

Welcome to our Thomas Estley Community College Newsletter

February 2020



Dear parents and carers

Although I have written to you previously during our school closure period, this is the first college newsletter which we are sharing with you during these unusual times. I wrote to you a few days ago about our different journeys through the current storm and I hope that, whatever your personal journey, it is as smooth as it can be, given the challenging circumstances. I know that some of you have sadly lost family members, or suffered from illness yourselves, and that others are struggling as a result of financial or mental health pressures within your households. I want to affirm that we are standing with you as part of the Thomas Estley family, and I ask you to please share any information with us through your child's tutor or the pastoral team which may help us to support you and your children as much as we can.

As I write this, we wait to hear about possible future plans, including loosening of lockdown, partial reopening of schools, etc. The complexities of any potential recovery plan are exercising our brains currently, and I have been asked to be one of the representatives of all Leicestershire headteachers, working with Public Health and the Local Authority on possible future scenarios for reopening schools. With social distancing and other protective measures in place, this will not be straightforward and it is important to be on the front foot and fully involved with any planning. I will let you know more as soon as I do.

This newsletter combines the 'new normal' of mainly offsite working with celebration of much of last term's onsite provision and achievements. Reading through it and reflecting on its contents makes me really miss the day to day contact with most of our young people and I am aware that it has been a difficult period for the majority of them and a challenging one for families, as you work hard to support your children in their home learning. It has been a real blow for our Year Eleven students in particular, and we have a wealth of support in place for them including our Thomas Estley 2020 Year 11 Promise, a personalised post 16 bridging programme for each of them and access to additional post 16 and careers advice to help them make their next step successfully. None of this however can replace a 'normal' summer examination series and rite of passage to adulthood. and our thoughts are with them and their families. I would also like to pay our respects to all those who knew Elliott Sinton; his sudden loss in February was devastating to his family, his friends and the college community, and our last page here is dedicated to his memory.

Finally, I have been incredibly impressed by the resilience and positivity of our young people and staff during this period, from the way in which they have tackled home working, through their determination to bring cheerfulness to those around them, to their commitment to support the NHS and carers through our donations of homemade and bought PPE and messages and pictures for NHS staff and patients. At no other time have we resonated as much as 'A Community of Courage and Commitment to Success'. Thank you all so much.

Mandi Collins, College Principal

A special well done to these students, nominated by their teachers for excellent work completed since the college closure. Keep it up, you are doing a great job!

Eve Jelves	Excellent animation and soundtrack	Computing/ Mr Hardy	Lauren Markley	Excellent progress	Maths
Eva Crofton			Chris Pridmore	Excellent accuracy and next level key skills	Mr Curry
Toni Malin	Excellent effort	H+C / Miss Jackson	Daniel Bradshaw		
Morgan Clements	High quality poetical response to the crisis	English Mrs Briggs	Lydia Fletcher	High quality techniques	ADT
Matthew Tear	Excellent graphic communication and modelling skills	ADT Resistant Materials	Kirk Carter	Great product analysis	Mrs Burnett
Leo Gregg		Mr Curtis	Katy Hewitt	Exceptional response	Dance
Shay Etteridge	High quality work and response to feedback	Science	Amy Taylor	Going above and beyond	Miss Bancroft
Ewan Vincent		Mrs Rotimi	Kaylum Cooper	Perseverance and great independent work	Maths
Hope Wan	High quality work	English	Emma Donaldson		Ms Ducey
Amy Barrett	Great poetry essay	Ms Broughton	Eve Jelves	Complex exploration of ideas and commitment	English
Isobel Smith	High quality case study	Geography	Katie Howell		Mrs Briggs
Lucy Phythian	Exceptional commitment	Mr Preece	Ollie Bowser	Excellent effort and commitment to succeed	English
Evie Hill	Outstanding attitude and approach to work	Art	Michael Cooper		Ms Little
Sophie Ryan		Mrs Strudwick	Callum McVeigh	Focussed, committed and great work done	Science
Ben Hayward	Determination to achieve the very best	Maths	Max Adcock		Mr Draycott
Hannah Carmichael		Mr Gladwin	Matthew Proctor	Excellent effort and detail in designing	ADT
Amber Wroblewski	High standard of work and great questions	PE	Pinki Gill		Miss Knight
Chico Gill		Mrs Kavanagh	Evie Hill	Fantastic commitment to achieving great work	French/ Business
Millie Chamney	Commitment	Art/ Miss Fisher	Emily Summers		Miss Colquhoun
			Solomon Spencer-Smith	Commitment	Art/ Miss Fisher

