

# Welcome to our Thomas Estley Community College Newsletter December 2021



It has been a half term full of the rebirth of opportunities for our students to compete and perform within the arenas of literature, sport and performing arts, together with the reintroduction of visits to and visits from performers, universities, post-16 providers and employers. We have welcomed our senior citizens' luncheon club back onsite, watched our preschool and out of school club children enjoy their new outdoor area, and enjoyed the reintroduction of practical outcomes within Art, Design and Technology, Music, Drama Dance and PE. We have focussed our efforts on important issues such as the ongoing fight against hate crime and racism, taken time to remember the fallen, hosted primary children on site once again and reintroduced our college leadership groups.

Our students are leading areas of the college once again, from fundraising to gardening, from reading to volunteering, from Wellbeing Ambassadors to Art Creators. They have demonstrated their leadership and character in so many ways and have enjoyed the more 'normal' Thomas Estley opportunities. We are so very proud of all that they have achieved already this academic year.

We are equally proud of the way in which so many of our young people have coped with challenges, whether related to the pandemic and its associated absence, illness and anxiety, caused by bereavement or poor mental health, dealing with uncertainties once again around Year Eleven assessment and progression, or working their way as usual through growth into young adults. Our young people deserve the very best and we are working very hard to provide it for them, whatever the next day or week may bring.

Our current plans involve a staggered return to site as swiftly as possible in January—you will have received details in recent emails—however as usual we are prepared to react with speed, care, compassion and determination to any changes and challenges which the new year may bring. Whatever may happen, you have your guarantee that we will do our utmost, calmly and sensibly, to protect the education, health, wellbeing and happiness of the children entrusted into our care.

Best wishes for a peaceful, enjoyable and healthy Christmas.

***Mandi Collins, Principal***

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Dates for the diary	
17th December	Christmas Assemblies
20th–3rd January '22	College closed to students for Christmas break
4th-6th January 2022	Staggered start to Spring term (see notes)
7th January	Y11 Mock results day
10th January	H&SC exam
12th January	IT exam
12th & 13th January	Y11 Parents' Evening remote
17th January	Y9 Options Evening
24th January	Ys 10 & 11 H&SC Practical First Aid exam
26th January	Parents' Forum remote
28th January	Y9 Deadline for GCSE Options forms
9th & 10th February	Y10 Parents' Evening remote
10th February	Y10 Intermediate Maths Challenge
11th February	College closes for half-term break

**Do you know of any student successes that we could share and celebrate?**

Please email your information, ideally with photographs, to:

**[PAtothepincipal@thomasestley.org.uk](mailto:PAtothepincipal@thomasestley.org.uk)**

# Congratulations are in order!



Just before half-term we were absolutely delighted to award Thomas Estley Way Certificates of Recognition to 16 students who have consistently displayed our Thomas Estley Character traits day in, day out, in lessons last half term. We are exceptionally proud of them all. They received invitations to meet Mrs Collins for a congratulations speech and cakes at lunchtime.



What a pleasure to report that our students pictured below, won top five prizes in the **National Hate Crime Awareness Week essay/poem** 'Say No to Hate Crime' competition, run by Leicestershire Police.



Well done to Bethany, Eve, Indy, Jacob and James, we are very proud of you. Great work!

## The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition



Congratulations to Poppy White Y8 who received a gold award for taking part in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition.

From more than 25000 entries only 300 awards were given: 100 each for Gold, Silver & Bronze.

What an achievement, Poppy, we are very proud of you!



## Staff update—farewell and welcome

### Teaching staff update:

We say goodbye to Mr Robinson, Mr Grocock, Mr Norris and Mrs Bodycote, as they leave for the next step on their personal career journeys.

We welcome from January Miss Burton (Science) and Mr Tolley (PE and Maths), as well as Mr Lockhart (Maths) who joined us recently.

### Pastoral staff update:

We say goodbye to Miss Ward, Positive Behaviour Mentor and Head of Year Nine, as well as Mr Robinson.

We welcome from January both Ms Mozley (Ley Stage Four Pastoral Lead) and Ms Outridge (Key Stage Three Pastoral team).

