

# Welcome To Our Thomas Estley Newsletter December 2025



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**Sport**Netball, football and much more...

Primary Masterclasses
From business to English!

Preschool & OOSC

Thomas Estley preschool and out of school club have been getting in the festive spirit.

Outside Tommo

Our brilliant students' and staff out of college achievements.

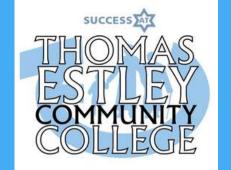
**Don't Forget**Important reminders and college rules.

South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership Wellbeing Newsletter
This month's focus is on vaping & internet safety.

Advertisements

Preschool, out of school club and teacher training.

## Dates For The Diary



### 5th January

Staff Training Day

### 6th January

College Opens To Students

### 14th January

Year 11 Parents Evening (Remote)

### 15th January

Year 11 Parents Evening (Remote)

### 21st January

Year 9 SEND Parent Clinic (Remote) RM Primary Masterclass

### 27th January

Parent Community Kindness Group

### 28th January

Social Studies Primary Masterclass

#### 29th January

SAT Photography Competition Judging

### **3rd February**

Year 8 Future Pathways Evening

### 10th February

Safer Internet Day Onatti French Theatre

### 11th February

Year 10 Parents Evening (Remote)

### 12th February

Year 10 Parents Evening (Remote)

### **16th February**

Revision School

### 17th February

Revision School

### 18th February

Revision School



### **Assessments/Exams**

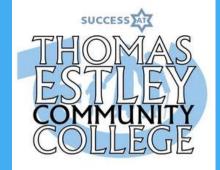
#### 12th-23rd January

Year 9 Assessment Fortnight

### 19th-23rd January

Hospitality & Catering Practical Exam

## A Word From The Principal



Kindness has always been at the heart of life at Thomas Estley, and this continues to grow through our parent community kindness group and student leadership programmes. A wonderful example of this is our intergenerational community outreach.

We are proud to host our Friday and Tuesday Luncheon Clubs, which welcome senior citizens into the college each week for a home-cooked lunch and time to socialise together. This year, we have also developed a new partnership with Arkwright House, pairing students with residents and enhancing visits with our musicians, singers, preschool children, and even a visit from Santa — creating special memories for everyone involved.



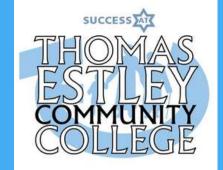


At Thomas Estley, everyone is welcome, whatever their age or background. If you have ideas for future intergenerational projects, please contact PAtothePrincipal@thomasestley.org.uk.

Best wishes for a peaceful and happy Christmas break.

Mandi Collins, Principal

### October Modules





At the end of last half term year 7 students spent two days focussing on diversity by exploring sensitive topics such as racism, stereotypes, migrants and asylum seekers. They also had a trip to the church (which some have never been to before), designed a stained glass window, practised henna drawing, did Bollywood dancing and cooked a chickpea curry as a community, which tasted amazing!

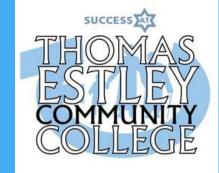
Thank you so much all those in St Mary's Church community for your welcome and for your lovely feedback which means so much to us: "Just a quick email to say how much we have enjoyed year 7 visits to St Mary's Church. The students' behaviour was first class, and what superb questions both boys and girls asked us. It was a real joy to have TECC staff and students with us and we hope to see you all again very soon." We are very proud of our young people and of their personal growth and progress as empathetic citizens within the wider community.

As part of the diversity modules at the end of last term, all year 7 students took part in a culture and community experience in the food room. In groups of six, they prepared and cooked flat breads with Bombay chickpeas, onion chutney and raita for each member of their group showing technique, collaboration, resilience and respect. This was the first time in the food room for many of them and we are very proud of the way they worked and shared together - community spirit at its best!

Well done year 7s - we all enjoyed ourselves and know that you did too!



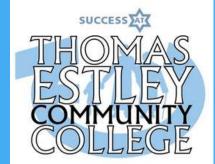
### **KS4 Awards**





At our recent KS4 awards evening, we celebrated the achievements of our current year 11 and previous year 11 students together. It was a real privilege to hear about their great results and the amazing progress and commitment which they had shown over the last academic year. We hope that our students are inspired to work hard and achieve their best this year too. Well done, everyone!

## High Achievers





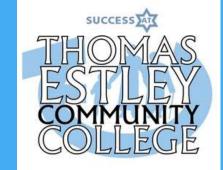
Well done to this term's weekly highest achieving students (above) whole term achievers (right) in our Thomas Estley Way, gaining many positive points for demonstrating resilience, perseverance, kindness, respect and courage in their life at school. We are so very proud of you all!





Well done to Thomas Estley's GCHQ language teams! The National Language Competition (NLC) is a virtual competition for teams of 13–14 year olds from around the UK to compete against each other to solve language-based challenges and score points. GCHQ aims to inspire language learning by encouraging students to discover their aptitude for learning languages. Both teams did really well, solving challenges successfully and gaining recognition certificates for their efforts. Great work, everyone!

## High Achievers





Well done to Arthur, who won a five week competition whereby students had to identify a book character each week from a set of clues in the library. He correctly guessed all of the characters, took part in a draw to win a reading journal, and won! Reading is a powerful tool for improving life chances. Great work, Arthur.

Well done to Charlie and Tommy who have achieved their "Level 1 Qualification in Sports Leadership". Both of these students worked closely alongside LCFC to achieve this and have demonstrated perseverance to ensure they completed it!



A huge congratulations to our maths achievers this term for their outstanding attitude to learning in maths – well done!

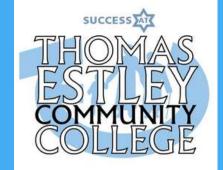
Year 7 Ethan Burbidge Jak Wade Auden De Vries Cole Martin Sarah Chibner Willow Bunting Oscar Davies **Elliot Thomas** Noah Brown Enzo Maisto Sofia Brooks Millie Rumsey Grace Gee Abbey Johnston Joe Beard Eva Mugglestone Year 8 Ollie Dowd Lydia Horn Emily-Rose Woodward **Hugo Matthews** Alfie Corlett Eva Hecker Amelia Gullen Will Burton Sam Niner Nangyali Tangewal Filip Bladek Florence Griffiths Sophia Murphy Georgia Smith Kaci Bissaker Aidan Kelly

Year 9 Edie Wrighton Georgia Baxendale Summer Pavey Mai Noonan Isaac Gillespie Jess Pearce Dylan Lake Skye Naudusevics Junior Keightley Fearne Gilbert Ellie Reading Ben Higham Jack Newell Amelia Perry Lilly Marsden Jacob Prendergast

Year 10 Liliana Zarcone Freya Bradshaw Maahi Malhotra Deborah Okubanjo Durva Deulkar Kayla Seabrook Finley Mawby Jacob Walford Macie Kempson Tileah Wells Edan Flattley Lucas Gibson Florence Furniss Max Mead Illia Mishchenko Ruby Dixon

