

# Welcome To Our Thomas Estley Newsletter February 2025



A Community of  
Courage and  
Commitment to  
Success

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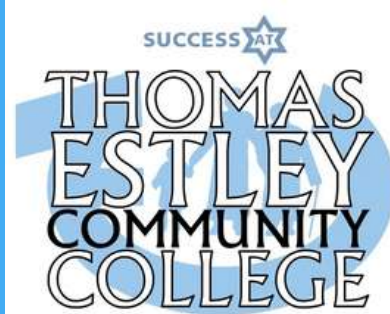
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# Dates For The Diary



## 24th February

Year 9 Art Trip To New Walk Gallery

## 25th February

Year 9 Options Evening

## 27th February

Year 9 Options PP Parents Drop-In

## 28th February

Primary Show In A Day

## 3rd March

National Careers Week Begins

## 4th March

Blaby Primary Schools Dance Festival

## 5th March

French Primary Masterclass

## 7th March

ADT Faraday Competition

## 10th March

Year 9 Options Deadline  
Spanish Outreach at Hallbrook

## 12th March

History Primary Masterclass

## 13th March

Trust Science Fair

## 14th March

Year 9 & 11 School Photographs

## 18th March

Year 8 Careers Drop Down Day

## 19th March

Science Primary Masterclass

## 20th March

Year 7 PSHE Drop Down Day

## 27th March

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

## 28th March

Primary Orchestra Day

## 1st April

Show School

## 2nd April

Maths Primary Masterclass

## 3rd April

Show School  
Parent Engagement Drop-In

## 4th-7th April

Year 7 Paris Trip

## 9th April

Year 10 SEND Parent Clinic (Remote)  
Year 7 Parents Evening (Remote)

## 10th April

Year 7 Parents Evening (Remote)

## 11th April

College closes for Easter

## Assessments/Exams

### 10th-21st March

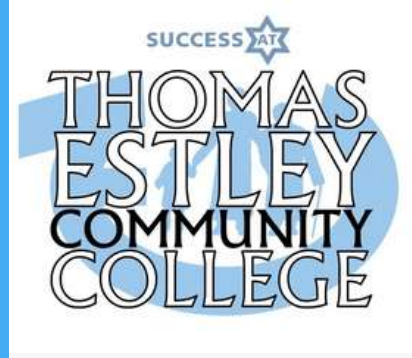
Year 8 Assessment Fortnight

### 10th-11th April

Year 11 Art Timed Exam



# A Word From The Principal



At Thomas Estley, we are committed to be a community of courage and commitment to success, building leadership and character together.

Leadership and character development are fundamental to success, whether in sports, performing arts, project or people leadership, or simply achieving a fulfilling and rewarding future study or career path. In this newsletter, you can see some of this term's academic successes (p5, p7), fundraising successes (p5, p6), photography successes (p12), leadership successes (p15 and 24), sports successes (p17-23), and even sea cadet successes (p16). All of these are driven by our Thomas Estley Way values of courage, perseverance and resilience.

We have two exciting new opportunities for older students to grow these values, which we are sharing with them this February. On February 28 our Year Nine students will learn about new Thomas Estley Duke of Edinburgh programmes and expeditions, and last week our Year 9, 10 and 11 students heard how they can take part in an international expedition and volunteering camp in Tanzania (p13) in the summer of 2026 - these are opportunities which will create amazing memories, enhance cvs for future applications and make a difference to the communities around them, both local and international. We are so proud of the character of our young people, and excited about their commitment to grow and develop it.



**Mandi Collins, Principal**



# End Of Last Term

We entered 20 of our Thomas Estley year 8 and 9 pupils into the Advanced Maths Online Christmas Competition.

Our pupils did us proud and came second in the whole of the East Midlands region!

We are very pleased with their levels of determination and problem-solving abilities and cannot wait to see the mathematical success they have in the future!

What a great achievement!



Thomas Estley preschool had so much Christmas fun last term!

They had a Christmas craft morning for their families to attend, they made Christmas hedgehogs, Rudolph cards and learnt about the seasonal changes by making calendars.

Lou Lou the librarian also read lots of Christmas stories; preschool's favourite was "The Dinosaur Who Pooped Christmas"!

They also sang songs at the luncheon club, singing beautifully and doing lots of actions, as part of the Thomas Estley intergenerational project.



We are delighted to have raised £638.21 for Save the Children on our Christmas lunch and jumper day during the last week of last term.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a very worthy cause .





# End Of Last Term

## Christmas Door Winners



3rd



2nd



1st



1st

Thomas Estley tutor groups got into the Christmas mood with the tutor room door decorating competition!

Well done to Mr Curtis and Mrs Gaffney-Evans tutor groups, with Miss Nijjer and The Centre just pipped at the post.



We are delighted to share with you that our "Spread The Warmth" hamper project resulted in many hampers brimming with Christmas goodies which made their way to elderly and vulnerable adults, living alone, spreading some joy and love to them over Christmas.

Many thanks to students, parents and staff for donations. Thanks also go to the student ambassadors for collecting donations from tutor groups, and to our health and social care students for wrapping and packing the hampers as part of their intergenerational focus.



