

Thomas Estley Newsletter

July 2019



Dear parents and students

As I write to you, we have just completed our second Year Five Experience Day of the month (230 Year Five children hosted in all), in a week where we have also welcomed almost 180 Year Six students and their parents to the college as part of their induction and transition programme. Over the last few weeks, we have also continued our primary experience and masterclass programme, welcoming over 400 primary children to Thomas Estley for subject based classes and workshops and over 200 to sports fixtures and opportunities. We have also run sports days for two local primary schools and Thomas Estley preschool, as well as French lessons for four local primary schools.

It may seem strange that I am writing to you about children who do not yet attend the college, but I have two reasons for doing so. Firstly, we are passionate about creating a welcoming and supportive ethos where children can thrive and achieve their best, and we work hard with partner schools to ensure a smooth transition pastorally and academically. Secondly, our students never cease to amaze me as they step up to lead and organise many activities for younger children with confidence and kindness. I am very proud of them.

It has been a month for awards, which include the Prince William Trust Award and the Route to Resilience award for character development, the Gold Beyond Bullying Award to recognise huge improvements made within our pastoral and wellbeing provision, a series of sports awards at local and county level and a school and community partnership award for our developing work with Leicester City Football Club. In the background it has been a delight to watch the Broughton Astley leisure centre being built, where we will be timetabling over half our PE lessons and all our Year Nine-Eleven dance lessons from January onwards.

It is with much pride and appreciation for our young people and staff that I wish you a very happy summer break.

Mandi Collins, Principal



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We bid a fond farewell to:
Beth Clements, John Howell, Louis Fernandes, Nick Davidson, and Kerrie Holmes, who all leave us for pastures new.



Dates for the diary

12th July	12:30 pm college closed for summer Break
22nd August	GCSE results day
29th August	College opens for start of Autumn Term
2nd September	Y7 photographs
3rd September	6pm GCSE Introduction for Y10
10-12th September	Open College
11th September	Y6 Open College Parents Evening
12th September	Y9 Dynamic DNA trip to Leicester University
17th September	6 to 7 pm Y11 mentoring evening
26th September	6 to 8 pm Y11 Post-16 Careers Fair
27th September	Y8 Stratford Trip
1st October	6 to 7 pm Parents forum
2nd October	6 to 7 pm Y7 Tutor, parents evening
11th October	3pm College closes for Autumn half-term
21st October	College opens for second half Autumn Term

Do you know of any student successes that we are unaware of?

Please email your information, ideally with photographs, to:

PAtotheprincipal@thomasestley.org.uk

We would love to hear about successes of both current and ex-students.

MFL round-up of this academic year

A few exciting events have taken place this year in MFL.

In October, our partner school from Belgium, Le collège St Michel from Gosselies, visited TECC for a day. Their visit was organised by the language leaders and included lunch in the drama studio to meet with the Year 8 pen-pals and observing lessons in various subject areas.

Some Year 9 students went to London to watch *Les Misérables* in October at the Queen's Theatre. In the morning, the students were shown some of the costumes used on the stage, the stage itself and the props used for the show. After, they attended a Drama workshop where they learnt about the political context behind the novel as well as musical theatre. In the afternoon, students watched the musical.



In April, a group of Year 8 students visited Paris. They visited the Eiffel Tower, went on a river-cruise on the Seine, visited Le Louvre and Notre-Dame and explored around Montmartre.



In the evening, students had French immersion lessons and on the last evening ate snails for starters.



Our Year 7 students trip to visit Normandy has just taken place. This was a full French immersion programme where students had many opportunities to practise their language skills such as buying items on a French market as well as doing orienteering and trying archery. We also visited the famous Mont Saint Michel and the Bayeux Tapestry.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our congratulations to our past Year 11 students for achieving GCSE grades in French well above the national average and to our Language Leaders who have just received the Language Leadership Award for their excellent work promoting and teaching French to KS2 students.

The MFL team

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

In partnership with the Broughton Astley Sea Cadets 22 of our students have completed their bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award this academic year - congratulations to Daniel Brown, Rebecca Cassidy, Isabelle Drummond, Rebekah Harris, Josh Herbert, Alex Skevington, Beth Varley, Kian Burrell, Aidan Clarke, Jack Hurley, Harry Hurley, Sophie Wright, Jaden Ahier, Amelia Bozzoni, Matt Garner, Lauren Horn, Annabel Turnbull, Lucy Walsh, Erin Willmott, Beth Graves, Thomas Grout, Madison Kane, Meg Kirk, David Pennick, Joe Aston, and Daniel Taylor.

