

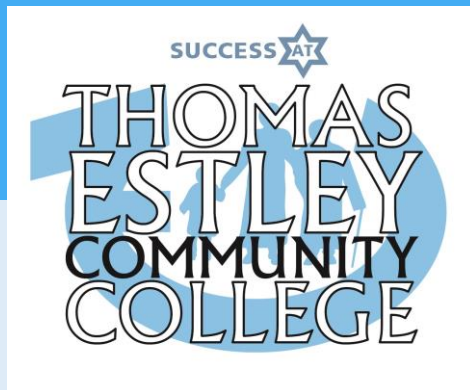
Welcome to our Thomas Estley
Newsletter
December 2023

**A Community of
Courage and
Commitment to
Success**

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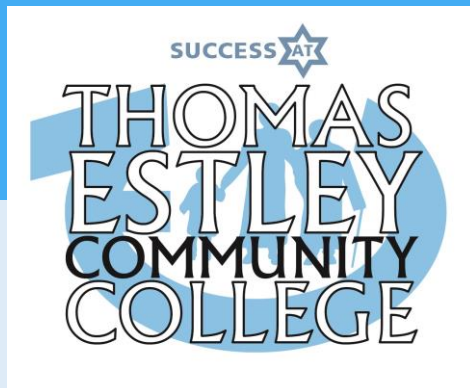
Dates for the Diary



14 th December	College closes for Christmas
8 th January	College opens for first half of Spring Term
17 th January	Y5 Citizenship Masterclass
17 th – 18 th January	Y11 Remote Parents Evenings
18 th January	Y9 3-in-1 teenage booster and meningitis vaccinations
22 nd January	Y9 Options Evening
24 th January	SEND Y9 Remote Parent Clinic
25 th January	Y11 Food Trip to Leicester College
30 th January	Parent Engagement Drop In Session
30 th January – 2 nd February	Y11 Hospitality and Catering Practical Exams
31 st January	Y5 Business Masterclass
5 th – 7 th February	National Apprenticeship Week
5 th February	Y8 Future Pathways Evening
6 th February	Y9 Arts Award Trip
7 th February	Women in Science Day Activities
8 th February	Y7 PSHE Drop Down Day
13 th February	Y10 Oxford University Raising Aspirations Trip
13 th February	Y4 Maths Masterclass
14 th – 15 th February	Y10 Remote Parents Evenings
16 th February	College breaks up for half term
19 th – 23 rd February	Y11 February Revision School

Do you know of any student successes that we could share and celebrate?
 Please email your information, ideally with photographs to:
PatothePrincipal@thomasestley.org.uk

A word from the Principal



We have been delighted to see the high work ethic of the vast majority of our students once again this term, leading towards our consistently strong GCSE outcomes, which continue to be above national averages and which open doors and remove barriers for our Thomas Estley students to continue onto success within their chosen post 16 education and career pathways.

High attendance is crucial for our young people if they are to achieve well however, and a minority of students are not attending regularly enough to fulfil their full potential – the graph on page 6 shows starkly the impact which poor attendance can have on GCSE outcomes. Even missing school one day a month lowers grades, as this clearly shows. Please do support your child always to attend school unless genuinely too ill to do so. Face to face time with teachers is crucial to maximise learning and secure the apprenticeship, college place and career which your child targets and deserves.

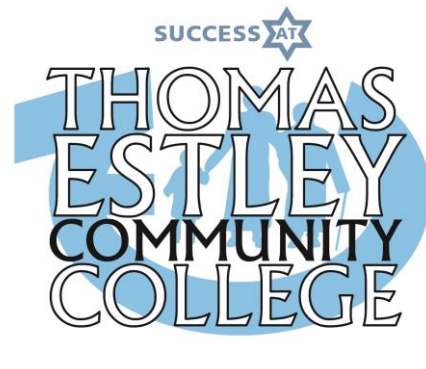
Enrichment and leadership activities also add variety and cultural capital to your child's experiences and to their potential attractiveness to employers, and aids recruitment to more competitive courses. This includes sports competitions and musical performances, clubs and visits, leadership programmes in and out of college, volunteering, and residentials, and you will read more about all of these in the newsletter. Please encourage your child to take part in these activities within their particular area of interest, and please contact your child's tutor if you would like more information about opportunities.

We wish you and your family all the best for a restful Christmas and for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mandi Collins, College Principal