### Support staff update:

We say goodbye to Mrs Bates (Principal's PA), Mr Harris (IT technician), Mrs Knott (Examinations Officer), Mr Hollis (Science technician) and Pin (cleaner).

Mrs Johnston moves into the post of Trust Attendance Officer.

We welcome from January Mrs Hayto (Principal's PA), Mr Challinor (IT technician), Mr Dean (Examinations and Data Officer), Miss Butteris (Examinations and Data Assistant), and Tunida (Cleaner).

We wish the very best to all of our staff leavers as they go on to pastures new, and a very warm welcome to our new staff as they join us within the Thomas Estley family.

## Anti-Racism Visit by Captain Wes



We were delighted to welcome Wes Morgan to Thomas Estley in October, to launch a **'no room for racism'** project in Black History month with a group of our students.

As well as having an inspirational career on the pitch, Wes has worked hard off it to challenge racism and discrimination.

"The kids had some challenging but very important questions to do with racism, equality and diversity so it was good for me to give them an insight into what I am involved in and my experiences."

The Thomas Estley students who questioned Morgan were part of the Premier League Inspires programme, which is run in partnership with the Professional Footballers' Association and supports 11-25 year olds who are at risk of not reaching their potential - helping them as they move through the education system and early adulthood.

"The importance is around ensuring the conversations happen so they get comfortable with the conversations," said John Olaley, LCitC education engagement manager.

# The Thomas Estley Community Remembers the Fallen



The Textiles club worked tirelessly to make as many of these Poppies ahead of Remembrance Sunday as possible. These are just a few which were sold to staff - all proceeds going to The Royal British Legion. Students and staff could also buy the usual disposable poppies at reception if they choose to do so. We encouraged our community to support the Royal British Legion during Remembrance week.



Remembrance in the Library : This year, we have created a 'Field' of Remembrance. Students and staff have been able to add names to the crosses, which creates a very personal display. We have also displayed all the fiction and non-fiction books, biographies and auto-biographies relating to war and conflict around the world and through time.



Year Nine History students are pictured visiting Broughton Astley War Memorial this November. This provided them with an opportunity to reflect and show our respect for those who have fallen in battle, not only over the last

two world wars, but also in modern day conflict.

This also links through to our current History topic on understanding World War One.



There is always great interest in these books, but they are especially popular around Remembrance Day.



# The Thomas Estley Community Remembers the Fallen



Some of our students and staff represented the college at the Broughton Astley Memorial remembrance event on 11/11 at 11:00am.



Those present remembered those who had given their life for their country, and read some memorial poems, together with our local community.

Our other students and staff observed the silence on site, within their classes, as we remembered those who gave their lives for others, and reflected on the importance of peace and unity.



# English Round-up

What a fantastic trip! Fifty of our Year Nine students watched the matinee performance of Blood Brothers at Birmingham Hippodrome and they thoroughly enjoyed it.



Ms Little, Miss Corbett, Mrs Johnson and Mr Munton were very proud of our young people.

One student said, "This was possibly the best theatre show I've ever seen", and others shed a tear at the dramatic ending.

It is fantastic to have some extracurricular opportunities available once again to our students, to enhance the curriculum offer and to bring learning to life

And another very successful trip with around fifty students going to see the matinee performance of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe".

Our students were well behaved and our teachers were very proud of them, and felt it was a very special experience which will enhance their understanding of the text.



In October our local police asked us to get involved with a competition to raise awareness surrounding "**Hate Crime**". Our English department love a good competition, and this is a really important issue around which to raise awareness, they worked on this across the year groups.

The final five entries selected internally are pictured left.

These now will compete with all the other competition entries from the local area.

Well done and good luck to:

Jacob, Bethany, James, Indy and Eve

# Can you cook it?

Here are some of the yummy entries from our **October** 'can you cook it' challenge. A great use of seasonal vegetables; well done, everyone. We hope that you enjoyed your creative food



**Kitty Horeckvj** and mum Cheryl made this **Pumpkin spiced cake**, using the Halloween pumpkin cake recipe from BBC Good Food.



**Kitty Johnston** and mum Natalie made this **Butternut squash and chorizo risotto**.



**Theo O'Neill** made this **Butternut squash soup with chilli and crème fraiche**.



Can you **cook** it?