Year 11 Ruby Holland Amelia Scott Jake Grigg Grace Hurst Holly Bettoney Tia Smith Alice Fisher Lottie Hall Shannon Kaur Poppy Turner Abbie Halsey Charlie Green Jamie Slater Olly Jeffery Tabith Tazzyman-Luhrs 1 Chloe Crofton Martha Marlow

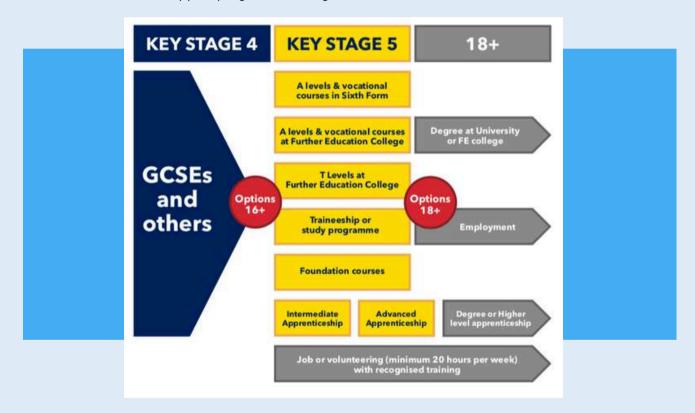
### Careers



Choosing what to do after GCSEs is an important step, and there are many different pathways to suit individual interests, strengths and career goals.

At 16+ (KS5) students can choose from a range of options including:

- A Levels or vocational courses in a school Sixth Form or Further Education (FE) college
- T Levels, combining classroom learning with industry placement
- · Apprenticeships, offering paid work with recognised training
- Traineeships or study programmes to build skills and experience
- Foundation courses to support progression to higher levels



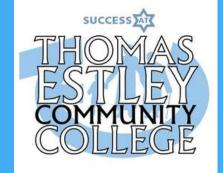
At 18+, young people can progress to:

- University or FE college degrees
- Higher or Degree Apprenticeships
- Employment, with or without further training
- Volunteering or work-based learning, with recognised qualifications

There is no single "right" route – what matters is finding the pathway that best fits future ambitions. Students are encouraged to explore their options, speak to careers advisers, and attend careers events to help make informed decisions.

For more information or guidance, please visit the careers section of our website or contact the school's careers team (cbryanethomasestley.org.uk).

### Attendance



We would like to thank all parents and carers who have supported their children in achieving good attendance this term, particularly during the autumn/winter period when seasonal illnesses are more common. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Below, you will find an NHS guidance table outlining when it is appropriate to keep your child off school.

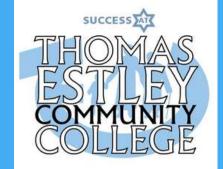
RED 'KEEP OFF'	AMBER 'CONSULT GP OR PHARMACY'	GREEN 'ATTEND'
Chickenpox Consult GP or Pharmacy. Return to school 5 days after onset of rash, when spots have crusted over.	Diarrhoea or Vomiting Only take time off when symptoms are persistent. Consult GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours.	Flu Consult GP or Pharmacy. Often confused with common cold. Return to school 5 days after onset of illness.
High temperature Keep off school until temperature goes away.	Measles Consult GP. Return to school 4 days after rash appears.	Mumps Consult GP. Return to school after swelling appears.
Whooping cough Consult GP. Return to school 5 days after start of antibiotics or 21 days after start of illness.	Coronavirus (COVID-19) Check with latest government/NHS guidance. Contact your child's school if they have symptoms.	Ear infection If associated with a high temperature or severe earache, keep off school until high temperature goes away.
Impetigo Consult GP. Return to school when scabs are dry or 48hrs after start of antibiotics.	Scables Consult with GP. Return to school after first treatment.	Scarlet fever Consult GP. Return to school 24hrs after start of antibiotics.
Shingles Consult GP. Only stay off if rash is weeping and cannot be covered.	Cold sores No need to keep off school.	Conjunctivitis No need to keep off school.
Common colds Continue to attend and practise good hand hygiene.	Hand, foot and mouth disease Consult GP and Pharmacy. Inform school and continue to attend.	Glandular Fever Consult GP or Pharmacy. Inform school and continue to attend.
Headlice and nits No need to keep off from school.	Period Pains Consult GP or Pharmacy. Inform school and continue to attend.	Ringworm See a Pharmacy unless on scalp, of which case, see GP. Children can attend school once treatment has started.
Slapped cheek syndrome No need to keep off from school.	Sore throat No need to keep off from school.	Tonsilitis Consult GP or Pharmacy. Inform school and continue to attend.
Threadworms No need to keep off from school.	Feeling sick No need to keep off from school.	See more at: https://www.nhs.uk/live- well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-

A big well done to the tutor groups who won the weekly attendance competition and were rewarded with a bag of sweet treats - keep up the fantastic effort! At Thomas Estley Community College, we encourage all pupils to aim for attendance of 96% or above. While we recognise that this may not always be possible, there is a strong link between regular attendance and academic achievement. For this reason, it is vital that students attend school every day unless there are exceptional circumstances.

High levels of attendance can only be achieved with the full support of parents and carers. Please remember that parents/carers are legally responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly. The school must be informed of the reason for any absence on the first day, and additional information may be requested, such as appointment letters or medication evidence.

For further information, please refer to the college attendance policy and handbook, or contact the school if you have any questions regarding attendance or our procedures. We look forward to welcoming all students back in the New Year and wish everyone a happy and healthy break!

### Broughton InTouch



We were delighted to be featured in the December 2025/January 2026 Broughton InTouch magazine, where we had the opportunity to share how Thomas Estley is continuing to evolve, enhancing our campus, strengthening our commitment to sustainability, and building even deeper connections with the wider community.

The article highlights the latest developments taking place across our site, from ongoing improvement projects to new initiatives aimed at reducing our environmental footprint. It also showcases the growing number of partnerships, events, and collaborative opportunities that enable local residents to play an active role in college life.

Here is a photo of the article form the maagazine, offering a closer look at how we are working to create a vibrant, sustainable and community-centred environment for all.

### **Improving the Environment at Thomas Estley**



At Thomas Estley Community
College, we have been working
hard to improve the learning
environment for our children and
community, with limited funding
available. Recent years have seen

us institute measures around flooding prevention and control, fence the site to support safeguarding and prevent nighttime anti-social behaviour, and source funding to replace our crumbling mobiles with a safe, well-presented new humanities block. We have also been



**New Humanities Block** 

delighted to donate our site to the community at no charge for the Broughton Astley Carnival, for the Remembrance Parade, and for local cadet base provision, as we put our community at the heart of our provision.