Exam Success

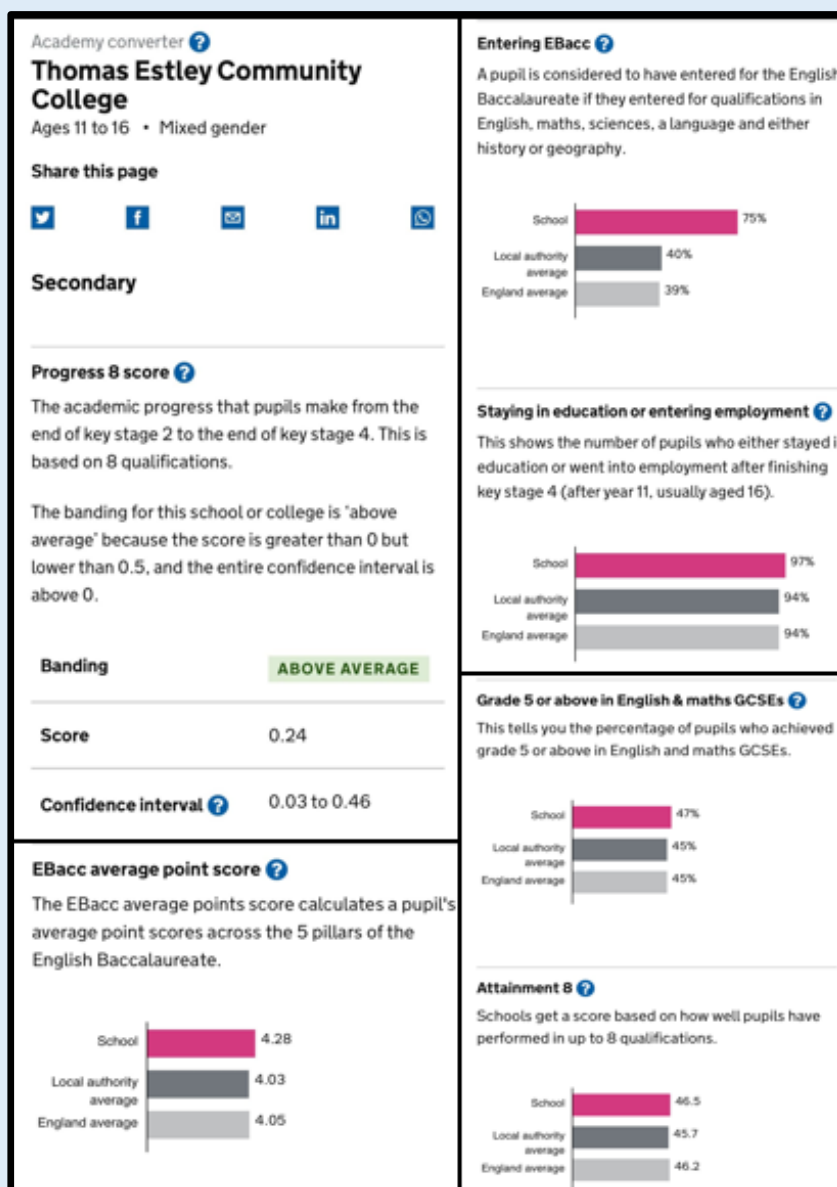


With the publication of **GCSE** performance data and comparisons, we are absolutely delighted that Thomas Estley is once again this year above national and county averages in every category for its performance.

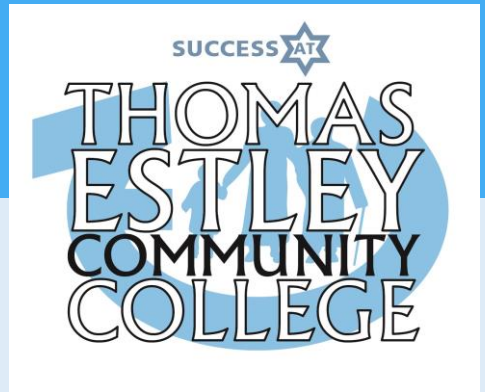
Well done to the fantastic students and staff whose hard work and determination got us there once again - we are so proud of you all. We believe that our firm focus on building leadership and character helps us to achieve these great results.

You can see more here:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/138527/thomas-estley-community-college>



Attendance



Our commitment to providing an education of the highest quality includes ensuring the high attendance of our students to enable them to reach their full potential and to instil in them the routines needed which are the same as will be expected by future employers, as well as helping with their wellbeing and wider life chances. Your support in this is paramount.

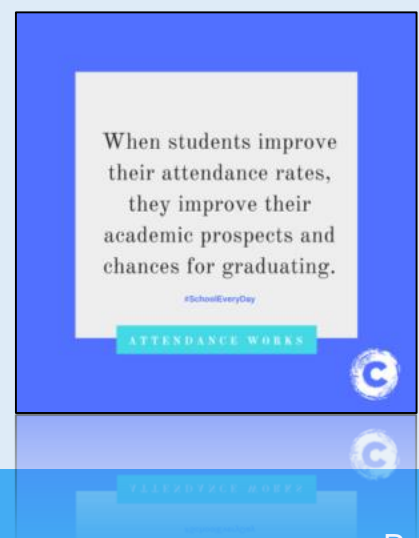
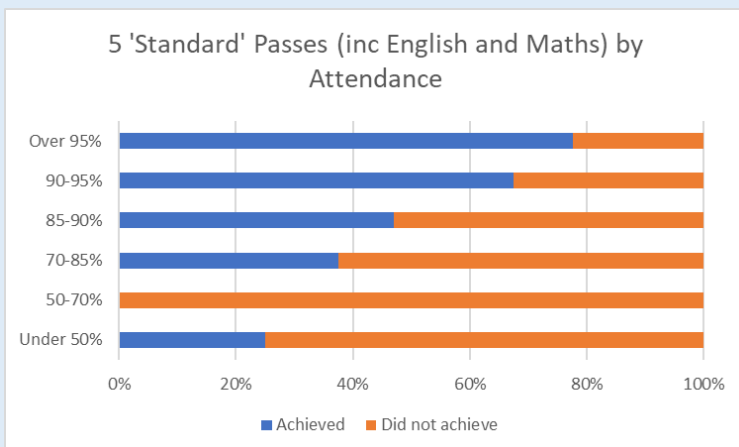
Holidays during term time cannot be authorised and will be fined. When a student is absent, parents should call in every day to report the absence unless they can provide documentation signing them off from a doctor. Where a student is off for 4 or more days, a home visit may be carried out or proof of medical provided. Please note that the reason for absence must be provided by a parent/carer.

If you have any queries regarding the school attendance policy and requirements and what is required of us as a school by the local authority or would like to arrange a meeting to discuss any issues you may have regarding your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Working together will ensure that our students receive the education they deserve as well as any help where needed.

Natalie Johnston, Attendance Officer njohnston@thomasestley.org.uk

There is a strong link between good attendance (over 95%) and good GCSE outcomes, proven over many years.

Please see the chart below which shows how attendance impacted our Summer 2023 GCSE results. Almost 80% of our students with over 95% attendance achieved 5 standard passes, including English and Maths compared to students with attendance between 50-70% who all failed to achieve 5 standard passes with English and Maths. This severely limits post 16 choices and future careers.



Spotlight on Year 11

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Our **Year 11 Geography** students were really engaged in their Geography fieldwork, despite a few weather challenges! The trips incorporated both physical and human Geography fieldwork tasks. During a survey of the public, we were proud to be told how confident and polite our students were.

Our **Year 11** students were visited by a travelling theatre company who delivered an impressive production of "A Christmas Carol". Students' behaviour was impeccable, and the show was a resounding success. A fantastic and exciting treat during the last week of term!



Our **Year 11 Sports Studies** students have been learning about how sports are adapted so that people of all abilities can participate. They have tried some walking Netball and also some Blind Football.