Our After School Club prepared a selection of vegetables, including butternut squash, then made and ate a **warming soup** – even those who don't usually like vegetables!



During October our **Out of School Club** children prepared some 'Winter Warming' vegetable soup and then enjoyed eating it ..... even those who don't like vegetables!

Doesn't it look delicious?



**Preschool** have also been enjoying the October 'Can you Cook it' Challenge. Children chopped vegetables, using child safe vegetable knives to make their own soup. They used pumpkin, carrot, potato, sweet potato, parsnip and onion. They learned that onion can sometimes make our eyes sting and make them water. Just before having lunch they all tasted their creation - with mixed verdicts.. It's safe to say they enjoyed the chopping and preparing of the soup rather more than the eating of it!



Some delicious entries to our Thomas Estley **November** Can you Cook it? challenge, focussed on pear and chocolate. Well done all cooks, from preschool to adult!



**Ava Davis** made this **Pear and Caramel crumble**



**Kitty Horeckvj** made this **Toffee Apple and Pear crumble** – and served it with custard



**Kitty Johnston** made this **Pear and chocolate brownie** – and served it with vanilla ice cream

**Mrs Keight** cooked **tray-baked pork chops with herby potatoes, parsnips and pears** for Sunday dinner **BUT FORGOT TO TAKE A PHOTO – doh!**

Can you **cook** it?



**Preschool** made **pear and chocolate hedgehogs!** The children spread melted chocolate over half a pear, then stuck broken matchmakers in to create hedgehog spikes, adding a raisin for a nose. They are learning all about autumn and hibernation at the moment, so this challenge tied in really well.



# Creative in the kitchen



**Year Ten Hospitality and Catering** students made some delicious vegetable stir fry in October, perfecting their 'julienne' technique along the way.



**Meanwhile Year 8 Food students** have embraced our new plant-based recipe Chana Palak Masala (chickpea and spinach curry) and were impressed with the results. Some of their comments were:

"I didn't think I would like it, but I do", "it's actually so good", "I didn't like chickpeas before, but I like them in this curry", "I didn't think vegan food would be so tasty". Mrs Poolley and Mrs Keight are really pleased with how the students have taken to it!

Vegan diets are increasingly popular for a variety of reasons. Many people are making this ethical choice because of concerns for animal welfare but also because of concerns for the environment and sustainability.



## Can you cook it?

College  
Community  
Challenge



Thank you to those who took part in November's challenge – certificates are on their way to you soon! REMEMBER these challenges are open to **all students, staff and parents** – it'd be great to see more of you getting involved!

**December's** ingredients are **Brussels sprouts** ONLY  
KIDDING! This month you can use anything you like to make your **Festive Family Favourites**.



Mince pies

Yule log

Stollen

Decorative iced biscuits

Gingerbread men/house

**Can you Cook it? December's** ingredients for our Thomas Estley Challenge are Brussels sprouts ..... ONLY KIDDING!

This month you can use anything you like to make your **Festive Family Favourites**.

Why not try cooking mince pies, yule log, stollen, decorative iced biscuits or gingerbread men or house? We can't wait to see what you create this month!

Mrs Keight always makes a batch of **rum truffles** – the recipe has been passed down from her Gran – they look a bit like this



What are your favourite family bakes at Christmas? We'd love you to share them – or try something completely new!

Whatever you decide to cook, **HAVE FUN** and don't forget to send a photo of your finished bake to [mkeight@thomasestley.org.uk](mailto:mkeight@thomasestley.org.uk)

# Year 8 get creative

Y8 have completed their mood lights in Resistant Material—the designs for which had to be inspired by a 20th Century design movement.

The students then had to draw their design out in CAD, which were then cut out on the laser cutter.

Finally, they had to cut out the casing using hand tools and complete a circuit. Here is a selection of some of their wonderful work



More mood lights—this time from Y8 Alessi group. The students worked incredibly hard to assemble over 20 components to complete their product.

They had to ensure each section of the mood-light casing was precisely made so it could be held together with machine screws and accommodate the circuit they had soldered.



Well done, everyone!