A further 16 current and former students have completed their expedition sections and are working on the remaining 3 sections, whilst six have recently embarked upon their silver award.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award comprises four sections at Bronze and Silver level - Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. One from the first three must be followed for 6 months, whilst the other two are followed for 3 months. Through the Sea Cadets programme our students are prepared for their bronze rowing expedition by developing their navigation and campcraft skills and introducing them to rowing as a physical activity. By fund raising for activities and charities students are able to meet the requirements of the volunteering section. The breadth of the award allows for variations in contributing activities in all of the first three sections.

We practiced for our Bronze expeditions at a variety of local water sport venues before going to the River Nene, in Northamptonshire for the real thing, which required a two day and one night venture with a purpose. The expedition proved to be challenging but was also great fun.

Our Silver expedition, which took place in June, required three days and two nights and was based on hillwalking in the Peak District after local practice walks and camps in the Charnwood Forest area. The duration of the other sections increases at silver. Our students have chosen a variety to suit their interests, and all are working towards completion in the next academic year.



DofE Bronze Boating



DofE Bronze Camping



DofE Silver De-brief



DofE Silver Walking

For more information please contact:
Mr Hardy mhardy@thomasestley.org.uk
Broughton Astley Sea Cadets tel.: 0781 667 5599.

Year 10 Business & Economics Trip to Cadbury World

The 24th June saw us take forty-six, Year 10 Business & Economics students to Cadbury World, in Birmingham.



On arrival our students attended a business presentation from a member of staff, which included a detailed account of how the business operates, its business competitors and how it markets its products.

Following this students went on to tour the attraction, learning about the history of the business and finally got to taste the chocolate. Our students had a lot to say about the experience, a few comments are captured below:

"it was a good experience because we learnt about how the business developed"

"the talk was very interesting and really informative"

"I never realised Cadbury owned other products like Jelly Babies and Fry's chocolate"

"I enjoyed the 4D movie, it was different and exciting"

"we loved the free chocolate"

"I enjoyed spending time in the shop buying chocolate!"



Y9 GCSE Art Trip

On Monday 1st July, thirty-six year 9 students visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield to experience and explore Art in an unique setting.



Students had the opportunity to view work by a range of Artists including Damien Hirst, Ai Weiwei, Sophie Ryder, Marialuisa Tadei, Barbara Hepworth, Niki de Saint Phalle and David Smith. The work produced from the visit will form the starting point of their GCSE Fine Art Coursework which is worth 60% of their final grade. Students have homework over the summer to document their visit and analysis one artist whose work they admired on the day.

*Emma Strudwick,
Subject Leader of Art and Design*



Pre-School news round

Our Pre-school group is all about learning through fun and play. We are proud of the variety of activities we offer to our children. Sometimes you will see us walking in the village with our hi-vis jackets on. We may have visited the baby ducks or walked to the post box to post surprises for our families.



The children were involved in research to choose what they would like to plant in our garden area. They are currently growing potatoes and a range of herbs and flowers. They take responsibility for their plants by going out to water them and they have learnt which areas of the garden they can dig in and which they can't because there are plants growing. Petra made them a fabulous scarecrow called "Tatty" who helps them look after the garden.



One of our practitioners is training to be a forest school leader, so we hope to be able to offer lots more adventurous play going forward, alongside our usual den building, bug hunts and mud kitchen play.



The children have been introduced to Ollie Owl and the Forest Friends



We learn how to walk quietly and responsibly, holding hands and using out indoor voices, as we go through the college to our weekly gym sessions (looking for shapes, numbers and letters on the way) which we thoroughly enjoy, using crash mats as trampolines, playing chasing games and testing our balancing and climbing skills. We also enjoy a visit to the library every 2 or 3 weeks, where the children choose and check -out a book to take home to read with their families.



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We have learnt about hedgehogs and made a hedgehog safe drinking tray, as so many of them die of dehydration.



This is just a snapshot of what we do throughout the year, along with our continuous provision where our children learn through play and a curriculum that is planned and led by them.

We were lucky to avoid the rain for our sports afternoon. Thank you to the college for organising it for us.

There isn't room to include the baking activities we have offered or our annual day out, which this year was at West Lodge Rural Centre, where our favourite ride is the tub ride –a train bouncing through muddy puddles!

London Arts Trip



Years 8 and 9 London Trip June 2019

We took forty students from Y8/9 on the London Arts trip. It was a busy two days but students enjoyed a wide variety of performing arts opportunities including a tour round the Globe theatre, a river cruise on the Thames, Wicked, an acting workshop at the Pineapple Studios and Mama Mia. During our workshop we were honoured with a private performance by one of the cast member from Wicked, which gave the students the opportunity to ask questions about the performing arts industry. The students were a pleasure to have on the trip.