Having a go at something that is different helps to open their minds as to the sporting possibilities available in today's society and will also help them with the exam content for the Sports Studies course, which includes knowing what barriers to participation people face and then the solutions to those barriers.

We welcomed employers to Thomas Estley to interview each of our **Year 11** students individually in preparation for their post 16 and future job interviews. They all commented on our students' maturity, confidence, respect and ability to respond and reflect positively.

Thanks to LEBC and the employers who attended. and a resounding well done to our Year 11's!



Day Trips

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There was plenty of awe and wonder at the **Natural History Museum**, where some of our **Year 8** and our **Year 10** separate sciences students explored the world's natural treasures from tiny gems to huge animals with everything in between!

Some of our **Year 10** students attended a **STEM Aspiration University** visit to De Montfort University - finding out about different scientific techniques in a higher education context.



A group of 46 **Computer Science and Creative iMedia** learners visited the **National Museum of Computing in Bletchley**, Buckinghamshire. Learners participated in workshops aimed at solving ciphers, AI & Robotics and a Virtual Reality experience. Learners were also led on a historical tour of modern electronic computers. It was a fantastic opportunity for learners to be able to visit the National Museum of Computing ahead of the first Global AI Safety Summit which is being hosted by the UK Government at the Museum.

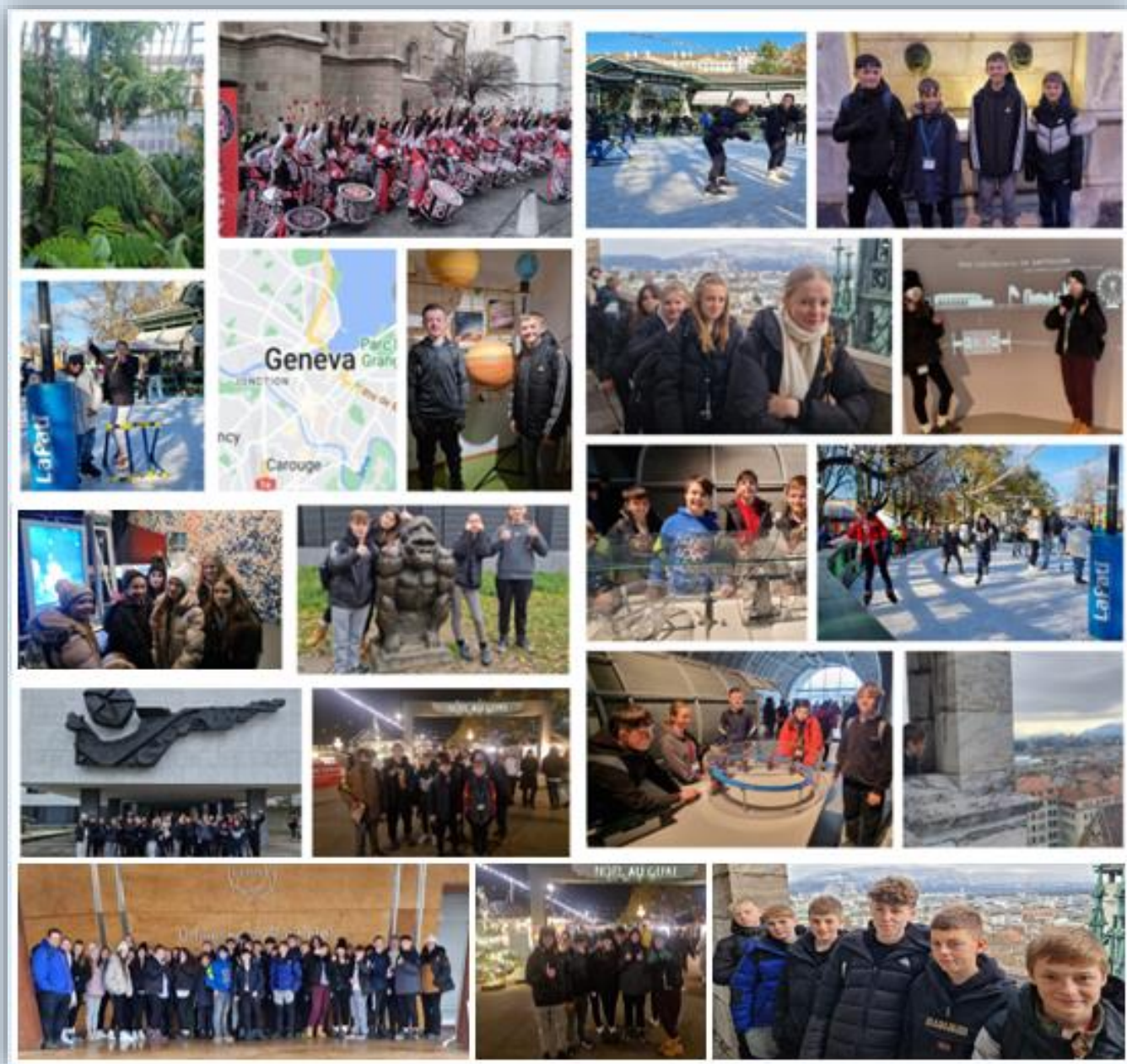
Geneva Trip



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Some of our students went on a fabulous residential trip to **Geneva** with a special focus on Science and Maths, including a chance to visit the famous CERN particle accelerator.



High Achievers

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Well done to this term's Thomas Estley achievement point winners - keep up the good work! Our character points are awarded for achievements or progress in kindness, respect, resilience, perseverance and courage.



We are incredibly proud of our **Thomas Estley Platinum and Gold Award Winners**. These students have achieved the top number of cumulative Thomas Estley achievement points this term.

It was great delivering leadership and character awards and achievement trophies to some of our fantastic students.

Well done to you all - we are very proud of all your hard work, kindness, respect, leadership and resilience.



Platinum Award Winners

Amazing Achievements








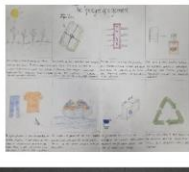





A great start to the academic year in **Resistant Materials**. Mr Curtis and Mrs Woodward have been really impressed with the quality of work produced by KS3 during the first rotation.