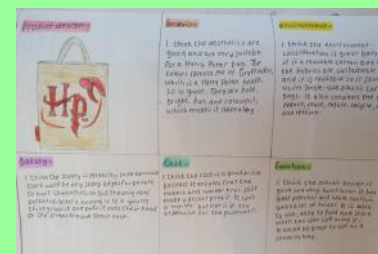
Y8 have excelled themselves with the latest **Harry Potter Textiles project.**



They have learnt a huge amount of practical skills (especially after the restrictions of last year), studied sustainability issues and performed superbly in their end of topic test.



All round some great progress has been made.



Well done Year 8!

# Careers - an insight

## Alumni Success!

"My name is Holly and I'm in the RAF training as an **Aircraft Mechanic**. When I graduate I will have a Level 3 BTEC in Aircraft Maintenance. I would say to anyone thinking about the armed forces to go for it; it's a great experience."



Holly delivered an informative and inspiring talk to current Thomas Estley students.

We took a small group of Y11 students to visit the **Lendlease**—the new and vastly improved **Glen Parva prison** building in Wigston. Ours student were chosen for the visit for reasons relating to construction rather than behaviour.

We met and were inspired by numerous staff representing the 'hidden' jobs - Social Value Leads; Building Modelling Analysts; Project Management; Drone Experts. Steve, the CEO chatted to our students and took them onto the large observatory platform to witness the enormity of the build. Our students listened, questioned and were curious enquirers.



Some Y8 students had the opportunity to work with three mentors from the world of **retail and design**, this term, and had a great time exploring different career pathways and aspirational opportunities. The students were engaged, asked excellent questions and thought the session was really informative.

Thank you very much to the fantastic mentors who visited.



# University visits

## University of Leicester



We were delighted to take a small number of Y10 students to the University of Leicester, 'School of Arts Taster Day'.

They had the opportunity to explore what University is like, whilst participating in an 'English, Languages and Media workshop' and hearing about University life from current University students and being taken on a tour of the campus.

When reflecting on the day students said:

"...they enjoyed going to Leicester University experiencing what it was like in lessons and how it was like in campus; they liked listening to all the lectures especially the media lecture; loved the campus tour and found it fascinating looking at all the different buildings; overall, the trip was a great experience and changed our minds positively about Universities."

## Coventry University

We were thrilled to take a group of Y10 Performance Skills and Y9 Theatre Specialist students to Coventry University for a private performance of, 'The Secret in the Wings'.

They were also treated to a visit to some backstage areas and some of the university facilities, in addition to having a talk with the cast and creative team. They took the opportunity to ask questions about the work they had seen and about what it is like to study theatre at University.

Students were creatively inspired by the experience and left with raised aspirations about university for their futures.



# Y11 Future Pathways

Year 11 Future Pathways module gave students the opportunity to explore pathways, develop self awareness, practise interview skills and write personal statements and CVs. Pictured are students receiving **certificates for an outstanding mock interview** with external volunteers.



Olivia said, "I think that the mock interviews were very helpful as they gave us an insight into what interviews for college may be like and so it helps to calm nerves and make us feel more comfortable knowing what an interview is like."



The majority of students now feel well-prepared for their post-16 decision making and applications, and support will continue next term. A huge well done to all Year 11, and staff, for fully embracing the module

# Y10 Health and Wellbeing Fayre

Our thanks to the fantastic local services that offered their support and attended our Year 10 Health and Wellbeing Fayre in October at Thomas Estley.



We were delighted to welcome:

