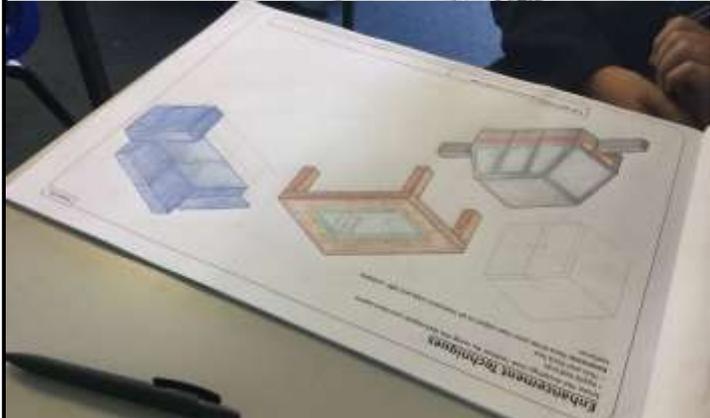
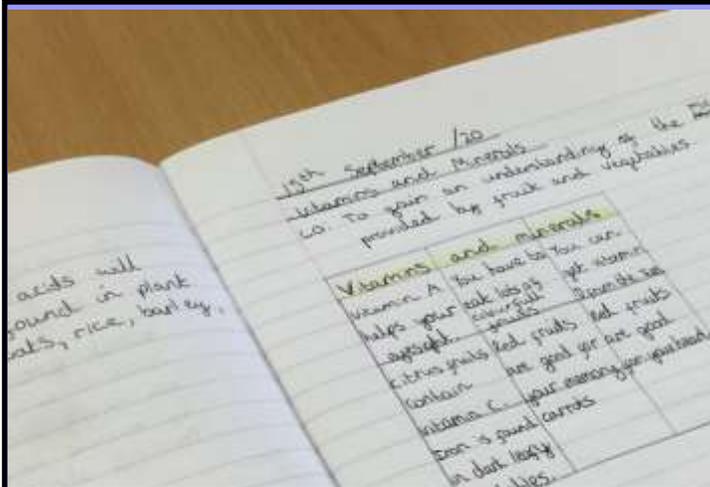
Mr Grocock – Maths teacher

Hello and welcome year 7! Starting a new school year is always such an exciting time! Like you, I am new to the College this year so I know how you must feel but I am looking forward to meeting you all. As you would expect, I am quite passionate about learning in Maths and I am sure that our common enthusiasm and energy will drive us to accomplish great things during our time together. During my free time I enjoy sports and at weekends I help coach a junior football team. I am keen to find out about your interests too.



It's been great to see so much high quality thinking in Maths already this year, during our learning walks around the college. Well done to everyone, both students and teachers, and keep up the good work! On the left are some pen portraits of our Maths department, shared with Year Seven over the summer. We have also welcomed Mrs Mistry to the Maths department at the start of this term.

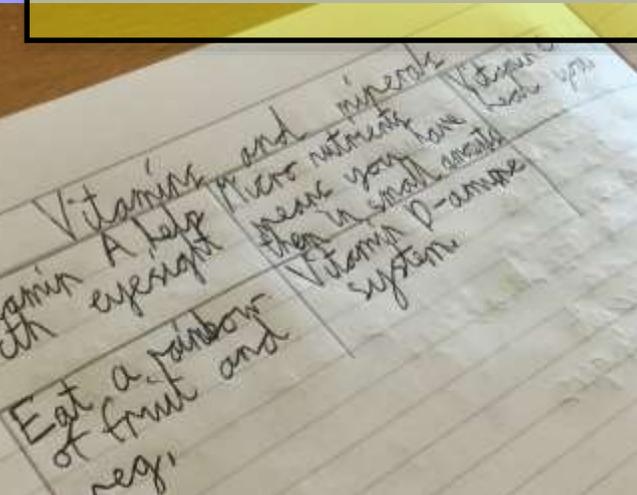
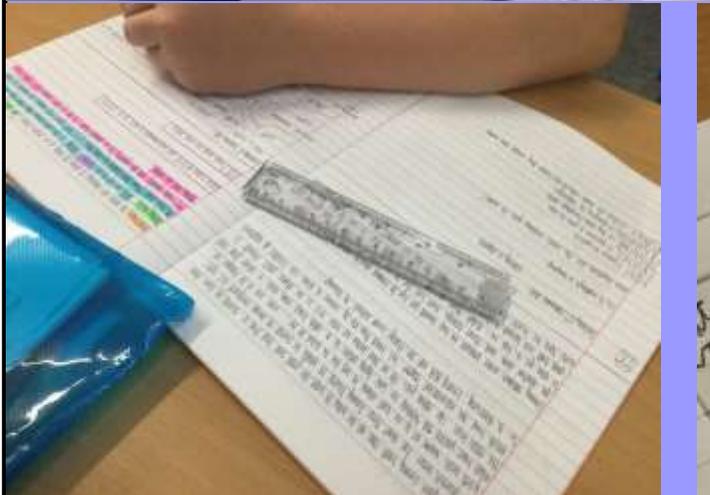