Year 7 have been busy making abstract and animal key tags. **Year 8** have been designing and making mood lights inspired by 20th century design movements and **Year 9** have been designing and making sustainable games.

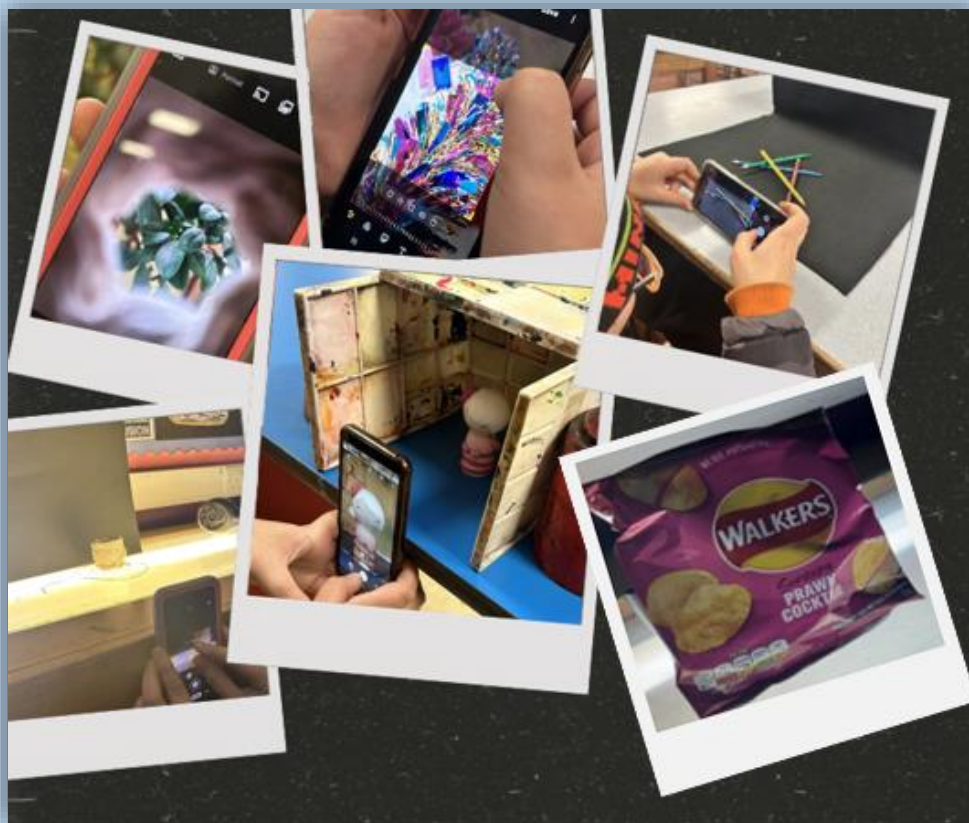
Our teachers are so pleased with the **Year 8 Textiles** students who have shown such creativity with their Sustainable Doritos Plush Project. Well done to Year 8!



Outstanding Outcomes! This is a sample of the work completed by **Year 10** in their first specialist **Textiles** project at KS4. Their commitment, hard work and engagement has paid off with some fantastic outcomes both in theory and practical lessons.

			<h2>Yr 10 DT Textiles</h2>				<h2>Yr 10 DT Textiles</h2>
			<p>Curriculum: Textiles specialist knowledge including fibres, fabrics, sources of origin, stock forms, circular sustainable system.</p> <p>Skills: Open, closed and French seams, sublimation printing, pockets, Overlocking, gathering and pleating, industrial pattern symbols.</p>				<p>Curriculum: Textiles specialist knowledge including fibres, fabrics, sources of origin, stock forms, circular sustainable system.</p> <p>Skills: Open, closed and French seams, sublimation printing, pockets, Overlocking, gathering and pleating, industrial pattern symbols.</p>

Students have been getting very creative with taking photos in **Thomas Estley Photography Club!** They have been experimenting with different compositions and learning about a variety of different shots, depth of field and camera settings.

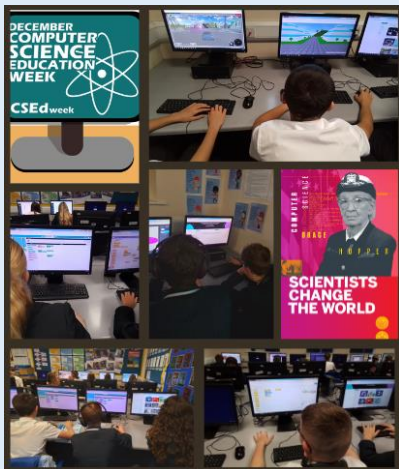




Students at Thomas Estley took part in an exciting **VR Workshop** using Oculus Meta Quests. A visiting lecturer, and previous student of Thomas Estley, delivered a workshop where the students had to draw and design specific art pieces using the VR controllers and their partner had to guess what they were drawing.

Students also had a go at testing their reaction times using a VR skills builder. Students were given information about careers in the exciting world of VR and what job opportunities they could take up when they leave full time education.

Between 20th and 29th November, we once again joined over 12,500 girls across the UK in this year's **CyberFirst Girls Competition**, which is run by the National Cyber Security Centre (a part of GCHQ). The aim the competition is to encourage Year 8 girls to consider careers in technology and to introduce them to the cybersecurity sector through activities involving code cracking, decrypting messages and solving puzzles. Well done girls!



In **Computing** lessons, students have been participating in this year's **Hour of Code**, as part of Computer Science Education Week. It recognises the birthday (9th December 1906) of computing pioneer, Admiral Grace Hopper. As an admiral in the US navy, she was also a programmer and she was responsible for making machine independent languages popular. She also coined the term 'computer bug' after discovering a moth inside of the electronics, which stopped a program from running.

Two National Cup matches for our Thomas Estley teams. Our **U13 Girls** played Cardinal Newman School from Coventry. A great display from us against a very skilful team. A 3-0 win with goals from Ria, Izzy P and an OG sees us through to Round 3 away to Robert Smyth. Player of the match goes to Talyia and the opposition chose Izzy P as their player.