Positives from isolation

THE THOMAS ESTLEY CORONAVIRUS PLEDGE

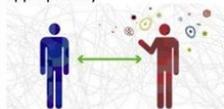
We pledge to battle against the coronavirus and protect our community and society by:



Washing our hands for at least 20 seconds on arrival, before eating, before leaving and at regular intervals. Trying not to touch our face.

Following 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' advice with coughs and sneezes and keeping college surfaces and areas clean and sanitised.

Not crowding together in large groups and maintaining social distancing appropriately.



Staying at home if we have a new persistent cough or a temperature over 37.8 degrees and remaining self-isolated for 14 days if we have these symptoms.

Following up to date government advice.

Eating and exercising healthily to keep our immune systems strong.

We pledge to battle against the diseases of fear, anxiety and loneliness by:



Maintaining a positive attitude – we can't change events around us, but we can change our attitude to them.

Maintaining our own wellbeing and giving ourselves time and space away from news, social media, work and pressures.

Laughing together and having fun in creative ways that follow the current guidance, including wellbeing blogs, the college wellbeing groups and safe and fun wellbeing challenges.



Checking in on people who are self-isolating or who are elderly or vulnerable from a distance – phone, text, Facetime, etc – so that they are less lonely, and helping them get food or medicine when they need to.

Looking after and encouraging those around us in every way, and shining kindness and light into the lives of those around us.

Pictured are some of the cards that our **key worker children** in school at Thomas Estley designed, wrote and sent to the senior citizens who normally attend our **Luncheon Club** but are now isolated in their homes and rooms.

They have been sending their love and the thoughts of all at the college, hoping to shine some light into isolated lives. We are proud to be able to support key worker parents and carers on the front line.



Thomas Estley were privileged to make deliveries of protective equipment to two of our local hospitals where NHS staff are busy fighting the Coronavirus outbreak. We gathered goggles and protective gloves from our Science & ADT departments to donate them to where the need is greatest.



Welcome to the world of virtual Forest School

As I am not currently able to offer Forest School sessions, I thought it would be a lovely idea to share some Forest School activities you could try at home.

Today we are entering the magical world of Forest Friends, Fairies and Elves. Your challenge is to create a Forest Friends garden. Let your imagination and creativity flow. If you are feeling adventurous you could even create a whole village.

You will be amazed how many resources you will find around you. Use this as an opportunity to do some upcycling so it's good for our environment too.

I will share my magical Forest Friends garden with you. It is a creation in progress and a very therapeutic way of absorbing yourself in nature.

Thomas Estley preschool has been sending home ideas for parents to inspire them as they help their children play and learn at home over this period. Here are a few from our Forest School leader which you could try at home!



Secret doors
If you are lucky enough to have trees in your garden study the bark carefully and you may discover a secret door. You can make your own secret doors using lollipop sticks, cardboard boxes or pieces of bark. If you enjoy painting why not try painting a wooden door.

Forest Friend houses
A collection of twigs and sticks, moss, leaves and grass is all you need to make some houses for your Forest Friends. These make great homes for the minibeasts sharing our gardens too. Alternatively you can upcycle plant pots to create cosy homes.

Forest Friend garden
You could build a miniature garden for your Forest Friends. I've used an old wheelbarrow for mine, but plant pots, tyres and crates make great gardens too. If you decide to use plants in your gardens, please make sure the plants are safe.