We have a wealth of student leadership projects each year, with more than a third of our children at a time involved in leading areas within the college, as part of our commitment to 'Building Leadership and Character Together'. Alongside wellbeing, outreach, reading, sport, science, languages and many other leadership projects, we also have a sustainability and site development student leadership focus.

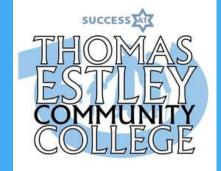
We would like to appeal to our wider community for adult volunteers and donations in order to further develop our college outdoors environment. If you have some spare time and love gardening or building planters, or if you have some materials or resources, or even ideas around building sustainability that you could share with us, we would be delighted to hear from you. We love to invite the community in and to work together for the benefit of all.



Please email PAtothePrincipal@thomasestley.org.uk

December 2025 / January 2026

## Wellbeing Conference

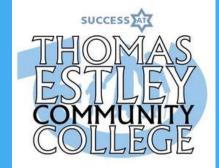




We welcomed over 100 year 5 and 6 students from 20 local primary schools to the South Leicestershire Student Wellbeing Conference at Thomas Estley Community College. The children enthusiastically took part in workshops around digital wellbeing, the power of sport and the role of the NHS and school nurse. Most importantly, the newly trained wellbeing ambassadors started their action plans to take their learning back to their own schools. Therefore, many thousands of children in South Leicestershire will experience the positive impact.

Many thanks to our partners, The White Horse in Broughton Astley, in supporting us with drop off and parking facilities. Additional thanks also go to our own Thomas Estley student ambassadors for facilitating the event.

### Christmas Concert

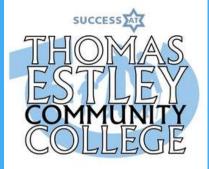


Festivity was truly in the air at the annual Thomas Estley Christmas Concert, which brought together a wonderful range of our young singers and musicians for a memorable evening of seasonal celebration. The audience was treated to a varied programme of Christmas songs and musical performances, showcasing not only the students' musical ability but also their confidence, commitment and enthusiasm.

Well done to all of the performers for their talent, courage, and willingness to share their skills in front of a live audience. A sincere thank you must also go to the staff who supported and facilitated the concert, giving their time and expertise to ensure the event ran smoothly. Finally, thank you to all the family members and friends who came along to support our students and enjoy the performances!



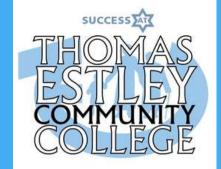
## Intergenerational Christmas



Our Thomas Estley intergenerational kindness projects this year have included a developing relationship with Arkwright House, a retirement community in Broughton Astley run by Platform Housing. Our students and the residents have enjoyed projects together ranging from creating crafts for charity sale, through a special tea, to a Christmas celebration at the college, including Santa, preschoolers, Glee Club performing and many other Christmas treats. We were delighted to welcome them here and here are a few photos of the fun we had together.



## **Trips**





A small group of our year 11 students were targeted by De Montfort University for a revision enhancement workshop. They attended a session focused on learning about and discussing different revision techniques and skills. Each student brought revision books or some of their own work so they could put what they had learned into practice. The group also had a guided tour of DMU. They saw the engineering and art departments, the leisure centre and a "show flat". The students showed great curiosity and asked a range of insightful questions about university life and studying at higher education level. Each student tried a revision method different from their usual approach, intending to keep revision fresh, varied, and ultimately more sustainable. The students were a credit to the college; well done to them.

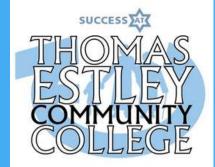


Thomas Estley took part in a small village remembrance service where some of our students laid a wreath and read a poem. The whole college paused for a minute of silence at 11 minutes to 11, to remember those who gave their lives for our country, and to reflect on and pray for those still involved in war. For our tomorrow, they gave their today.

Some Thomas Estley students visited Arkwright House as part of our intergenerational community outreach. They played different board games with the residents and had a great time. Some lovely friendships have been made and the residents really look forward to our visits, as do the students themselves



## **Trips**



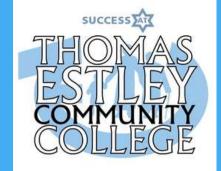
We were delighted to visit Arkwright House again as part of our Thomas Estley intergenerational community outreach projects. Residents and students made Christmas decorations together, and some of them will be displayed at the upcoming Christmas Tree Festival at the church.

We had our annual Thomas Estley Christmas events at St Marys Church, Broughton Astley. Our year 7 students enjoyed some performances and readings, and sang along to Christmas carols and songs with gusto, to celebrate the season. Thanks you to St Marys for hosting us, and for your warm welcome.





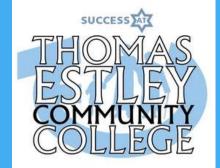
## **Trips**





Students participated in a residential trip to London with the Drama department, during which they attended a West End performance of Les Misérables. They also took part in a professional stage combat workshop, followed by a question-and-answer session with West End performers.

In addition, students explored the Christmas markets in Covent Garden, enjoyed a meal at Honest Burger, and experienced panoramic views of the city from the London Eye. Throughout the visit, they were a credit to the school, consistently demonstrating the Thomas Estley ways.



Our year 10 child development students have successfully completed their preschool observations. As part of their coursework, students were tasked with observing the social development of our 2–3-year-old children. They recorded examples of confidence, independence, sharing, appropriate behaviour, communication skills and manners.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a flourishing

We are incredibly fortunate to have a flourishing preschool onsite, allowing our students to gain valuable hands-on experience and to work closely with early years professionals.

This practical experience forms a significant part of their GCSE coursework, which contributes to their final qualification. The subject is available to all students as a KS4 option in years 10 and 11, and provides an excellent foundation for a range of post-16 pathways, including teaching, nursing, midwifery, dietetics, health visiting, social work, and many more rewarding careers.

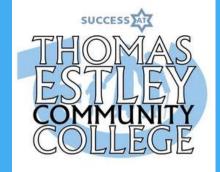
On World Mental Health Day, Thomas Estley staff donated care packages to the Open Hands Trust, a charity offering a range of help to people in need locally.

Kindness is a key focus for us, and this is just one way in which we have aimed to support those in need this year. Thank you to all staff who kindly donated.

Out Of School Club had some Halloween fun! They took part in pumpkin carving, Halloween baking and artwork. The college reception team also had fun dressing up, and the catering team baked some tasty treats!









Year 11 health and social care students spent time completing the leadership element of their coursework. This year their case study explores how traditional and alternative therapies support homeless young adults in society. We have looked at the main causes of homelessness and the barriers that homeless people face.

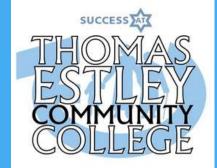
Additionally, we have studied the traditional support offered by social care and the students were asked to lead an alternative therapy session. Students selected a wide range of activities from art, craft, photography and sport therapy.



