

PROSPECTUS



Community of courage and commitment to success

WELCOME



I would like to welcome you to Thomas Estley Community College. I encourage you to visit us and see how students and staff live out our values in practice. We are proud of our community ethos and provision, are recognised as a flagship of inclusion within the county and have been designated a National Teaching School due to the high quality of our teaching, learning and professional development. We hope to meet you at our Open College sessions in the Autumn Term and at our Parents' Evening.

Mandi Collins, Principal



VISION, AIMS, MISSION

Thomas Estley is lead school in the Thomas Estley Learning Alliance (TELA) - an alliance of 50 mutually supportive primary and secondary schools within and beyond Leicestershire. As a Teaching School we provide Initial Teacher Training in partnership with the Leicestershire Secondary SCITT, the Universities of Leicester, Warwick and Loughborough, School to School Support within and beyond the county, provide high quality professional development for teachers and school leaders including National Professional Qualifications (NPQ's) and engage in Research and Development into what constitutes excellent teaching and leadership.

This status is a great accolade, recognising the College's outstanding work nationally and its partnerships locally.

Students benefit from our Teaching School status through best practice nationally

"The school is inclusive, providing for all pupils' needs and promoting a culture of tolerance and equality".

"Leaders are passionate about ensuring that the school is inclusive for all. They work hard to make all pupils welcome". Ofsted January 2019

"Community of courage and commitment to success" is our mission statement.

We believe in providing the best mix of support and challenge to help your child achieve their academic potential whilst maximising their growth as a young person, ready to tackle the complex and competitive world of further study and work. Our college motto is 'A Community of Courage and Commitment to Success', and we are passionate about developing young people who make a positive difference to the society around them whilst developing their own potential and overcoming barriers. We are fully committed to a learning environment that is inclusive of all abilities and needs, personalising learning within a family and community ethos. We have high standards of work and behaviour at the college, and we believe that the focus for each of our children is achieving their personal best, whatever that may be, and celebrating that success together.

“Leaders provide pupils with a curriculum that is rich in opportunities and experiences, including a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Since its introduction, the key stage 4 curriculum has been refined to ensure that pupils’ differing needs are met with a choice of different pathways.”