Miss Plumb, Head of Music



Reaching out for opportunities to **lead and encourage others.**

Year 11 Futures



Sports Leaders



Year Nine Arts Award



Leadership entitlement for all

This year, we have seen many opportunities for all students to develop their leadership skills from Year 7 Enterprise module through to the Year 11 Futures module (pictured left).

Year Nine have a range of opportunities through their Specialisms contexts to lead groups, activities, and sometimes activities at other schools and preschool. We have received fantastic feedback about their attitude, behaviour and confidence this year from a variety of stakeholders.

We believe that providing many leadership experiences and opportunities should be an entitlement within every school. While some schools have focussed simply on academic achievement, employers tell us that they are looking for well rounded and highly skilled employees who can take the initiative and deal with the unexpected.

At Thomas Estley, we call this our rule of 'no state school disadvantage', believing that, whether you can pay for child's education or not, no doors or opportunities should be closed to your child and their future plans and aspirations, and we try to support this within every aspect of our curriculum.

Leadership enhancement opportunities for all

Many of our students choose to take full advantage of some of the additional leadership opportunities which we offer at Thomas Estley.

Pictured to the right are the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition and Silver expedition this term, as well as SSAT Student leadership accreditation moderation, which are some of the highest level accredited leadership opportunities which we offer, together with ASDAN and Language and Sports Leaders accreditation.

There are a whole range of projects which students can choose to participate in, from primary liaison leads, through student researchers and student council, to the Student Environment Group who also organised Community Day. There is truly something for everyone. Please see our Leadership and Character booklet for more details and encourage your child to approach Mrs Collins or a tutor if they wish to take on an additional leadership role within the college.

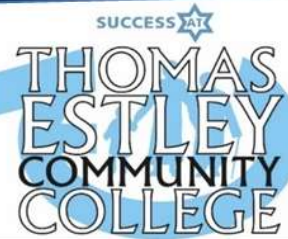


Duke of Edinburgh



SSAT moderation





Business Mentor Programme

"Seeking out our talents and following our dreams."

In order to help best prepare our students for the world of work we started the search this year for volunteer employer mentors from a wide range of careers, backgrounds, ages and interests to inspire, motivate and inform our young people of all the possibilities available to them in the world of work. Employer Mentors have been working mainly one-to-one with a student aged 14-16. Some group sessions have taken place too. Regular meetings have taken place to action plan and sessions have been tailored to the individual young person. E-mentoring has also taken place between meetings for some.



We celebrated our successful business mentoring programme at Leicester racecourse on 19th June with case studies, a meal and an inspirational speaker. Well done to all those young people who took part and a massive thank you to our business mentor volunteers.

What our students said:

"Thank you for giving me your time to come and talk to me about what I want to do when I leave school and talking to me about how to revise and talking to me about home."

"It has been great so far and I'm starting to feel I can tell you anything. You have really helped me with confidence and being myself around others."

"Thank you so much for helping me look for Apprenticeships and Colleges. It has helped me so much and now I really know what in future I want to do and where to go. I also now know how to apply for Apprenticeships and college and what grades I would need to get into them."



YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

If you are interested in becoming a mentor (no experience required), please contact college reception for further details. We would love to hear from you!

Sports Round-up

Another busy, successful and amazing year in PE at Thomas Estley, that saw nearly 300 students represent the college in a wide range of activities.

Many students have had the opportunity to represent their house teams in inter-team tournaments, and school teams have competed in friendlies, leagues, tournaments and cup games.

Extra curricular lunchtime and after school clubs have included Table Tennis and Cheerleading this year, in addition to the traditional sports such as Netball, Football for both boys and girls, Rugby for both boys and girls, Cricket, Basketball, Handball and Athletics

We have been very lucky with the amazing support we have received from our volunteers: Hazel Butler, Michelle Davis, Wayne Hobbs, Gareth Butler. Without their support our students would not be able to access so many amazing opportunities. We are extremely grateful that they are so willing to give freely of their time.

Many new titles at District and County level have come our way this year as our students continue to be fantastic ambassadors for the college