# High Achievers

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

## Year 7

Lucy Amos  
Ollie Godfree  
Willow Henfrey  
Amelia Farmer  
Evie-Mae Pitts  
Verity Ward  
Hugo Lee  
Kiera Morgan  
Francesca Owen  
Will Burton  
Eddie Clarkson-Ward  
Joseph Morley

## Year 8

Darwin DeVries  
Riley Dignall  
Evie Hudson  
Izzy Lamb  
Arch Shilcock  
Isaac Wright  
Harry Woodward  
Savana Richer  
Effie Craig  
Hamza Asim  
Beth Slater  
Eleanor Scotton

## Year 9

Rok Perkins  
Katherine Whitelock  
Archie Capell  
Kieran Varnham  
Durva Deulkar  
Leraya Towers  
Max Mead  
Lily-Mae Davies  
Gracie Brookin  
Gracie Poppy  
Alicja Jaskolska  
Macie Kempson

## Year 10

Ava Chaney-North  
Finley Lord  
Alex Swift  
Lija Granger  
Chloe Crofton  
Hollie Sutton  
Martha Marlow  
Holly Bettoney  
Darcey Ashford  
Ava Baird  
Noah Tunncliffe  
Ava Philps

## Year 11

Charlie London  
Beth Williams  
Michelle Muko  
Frankie Weston  
Aidan Robinson  
Javier Jones-Rojas  
Lilly Chapman-Gardner  
Mark Meeks  
Laura Yates  
Olivia Bottrill  
Darcey Gee  
Ryan Gower



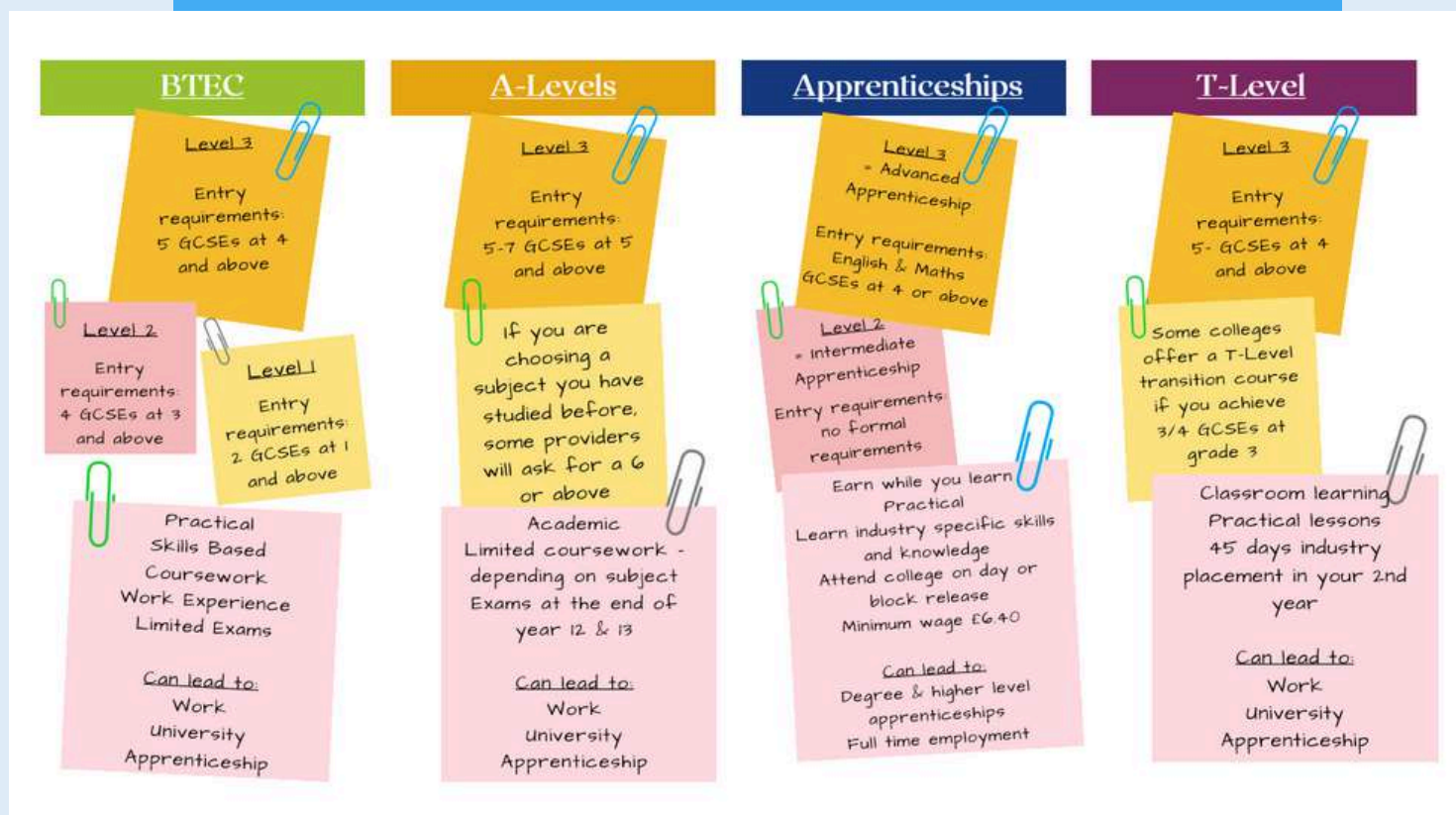
Last half term's Thomas Estley PEPA Faculty Star went to Millen in year 7. He is an enthusiastic all round superstar who is a great role model for his peers. Very competitive but channels it well, leading by example and bringing out the best in the students he works with by showing empathy and encouragement. Well done Millen, keep up the good work!