Have fun and it would be fantastic if you could share some photographs of your magical creations! 🌿🐛



Positives from isolation

Thomas Estley Easter Challenge

Thank you and well done to those who took part in the Thomas Estley Easter Challenge. Below are just a few photos of student entries—you can see more by following the link below to the **Wellbeing blog** which is updated weekly. <https://wellbeingatthomasestley.blogspot.com/>



A note from ADT

Free CAD - Computer Aided Design. The links below might help you in completing your Design and Technology work at home.....

Techsoft 2D design is a piece of software that we use in school for CAD when developing our designs.

This company have released the software for **free for all students** and can be downloaded below. Why not have a play around with it and see what you can do!

<https://www.techsoft.co.uk/adverts/coronavirus-covid-19>

Google sketch up is also a very useful piece of CAD software. This is very easy to use and can help you to produce really impressive 3D drawings. Again the best way to learn how to use it is to have a go and play around.

<https://www.sketchup.com/plans-and-pricing/sketchup-free>

'FashionDesign' is an app you can download from your app store which gives you hundreds of different options when designing clothes.

An Inspector Calls - at the theatre and at college Tommo Flix



Still a little hazy on the plot of one of your GCSE texts?
Want to see the text visually instead of just reading it again?
Want to do revision by just hanging out and watching a film?

Tommo FLIX

First film showing is
MACBETH.

Thurs 27th Feb:
4pm-6.30pm

Be proactive. No Uniform needed. Snacks provided.



We had some great 'nights at the movies' firstly watching 'Macbeth', then 'An Inspector Calls' and finally 'A Christmas Carol'.

A throng of enthusiastic Year 11 students, 104 in total, adventured to **Nottingham's Theatre Royal** to see The National Theatre production evening performance of '**An Inspector Calls**'.



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Tommo FLIX

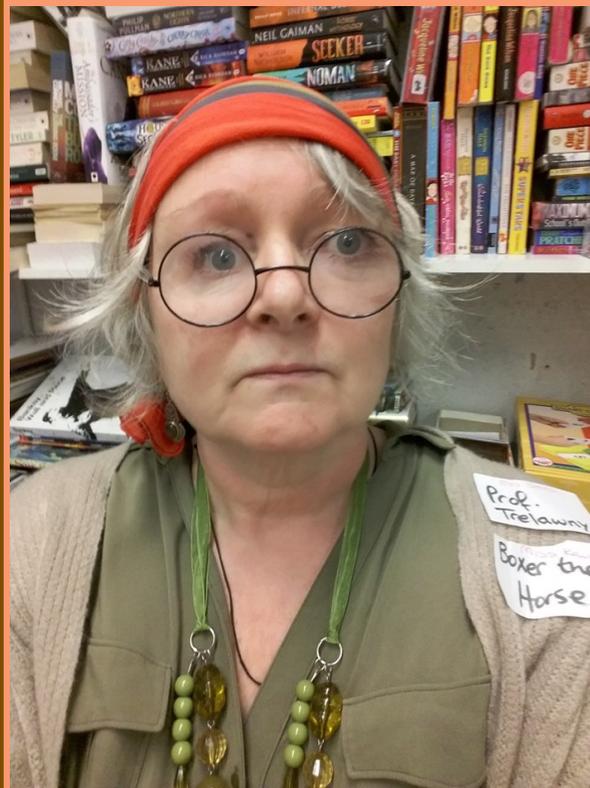
NEXT SHOWING...
A Christmas Carol

Thurs 12th March:
4.00pm-5.45pm

Popcorn provided. No uniform needed.