On the 11 a side pitch our **Year 9 Boys** were in a local derby against Lutterworth College; unfortunately the result didn't go our way and Lutterworth claimed the victory 2-0. Well done to all for your commitment and hard work in both matches.



Great work from our **U16 Girls Football** Team winning 6-1 against Cardinal Newman School from Coventry. A hat trick for Maggie and goals for Gracie (2) and Ruby. The girls gave everything, in particular Ava at Right Back who worked solidly to close down their attacks and win Player of the Match.

Huge thanks to Year 11 Korben for running the line for us and well done girls, you always make us so proud.

Congratulations to **Jacob Hood, in Year 9**, and **Jocelyn Hood, in Year 7**, who raced at the Leicestershire and Rutland schools cross country at Mallory Park. It was a tough course with some challenging hills but Jacob came in 2nd and Jocelyn came in 4th. Fantastic achievements and well done for representing Thomas Estley at this event.

We are very proud of your success.





Three of our **Netball Teams** played in the Blaby & Harborough District Semi Finals away at Robert Smyth, Market Harborough. The girls had their first experience playing under floodlights on what was a very cold evening. **Year 10's** unfortunately lost 14-5. However, both our **Year 9** and **Year 11** teams were successful.

We are so proud, well done everyone.

Our **U16 Girls Football Team** travelled over to Rugby for their National Cup fixture against Bilton School.

We completely dominated the game from the start with our goalkeeper Izzy's most important issue being how to stay warm.

Gracie scored our two goals but we should have put many more amazing chances in the back of the net too. The girls worked hard across all areas of the pitch, linking some lovely passes and winning tackles.

Another stunning team performance which made it difficult to choose player of the match. Ruby won the honours today though, not only for her brilliant display in midfield but also for her teamwork and leadership.



Our **Year 9 Boys** played their first League Basketball match at Lutterworth College. They may not have got the result they wanted, but there were lots of positives to take from the game. Well done boys 😊

Football Fantastic! Our U13 Girls gave their all at their National Cup match which went to sudden death penalties against Robert Smyth. Tahlia held her nerve to take our final penalty before GK Izzy and player of the match made the save to take us through to the next round. A super effort 😊



A great day at the **U13 Girls 7 a side Leicester City Tournament**. Our B team finished 5th with 3 wins, a draw and 3 losses. Our A team won 6 and drew one without conceding a goal and were crowned champions and go through to the East Region Tournament after Christmas representing Leicester City FC 😊🏆🏆

Well done Girls!



More **Cross Country** success from two of our students. Braving the cold and rain, **Jacob Hood in Year 9**, who finished 2nd, and **Jocelyn Hood in Year 7**, who finished 5th, in this Year's 2nd meeting for the Leicestershire and Rutland Schools Cross Country competition.

Huge achievement and congratulations to you both. We are very proud of you, demonstrating perseverance, courage and resilience as our Thomas Estley traits!

Our **Year 9 Boys Basketball Team** headed to Market Harborough for their league match against Robert Smyth which saw lots of improvements from their previous match.

They then rounded off their league with 2 matches. Firstly against a strong Brockington team where the improvements we have been seeing developed further, and then secondly against Welland Park where it finally all came together with a great 26-8 win. A great team performance with Jake standing out in particular. Well done boys, we are so proud. Proof that hard work and determination will pay off.



Our **Year 8 Netball Team** played their Blaby & Harborough Semi Final away at Welland Park. In a repeat of last year's Semi Final we were hoping to go one better, but yet again Welland Park proved too strong for us and our girls miss out on that place in the final again.

Huge well done to Evie who won opposition's player. A great league campaign for the Year 8's though; well done girls, we are so proud of you.



What a performance from our **U13 Girls** in their **National Cup Football** match away at Countesthorpe College. We took the lead 5 minutes in and were 3-0 up at half time. Countesthorpe pulled two back in the second half but the girls held on for the victory resulting in a place in the last 32. Well done everyone.



Our **U16 Girls** had a great 4-0 win over Bishop Ullathorne from Coventry. Player of the match Gracie bagged all 4 goals. A clean sheet for Izzy in goal and another great team performance for a hard working group who were limited to just 11 players rather than the normal squad of 14.

Well done girls. You make us so proud.

Our **Year 8 Boys** were in League Semi Final action at home to Welland Park and didn't disappoint. A 7-2 win. A hatrick for player of the match and Captain Jake and further goals for Max C (2), Archy & Izaak. A great display from the lads to earn them a place in the district final. Well done boys.

Thanks to our PE volunteer Alfie who is doing a great job with the boys and also to Year 11s Kirk and Korben for their assistance.



Our **U16 Girls** are through to the last 16 of the ESFA National Cup. In a very close match in Wolverhampton. A 1-0 victory from a well taken Charlotte free kick. Summer and Charlotte did a stunning job marshalling our defence and claimed joint player of the match.

Well done girls.

Performing Arts: Christmas Concert

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The **Performing Arts** faculty were delighted to present our wonderfully talented musicians in a **Christmas Music Concert**. Performances ranged from several violin soloists, to keyboard performances, vocals, side drumming, an A Capella singing group and even a rock band! For some students this was their very first time performing in front of an audience, alongside GCSE music students who showcased some of their exam pieces.

The Year 10 light and sound technicians did a very professional job, whilst the Year 10 hospitality and catering students provided hot drinks and tasty mince pies for the interval





This term's yummy outcomes and fantastic culinary skills from our **Food Department**.

Y8 Cheese and onion pasties
Preparation skills
Basic: grating
Medium: rubbing in and rolling
Complex: shaping and un moulding

Y11 Scotch eggs prepared with go and cucumber
Preparation skills Medium: skinning/mixing - Complex: shaping/embroiding
Cooking techniques Basic: boiling - Medium: baking/pickling

Mexican Cuisine
Year 8 Fajitas
Medium level knife skills: deseeding and slicing

Y11 Peri-peri chicken with spicy rice 'Nando's style'
medium knife technique – spatcock
complex knife technique – brunoise

Y7 Breakfast muffins (blueberry/banana and oat)
Preparation skills
Basic: hydrating/mashing/zesting
Medium: creaming/folding/mixing
Cooking techniques
Medium: baking
Coating the blueberries with flour prevents the berries from sinking to the bottom of the muffins!