Year 8 students had a great time constructing and engineering marble runs within their recent STEM module - some successful outcomes are pictured here, as they were trialled. Certainly some future engineers on our books!



Year 8 at have made crisp packets out of fleece and felt! The designs have impressed their ADT teachers. They have built on skills and knowledge from year 7 to make these as amazing as possible, working in a wider range of skills and pushing themselves out of their comfort zone creatively. Well done!



During our recent Thomas Estley careers module, our year 11 students benefited from mock interviews from local employers as part of their preparation for post-16 choices, applications and interviews. The feedback from local employers about the confidence of our young people as they discussed their skills and experiences was fantastic. Well done, everyone!

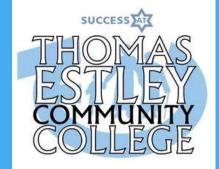




We are so proud of two of our students who recently helped an elderly gentleman in the community, placing him in the recovery position after a fall and fetching medical assistance. Amelia and Rose demonstrated all our Thomas Estley Way character qualities under pressure and are great role models - well done to you both!

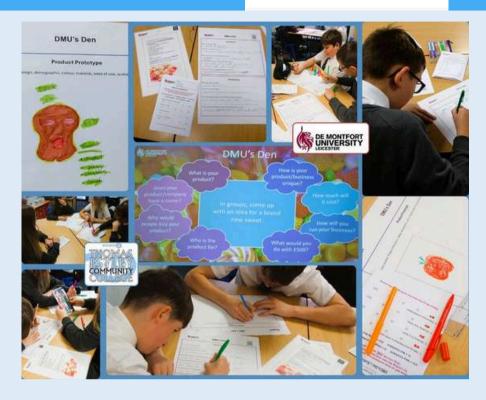


Thomas Estley Year 7 have done amazing work in Textiles, learning a lot of new skills from hand sewing to using the sewing machines independently. Well done, Year 7 - keep up the good work in ADT!





The year 9 bag project in textiles has had some amazing outcomes from our students. They have been showing real care and precision in their manufacturing of this product. Students worked hard to plan their ideas and should be so proud of their result. Well done, Year 9!

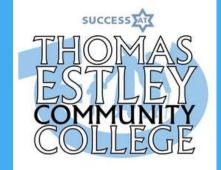


De Montfort University visited our year 9 enterprise specialisms group and delivered a "DMU Den Challenge". Our students were tasked with creating a new sweet; they then had to pitch their idea to the "Dragons" for high quality feedback.

Thank you to De Montfort University, Leicester (DMU) for taking the time to enhance the learning of our students.

In their "What Is Religion?" unit in RE this term, year 7 students have been looking at the six biggest religions in the UK. They have explored the key beliefs of each religion along with the different symbols, sacred texts and rituals that hold meaning to each of the religions. Students have also examined some of the key similarities and differences between each of the religions and considered why tolerance and diversity are important aspects of life in Leicestershire and the UK. As part of their homework for this unit, students were asked to create a fact file on one of the religions to include some of the key information they have learnt this term. Right is a selection of some of the wonderful and detailed examples they have produced. The RE department are very proud of their efforts. Well done, year 7!



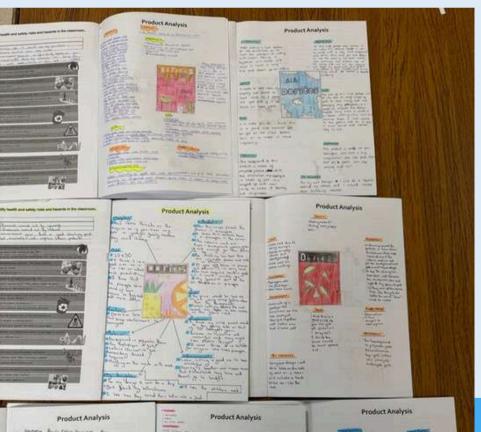




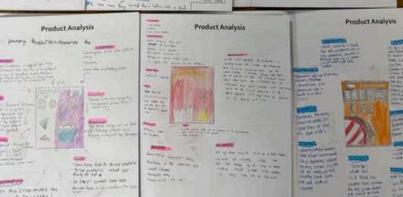
Here's to a new season and new publications! Congratulations to our award-winning young writers and their published poetry! In this national poetry competition, our writers were asked to compose a poem on the topic "I Have a Dream".

But why do we write? We write to express ourselves, to be heard, and to inspire change, all of which is beautifully captured by our newly published authors. Therefore, it is with great pride that we announce the voices of our published writers: Sophie (If Animals Could Talk) celebrating her fourth publication in 2025 and Leo (In Another World) celebrating his first ever publication!

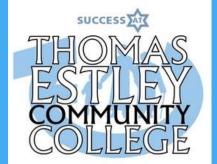
For our Christmas challenge in the library, students come along, pick a wrapped book, read it whatever it it may be, complete a review and receive a small gift. We want to combine the joy of reading with the joy of Christmas!







We loved our year 8 work in textiles this month; students analysed previous products, worked through the ACCESSFM structure and produced high quality analysis. Well done year 8, we can't wait to see what you do for your own design ideas!





We proudly celebrated the incredible work of our support staff on "Stars In Our Schools" day. Our display board in reception was filled with hundreds of messages written by students; each thank you star is a reminder of the positive impact our colleagues make every single day. Thank you to everyone who took part and an extra thank you to our support staff for everything you do for our school community. You truly are our stars!

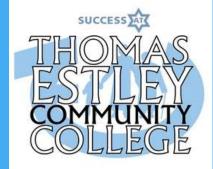


Tis the season in our Thomas Estley school library! We've decked the shelves with a festive display to spread joy and encourage students to read over the Christmas break. Reading is a great investment in your future success.



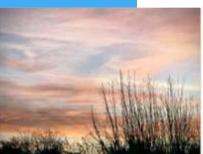
Our Thomas Estley year 10 textiles students have been busy creating festive Christmas stockings and decorations, developing their creativity, practical skills, and problemsolving along the way.

We're so proud of their amazing work!





















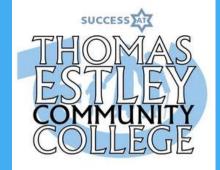


Get ready to be inspired! Our Thomas Estley photo competition got underway, with the magical theme of 'Winter'! Take a look at some of our amazing early entries; all students were encouraged to submit their own photos to Miss Ignate by the end of term. We've been blown away by the talent we're seeing!



Our Thomas Estley textiles club have once again been busy creating kindness - this time supporting a local pet charity in need of warm, comforting blankets for dogs and kittens.

Students have produced wonderfully original blankets using a wide variety of textile techniques, showcasing their creativity, skill and care. Each handmade piece has been thoughtfully designed to provide comfort and warmth, reflecting the students' generosity and commitment to helping animals in need.





Year 11 at Thomas Estley were treated to a theatrical performance of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol (below). The story was brought to life in an attempt to secure students' understanding of their GCSE set text for English Literature – and what a show!