Well done to this term's highest 'Thomas Estley Way' achievers, gaining lots of positive choice points for a range of fantastic achievements in and out of lessons. We are very proud of you all. A special congratulations goes to our highest positive choice points students for the whole term (above)! Well done.



This term we held our 'Year 8 Future Pathways Evening'. All 16-year-olds must undertake further education until they are 18. This doesn't mean they have to stay on at sixth form or college, they can get a job with a training element to it, but they cannot work full-time without some training. Options include: A-Levels, apprenticeships, BTECS and T-Levels.



BTEC	A-Levels	Apprenticeships	T-Level
<p><b>Level 3</b> Entry requirements: 5 GCSEs at 4 and above</p>	<p><b>Level 3</b> Entry requirements: 5-7 GCSEs at 5 and above</p>	<p><b>Level 3</b> = Advanced Apprenticeship Entry requirements: English &amp; Maths GCSEs at 4 or above</p>	<p><b>Level 3</b> Entry requirements: 5- GCSEs at 4 and above</p>
<p><b>Level 2</b> Entry requirements: 4 GCSEs at 3 and above</p>	<p>If you are choosing a subject you have studied before, some providers will ask for a 6 or above</p>	<p><b>Level 2</b> = Intermediate Apprenticeship Entry requirements: no formal requirements</p>	<p>Some colleges offer a T-Level transition course if you achieve 3/4 GCSEs at grade 3</p>
<p><b>Level 1</b> Entry requirements: 2 GCSEs at 1 and above</p>	<p>Academic Limited coursework - depending on subject Exams at the end of year 12 &amp; 13</p>	<p>Earn while you learn Practical Learn industry specific skills and knowledge Attend college on day or block release Minimum wage £6.40</p>	<p>Classroom learning Practical lessons 45 days industry placement in your 2nd year</p>
<p>Practical Skills Based Coursework Work Experience Limited Exams</p>	<p>Can lead to: Work University Apprenticeship</p>	<p>Can lead to: Degree &amp; higher level apprenticeships Full time employment</p>	<p>Can lead to: Work University Apprenticeship</p>

To some students it may seem early to be thinking about post-16 options, but thinking about this now can:

- Help students pick their subject options.
- Links education to careers (end goal).
- Motivates students towards achieving better grades.
- Plan any extra curricular activities or work experience that they can be doing in their spare time to help experience and try out new things!
- Gives you the chance as a parent to support them with their future decisions.

If you have any questions about your post-16 journey at Thomas Estley, please contact Mrs Bryan (Careers Lead) on [careers@thomasestley.org.uk](mailto:careers@thomasestley.org.uk) and Fay Wilson (Careers Advisor) on [fay.wilson@leics-ebc.org.uk](mailto:fay.wilson@leics-ebc.org.uk).



# Attendance



Maintaining regular school attendance is crucial for academic success and personal growth. Consistent participation in classes helps students stay on track with their learning, build strong relationships with peers and teachers, and develop important life skills like responsibility and time management. To support students in achieving better attendance, here are some top tips to help make attending school easier and more effective:

- Talk to your child about the importance of school for their future
- Take a positive interest in your child's work, including helping them with homework
- Help your child to get into a good night time, sleep time and morning routine
- Have a good relationship with school, talk to them about concerns you have and your child's progress
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is not able to attend
- Be honest with school if your child is absent or not wanting to attend
- Book all holidays in the school holidays and not in term time
- Book medical appointments after school or during the school holidays. If you can't, then make sure your child attends before and after their appointment
- Prioritise school attendance over other activities and ask for help if you need it

TECC NEWSLETTER

# Wellbeing Training

Thomas Estley hosted training for staff from 33 local schools, focussed on promoting staff wellbeing. We welcomed guest speakers and NHS representatives to the college.

A further two Thomas Estley staff were trained on the day, bringing the total to five fully trained staff wellbeing ambassadors within the college. A special well done to Mrs Hartley, who received a special award for five years' contribution to promoting staff wellbeing training across the local area.

Thank you to Learning South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership for providing such useful and impactful training to help us support our college community.





# Trips

Some of our Thomas Estley students were fortunate to visit De Montfort University. They had an insight in to university life and the study of English at undergraduate level.

Students started the day with a seminar discussing 'what makes a good story', followed by a range of activities around gothic fiction.

The day was centred around boosting university interest and prospects through the study of English literature. The students thoroughly enjoyed their experience.