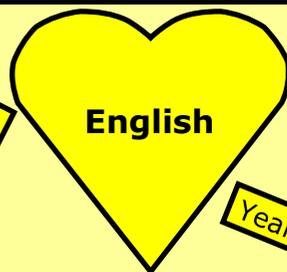


Art Design Technology

Here are some snapshots of Year Seven and Eight ADT work spotted in lessons this term. We are delighted with our students' efforts and with their developing designing skills.

What a creative bunch!

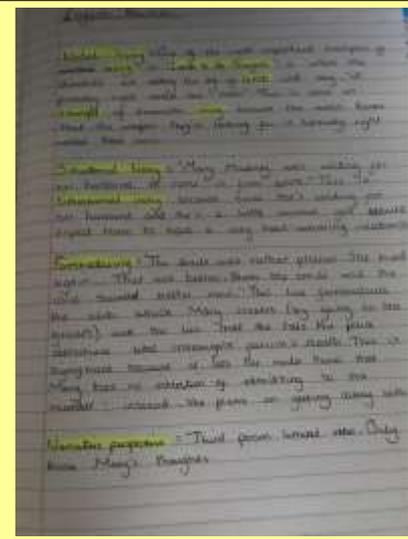




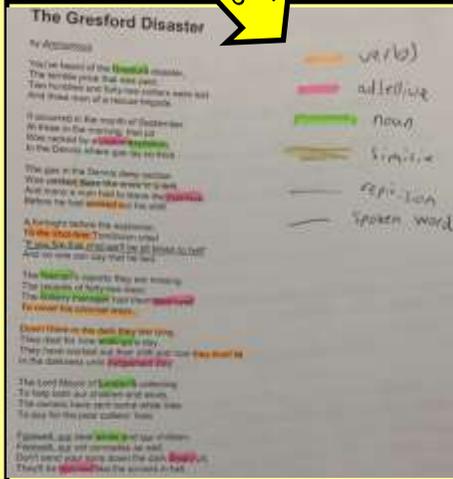
Our oldest students have come back into school with a really positive mindset on the whole. We have been extremely impressed with their approach to English and their efforts thus far. Students have already completed their first assessment for us after working on their creative writing skills in class, and we are looking forward to continuing to build confidence and skills in all areas across both Literature and Language in the coming months. We strongly urge Year 11 students to make full use of the "knowledge Organisers" they were issued with on day one, keeping on top of quotation memorisation in order to quote with ease and on demand in the exams.



Year 9s have been looking at *Lamb to the Slaughter* and developing their analysis skills by digging into Dahl's wonderfully dark text and considering his authorial purpose. Miss Corbett's class have been particularly impressive in identifying sophisticated techniques and ideas in order to better understand the story and its nuances; this will then develop into how they craft their own creative writing - a skill which is imperative to hone as they head towards KS4 and indeed their GCSEs.



Our new KS4 cohort have been working on their GCSE Speaking and Listening presentations this past week. Certain students have clearly injected lots of effort and practice (mainly outside of the classroom) into their work. This has been very impressive - particularly in 10A with Ben Hayward, Tom Morley, and Maddie Christopher all achieving preliminarily graded Distinction level outcomes for their Speaking and Listening task. Great job!



Students have been working with short stories and poetry, selecting and identifying key features, in order to build on essential skills in our subject area. They then have been using their developed higher-level vocabulary alongside figurative language techniques in their own writing - self-assessing as they go (in red pen, below) - to be self-critical and consider ways to develop their own work. Their hard work and efforts have really paid off and the beginning of this term has been very positive for year 8. Awesome job!