Thomas Estley students welcomed Eilidh from Action Homeless into college to collect some of the generous donations from our Thomas Estley community. These items will make up care parcels for people experiencing homelessness in Leicester, and will also bolster the

emergency winter pantry.

It was a real treat during the final week before the Christmas break.

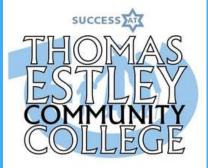
We are proud to have partnered with Action Homeless for their "Warm Up Winter" campaign. Our health and social care students have worked with Eilidah on their coursework which is based on the causes and consequences of homelessness.





Fantastic baking from our Thomas Estley students in our final ADT club of the year! We made yummy shortbread biscuits with a Christmas theme.





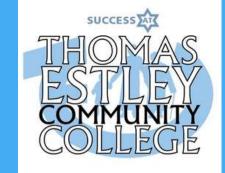
Our Thomas Estley child development students supported our regular Friday luncheon club by serving their Christmas dinner. This created additional intergenerational kindness opportunities between luncheon club members and our student community, and it was lovely to see them celebrate Christmas together.

Our fantastic Thomas
Estley catering team
provided students with a
delicious Christmas lunch
as we wore Christmas
jumpers to raise funds for
Save the Children. It
definitley got us in the
Christmas mood!



Dressing up and spreading holiday cheer, our office team always puts a smile on the faces of staff and visitors, especially at Christmas!







Some of our sports leaders attended the South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership GALS day event at Huncote Leisure Centre. As well as having a go at indoor axe throwing, boxing and team building, they also got to hear from Commonwealth silver medalist boxer Paige Murney and started on a plan for an event which they will run at school on International Women's day in March that could raise money for charity. As always, our girls were amazing ambassadors for the college. Well done, girls.



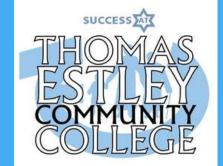
Thomas Estley girls football under-14 round three match saw us meet the team that knocked us out last year - South Wold from Notts. The step up from nine-a-side to 11-a-side has really suited our girls and this year we dominated most of the game.

A 6-3 win, four goals for Verity and two for Isla earning Verity player of the match. The work rate across the pitch from our girls was fantastic from start to finish. Well done to all of them. We are very proud of you; you thoroughly deserve your place in round four.



Huge congratulations to our year 8 boys football team who secured a fantastic 6-2 win against Higham Lane, Coventry, in the third round of the National Cup!

Outstanding teamwork and some brilliant individual performances on display – special mention to our man of the match: Alfie C! Let's keep that momentum going into the next round!





Our year 11 netballers were in action at the Blaby & Harborough league semi finals away at Welland Park. Welland Park dominated the match and were deserved winners; however we are really proud of our girls, the only one of our netball teams to reach the play off stage this year. Well done girls, you did really well against superb opponents.

Player of the match went to Eva; a stunning display from her. The girls will finish off their netball with the South Leicestershire Netball Tournament after Christmas where we also be able to finalise their GCSE netball grades. A huge thank you to our netball volunteer Michelle for umpiring the match. We really appreciate all that you do in ensuring our girls have these opportunities.

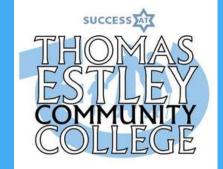


Our year 10 boys football team finally got their rearranged league match against Brockington played and it didn't disappoint. A superb performance across all areas of the pitch to claim a brilliant 8-0 win. Four goals for player of the match Ted and then further goals from Max C (two), Arthur and Josh to secure top spot and a place in the league semi final. We are really proud boys, some great football played. Thank you to their coach Alfie for coming back from university for the match. We appreciate you giving so freely of your time.



Thomas Estley is very proud to have been awarded the School Games Gold Mark once again for our involvement in competitive sport across boys and girls competitions. Well done to all students, staff and volunteer coaches who have taken part and facilitated this fantastic achievement - we are very proud of you and very grateful for your involvement.

Competitive sport is a great way to develop resilience, perseverance and courage, and we have also achieved some fantastic victories across various sports.



We had a repeat football match of last years under-12 County Cup final. Despite a scrappy start where we had many chances and should have taken the lead, it was Cedars who got on the score sheet first. A huge kick from their keepers hands bounced awkwardly, and a break down in communication from our girls meant nobody dealt with it properly and as a result the ball trickled in. Our Tommo girls regrouped and it wasn't long before Grace got the equaliser. Goals then in quick succession from Fern and Maddie took us into half time 3-1 up.

We then completely dominated the second half. Seven more goals from Ruby (2), Laila, Willow, Fern, Kelsea & Grace saw us comfortable 10-1 winners and through to round four.

A stunning team display. Player of the match went to Fern who had a superb game on the wing. Well done, girls. Another great display of football. A huge thank you to Mr Winterton for running the line for us at short notice, we really appreciate it.



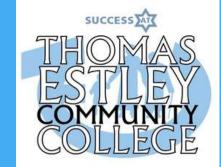




Our under-15 girls football team (bottom left) made the short trip over to Lutterworth College for their third round National Cup tie.

We were down to just 11 but the whole team put a shift! Great work in all areas of the pitch, linking passes and working as a unit meant we got the outcome we deserved. 7-0 win and a place in round 4 away in Walsall.

Well done, girls, especially those who weren't feeling 100% but still gave their all. Really proud of you all. A team player of the match performance!

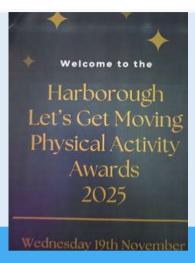




Our under-14 girls football team met Shenley Brook End Academy from Milton Keynes in their fourth round National Cup game. The first 20 minutes were end to end with both teams having chances and it looked like this was going to be a close game. Grace gave us the lead after some great work throughout the team to work the ball up the pitch and we went into half-time ahead. Lots of players were available so there was lots of rotation of players and positions throughout the match and a formation change at half time to pack out the midfield to stop their through ball. Ten minutes into the second half Macie tapped in from a great corner from Isla and then we really got hold of the game. Willow making it three and then Grace getting the fourth to seal the victory.

The girls were brilliant in all areas of the pitch working well for each other and fighting for those loose balls; they thoroughly deserve their place in round 5. Joint players of the match were Grace and Willow. The whole team should be proud of their performance, it was great football from start to finish.

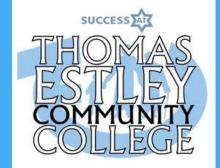
This year entered our under-13 girls football team in an additional competition to get them more game time. We made the long trip to Ruskington, Lincolnshire to play our first match. St George's Academy were our opposition in the girls first under-13 11-a-side match for the school. 11-a-side definitely suited us and we dominated the match from the off. St George's didn't test either of our keepers and our stunning team play across the pitch made it 6-0 at the final whistle. Well done to all of our girls; the long drive was worth it. Player of the match to Fern after another stunning performance from her on the wing. What a team!