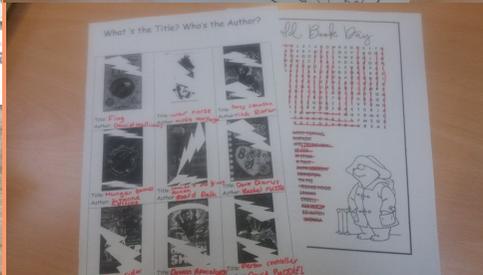
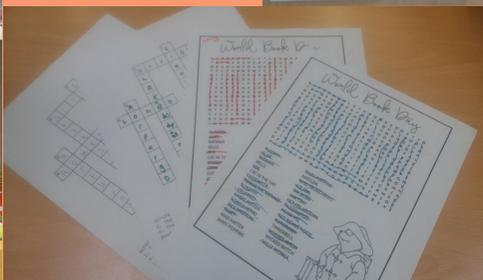
Celebrating World Book Day

Professor Trelawney from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry visited the library for World Book Day.



The day was celebrated with quizzes, word searches and crosswords!

1. Who is the character and from which book?



Most of the winners from the World Book Day competition, set by the English department, are pictured here.



Our English teachers really worked their look for World Book Day and inspired the children through both their costumes and the many activities around encouraging reading for pleasure. Reading improves grades and wellbeing, and is a great thing to do!

Thomas Estley Celebrating Success

Leicestershire U18 Girls Rugby

Congratulations to Y11 student Shannon Parnell, who has been selected for the Leicestershire Girls U18 squad for this season.

She may be one of the youngest in the squad but in the recent game against Warwickshire



A great achievement for Sonny as our partners: Leicester City in the Community, awarded him a highly prized **Inspire Captain award**, for displaying so many positive traits in his attitude and approach to his education.

We are very proud of him.

Thanks also go to Kwesi, one of our Inspire coaches from LCitC, who makes such a difference to so many of our students on a regular basis and has worked with Sonny and many other students over the last couple of years.



We are exceptionally proud of Year 10 student Josh who achieved his **Young RYLA qualification** over half term after being chosen to represent Thomas Estley in a special residential course.

He attended workshops on team building and character and was pushed outside his comfort zone with some abseiling and caving.

His place was sponsored by Lutterworth Rotary Club, whom we look forward to working with again.



The amount raised for Cancer Research, by our amazing students has now reached £4840.35.

We are in awe of our amazing community, who, despite all that is going on still manage to give back.

Thank you to everybody who supported or sponsored our runners, we are proud of them all.

The actual total raised is higher as some families added the money directly to the Cancer Research website.

SSAT Sports Leaders

Our SSAT sports leaders did a great job facilitating our college Race for Life which raised much needed funds for Cancer Research.



Year 8 student, Alfie, who is aiming for his Gold award this year, organised and planned the event. Delegation was they key to ensure it ran smoothly. It proved to be a huge success.



All KS3 students took part, completing 2 laps of the field. Our **Pre-school and Centre children** followed an adapted course.

Students then had the opportunity to compete in inter-team competitions in Football, Handball, Netball and Basketball, led by our Y9 Team Challenge and PE Specialisms students. Thank you to those who sponsored runners. Events like this show what an amazing community Thomas Estley is in, and we really appreciate the support given to our amazing students.



Newsround

We have been delighted to welcome some aspirational speakers to college to address our students.



Equally delightful was to welcome the supporters of our recent 'Friends of Thomas Estley' event. A fantastic evening was had by all at the **FoTE quiz and pie night**. Thank you to those who donated prizes, helped with the catering, to Beth who was 'Quiz master', and to all those who took part in the quiz – all of which helped to raise the fantastic total of £350.



Dr Nik Kotecha OBE, an award-winning entrepreneur, business leader, philanthropist and Chief Executive of Morningside Pharmaceuticals Ltd, shared his personal and career journey with Year 11 students. He focused on developing skills and qualities to succeed in life, growing your own business, and the power of hard work and determination in building a highly successful career which also gives back to society and even saves lives

David Pochin, General Manager and Chairman of Pochin Plumbing and Heating, spoke to Year 10 about his personal career journey, the importance of aspiration, determination, energy and hard work, and the apprenticeships which he and other employers offer, including the qualities which employers are looking for.

He also met with a Year 11 focus group of potential apprenticeship seekers. We really appreciate him giving up his time for our young people.