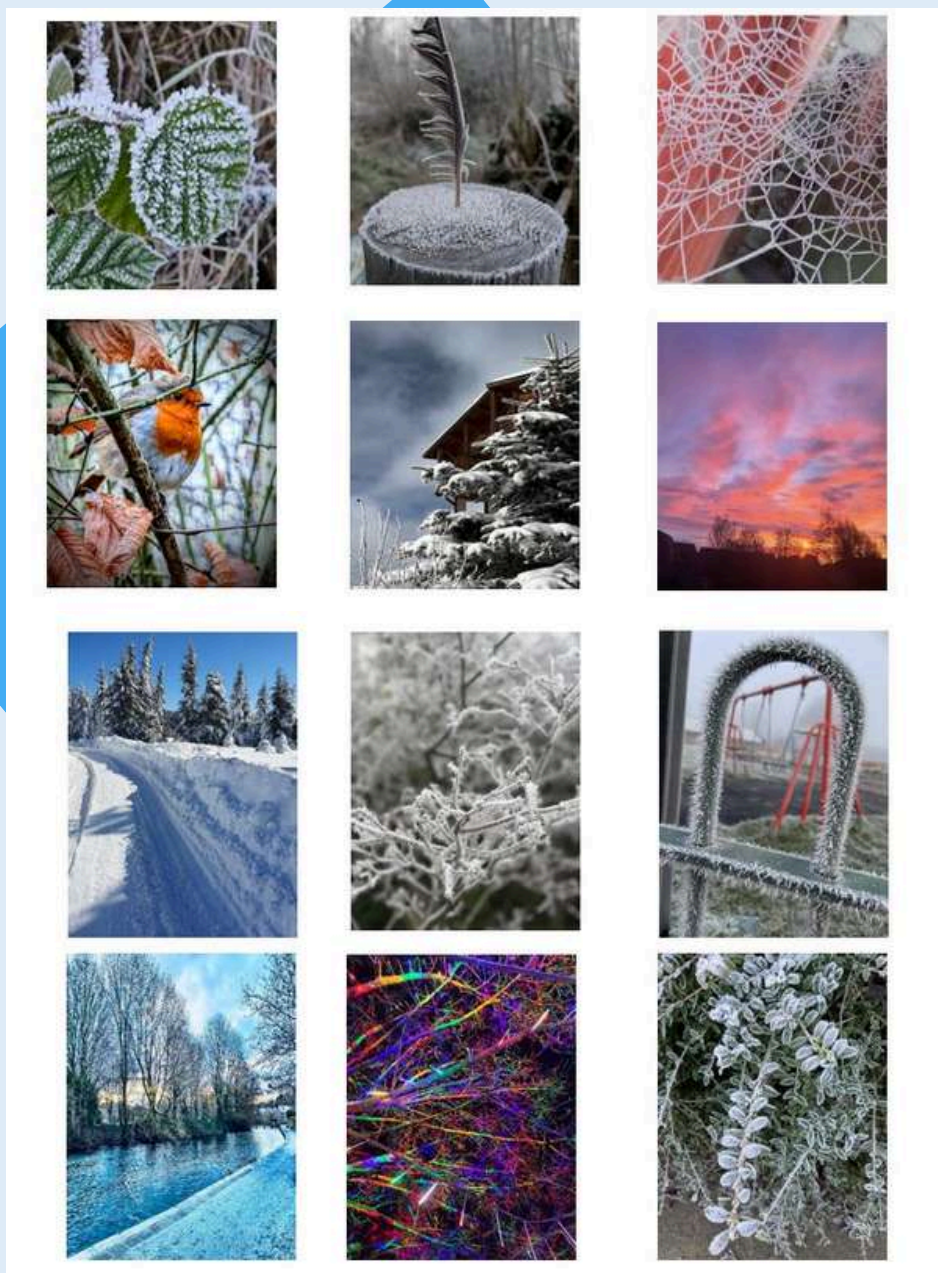
Eight of our Thomas Estley sports leaders in year 8 and 9 attended a GALS Day ambassadors conference at Huncote Leisure Centre.

The purpose of the day was for our leaders to develop an action plan around improving the confidence and self esteem of some of our less active girls. The girls have come up with some great ideas that we hope to implement soon. They were also lucky enough to get involved in a boxing session, and received an inspirational talk from Olympic Gymnast Becky Downie!

As always, they were great ambassadors for the college.



# SAT Photo Competition



Here are our winning Success Academy Trust winter photography competition photos! A big shout out to our Thomas Estley winners:

1st: Isabella Babic (year 7) - Neon Trees

2nd: Lilly Marsden (year 8) - Frosty River

3rd: Ella Briers (year 9) - Frosty Plant (last photo)

Well done to all the children who took part across our Trust schools.



# Tanzania 2026 Trip

This half term we have launched an exciting opportunity for our year 9, 10 and 11 students in conjunction with Camps International. Students are being given the opportunity to participate in a four week trip in the summer of 2026 to Tanzania.

They will be exploring the hidden gems beyond the normal tourist trail and contribute to vital project work on this immersive expedition. They will participate in local community and environmental projects, work with locals, immerse them self in local traditions, go on a safari as well as a trek up mount Meru.

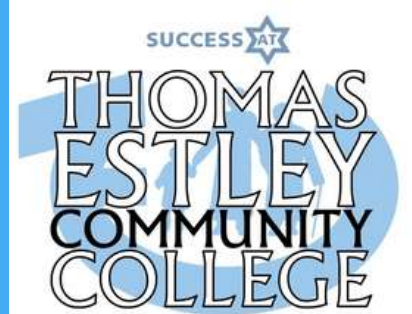


This is a fully supported expedition through Camps International and will provide our students with a unique opportunity to live alongside rural communities and broaden their perspective on the world. It will give them the opportunity to reach and exceed their personal potential, develop valuable life skills and gain extra curricular experience highly regarded by universities and employers.

Any students who are still interested and would like more information please see Mrs Young.



# Tanzania 2026 Trip



"Mema wo akye, my name is Miss Young, and I am the new ELSA at Thomas Estley Community College. Having heard about the Tanzania volunteering expedition opportunity for current year 9, 10 and 11 students, in summer 2026, I wanted to share my own volunteering story. I volunteered in Busua, Ghana, and I can tell you that serving in Africa transforms young people's lives.

In September 2023, I got out of the jeep at The Future Leaders Academy to find my class of 50 students eagerly waiting. Without even paper, I began my classes with only the materials I brought in my rucksack. However, I left with the joy I found among the smiles of children who had nothing, yet delighted in everything. With Play-Doh planets to puppets to creative writing, I had the privilege of telling children that their voice is valuable and that their story matters. I went from classrooms to wards as I also volunteered as a midwife. Assisting with three C-sections (one in a blackout) and a vaginal delivery, I cut the cord and delivered the placenta!