Both last years girls football county champions were short listed for junior team of the year at the Harborough awards. We didn't win the award, but it is a great achievement to be nominated. We are proud of you all!







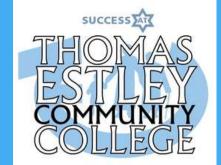


County champions! Our under-13 girls travelled to the Leicester City training ground at Seagrave for the County Inspire seven-a-side tournament. A great display from start to finish. Six group games, with wins against Castle Mead, Orchard Mead, Ibstock, Longfield and Babington and a draw with Brockington saw us through to the semi-final against South Charnwood. A 1-0 win with a goal from Verity took us into the final against Ashby School. Another 1-0 win with a great header from Grace means we are county seven-a-side champions and will now represent Leicester City at the Regional Tournament after Christmas. Every member of the squad played their par with a fantastic display of football and team work. Special mention to India in goal; she didn't concede a goal in the whole tournament. A brilliant achievement. Well done everyone!



Congratulations to our year 8 boys football team! Our boys have officially reached the League Cup final, after Kibworth School conceded the league fixture. However, to make sure the afternoon was still enjoyable and worthwhile for everyone, we organised a futsal tournament with Kibworth, keeping the spirit of competition alive while promoting football for all; and what a fantastic tournament it was! Tommo B dominated with a clean sweep of victories whilst Tommo A put in a brilliant effort, finishing as runners-up.

A huge well done to all players from both schools. Our Thomas Estley teams showed the very best of the Tommo Way displaying respect, resilience, and perseverance throughout. Proud of every single one of you!





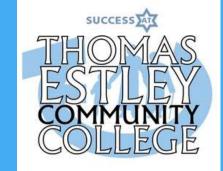
Huge congratulations to our year 8 football team who produced a dominant performance against Sandwell Academy, Birmingham. The boys were relentless from the first whistle, taking a well-deserved 2-1 lead into halftime thanks to their work rate, discipline and teamwork. After the break, they stepped it up even further adding three superb goals to seal an emphatic 5-1 victory!

A fantastic team display showcasing the key traits of the Tommo Way. Special shout-out to Millan, our newly appointed captain, who delivered a true Man of the Match performance. Proud of you, boys – let's keep pushing, keep believing and keep enjoying the journey!



Our Thomas Estley under-13 girls football team played their round four match against Heanor Gate from Derbyshire. It took us a while to get going, but once we did with a cracking goal from Grace, we didn't look back. Verity made it two before half time and then both Grace and Verity put another away again each to see us comfortable at 4-0. Our teamwork and passing play were much better in the second half, the girls linked well and we showed why we are such a good team. Willow led by example throughout and Ruby was stunning at the back, shepherding her defence brilliantly.

Heanor got a goal back late in the second half but it wasn't long before we extended our lead again through Maddie. 5-1 was the final score and a home tie in round 5 against Wickersley School from Rotherham. Excellent again girls in all areas of the pitch. Player of the match goes to Ruby. Well done.





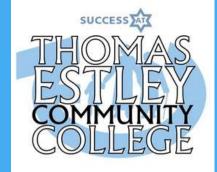
Huge congratulations to the year 6 boys football team on their outstanding performance defeating Aldridge School 10-2! They are now through to the 6th round with just 32 teams left in the competition!

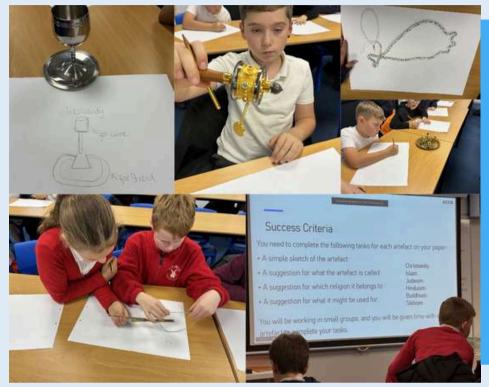
Despite the tough conditions, the boys showed amazing resolve, perseverance and courage both in and out of possession! Special shoutout to Charlie for his five goals and Shay for his brilliant contribution! What a brilliant team effort! We are all so proud of you, boys. Keep it up!



Our congratulations go to year 10 Izzy who went to Thomas Telford school trialling for this seasons English Schools FA squad! A great achievement to be called for a national trial; well done.

### Primary Masterclasses



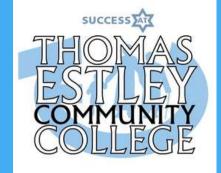


Primary children attended an RE
Masterclass at Thomas Estley. They
started the session with a
discussion on what an artefact was,
then went on to name the big six
religions. They then in small groups
looked at the artefact, drew it, and
discussed in their group, what the
artefact was called, which religion
it was from and how it was used.
The pupils worked hard, examining
their artefacts, and discussing them
with confidence and enthusiasm. A
big thank you goes to our primary
transition leaders for their help.

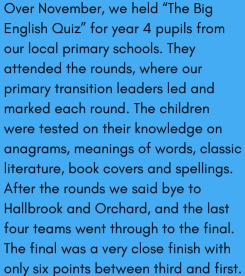
We welcomed year 5 children from local primary schools for a English masterclass. They began with 'Attitude Is Altitude', with some impressive discussions about its meaning. They then went on to watch a short video about Nick Vujicic, an inspirational speaker who had lots of barriers to overcome, and worked on describing his character. Next they moved on to scenarios to read and discuss, followed by freeze frames to show what attitude is. They created slogans to express 'attitude is altitude', using alliteration. A big thank you to our primary transition leaders for their help.



### Primary Masterclasses







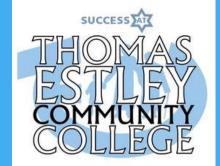
Well done to Badgerbrook who came first, second place was Cosby and joint third to Old Mill and St Peters. A special thank you to two of our leaders Theo and Amelia who wrote and delivered two of the rounds, plus a thank you to all the other leaders who helped with the rounds, playing hangman whilst the scores were added up. A lovely event with smiles all round.



We were delighted to welcome year 5 pupils for a fun and engaging business and enterprise day. The day began with a silent team-building challenge, followed by hands-on activities exploring production lines, teamwork and problem-solving through making dice. Pupils then moved on to marketing, designing and creating themed Christmas cards and developing a sales pitch with support from our primary transition leaders.

Each group confidently presented their ideas to our TECC dragons, who had the tough task of choosing the best designs and pitches. A huge thank you to our TECC dragons and Primary Transition leaders for helping to make the day such a success.

## Preschool & OOSC



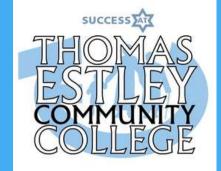
Thomas Estley out of school club were busy during last half term decorating autumn pictures, cooking, pom-pom making for our room decorations, den building, ball games on the tennis courts and basketball down the gym. So much fun!