Year 9 Mixed bean chilli
Medium level knife skills: deseeding and dicing - Complex skill: mincing

Y10 Lasagne demonstrating sauce-making techniques
Béchamel sauce is one of the "mother sauces" of French cuisine, traditionally made from a white roux and milk.
Parent comment: "Absolutely delicious"

Y9 Calzone demonstrating crimping
A calzone is an Italian oven-baked turnover, or folded pizza.
Students demonstrated the complex preparation skill of **crimping**, either using a fork or traditional 'folding and pinching' method.

Y9 Samosas / Spring rolls

Y8 Jam tarts
Batch production
Skillfully demonstrated! Precision in rolling, cutting, filling, baking

Year 10 Pizza
Preparation skills: Basic - PROTECTING
Medium - PULLING & ROLLING
Cooking techniques: Medium - SKUTTERING, REDUCTION & BAKING

Year 7 Pasta salad
Introduction to using the food
Development of safe knife skills
Preparation skills: Basic - (SAFETY)
Medium - MIXING
Knife skills: Medium - (SAFETY)
Medium - (SAFETY)
Cooking skills: Basic - (SAFETY)
Medium - (SAFETY)

Year 11 Tagliatelle
Complex skills exam preparation

Year 9 Coronation chicken curry
Skillfully handling, measuring
Skillfully trimming, slicing, mincing
Cooking skills: roasting, heating, covering, reduction
Food safety awareness: preventing cross-contamination - use of food probes to check high-risk food is cooked thoroughly

Year 8 Pasta bake
Pasta skills: grating, melting, mixing
Knife skills: chopping, slicing
Cooking skills: boiling, baking
Food science skills in making an all-in-one sauce:
- granulation
- viscosity

Food Glorious Food ...



We are very proud of our **Student Ambassadors** who have been busy cake baking, raising money for charity during anti bullying week - well done, everyone- great commitment and student leadership.

Y10 Hospitality and Catering students experienced another fantastic opportunity - a chef taught a lesson on making pasta as well as a Complex Skills Masterclass!

Salvatore Tassari, executive chef at the King Power Stadium, took time out from his incredibly busy schedule to lead a practical lesson to our new cohort of budding chefs.

Well done to all our students efforts and, of course, a huge thank you to Sav!



Primary Masterclass/ Student Leaders

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ESTLEY
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COLLEGE

Year 4 Big English Quiz



We welcomed 6 of our feeder Primary schools to take part in the **Year 4 Big English Quiz**. Our leadership students organised the event by writing the rounds, running the rounds and looking after all the pupils taking part. The rounds were really close and at the end only 8 points separated the teams.

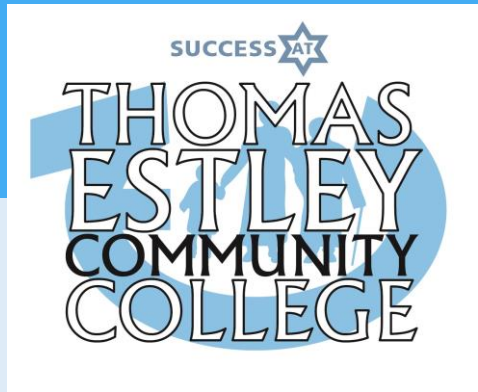
As the parents were leaving they commented on how well our students did and that they were kind and helpful to the pupils taking part.

The **Big English Quiz Final** welcomed back the top four teams from the early rounds. The teams from Hallbrook, Old Mill, Orchard and St Peters, were put through their paces with tricky rounds. Our Primary transition leaders had written the rounds and organised the event; it was fast paced with some incredible knowledge being tested. Each round was so close with only a few points in it. At the end the teams enjoyed hangman whilst the scores were triple checked as there were only 3 points between first and third place.

A massive well done to all the pupils that took part, St Peters came first, followed very closely by Hallbrook in second place, with Orchard and Old Mill in third place. A lovely event with lots of smiling faces; well done, everyone.



Primary Masterclass/ Student Leaders



The **Language Leaders** went to Cosby Primary school to deliver a Spanish Christmas themed lesson to Year 3 & 4 students.

The Language Leaders worked really well together, they created their own activities and PowerPoint presentation and then delivered the lesson to 3 different classes.

They really enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to delivering more lessons in the future. It was great to see them develop in confidence. Well done.



Student Leadership, Inclusion and Primary Outreach:

We hosted a South Leicestershire Primary School inclusion event for five of the Blaby Primary Schools. Our sports leaders were fabulous as always, overseeing Boccia, New Age Curling and Wheelchair Basketball to give the primary school children the chance to try adapted sports.

Lots of fun and laughter and plenty of new skills being learnt in a safe environment. Well done to all of those involved.

Visiting Year 5 students were presented with the idea that "attitude is altitude" in **their primary transition masterclass**. They were shown an inspirational video and a real-life bio regarding someone who had hit many barriers but picked themselves up, repeatedly, in order to succeed.

They worked very hard and all participated enthusiastically which made the session fun and exciting for all. Thank you, Year 5! And thanks also go to our primary transition student leaders.



Primary Masterclass/ Student Leaders

Thomas Estley hosted the annual **Blaby Dance Festival**, in partnership with South Leicestershire School Sports. Our KS4 Ambassadors of Dance delivered a carousel of three workshops in Lyrical, Jazz and Musical Theatre dance styles, for KS2 students from participating schools.

As always, we are very proud of the commitment and dedication from our student leaders, who volunteered their time to ensure the event was a success. Well done to all of the primary aged children who took part too!



We welcomed 22 year 5 pupils from our primary feeder schools, to experience a lesson in **Science**.

This was the first time the students had used a Bunsen burner and they were just brilliant. The lesson was enjoyable and the work/experiments carried out were done so well.