No tour guide could sum up the wonder of being in Africa! Therefore, I encourage you to support your child, if interested, to take up the Tanzanian volunteering opportunity. They will have the adventure of a lifetime and learn first-hand that kindness truly is the most precious gift. After all, when I asked the nurse how I could help, she replied, "you have hands", and I guess in the end, that's all you really need."



# Highlights This Term...



Our Thomas Estley leadership projects are now well underway for the year. Pictured here are a few of our preschool reader student leaders. These students are responsible for organising themselves on prearranged dates to visit preschool at breaktime, choosing age appropriate books and reading with the youngsters. They do an amazing job!

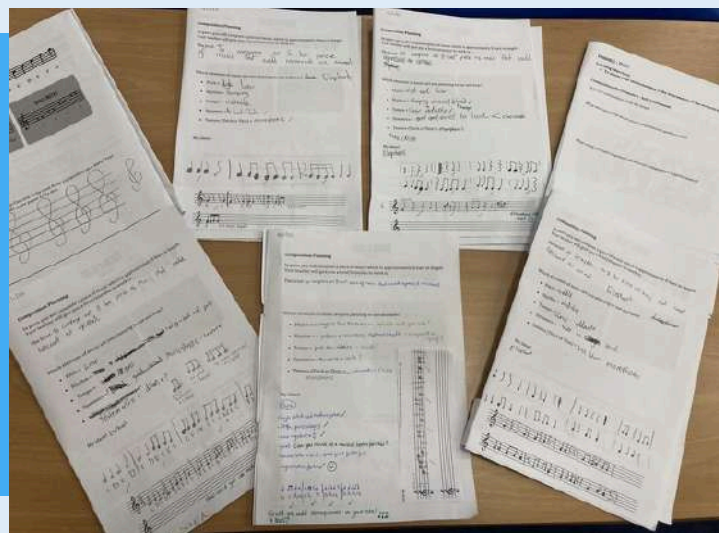
In preschool's Ofsted 2022 report they mentioned: 'Staff provide opportunities for the pre-school children to mix with older children. They huddle together in the cosy area and share their chosen book. This enhances children's social skills. Children are gaining a love of books.'

We are very proud of our young preschool readers!

Since joining Thomas Estley, year 7 students have been studying musical elements, rhythms and notation as well as instruments of the orchestra. They used all of this knowledge to begin composing a short musical phrase, meeting a set brief.

We are very impressed with how they have persevered in writing their musical ideas on to a musical stave!

Here are some examples (left).



Thomas Estley students learnt about the Chinese New Year festival and our wonderful catering staff joined in with some themed delights. We hope our Thomas Estley community had a prosperous and joyful Chinese New Year – Gong Xi Fa Cai!



# Highlights This Term...

At Thomas Estley, we host a Sea Cadets branch on site and we are very proud of Bailey and Patrick, who have recently received awards.

The Commodore's Broad Pennant award is the highest achievement badge a Junior Sea Cadet has the opportunity to obtain. In order for a Junior Sea Cadet to be awarded with the Commodore's Broad Pennant Badge, they must first have been awarded with all four coloured sections. They must then complete an extra eight modules from each of the coloured sections. The pennant can be worn on the senior uniform for up to two years.

LJC Patrick & LJC Bailey have worked extremely hard to gain this and they are both now looking forward to going into the Senior Section in the few months. When asked what they were looking forward to being a Cadet.... LJC Patrick is looking forward to going on the offshore courses and working his way up to cadet instructor in paddleboarding or sailing. LJC Bailey is looking forward to wearing the uniform, doing more with expedition training and getting more boating qualifications.

A massive thank you to PO (SCC) Cole (Junior Training Instructor) for the hard work she puts in to sorting the training programme and working on their modules.

If anyone is interested in joining Broughton Astley Sea Cadets which offers great opportunities for leadership and character development, contact us and we will pass your interest on.



Our reception team celebrated this Valentine's Day with their fabulous outfits (as always)! Dressed in pinks, reds and hearts.

We also had delicious pink cupcakes and chocolate heart shortbread for sale in the canteen to celebrate the day!





We are so proud to be recognised by England Football officially as an 'equal access school'. We are one of a minority of schools chosen to receive this prestigious award, recognising our commitment to ensure that girls have equal access to football lessons, teams, competitions and opportunities. This recognition is a testament both to our commitment to gender equality and to the quality and reach of our football offer.



We are very proud of our girls under 13 football team, who this year received the Harborough Team of the Year award for their achievements. These have included the under 13 County Cup, the under 14 County Cup and gaining a place in the last 16 teams in England in the National Cup. Huge congratulations to you all for your consistent courage, perseverance and resilience!



Our Thomas Estley under 14 girls football team made the journey across the country to Spalding High School, Lincolnshire for their round of 32 National Cup match.

We were slow to get going and Spalding capitalised on this, scoring after two minutes. They doubled their lead 10 minutes later and looked comfortable. We were struggling to maintain possession. A lucky break just before half time got us back in the game after some hard work from Lily saw Freya C put the ball past the Spalding keeper to make it 2-1.

We restructured at half time making a few tweaks to the formation and came out a different team. This saw us dominating possession more and Lily soon equalised. Game on!