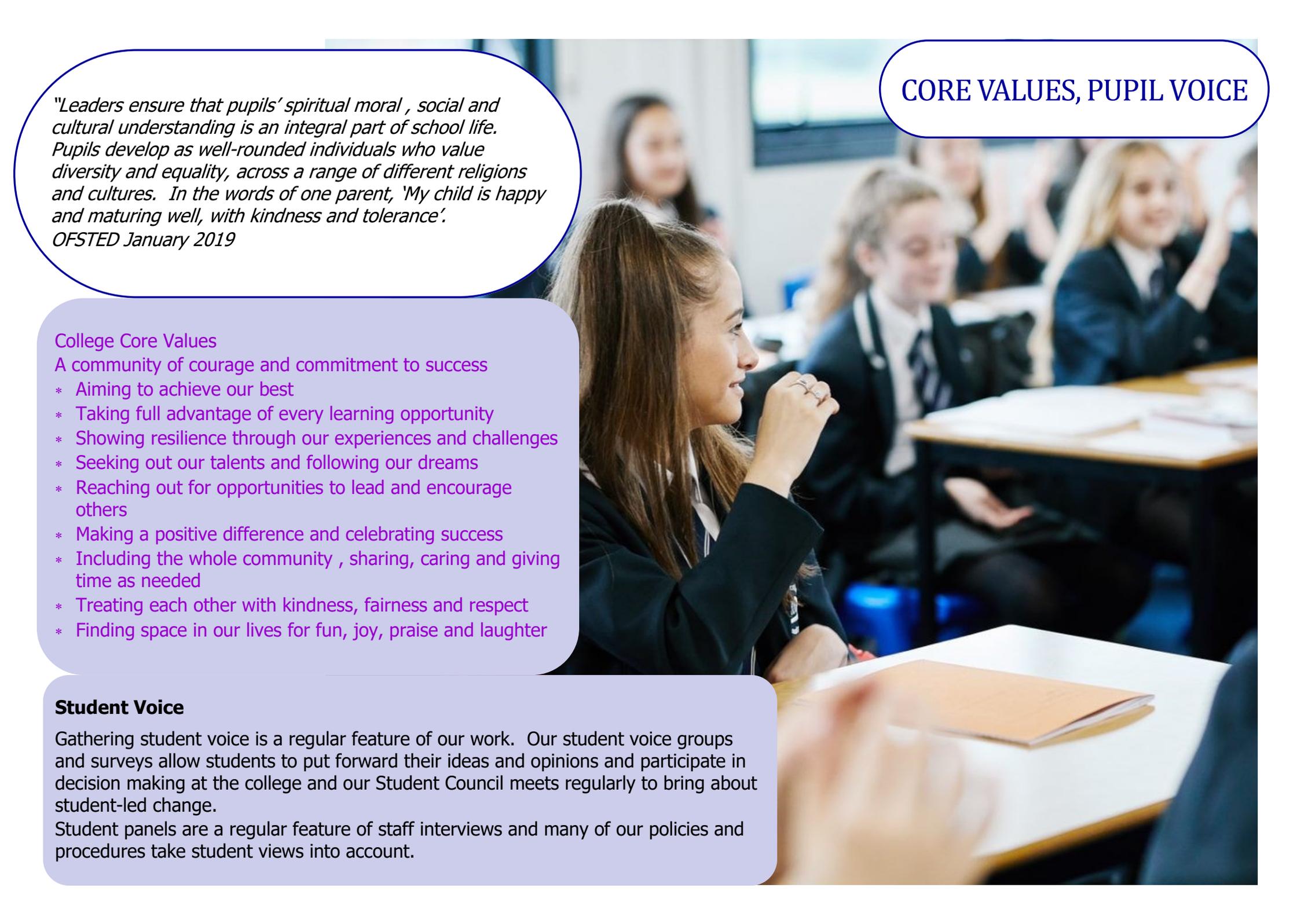
OFSTED January 2019

Our Key Stage Three curriculum incorporates Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, French, Spanish, Citizenship & RE, Physical Education, Art, Design and Technology, Music, Drama and Computing, taught in appropriately organised groups to maximise learning, attainment, progress and personalisation.

Each year, our students take one full week out of their regular timetabled lessons to take part in a themed module, uniting discrete subject foci within a climate of active learning and community enhancement and enabling us to effectively tackle themes such as money and health choices, being a citizen of Leicester and Britain, future and careers, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), Enterprise and the global community.

Year 9 students choose a context in which to further their achievement and embed skills for life and work including teamwork, perseverance, resilience and problem solving, studied one afternoon per week. Contexts include Arts Award, Dance, Enterprise, Functional Maths, Language Leaders, Musical Performance, Programming and Computing, Sports Education and Team Challenge. GCSE readiness is also a key feature in all year 9 lessons, ensuring students acquire a solid foundation for success at Key Stage Four. Our students excel within this innovative and aspirational curriculum and build the foundation for their future success.





CORE VALUES, PUPIL VOICE

"Leaders ensure that pupils' spiritual moral , social and cultural understanding is an integral part of school life. Pupils develop as well-rounded individuals who value diversity and equality, across a range of different religions and cultures. In the words of one parent, 'My child is happy and maturing well, with kindness and tolerance'.

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College Core Values

A community of courage and commitment to success

- * Aiming to achieve our best
- * Taking full advantage of every learning opportunity
- * Showing resilience through our experiences and challenges
- * Seeking out our talents and following our dreams
- * Reaching out for opportunities to lead and encourage others
- * Making a positive difference and celebrating success
- * Including the whole community , sharing, caring and giving time as needed
- * Treating each other with kindness, fairness and respect
- * Finding space in our lives for fun, joy, praise and laughter

Student Voice

Gathering student voice is a regular feature of our work. Our student voice groups and surveys allow students to put forward their ideas and opinions and participate in decision making at the college and our Student Council meets regularly to bring about student-led change.

Student panels are a regular feature of staff interviews and many of our policies and procedures take student views into account.

STUDENT CARE AND GUIDANCE, INCLUSION AND WELL-BEING,

Student Care and Guidance

On admission, students are assigned to a tutor group. The tutor is the main point of contact for any pastoral concerns.

Our tutor groups are organised vertically. Currently students from all year groups come together for registration which helps younger pupils to settle in. Tutor groups belong to one of our four college teams each led by a Team Leader, who supports students to overcome any barriers to learning in order to achieve their full potential.



The Pastoral Team works in partnership with parents as well as other agencies to ensure good behaviour and attendance.

Positive Behaviour for Learning - 'We will act, in co-operation and collaboration, with courtesy and consideration for others at all times'

Inclusion and Well-being

Our aim is to ensure that every child, whatever their individual needs, has access to the full curriculum and that provision is made to help young people feel that they are in every way a part of the life of the College. Our Inclusion Support Zone and Well-being Zone enhance our offer.