Pathway to your future

David Pochin

pochin

Plumbing & heating

pochin.com/apprenticeships



Linked to their current theme,

'There's an ouch in my pouch'

preschool have been having lots of fun, hunting for numbers on wallabies and, once they've all been found, working together to sequence the numbers in order.



The children then stayed outside to have some free time to investigate and challenge themselves in their play and learning.

Spotlight on Year 11

Spotlight on Year 11

These are unprecedented times for all of the Thomas Estley family, but for our Year 11 they are causing additional unease.

It is perfectly natural for these young people to be feeling a mixture of emotions; from relief to boredom and frustration.

We made a promise to them that they will not be disadvantaged because they are part of the 2020 cohort:

- ◆ We are currently compiling our Year 11 **Achievement Certificates** which will be issued to all Year 11 students in the Summer Term.
- ◆ **Results day** will be 20th August. We will corresponded with you regularly with the support and relevant information.
- ◆ Alongside this, we will celebrate their success at a rescheduled **Leavers Prom**, on 29th October.
- ◆ Further celebration of success will be at the **Awards Evening** towards the end of 2020
- ◆ **Bridging work** for post 16 academic and vocational courses will be set in mid May

Prom tickets already purchased will be valid for the rearranged date and tickets are still available to buy via parentmail.

The amount of time out of formal education can be somewhat daunting for Year 11. With this in mind we have decided to go above and beyond the practice of local providers and secure **bridging work** for all of the academic and vocational courses which our young people will move on to in September.

We have collated information on courses to be studied via an online survey and staff (see opposite) have volunteered to set 5 weeks worth of bridging work, offering a streamlined curriculum personalised for each student.

Students will be completing work set by their current Year 11 teachers up to 11th May, when they will seamlessly move onto bridging work, which will be set from 11th May until 19th June.

Where we do not have expertise internally, for example construction staff, we have contacted local FE colleges for support.

As you will know from my previous correspondence, results for Year 11 will be determined by a combination of centre assessed grades and external national standardisation. If you have any questions around Year 11 please contact me on: jhartley@thomasestley.org.uk.

Janine Hartley - Assistant Principal

A Level

Maths & Further Maths	R Taylor
English Language	L Pole/A Corbett
English Literature	E Little
Biology	D Ansley
Chemistry	S Rotimi
Physics	M Draycott
History	S Hancock
Geography	P Schalkwyk
Politics	V Geraghty
Computing	M Hardy
Business	C Bryan
Economics	C Bryan
Accountancy	C Bryan
Sociology	S Lee
Psychology	M Young
Criminology	S Lee
Health & Social Care	J Hartley
Philosophy & Ethics	V Geraghty
Law	S Hancock
Dance	D Bancroft
Music	E Plumb
Art & Design	E Strudwick
Product Design	S Fisher

A Level

Media	A Colquhoun
Spanish	K Coles
French	S Anderson

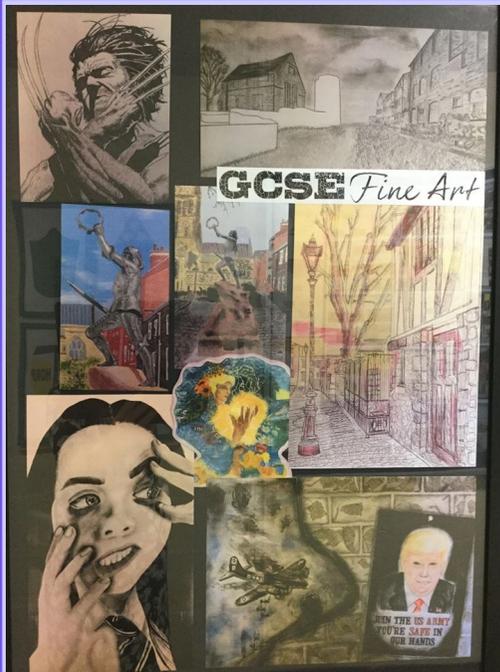
Vocational

Hospitality & Catering	S Pooley
Sport & Fitness	I O'Flynn
IT	M Hardy
Construction	C Curtis
Plumbing	R Fegan
Electrical	L Brooker
Painting & Decorating	C Curtis
Motor Vehicle	C Curtis
Hair & Beauty	J Hartley
Animal Care &	L Hillman
Travel & Tourism	C Bryan
Public Uniformed	L Brooker
Child care	J Hartley
Fashion	L Burnett