Our Tommo girls stepped things up and more attacks were being made without us losing our shape. Freya C put us ahead and soon after Belle got us our fourth. Spalding got a consolation goal in injury time but it was too late by then. A great second half for us and a place in the last 16 in England. Well done girls, we are so proud of you. Player of the match went to Talyia.



Our year 7 girls travelled to Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire for their rearranged National Cup round of 32 match, and what a performance they put in!

We knew our opposition had talent as they had scored 25 goals in their 3 previous matches so we had to be switched on from the off. We didn't disappoint. Willow put us ahead. Some great work across all elements of the team led to some great link up play with Fern for us to get the opener.

Lydia worked her socks off in goal to keep us in it and our defenders were doing a sterling job. Cleeve took a chance and scored only to see it ruled out for offside which was a relief but not long after they did take their chance, leveling right on half time.

Our girls gave everything in the second half, not one player put a foot wrong. Verity gave us the edge to make it 2-1 and we defended with everything we had. Some nervy moments but yet again Lydia was there to clean up. When Willow got her second and our third with 6 minutes to go it looked like we had done it, but all credit to Cleeve, they fought to the end, getting a consolation goal in injury time.

Our girls held their nerve though and thoroughly deserve their place in the last 16 in England. What a team! A great performance across the pitch where everyone played their part. Well done girls. You are superstars.

Player of the match to Lydia in goal. Amazing from start to finish.



Unfortunately our under 13 Girls run in the National Cup came to an end. The girls travelled to Keyworth FC, Nottingham to play Southwolds High School.

We went 1-0 down early on, but equalised from the kick off to make it 1-1 with a great shot from Willow. Team work was excellent and we were able to take the lead 10 minutes later from Verity.

Southwolds came out fighting in the second half, and despite our hard work they were able to get an equaliser. We lost our shape and then a high ball over the top wasn't dealt with quickly enough and we conceded a penalty trying to clear it. We were then fighting to get back into the game. A miscommunication at the back saw us concede again and the game looked out of reach. Despite that, though the girls fought until the end.



Well done, girls, you should be really proud of yourselves. You had a great run in the competition! Player of the match went to Grace.



# Sport



Our Thomas Estley year 9 boys (left) played their Blaby & Harborough District semi final at home to Lutterworth College.

An early lead with a well taken goal from Josh settled our boys. Player of the match Arthur doubled the lead and Archy made it three to take us into half time in the driving seat.

Lutterworth came out fighting though and gave themselves a lifeline scoring early into the second half. The game was end to end, we had a goal disallowed for offside before Lutterworth managed to get a second. This meant a nervous last 10 minutes, but our boys held on to take them through to the district final for the third year in a row. Well done!

Huge thank you to our volunteer coach Alfie for all his support and encouragement!

Thomas Estley year 8 girls football team played in the final 16 of the National Cup at Thomas Telford College on Thursday 16th January.



All girls contributed significantly to the game with this being their first game played together as a team and year 7s stepping up to play the year above.

It was unfortunate to go 3-0 down in the first half but the girls pulled together as a team showing the true Thomas Estley spirit and were truly a pleasure to watch.

The final result was Thomas Telford 4-0 Thomas Estley. Well done to our team for displaying all our Thomas Estley Way character choices so amazingly!



Thomas Estley KS3 cricket has been running since November, in preparation for the indoor cricket season. The boys have been regular attenders, developing their bowling and batting mastery.

They finished runners up to Leicester Grammar School in the annual indoor tournament and had comfortable wins vs Lutterworth College and Robert Smyth secured a 2nd place finish and showcased the cricket talent in year 7 and 8.

Great team performance and some superb individual performances from Sam, Jacob and Indy. Well done boys! We are so proud of you all.



# Sport



What a performance from our Thomas Estley year 7 girls football team in the National Cup round of 16 match v Northampton School.

3-0 up at half time after two goals from Willow and an OG. The girls built on their lead in the second half with another seven goals. Three more for Willow, two for player of the match Kelsea and one for Grace before the referee stopped the match after employing the mercy rule.

The girls were stunning in all areas, a great team performance, communication was high, team work exceptional, defence strong, creative, and they took their chances. We are so proud of every single one of them and they thoroughly deserve their place in the National Cup quarter finals.



Our Thomas Estley under 14 girls football team started their Blaby & Harborough league football campaign away at Lutterworth High School.

We struggled to get the ball moving in the first half as we had the wind to contend with too. Lily put us in the lead, but Lutterworth got back into it to take us into half time 1-1.

In the second half we had the wind behind us and attacked at pace, lots of chances but couldn't find that final touch.

With 10 minutes to go some great work from Ria down the wing put a lovely ball across the 6 yard box so that Freya C could tap it in at the back post. Freya scored again soon after with a similar shot giving us a 3-1 win.

Player of the match was Taliya, strong in defence but also great use of her long throw to give us many attacking options.







All three of our girls football teams were in Blaby & Harborough League action on the same night and every one of the girls put on a fantastic display.

We dominated on all three pitches: year 7 winning 12-0, year 8/9 winning 14-1 and year 10/11 winning 11-1. A total of 17 different players on the score sheet across the three pitches and some fantastic team work in all areas.

Players of the match went to Verity in year 7, Izzy D in year 9 & Darcy in year 11. So proud of all of you. Well done girls.

Huge thanks to Miss Orton & Miss Thorington for supporting Miss Kav.

Another Thomas Estley team made their way through to the national quarter finals! Our U14 girls (right) met Bicester School in round 16 – a repeat of the same fixture last year. The first 15 minutes were very end to end, both teams having chances but not finding the final touch. On 20 minutes, Ria made an amazing run down the left wing, cut into the box and was tripped by a Bicester player. Ria comfortably converted the penalty and we headed into half time 1-0 ahead.