As always a big thank you to our Primary Transition Leaders whose help with the class was invaluable.



We welcomed Year 5 pupils from six of our feeder primary schools for a **Business and Enterprise Day**. The day was a packed programme of learning, making and team work. This included talking about company logos, making dice and designing Christmas cards. The teams then presented their pitches to our very own Thomas Estley Dragons. The Dragons had the hardest job at the end of all the pitches to choose the best planning design and the best Christmas card.

All the pupils worked hard through the day, and made some amazing cards, using very good creative ideas for them.

Many thanks to our Primary Transition leaders for all their support throughout the day.



Pre-School/ Out of School Club

Thomas Estley **out of school club** were busy with Halloween fun, including pumpkin carving and playing lots of Halloween games, while enjoying tomato broth for tea.



Preschool had some great fun with pumpkins. Linked to our autumn theme of seasonal changes and healthy eating, we looked at the book "Delicious", where a cat, a squirrel and a duck make pumpkin soup.

We set up an exploratory tray outside for them to feel the texture, use tools and resources to chop and dig and generally have some messy play. It worked like a dream and they turned it into their own soup kitchen, acting out the story from our book. The language and the imaginary play was astounding.



Our library provides a varied and rich selection of books and resources as well as a space for reading and reflection. Our preschool children have also been using it and are really enjoying their reading time there - reading is a priority for preschool and we were delighted to have it recognised so positively by Ofsted last year. 'Children are gaining a love of books. They benefit from visiting the school's library and take out books to share at home' (Ofsted, 2022)

Elsewhere in College ...

SUCCESS  AT

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South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership Event



Supporting **Student Leadership and Wellbeing!** We welcomed 130 pupils and teachers from 21 Leicestershire primary schools to receive their training to become pupil wellbeing ambassadors. The children learnt about the importance of supporting strategies around mental health and wellbeing across the school communities. They will review their wellbeing action plans during children mental health week in February. Some great learning and student leadership development which will really impact on the young people in South Leicestershire. Well done, everyone.

Building Leadership and Character Together: We welcomed the EmployabilityUK charity to work with some children from Thomas Estley and our Trust primary schools here. The workshop leads worked to help them develop their self-belief and vision. During the workshop we saw students gain in their confidence and aspiration, through activities delivered by an inspiring and approachable team. Thank you, EmployabilityUK!





To commemorate **Remembrance Day**, the students of Thomas Estley remembered those who had shown courage in keeping us safe.



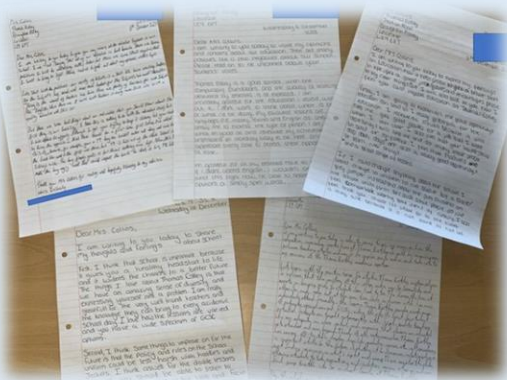
We began the day with an assembly giving us time to think and reflect. A group of historians represented the college laying a wreath at the war memorial in the village. We read poems and discussed our history understanding of the wars and why remembrance is important today.

The whole school then paused for a minutes silence to reflect the courage and bravery shown by those service men and women and their families.

Year 10 Business Studies and Hospitality and Catering students were visited by local business owner Paul Jenno, founder of Jenno's Coffee Houses. Students commented that they found the talk really useful and interesting, and it has enabled them to understand more of their curriculum content by it being given a real-life context.

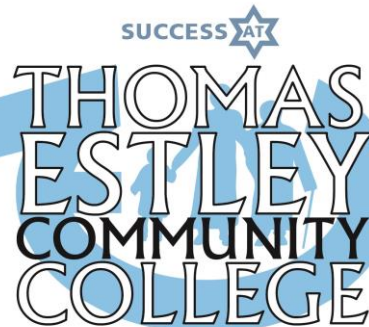


Our **Year 9** students are currently reading *Blood Brothers* in **English**, including considering the differences between the two boys' experiences of education within the play. Students then looked at "Schools for Africa - Education a Human Right" and considered how lucky we are to have a free state education when many countries do not. Students were finally tasked with writing a letter, telling our Principal about their good experiences of school and what they would change if they were in charge - Well done, everyone!



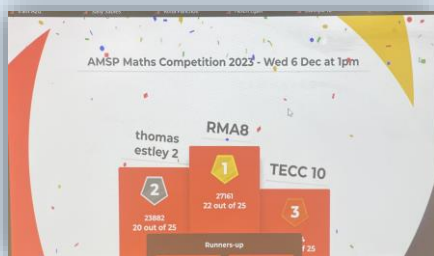
Elsewhere in College ...

Our first Thomas Estley **PE & Performing Arts Faculty Star** of the academic Year goes to **Year 10 Zac**. Zac is studying Sports Studies and has made a great start in this subject. He has also been giving freely his time to work on this years Faculty production of 'Into The Woods' as well as a great deal of back stage work and technical work to assist with production rehearsals and GCSE drama rehearsals. Zac is a great role model for our younger students and a great allrounder who will go far. Well done, Zac.



33 pupils in **Years 8 and 9** took part in the **Advanced Maths online Maths Feast** against 54 teams in the East Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber. All of the pupils involved did brilliantly and displayed the TECC character traits of respect, courage and perseverance. We are especially pleased that two of our teams came second and third!

A huge well done to all involved - we are very proud of you.



A bookmark challenge during our **Year 7 Biscuits and Book Club**. All students were given the task of creating a book mark based off the book we are ready at the minute, called The Escape Room. The winner was Junior who went above and beyond what was expected of him.



Voices of TECC Newsletter

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the 'Voices of T.E.C.C' newsletter. We are a group of young reporters who meet together every Friday lunchtime to discuss, report and edit events, stories and issues facing Thomas Estley pupils. We are always keen for new reporters to join us and we would like to hear from any pupils with a story to tell.