The Centre

We are proud of our longstanding and strong partnership with a local Special School, welcoming young people into mainstream classes and activities. Our unique provision incorporates a permanent base. The Centre is a beacon of excellence for inclusion both locally and nationally.



"Leaders have developed a sophisticated network to support pupils' pastoral needs. Through a combination of form tutors, mentors, house team staff and learning support assistants, pupils know there is always someone to support them. Staff provide pupils with a range of strategies to help them stay safe physically and to promote good mental health. All pupils value the recently established well-being zone as a place where they can receive help, for example, if they are anxious".

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A young girl with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a dark blue school blazer over a white shirt and a striped tie, is smiling broadly. She is holding a white glue stick. She is sitting at a wooden desk in a classroom. Other students in school uniforms are visible in the background, some working at desks. The classroom has shelves with books and other items.

ANTI-BULLYING, ACCEPTABLE USE AND E-SAFETY POLICIES

Anti-Bullying Policy

Students work alongside staff to put together our anti-bullying policy. Bullying is taken seriously and dealt with promptly. Students are made aware that bullying behaviour will not be tolerated at College.

Acceptable Use Policy and E-Safety

We ask all students and parents to sign our acceptable use policy. We also advise students on safe and appropriate use of ICT systems. We teach all students about the importance of E-Safety through lessons, assemblies, theatre productions and in liaison with Leicestershire police.

"Pupils feel safe in school and are taught how to stay safe. Bullying is rare. Pupils are able to identify different types of bullying. Most say they have an adult to talk with if they have any concerns. They are confident that any issues would be resolved quickly".

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EXTRA CURRICULAR

"The trust's mission of 'building leadership and character together' is clearly evident throughout all years. Pupils develop their leadership skills, for instance through being sports and language leaders, joining the Sea Cadets or taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. OFSTED January 2019



Students have the opportunity to become involved in a wide range of extra curricular activities on offer throughout the week. Thomas Estley is a hive of activity at lunchtime and after the college day. We believe participation in the extra curricular life of the college rewards students with confidence and independence that they can apply in their studies and into the world of work.

We really do have something for everyone; from Computing Club and Language Leaders to Arts Award and a wide range of trips, masterclasses and residential. We have experienced national and local success with our sports teams and have competitive and non-competitive clubs available at lunch and after school. There is a thriving music and drama scene in the college and every curriculum area encourages students to attend extra-curricular learning opportunities.

Our students have the opportunity to develop and enhance their own leadership qualities through our accredited programmes such as SSAT Leadership Scheme, Sea Cadets, D of E and National Citizenship Service.

A whole array of events, opportunities, trips and residential allow your child to explore their interests and to develop their skills for a successful future.





BREAK AND LUNCH TIME ARRANGEMENTS

The college runs its very popular in-house cafe offering healthy and nutritious food at both break and lunchtimes. Students access this through the cashless catering facility with parents paying in advance through an online system.

Year 7 students who bring a packed lunch have access to a designated room.

For key stage 4 students there is a designated social base to use at lunchtime.

In addition, students have the opportunity to become involved in a wide range of exciting and inspiring extra-curricular activities on offer throughout the week. From sports to the arts, from design to Minecraft. All students are actively encouraged to participate in other areas of college life. There is a variety of opportunities for students to have support for their learning during lunchtimes too. Curriculum areas, personalised homework clubs and IT rooms are also available.

PRE SCHOOL, AFTER SCHOOL, EXTENDED SERVICES, YOUTH

"Staff have an excellent knowledge of how children learn in a rich environment. Children make rapid progress in all areas of their development"
PRE-SCHOOL OFSTED 2013



Extended Services

We believe in lifelong learning.

At Thomas Estley all age groups learn within the same setting. This promotes a sense of belonging and community cohesion.

We work in close collaboration with our family of schools and local community.

- Quality Childcare - Our very popular Pre-School and Out of School Club gained Ofsted outstanding status in 2013.
- A range of opportunities for primary school pupils in the local area:
 - ◊ We run a number of twilight sessions, across a wide range of subjects, throughout the year.
 - ◊ In addition we offer activity days in college to pupils with particular interests and talents in Drama, Music and Enterprise
- Community Access to College facilities – including, amongst others, Adult Learning, Affiliated Sports and Leisure Groups, Brownies, Sea Cadets and Senior Citizens Luncheon Club.



CONTACT THOMAS ESTLEY

Check out our website at:
thomasesstley.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/thomasesstley

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