Christmas definitely arrived at preschool! As part of our intergenerational kindness project, our preschool children spent some time with Arkwright House residents and we had a very special visitor surprise us! Lots of joy and happiness across all three generations present. Thank you to Santa and his helpful elf!





# Preschool & OOSC





Thomas Estley primary out of school club leadership awards were awarded for this term. Both children pictured here go above and beyond, helping with sports leadership and kindness leadership, supporting our young people, demonstrating kindness, encouraging positive choices, providing game ideas and activities, and encouraging team play. Well done - we are very proud of you both!



Our Thomas Estley preschool celebrated with Christmas lunch. The children really enjoyed their lunch and the delicious Santa biscuits. They also had crackers, Christmas glasses and Christmas pencils to take home. We made the day extra special, by making snowman cakes and reindeer food for Christmas Eve. Thomas Estley Preschool want to wish you all a happy Christmas!

### Outside Tommo





Congratulations to former Thomas Estley student Milana. At Thomas Estley, Milana studied music, drama and dance for GCSE. These subjects gave her a foundation not only in performance but in confidence, creativity and determination. After leaving school, Milana went on to study at Leicester College of Performing Arts and eventually into a new and equally meaningful path: working on a psychiatric inpatient unit in Leicester, where she now teaches music-based sessions to patients as they prepare to step down and return home.

One thing has stayed constant: music has always brought Milana happiness. Because of that, she made the decision to pursue music independently and she is thrilled to share that her debut single, "My Little Camper," was released on 5th December this year. "My Little Camper" is about buying a work van at 21 and transforming it into a campervan. It represents the freedom it's given Milana, the ability to take off, explore and go wherever she wants. It's a symbol of independence, creativity, and carving out a life that feels authentic.

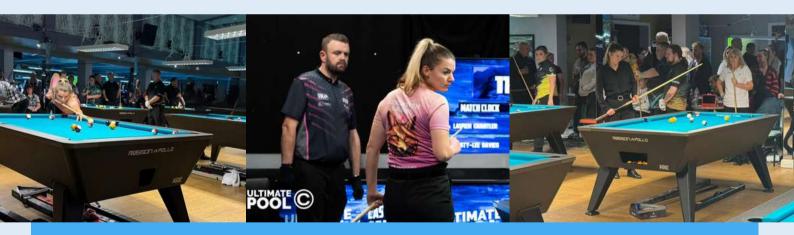
Milana wants our students to know that if you put your mind to something, no matter how big the dream or how hard the journey may be, never stop going. Passion can take you in unexpected directions, but it is always worth pursuing. "My Little Camper" was selected as track of the week on BBC Radio Leicester, and you may have heard Milana interviewed recently by Ben Jackson. She will be visiting the college soon to share her passion and career path with our students. Well done, Milana – we are really proud of you!

### Outside Tommo



We are very proud of our student Edie, who has become European Under-14s Champion in two categories of Wadokai martial arts. Edie travelled to Venice to compete at the WadoKai European Championships, after recently winning two gold medals and one silver at the UK National WadoKai Championships. At the Europeans, Edie proudly represented England in both the kata and kumite disciplines and won gold in both categories, becoming the European Under-14 Kata Champion and Under-14 -42kg Kumite Champion. Edie trains up to 12 hours each week to refine her techniques and fighting skills and we are so proud of her resilience, courage, perseverance and amazing achievements.



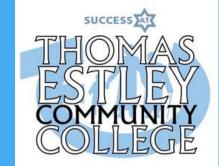


We are very proud of the achievements of our PE teacher Ms Chantler, who competes at a national level in pool. She is pictured here competing in the National Singles and Team events, as well as in 'The Last Women Standing' for Ultimate Pool, which was shown on TNT Sports.

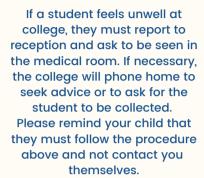
Unfortunately, she was knocked out in 17th place by the women's no.1 professional player in that competition, but remains highly ranked nationally.

If you have any student successes outside of college and you would like them to be included in next term's newsletter, please email:

### **Don't Forget!**



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 Parent Mail.



Thank you!



### Headphones. Earbuds & Air Pods

The use of headphones/earbuds/AirPods are only permitted outside of the college building. Any that are visible inside 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.



### Absence During Term Time

If your child is too ill to attend college please contact reception on the first and each subsequent day of absence and leave a message on the 'absence line'. 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.

Where possible, please make medical appointments outside of college hours.





### **Mobile Phones**

Students are not allowed to use mobile phones in college unless they have express permission from a member of staff. This is to protect students' learning and social development and is in line with our safeguarding policy. This refers to any use anywhere on the college site, including break and lunchtime - phones should be 'not seen, not heard.

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.



College reopens on Tues 6th Jan & closes for half term on Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb



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.



### School Transport

If your child travels via school transport it is a good idea to have a contingency plan with them, for getting to the event that for any reason they miss their bus.



### //////

Since our transition to Arbor please ensure your child's medical status is up to date.



### VAPING Newsletter

### What's a vape?

Vapes are battery-operated devices that heat a liquid until it becomes a mist. It's initialised by inhalation, (sucking on the vape), the mist is then breathed in. Vapes are recommended for adult smokers only to help them guit smoking. They are not meant for long term use and they were never designed for young people.

### Why are young people vaping?

- Flavors & Appeal: Sweet, fruity flavors like bubblegum and cotton candy attract teens and mask nicotine's harshness.
- Peer Pressure: Vaping is trendy and promoted on social media, making it socially acceptable.
- Lack of knowledge: Young people don't realise the impact vaping can have on their physical/mental health.
- · Stress Relief: Young People use vaping to cope with stress or anxiety due to the short-term calming effects of nicotine.
- Nicotine Addiction: Young people don't realise they're addicted to nicotine and that it has a bigger impact on children and young people's developing lungs and brains.

### What are the risks?

### Mental Health

Research shows that nicotine addiction can affect your mental health and that it can impact on your learning, memory, and attention. It can lead to long-lasting changes in cognition (thinking), attention and memory. It can also lead to mood disorders like

### Illegal Vapes

depression and anxiety.

Illegal vapes do not follow government guidelines or UK regulations. When tested they

have been found to have higher nicotine concentration levels, and contain high levels of lead, nickel and chromium. Young people are buying illegal vapes because they are cheap and can be bought in places where they are less likely to check for ID.

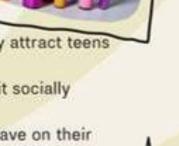
### Risky Behaviour

Young people are buying vapes through friends of friends, so are unaware if the vapes are UK regulated. Young people are using and sharing each other's vapes. Young people that vape maybe more likely to go on to use regular cigarettes or other illegal substances.

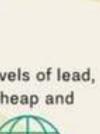
### DID YOU KNOWS

A quarter of 11 to 15 year-olds have tried vaping and nearly 1 in 10 (9%) secondary school pupils vape frequently.