What's In This Month's Issue?



- Musical Theatre Club
- Chile
- Black History Month
- Broughton Bake Off
- The Hungar Games
- Diwali
- Ask TECC

The following students from our new **Thomas Estley Young Reporters Group** have produced their first newsletter - Well done to Anna GB, Lara K, Lottie B, Rosie C and Jack M.

Thank you also to all the members of staff who answered inquisitive emails and questions, and to those who supported the production too.



Seeking Alumni & Community Volunteers

Could you offer some time to read with or mentor our young people?

Could you deliver an assembly either remotely or in person to 'Inspire the next generation' or share your experiences or career journey?

Could you demonstrate or teach some job related skills to our students?

Contact - PAtothePrincipal@thomasestley.org.uk

01455 283 263

Station Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, LE9 6PT



Health Matters - Vaping

SUCCESS AT

THOMAS
ESTLEY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Vaping

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

WHAT IS VAPING?

Vaping is inhaling vapour from an e-cigarette or 'vape'. Most vapes contain nicotine which makes them highly addictive. Vapes come in a variety of colours and flavours making them popular with young people. It is illegal to sell vaping products to anyone under the age of 18, however, more young people are vaping and the figure has risen by 50% in the past year. Experimental vaping among 11 to 17-year-olds in Britain increased from 7.7% to 11.6%. **Source Sky News**



Did you know?

Advertising Standards Authority has ruled that e-cigarettes and vaping products shouldn't be promoted on public Instagram, Facebook and TikTok accounts. This includes influencer marketing.



Drug Sense UK have put together a fantastic vaping Q&A, find out more [here!](#)

WHY IS MY CHILD VAPING?

There are many reasons young people may try vaping.

- To fit in, young people can feel pressured to do what their friends are doing.
- To relieve stress or anxiety, many young people feel vaping has a calming effect.
- Young people can be drawn to vaping because of the bright colours and sweet smelling flavours.
- Curiosity, they've seen others vaping and want to experience it.

THE HEALTH FOR TEENS WEBSITE HAS MORE INFORMATION ON VAPING. CHECK IT OUT [HERE!](#)

More information available here:

<https://learningsouthleicestershiressp.org.uk/media/2023/10/Drug-Sense-UK-Vape.pdf>

<https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/lifestyle/e-cigarettes/e-cigarettes-just-the-facts/>

<https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/vaping-what-uk-parents-need-to-know>

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF VAPING?

The government have identified 3 key issues we are facing with young people and vaping.

- **Addictive products;** Research has shown that most e-cigarettes contain traces of nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm brain development.
- **Health implications;** The short-term side effects of vaping include throat and mouth irritation, headache, cough and feeling nauseous. The long-term effects of vaping are still unknown.
- **Risks and dangers from 'counterfeit vapes';** The metal coil that is used to heat up the oil in the chamber is produced from a very cheap metal, which can heat up too quickly causing the vape to either explode or split and spurt out hot oil which can lead to facial injuries.



Source: Teen Health

THIS VIDEO GIVES YOU MORE INFORMATION ON THE RISKS OF VAPING. CHECK IT OUT [HERE!](#)

Source: Royal Children's Hospital

WHAT'S IN A VAPE?

- Nicotine (although non-nicotine e-cigs are also available)
- Propylene glycol
- Vegetable glycerine
- Flavoursings

Source: Teen Health

IF YOU'D LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION OR SUPPORT, CHECK OUT 'VAPING: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW' [HERE!](#)



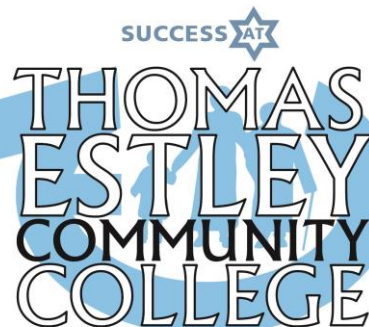
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

HERE'S TO A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2024!



LET'S GET SOCIAL

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

Contact Jo Robotham

Tel 01455 283263 ext 286

Email tela@thomasestley.org.uk



Achieve
With TELA Primary & Secondary Teacher Training

Primary & Secondary school-based
teacher training across Leicestershire
in partnership with:

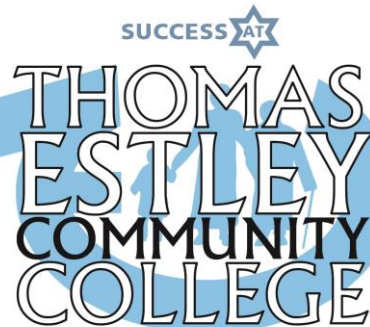
Leicestershire Secondary SCITT UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Email: tela@thomasestley.org.uk
Phone: 01455 283 263
07436 949 032

Visit us: www.telaonline.co.uk


@TELAteaching @telaandachieveteachertraining

Interested in a Career in Teaching?




ACHIEVE WITH TELA TEACHER TRAINING INFORMATION EVENT

We are delighted to invite you to our teacher training event with Max & Jo. Here you will have the opportunity to ask all of your teacher training related questions


 Saturday 06 January '24

 10AM - 12PM

 The Oaks at Thomas Estley
Community Collage

For More Information :

 01455 283 263 Ext 0286

 telaonline.co.uk



SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAYS

Now available to book

DATES

Mon 22 January '24
W/C 07 March
8.30-3pm

Find out if teaching is for you.
Spend a day in a secondary
school and experience the
classroom and school
environment.

For more information contact
TELA on 01455 283 263
Ext 0286 or email
tela@thomastestley.org.uk

 To book your place
visit
telaonline.co.uk



Don't Forget!



SUCCESS AT

THOMAS ESTLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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.

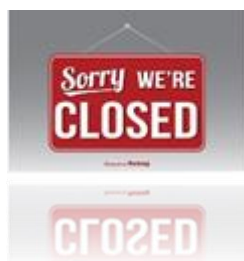
Thank you!

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.

School 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 Parentmail.



College closes to students on Friday 22nd December and re-opens on Monday 8th January

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.

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.



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.



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.