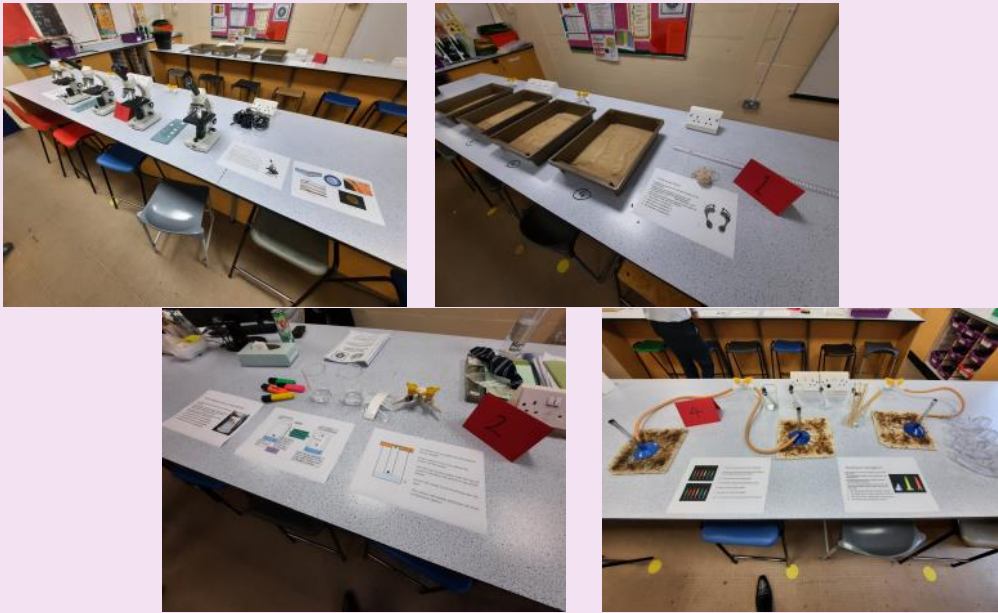
**Leicester City Inspire Mentors**  
**Trade Sexual Health**  
**Leicestershire School Nurse Service**  
**Harborough Council**  
**Leicester LGBT Centre**

We appreciate your inputs very much.



# Primary Science and Out of School Club

## Primary Science masterclass



We welcomed some budding scientists to our primary masterclass in October - and were really impressed with their scientific curiosity and enthusiasm.

Well done everyone!



## Out of school club



There was a very special visitor to the Thomas Estley Out of School Club Christmas party.

It looks like the children enjoyed playing their party games and



receiving a gift from out of Santa's sack.



Happy Christmas everyone.



# Can you grow a dinosaur?

**Preschool** had an exciting time, with lots of prehistoric fun, when they found packets of dinosaur seeds whilst they were sharing their book, "How to grow a Dinosaur".

They took the seeds and planted them in the garden, adding lots of water.



There was great excitement when they realised that they had grown dinosaur eggs.



Each day they checked the nest and found even more eggs, which they cracked open to find baby dinosaurs inside.



To add to the fun, they carried out an experiment and made their own volcano.



The children even have special lanyards to recognise their skills as palaeontologists- expert dinosaur hunters!

Finally, they matched fossils the correct dinosaur, and next they are going to make their own dinosaur fossils.





# That's Entertainment!

## What a treat for Y7!



The Performing Arts and CRE Departments came together to give a special surprise to Y7.

**Singer-Songwriter Lex Gibbon** visited the college and performed several songs for our students (including a sneak peek of her fantastic new single!).



She also spoke to them in an open and honest way about the bullying she endured, related to body image and social media.



Students were also lucky enough to be given autographs and Lex kindly posed for a few cheeky selfies with her new fans!

# Sporting Achievements

Well done to the Thomas Estley sports leaders who have refereed over the last week or two, gaining skills and supporting primary sports fixtures.



These include Alfie Hobbs, Jamie Gosling, Ellabelle Weston and Nell Dawkins, some of whom are pictured below. We are really pleased that we are able to start up our Thomas Estley Leadership projects and opportunities once again this term.

Our Year Ten Basketball Team started their league campaign away at Welland Park. A great team display from the boys, who fought well. Final score was 29-21 to Welland Park but the boys should be proud of themselves. Thanks go to the parents who helped with transport. We really appreciate it.



**One of the best 32 under 15 girls' football teams in England!**



**Our U15 Girls** had a long trip to St George's Academy in Sleaford, Lincolnshire for their National Cup match—a trip well worth making!

Winning 3-1, the girls are safely through to—the last 32 in England.

There were goals for Ellabelle Weston and Summer Baxendale and player of the match went to Charlotte Fry in defence.

We are indebted to the parents who came in support.

Thank you.



We are really proud of Charlie and Summer who were both part of the Midland Team who played The North in the U15 ESFA English schools football trials. Both girls did brilliantly and we now wait to see if they are successfully through to the next trial.

Well done girls, we have everything crossed for you.