NHS England October 2024



NOVEMBER 2025



BBC Newsround look at why are people Worried About Young People Vaping? Watch it here!

### Advice & Support

There is lots of advice and support available if you're worried about a young person vaping. Click on the logo to head straight there.







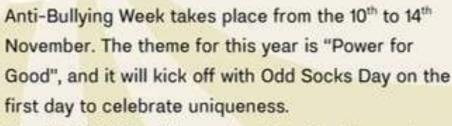






QuitReady work with young people aged 12-17 years to ensure that they have the help, support and advice they need to quit smoking or vaping. Click here to complete a Young person referral form.

### Anti-Bullying Week



The Anti-Bullying Alliance has lots of advice and support if you're worried about bullying. Find out





LET'S GET SOCIAL!











Health | Well-being | School Sport | PE | Physical Activity

### South Leicestershire Community Board

### The Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHST)

The Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHST) are part of a national initiative designed to reduce inequalities and improve access to mental health support for children and young people. The LPT MHST service provides support for children and young people experiencing low mood, anxiety, worry, avoidance (such as phobias or separation anxiety), and sleep difficulties. The team offers various strategies and techniques to support these young people, either on a 1:1 basis or through school workshops.

In addition, MHST works closely with parents and carers to help them understand and support their child's mental health needs.

Across Leicestershire MHST teams are collaborating with mental health leads in schools to raise awareness and promote better mental health for all students as part of the school's 'Whole School and College Approach'.

Check with your child's school to see if they are involved in the programme. together, we aim to foster a supportive environment that promotes mental wellbeing for everyone in the school community.





## Relationships Centre

### We offer a range of

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### Family Countelling

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Click the images to find out more!





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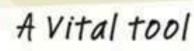








### INTERNET SAFE Newsletter (DECEMBER 2025)



The internet is an amazing tool that helps children and young people learn, connect, and have fun.

It provides easy access to a wide range of information for schoolwork and personal interests. Online courses, tutorials, and educational videos help young people develop both academic and practical skills. They can research topics and find explanations to support their learning and homework.

The internet also helps young people stay connected with friends and family through messaging apps and social media, supporting the development of social skills.

Online games can boost critical thinking, creativity, focus, and problem-solving. Many also teach teamwork, collaboration, and empathy.

The internet also offers access to support networks that help young people manage issues such as mental health, exam stress and other personal challenges.



It's important to understand how young people are spending their time online.

- Talk Often Have open conversations about their online activities and friends.
- Set Rules Create limits on screen time, websites, and apps.
- · Use Parental Controls Block harmful content and manage access.
- Teach Online Safety Explain risks like strangers, scams, and cyberbullying.
- Keep Devices in Common Areas Supervise screen time naturally.
- · Model Good Behavior Show healthy, respectful online habits.
- Stay Updated Know the apps and games your child uses.
- Create a Safety Plan Teach them what to do if something feels wrong.

Click on the logos to find more information on staying safe online!









A report published in June 2025 showed users aged 8-14 spent an average of 2 hours 59 minutes a day online, with girls spending more time online than boys!



### Social media

Social media can be a powerful tool for connection, creativity, and self-expression, but for some young people, it can also negatively impact their mental health, self-esteem, and daily life.

Signs that social media use might be a problem.

- Constant Checking of their phone/device. Feeling the need to be online all the time or fear of missing out.
- · Low Self-Esteem. Comparing themselves to others and feeling "not good enough."
- Cyberbullying. Being targeted or witnessing bullying, hate speech, or toxic comments.
- Sleep Problems. Staying up late scrolling or feeling the need to respond instantly.
- · Anxiety or Stress
- · Feeling pressure to post, respond, or get likes and validation.
- Spending less time with friends and family offline or avoiding schoolwork and hobbies.

YOUNGMINDS

Young Minds has lots of information and advice if you're concerned about social media use, find out more here

### Online gaming

Online gaming has lots of benefits for children and young people, it allows them to relax and unwind, socialise and connect with friends whilst having fun. However gaming can negatively affect mental health if it starts to take over daily life. This can look like:

- Struggling to stop or limit time spent gaming, even when wanting to.
- · Ignoring schoolwork, chores, or personal hygiene.
- · Spending less time with family and friends offline.
- Physical Health Issues
- Poor sleep, lack of exercise, or skipping meals due to excessive gaming.

### YOUNGMINDS

Young Minds has lots of information and advice if you're concerned about online gaming, find out more here





Health | Well-being | School Sport | PE | Physical Activity

### South Leicestershire Community Board

Local support this winter

The local Support information documents have lots of support for families over winter including Wellbeing services, Support Hubs, Warm Home service advice and information regarding local food and hygiene banks.

To find out more, click here!



STAY COMMECTED

Click the flyer find out morel

### YOUTH AND JUSTICE GROUPS

Young Carers CACF LGREET.

52MD 15+ Young Carers 15+

How to refer

click the flyer to find out more!









click the flyers to find out more!















### Care and Education for 2-4 year olds

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### THOMAS ESTLEY PRESCHOOL



All types of FEEE funding accepted – where self-funded, competitive pricing with sibling discounts.



Rich, varied provision includes indoor and outdoor free flow, separate forest garden, access to library for stories and singing, field and gym for sport skills and play.



Learning opportunities include messy play, construction, yoga, early phonics, maths activitie sand/ water play, small world, local area walks and visits



School readiness focus afternoon inputs for 3 year olds



Hot lunches cooked onsite available as a lunch option

Children are gaining a love of books.' (Ofsted 2022)

7:30-12:00

7:30-3:00

7:30-6:00



9:00-12:00 9:00-3:00

9:00-6:00

12:00-3:00

12:00-6:00

Parents are highly complementary about the pre-school and say they would not change a thing.' (Ofsted 2022)

children value the caring nature of the staff; they feel reassured and safe.' (Ofsted 2022)



**Book Now!** 

Contact Us 01455 283 263 Ext 205 nsadler@thomasestley.org.uk





Based at Thomas Estley Station Rd, LE9 6PT

### Childcare for 3-11 year olds



### THOMAS ESTLEY OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB



Drop offs and pick ups - Thomas Estley pre-school &

**Old Mill Primary School** 

Competitive pricing with sibling discounts -tax-free/ universal cred options apply

Wide range of free choice activitie including outdoor play, craft, cooking, sport, reading and board games

> Breakfast, after school snack and light tea included



**Book Now!** 







# Interested in a career in teaching?





### Make a difference in your community

Are you interested in finding out more about training to teach locally? - Contact Jo at Achieve with TFLA

Achieve with TELA provide teacher training in local primary and secondary schools with our partners at the Leicester and Leicestershire SCITT.

Jo can answer any questions you may have: Can I afford to train? Are any bursaries available while I train? What is the course structure? What qualifications do I need? How do I apply? Are there any age limits?

Visit our website telaonline.co.uk



Contact: Jo Robotham Tel: 01455 283263 ext 286 Email: tela@thomasestley.org.uk