GCSE Level 2

English Language	H Briggs
English Literature	H Briggs
Maths	S Ducey

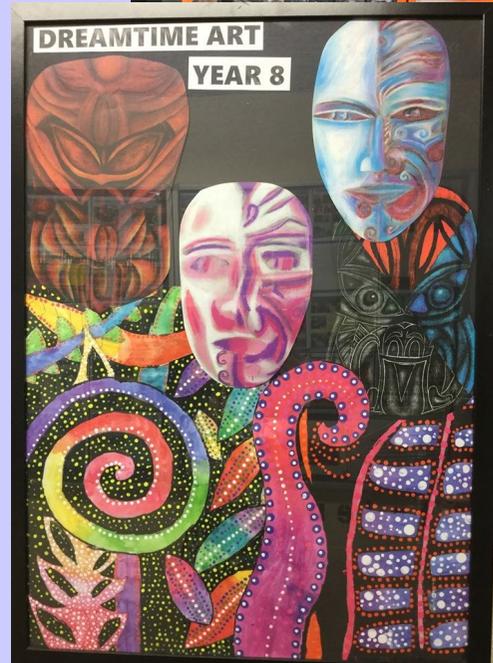
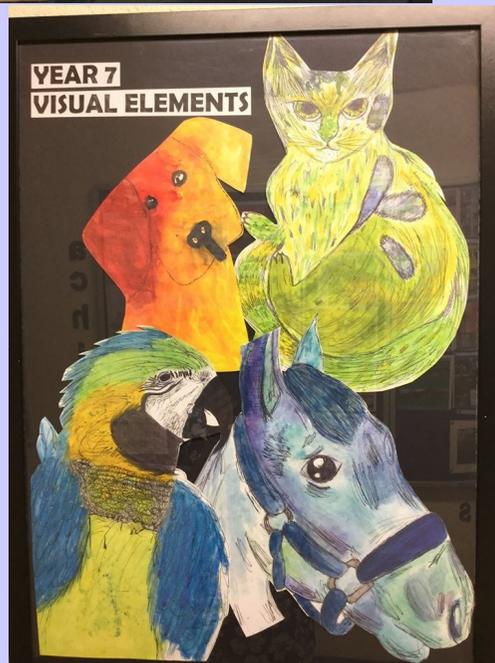
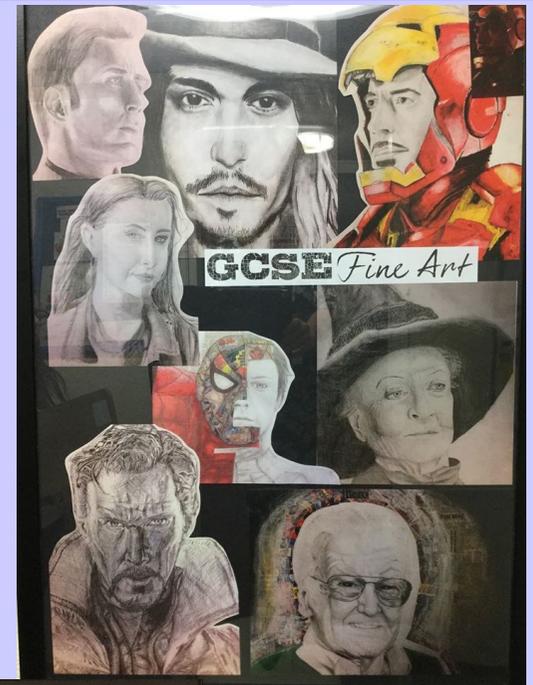
Year 9 Art



We are delighted to share with you some of the fantastic work created by our students in Art.