# Sporting Achievements



Under 13s

At the beginning of October our U13 girls played their National Cup Match against Rushcliff School, Nottingham - unfortunately losing 3-1

Player of the match was Alice Fisher Y7, for keeping a cool head and digging deep in defence.

A great effort by the girls, their heads did not drop and they worked well as a team. We are proud of you.

Our U15 girls received made their debut in the National Cup in a round 3 match against West Bridgford Academy, having received a bye in rounds 1 & 2.



A 5-1 result saw them safely through to a round 4 away tie in either Derbyshire or Lincolnshire.

It was a great team effort but special mention to player of the match Eve Aston.



Year 7

Huge congratulations to our Y7 girl footballers whose first outing resulted in a 3-0 win against Kings High, Leamington Spa and booked them a place in the third round of the National Cup.

It was a great team display - player of the match going to Lily Dawson, who was amazing in defence. Well done girls!

Thanks go to the bunch of supporters who cheered the girls on and to Y10 Jamie Gosling who ran the line for the match, adding to his evidence for his Sports Science portfolio.



More success for Y7 Girls football team, who won their tournament to take them through to the Blaby & Harborough Final.

A great team effort saw wins against:

Welland Park 7-0  
Kibworth 4-0  
Robert Smyth 2-0. Well done, girls. We're very proud of you.

# Sporting Achievements

Pictured are our **staff dodgeball** team.



Our talented staff competed in the area school staff dodgeball competition and finished a very respectable third!

Congratulations, we are very proud of you.



Our **Y8 Netball Team** won the Blaby & Harborough 'A' league and qualified for the County Cup.



They are pictured here, having just beaten the Oadby winners, Gartree, in the last 16 of the cup competition.

This win means the girls have booked a quarter final place against either St Martin's or Loughborough High School. Well done girls.

Thank you to Michelle Davis for umpiring for us.

**Y9 Girls** were in action last night in the Blaby/Harborough **Futsal** competition.

They gave a great all round performance and won comfortably against:  
Kibworth 7-0  
Welland Park 6-0.

The girls go through to the Blaby/Harborough Final on January 24th.

Thanks to parents for helping with transport, it's very much appreciated.



# Christmas Carol Concerts



Some of our students were able to perform a short **Carol Concert** to a small family audience. We were delighted to celebrate (within Covid Secure guidelines) both Christmas and the achievements of our young people.

Our students also led carol services for Year 8 and 9 students at Thomas Estley.

Well done to all the young people who took part so successfully.



# Tommo's Got Talent

Very well done to this year's 'tommo's got talent' winners!



Pictured are some of the entrants receiving their prizes and/or certificates.



We received excellent entries from a wide ranging field of talents.

Our winners were:

- \* 1st Rebecca Davey - Cellist
- \* 2nd Darcy Wilson and Gracie Bryan - Make-up artists
- \* 3rd Willow Gregg-Allured - Pianist
- \* Runners-up:
  - ◆ Luke Jelves - Drummer
  - ◆ Ziah Josephs - Singer
  - ◆ Zac Massey - Karate

Thank you to everyone who entered and to those who carried out the judging process.



# Panto Spectacular

We got into the Christmas Spirit with our first community **Pantomime Spectacular**.



**Beauty & The Beast**, led by Year 9 Theatre Specialisms students and **Aladdin**, led by Year 10 Performance Skills students were supported by members of The Musical Theatre Club, backstage helper students and staff.



It was a fantastic day and the students have already been asking what Panto we are doing next year! (oh yes they are!)

**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.

**Any COVID related information (symptoms, tests or test results) please keep us up-to-date straightaway by emailing:**  
**covid@thomasestley.org.uk.**

Thank you!

### School Transport

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



### 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.



College closes to students on  
17th December 2021

### Winter Closure Procedure

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

- ◆ **The school website - [www.thomasestley.org.uk](http://www.thomasestley.org.uk)**
- ◆ **Radio Leicester**
- ◆ **Parentmail**

### Absence during term-time

If your child is too ill to attend college please contact the college 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 (for specific learning activities in lessons, as an optional way of accessing them, when allowed to do so). This is to protect students' learning and is in line with our safeguarding policy.



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

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

### Headphones/Ear buds/Air pods

The use of headphones/ear buds/air pods 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.