Cross Country	Netball Girls	Girls Football	Boys Football
<p>Y7 Boys County League Champions County Relay Champions County Schools 3rd Place</p> <p>Y7 Girls County League 3rd Place County Relay 3rd Place County Schools 2nd Place</p> <p>Y8/9 Boys County League Champions County Relay Champions County Schools Champions</p>	<p>Y7 County Semi-finalists Blaby/Harborough League Champions South Leicestershire Cup Tournament runners-up</p> <p>B Team South Leicestershire Plate tournament runners-up</p> <p>Y8 Blaby/Harborough League runners-up Y9 South Leicestershire Plate tournament champions (!)</p> <p>Y9 Blaby/Harborough League runners-up</p> <p>Y10 County Y11 Tournament quarter finalists Blaby/Harborough League Champions County Semi-finalists</p> <p>35 of our netballers were flag bearers at a Wasps Superleague Netball Match in Coventry, and Wasps Australian International Netballer Sam May came into college to do a coaching Masterclass with our KS3 players</p>	<p>Y7 Blaby/Harborough Futsal runners-up Blaby/Harborough 5 A Side Champions South Leicestershire 5 A Side Champions East Midlands 5 A Side semi-finalists Blaby/Harborough 9 A Side Champions County 9 A Side champions</p> <p>Y8/9 Blaby/Harborough Futsal runners-up Blaby/Harborough League runners-up</p> <p>Y10/11 Blaby/Harborough Futsal runners-up</p> <p>Boys Football</p> <p>Y7 Blaby/Harborough League runners-up</p> <p>Y11 Blaby/Harborough League Champions County champions ESFA Premier League National Cup finalists</p>	<p>Y7 Blaby/Harborough League runners-up</p> <p>Y11 Blaby/Harborough League Champions County champions ESFA Premier League National Cup finalists</p> <p>Indoor Athletics</p> <p>Y7 Boys Blaby/Harborough runners-up</p> <p>Y8 Boys Blaby/Harborough runners-up</p> <p>Y7 Girls Blaby/Harborough Champions</p> <p>Y8 Girls Blaby/Harborough Champions</p>

Sports round-up continued

Individual Honours

County Athletics finals

Following great displays at the South Leicestershire Athletics Championship, eleven of our students qualified for County Athletics finals:

Ash Butler
Sophie Wright
James Boyles
Ryan Butler
Eve Aston
Maddy Torbitt
Joe Joyce
Jacob Minihane
Scarlett Lewin
Kacie Jones
Ella Taylor

First place: Ash Butler, County 800m Champion

Second places: Sophie Wright - Shot, James Boyles - Triple Jump

3rd Places: Ryan Butler - 1500m, Eve Aston - 800m

Ash Butler is the County Cross Country League Champion, The County Cross Country Schools Champion and has been selected for the County Cross Country Team and the English Schools Cross Country and Athletics Teams

Ryan Butler achieved 3rd place in the County Cross Country League and has been selected for the County Cross Country Squad.

Eve Aston and George Drummond were both selected for the County Cross country Squad.

Whilst all of these successes are very important to the PE Department, and it is great to see the hard work of the students rewarded with silverware, it is equally important that we offer a wide variety of activities for our students to experience. We hope that we can continue to do so, as we have such great parental support and great student enthusiasm.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our success this year, we really appreciate your commitment.



Recognition of Excellent Attendance

The following students have all achieved **100% attendance** for this academic year:

Todd Archer
Christopher Ashford
Kate Bradshaw
Henry Clarke
Sam Cole
Ethan Coulson
Nell Dawkins
Demi Day
Nishad Deulkar
Liam Griffiths
Emily Harris
Katie Howell
Fraser Hughes
Logan Jones
Joseph Joyce
Ben Kirk
Felix Linn
Taffy Manyumba
Ethan Measures
Keira Ogden
Sophie Parkinson
Joanne Penrith
Evie Pollard
Harry Robinson
Isaac Sayers
Sean Seaton-Guy
Ben Simpson
Ella Simpson
Dom Smith
Felix Tazzyman-Luhrs
Kate Wells

The students listed below have all achieved 100% attendance over the **last two** academic years: August 2017 to July 2019

Nhu Huynh
Noah Mawby
Daniel Pennick
Harry Scarsebrook
Jack Singleton
Maisie Tyers
Mia Wapples-Budd
Eleanor Watson

**These three students
have achieved 100%
attendance for the last
three academic Years
August 2019 to July 2019**

**Samuel Proctor
Jack Scarsebrook
Caitlyn Varley**

**We are delighted that
these three students have
all achieved 100%
attendance over the last
four academic years
August 2015 to July 2019**

**Joe Aston
Megan Bryan
Jude Thoms**



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 for your support with this.



College is closed to students from
15th July to 28th August
(inclusive)
College re-opens to students on
29th August 2019

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**
- ◆ **Radio Leicester**
- ◆ **Parentmail**

Mobile phones

Students are not allowed to use mobile phones in college unless they have express permission from a member of staff (for taking a picture of homework prompts, backing music for performance etc.). 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

The use of headphones is only permitted outside of the college building. Headphones 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.

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 transport provided by the County Council 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.

It is also useful to have to hand the contact number for any query with school transport:
0116 3050002.



Absence during term-time

If your child is ill please contact the college on each day of illness and leave a message on the absence line. Where possible make medical appointments outside of college hours. 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.