This work has recently been displayed in the staffroom / dining room exit corridor.

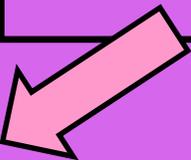


We are understandably proud of the high standards which so many of our students achieve in Art.

English Dept. celebrates World Book Day



Congratulations to our World Book Day competition winners. Most winners are pictured here on the left.



Mean while, our English teachers really worked their look for World Book Day and inspired the children through both their costumes and the many activities around encouraging reading for pleasure.
Reading improves grades and wellbeing, and is a great thing to do!



Performing Arts



Well done to all the students who entertained the audience so beautifully at the Thomas Estley Valentine's concert



Y11 Drama

Congratulations to our year 11 Drama students on completing the practical element of their course in front of a visiting examiner.

The examiner commented on how smooth and well organised the day was and the professional attitude of our students.

Well done to you all!

Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre Club enjoyed a dance workshop after school with **ex-professional dancer Mr Taylor**.

He has choreographed a number from Mary Poppins for this year's **school show**; which unfortunately has had to be cancelled.



Sports Round-up



Y8/Y9—Blaby & Harborough League

3 – 1 Victory against Lutterworth College

Now **League Winners**, the girls qualify for the County Cup knock out stage.



Y7, 5th round ESFA National Cup

3 - 0 Victory against Bilton School, Rugby

Now through to the last 16 in England.



Y7 National Cup Match

10 – 0 Victory against Priory Ruskin Academy, Grantham
Now through to round 5.

The girls observed a minute's silence to remember their fellow student who tragically passed away during half term. The girls meet Bilton School, Rugby in the last 32.



Y7 Blaby & Harborough League

13 - 0 Victory against Lutterworth College

As **League Champions** they also qualify for the County Cup (without conceding a goal).



U15 Girls County Futsal Competition

County champions—after a penalty shoot-out.



Y11 girls netball teams signed off today after playing their last competitive games for Tommo at the Senior Girls South Leicestershire Netball Tournament at Leicester Grammar School.

Sports round-up

U13 Girls, County Final at Crown Hills College.

County champions—after a 2 –1 victory in the final



Y8 Girls South Leicestershire Netball Tournament

Played at Leicester Grammar School, the 'A' team lost out on the top slot only on goal difference.

Y7/8 Girls Plate Competition, also at Leicester Grammar School

The girls finished runners-up.



Y8 Boys County Cup Semi-final

After a 3—1 win over Woodbrook Vale High School, Loughborough the boys are **through to the final**, to be played at Harborough Town FC.



U15 Netball

Winners of the South Leicestershire Plate Tournament



Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulation to our Duke of Edinburgh students, who in March, successfully completed the second of their two training weekends:

- 17 attained the British Rowing Competent Crew qualification
- 5 attained the Supervised Coxswain qualification.

The students enjoyed staying for the weekend at TS Tiger in Leicester. The expedition training sessions built on work already completed on Monday nights at college.



The weather was against us and with the River Soar running in spate on the first weekend it was impossible to launch the boats. Our hardy students completed the training on the second weekend at **Wicksteed Park, Kettering**, on less severe water but still in challenging conditions. The students are now expedition ready as soon as conditions allow.



Elliott Sinton

The college family were very sad to lose one of our own, with the passing of Elliott Sinton.