Our new cohort have undertaken some initial testing in the absence of SATS from year 6, but they have now started working on looking at *Heroes and Villains* in a variety of literature- currently focusing on the Hero which is Malala. Together, classes have been developing their persuasive writing skills and using them to create speeches about the importance of education for everyone across the world. Some students in Ms Little's, Mr Place's and Mr Smith's classes stood up and presented their speeches to the class for which department commendation postcards have been sent home. Great work by our new cohort! 😊

Geography Department – Change Over Time

In Geography 'change over time' is a concept we cover throughout both key stages; what a time of change it has been! The department has tried to make light of how recent changes to society have had local, national and international impacts. Some of the issues we all now face are directly linked to how the world has become more connected; the very essence of 'globalisation'; with associated advantages and disadvantages.

Students across all year groups have picked up with the National Curriculum (KS3) and GCSE Specification (KS4) respectively. Year 7 are well on the way to completing the 'Geography Skills' topic, year 8 have completed 'Shaping the Earth' and have moved onto 'Natural Hazards' and in year 9 the 'Rivers' topic has led onto 'Coasts'. At GCSE year 10 have just completed their first unit 'Rivers' and year 11 have completed 'Weather and Climate' and have moved onto 'Climate Change'.

All students have sat at least one end of unit test to check their knowledge, understanding and application. These have been marked and assessed by the class teacher with an associated feedback lesson (or scheduled for after half-term). Year 11 have also undertaken their October Mocks which included sitting a full Component 2 Paper, which was based on Problem Solving health issues!

Although many department lessons have had to be altered due to the current circumstances much of the learning has followed a similar pattern to previous years. Teachers and students have found the Worksheet Booklets (examples below) useful when in lessons. This has minimised the number of handouts needed and maximised learning time for all! Knowledge Organisers have also been used by all year groups to support learning at home, with small quizzes in class based on this information.

Students have adapted really well to the changes put in place in Geography and across the school. We wish them a well-earned rest over the half-term!

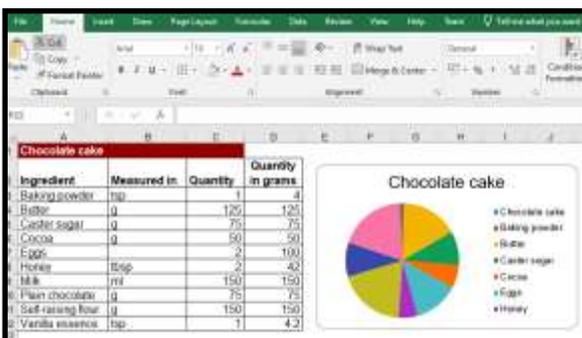
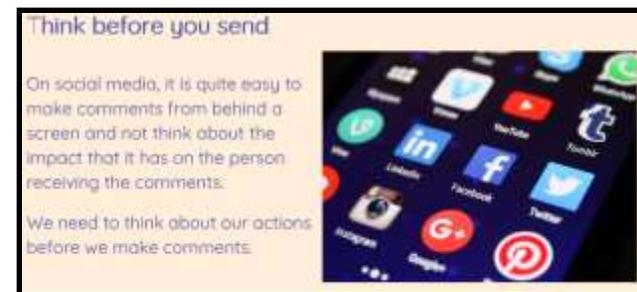
Mr. Preece and Mr. Schalkwyk



Computer Science & Information Technologies

Year 7: Impact of Technology – Collaborating Online Respectfully

Year 8: Modelling Data – Spreadsheets



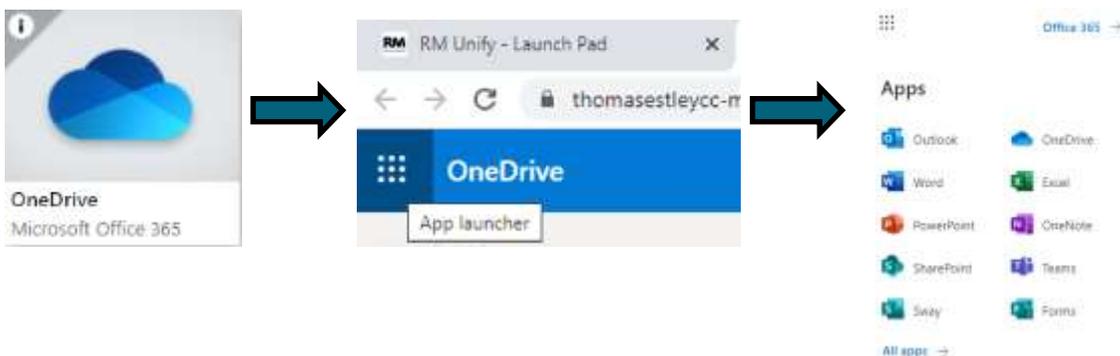
Year 9: Data Science

Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies and GCSE Computer Science

Students can undertake independent study and revision by logging into their Seneca Learning or Dynamic Learning accounts.