Second half Bicester attacked from the off. We worked brilliantly as a unit and thwarted their attempts, Izzy P in particular winning tackles all over the pitch showing how a captain should lead by example. Ria made another stunning run, laid the ball off to Belle who struck it beautifully into the top corner to make it 2-0. A corner taken well by Lily saw Bicester scramble the ball into their own net for an own goal to make it three, before another amazing run from Ria saw Freya B make it 4 from Ria's perfect pass across the six yard box.

What an amazing performance by our girls making it through the quarter finals. The first time in Thomas Estley's history that we have two teams reach this stage! Joint players of the match went to Ria and Izzy P. Both girls did not put a foot wrong. Well done girls. You're amazing and we are so proud of you all.





# Sport

Our Thomas Estley year 7 and year 8/9 girls footballers made the trip out to Market Harborough for their final Blaby & Harborough league matches against Robert Smyth.

Our year 7's were comfortable 6-0 winners a hat-trick for Verity and goals for Willow and Fern. Robert Smyth chose Willow as player of the match & Miss Kav chose Ruby.

Across the field our year 8/9 team won 2-0 a goal each for both Freya's. Miss Orton chose Belle as player of the match.

Both teams were fantastic and are now through to the district finals after half term. Well done, girls. Everyone of you gave everything. We're very proud of you all!



Our year 11 netball girls stepped out for the last time in Tommo kit at the South Leicestershire Netball tournament at Leicester Grammar School. Some final GCSE practical grades were secured whilst the girls completed in The Plate competition.

The girls won all of their matches against Leicester Grammar B & C Teams, Wigston Academy and Hastings High School to be crowned plate champions. What an amazing way for them to finish their netball with us.

These girls have been an amazing group, they play brilliantly together and are a genuine pleasure to spend time with. We wish them every success in their sporting futures and hope they will continue to stay active.

A huge thank you to our netball volunteer Michelle, who gave freely of her time once again. We appreciate all that you do to make these opportunities possible for our students.



# Sport

Our amazing Thomas Estley year 7 girls football team run in the National Cup unfortunately came to an end against Thomas Telford. A 3-0 loss did not reflect the hard work and fight that our girls put in.

We are so proud of each and every one of them. It is ten years since a Tommo girls team has reached the quarter final stage of the National Cup, and they should be so proud of what they have achieved in their first year together as a team – a fantastic group who work for each other.

Player of the match chosen by our opponents went to Willow. Focus now turns to the district final after half term so that we can qualify for the county competition. Heads up girls. We'll go again next year.



For the third year in a row, our Thomas Estley year 9 boys football team have reached the Blaby & Harborough district final.

They played Brockington in a close match with feelings running high. All credit goes to our boys who held their composure throughout and got stuck into the match the right way. They should be proud of the shift they put in.

A 2-0 loss is disappointing but they gave their all and we cannot ask for more than that. Well done everyone – a great team effort with player of the match going to Ellis.

Lastly, Huge thanks to our volunteer coach Alfie for all he has done with the team this year. We really appreciate him giving freely of his time.

# Primary Masterclasses



We welcomed pupils from our feeder schools to Thomas Estley for a resistant materials masterclass. The pupils got to experience a lesson in our workshop and made a phone holder.

They started off by thinking about the design of the phone holder. They also had to sand down the support leg so it was the correct width to slot in, using sand paper and files so that it would fit into the main stand. They then took it in turns to use the stripe heater to heat up the plastic so they could bend it into shape. Once they had done this, they then made sure the support leg could slot in with ease; if it couldn't then more sanding and filling was needed until they had a perfect fit!

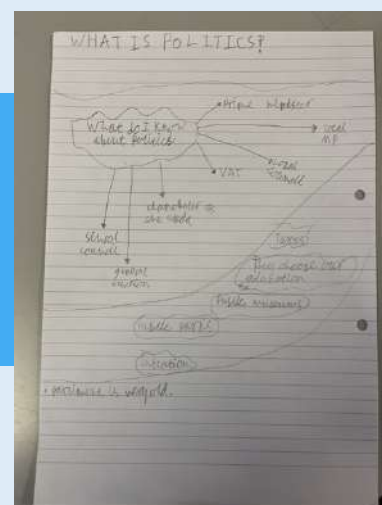
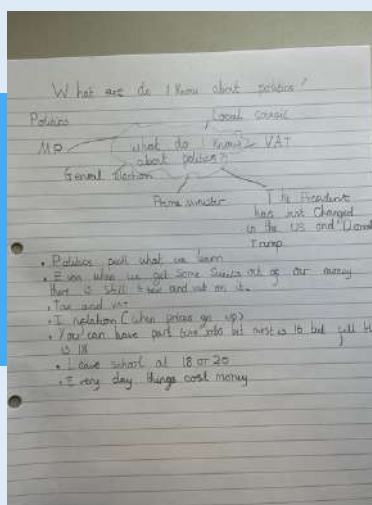
We welcomed pupils from our feeder schools to Thomas Estley for a social studies masterclass.

They started off writing down what they knew about politics – the pupils' understanding was impressive. Next they looked at how voting works within the UK and its history. Lastly, they discussed how laws affect them.

All the pupils have a school council at their schools, so they understood the importance of voting and that if you don't vote you can't help change to happen. The ideas they had were inspiring and they grasped the concepts really well.