A Celebration for the Life
of
Elliott Sinton

12th May 2004 - 22nd February 2020



Friday 13th March 2020
at 9.30 am

South Leicestershire Crematorium,
Countesthorpe



Forever in our hearts ❤️🕊️

Closing Reading

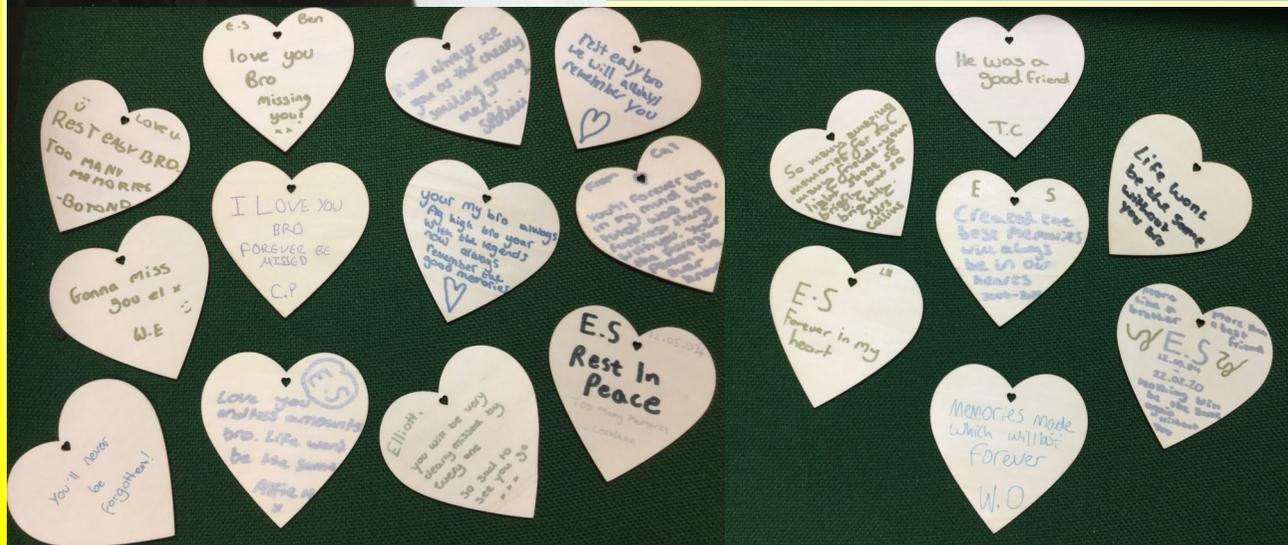
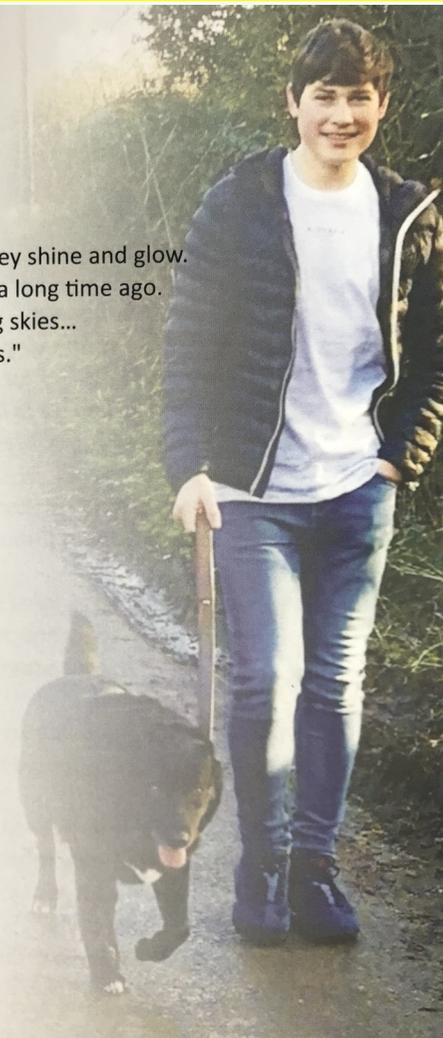
from *No Matter What*
by Debi Gliori

"...Look at the stars – how they shine and glow.
Yet some of those stars died a long time ago.
Still they shine in the evening skies...
Love, like starlight, never dies."

Music to Leave by

Normal Song
by Perfume Genius

Take my hand
When you are scared
And I will pray
If you go back out there
Comfort the man
Help him understand
That no floating sheet
No matter how haunting
And no secret
No matter how nasty
Can poison your voice
Or keep you from joy



Elliott was an extremely popular student, a larger than life character who touched the lives of many both in the college and beyond.