Did you know?

Students can log into RM Unify at home and access classwork that they saved in OneDrive during lessons. Students can also access a number of applications for free via their OneDrive accounts.



Dates for your diary

Hour or Code Week: December 7th —13th 2020

OCR Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies RO12 exam: Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions:

Wednesday, 13th January 2021 (pm) - 1 h 45 min

Year 11 Hospitality and Catering

Well done to our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students, practising advanced practical skills today to fillet a fish and create fishfingers.

Including a healthy source of protein and important omega 3 acid in our diet was the key discussion point.

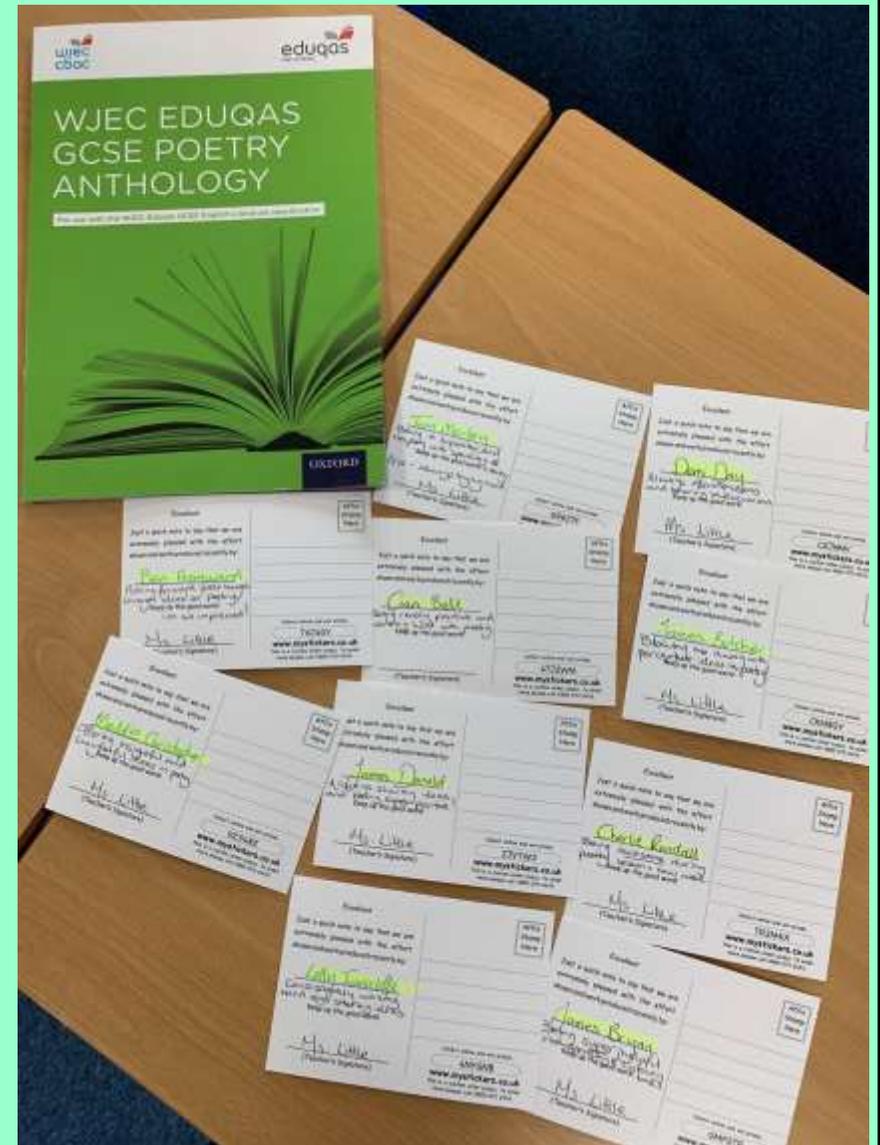
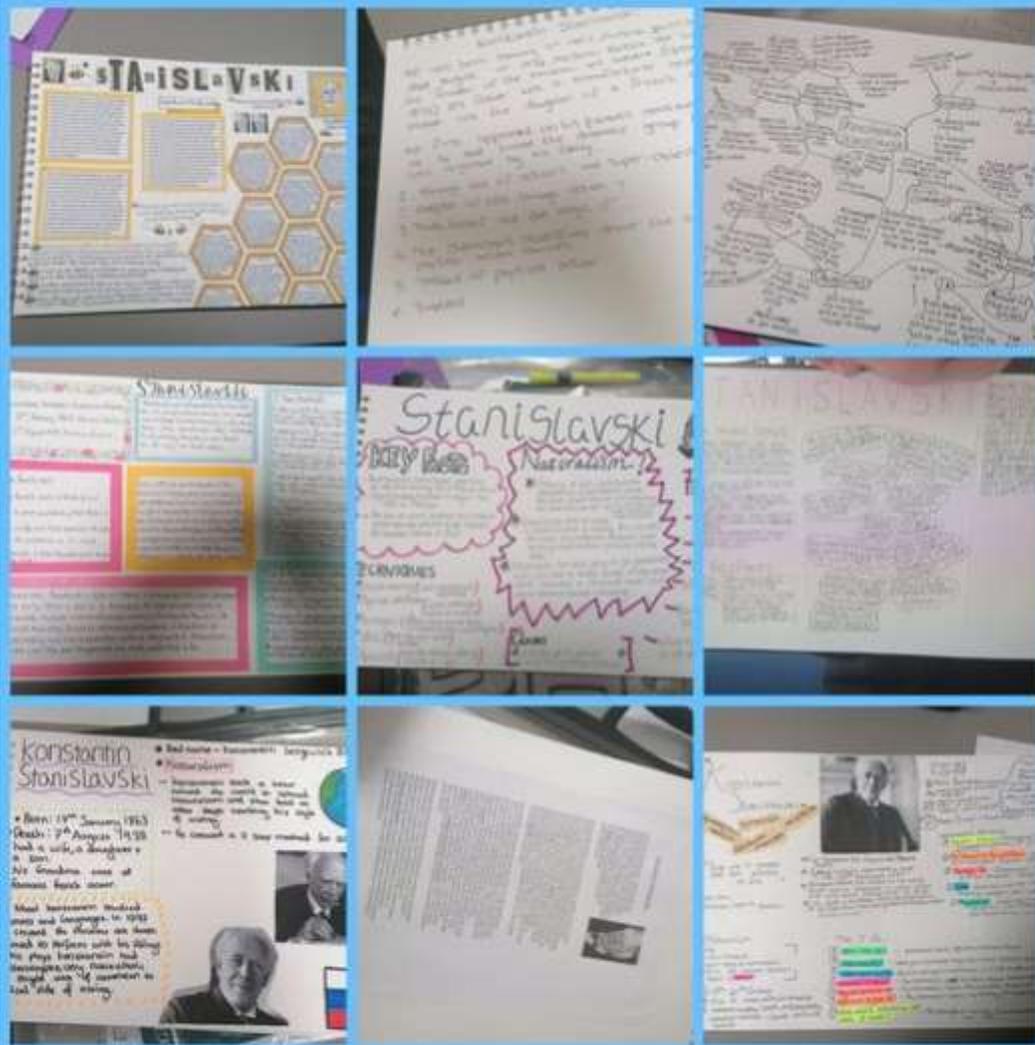


'High Five' for Year 10



Mrs Little is really proud of her **Year Ten** students who, she says, 'have worked their socks off'. Some students have literally blown me away with their ideas and I've sent home postcards to show parents my pride in their attitude and approach to GCSE Poetry.'

Well done, Year Ten!



Mrs Johnson has been really impressed with the level of dedication and effort demonstrated by **Year 10 GCSE Drama**.

Here are some photographs of the beautiful portfolio pages they submitted about Theatre Practitioner Constantin Stanislavski.

Some really striking prints made in **Year 9** CoPE specialism this half-term. Well done everybody!





Our Thomas Estley primary **out-of-school club** bubbles have been enjoying their time inside and outside this half term.

They would like to say a big **thank you** to Manisha for donating some amazing clothes.