A big thank you goes to our primary transition student leaders for their help in supporting this masterclass.

A big thank you goes to our Thomas Estley primary transition leaders for all their help in facilitating this masterclass.



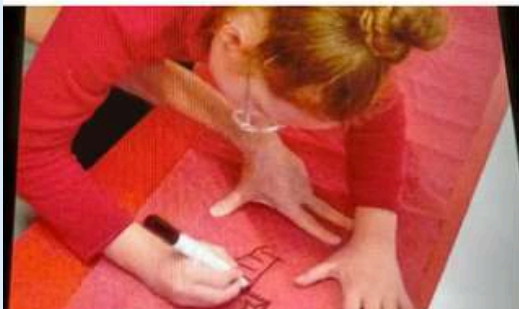
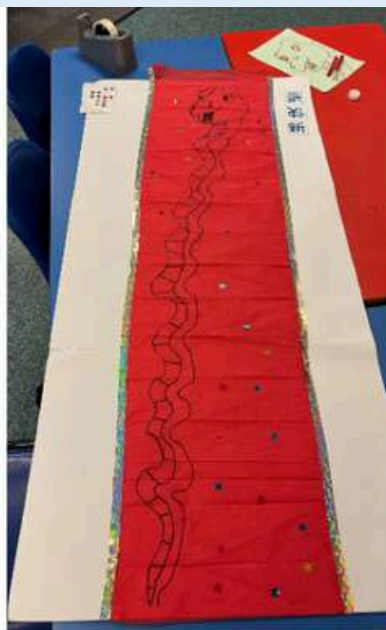


# Out of School Club

The Thomas Estley out of school club celebrated Chinese New Year in a fun and creative way. The children worked together to make a large, colourful lantern as a group project. The lantern was decorated with a striking design, featuring a big, beautifully crafted snake, symbolising the Chinese zodiac.

Once all the decorations were completed, the children proudly hung the lantern up for display, allowing everyone to admire their hard work and creativity.

To finish off the celebration, the children enjoyed a delicious feast of Chinese noodles and spring rolls for tea. The meal was a big hit, and everyone gathered together to share the tasty food, marking the end of a memorable and fun-filled celebration of Chinese New Year!



# Outside Tommo



We are very proud of the talents of a member of our Thomas Estley team, Miss Marriott – she has been performing 'Miss Muffet' in the pantomime 'Old Woman in the Shoe'. Some of our staff went to watch and agreed that she was 'amazing'!

A great role model for our Thomas Estley Way character values; we are very proud of you, Miss Marriott.



Edie's karate journey continues! She has now been selected to represent England once again in kata, but this time at the Wadokai International Cup which will be held in Tokyo, Japan, at the iconic Nippon Budokan Stadium.

Edie will also compete at the Japanese National Wadokai Championships prior to the International Cup in both kata and kumite classes representing her country.

Like Edie's parents, we couldn't be prouder of what Edie has achieved in four years since starting karate. She is now starting a fairly intense program of training and competing leading up to the main event in August.



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

[PAtoThePrincipal@thomasesley.org.uk](mailto:PAtoThePrincipal@thomasesley.org.uk).



# Don't Forget!

SUCCESS 

THOMAS  
ESTLEY  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

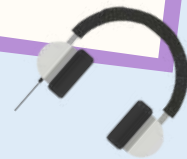
*In the event of the weather causing the school to close or causing a problem with school transport, we will put out an alert via ParentMail.*

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!

## *Headphones, Earbuds & AirPods*

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



## *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 Mon 24th Feb & the Easter break begins on Mon 14th April*

## 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.

## School Transport

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



# Childcare for 3-11 year olds



## THOMAS ESTLEY OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

- ✓ Open from 7:30am and until 6:00pm
- ✓ Drop offs and pick ups – Thomas Estley pre-school & Old Mill Primary School
- ✓ Competitive pricing with sibling discounts –tax-free/ universal credit options apply
- ✓ Wide range of free choice activities including outdoor play, craft, cooking, sport, reading and board games
- ✓ Breakfast, after school snack and light tea included



**Book Now!**

Contact Us

01455 283 263 Ext 206

[squittenton@thomasestley.org.uk](mailto:squittenton@thomasestley.org.uk)



Based at Thomas Estley  
Station Rd, LE9 6PT



# 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 TELA

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?

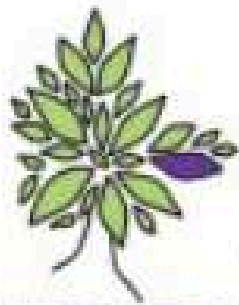
How do I apply?

Are there any age limits?



Visit our website [telaonline.co.uk](http://telaonline.co.uk)

**Contact: Jo Robotham**  
**Tel: 01455 283263 ext 286**  
**Email: [tela@thomasestley.org.uk](mailto:tela@thomasestley.org.uk)**



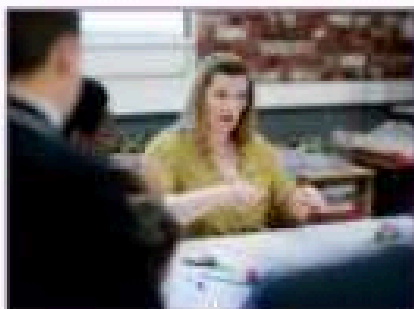
# Achieve

With TELA Primary & Secondary Teacher Training

**Primary & Secondary school-based  
teacher training across Leicestershire  
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UNIVERSITY OF  
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