

Welcome to our Thomas Estley Community College Newsletter

February 2020



Dear parents and carers

I am always proud of our young people and of the Thomas Estley family, and recent challenges and events have shown that we are truly 'A Community of Courage and Commitment to Success'. **Courage** is an incredibly important quality for our young people as they grow up in a world which can challenge their confidence, self image and beliefs, and which requires commitment, determination and perseverance in every area from self-worth and relationships through tackling examinations, barriers to learning and progression to achieving their full potential in their future careers and the arena of adult life.

I am privileged to witness their courage at first hand on a daily basis. Some of our students have disabilities or learning difficulties which make everyday tasks demanding and they persevere with cheerfulness and determination. Some of our students have lived through events which would challenge any adult; losing a parent, a friend or a sibling, experiencing violence or illness, or moving from one address to another on a regular basis, and they still manage to attend regularly and work hard in their lessons. Some of our young people show real dedication to success on the stage, the sports pitch, and in other arenas, many of these training or practising for up to 30 hours a week in addition to their school work. Many of our students work incredibly hard to achieve their full academic potential, regularly putting in extra hours of homework or revision when they feel tired or feel like giving up. And for some of our students, overcoming barriers to their mental health and just making it to school takes more daily courage than many of us will ever need to show. Working with our young people is rewarding and often humbling, and I am also proud that so many of our staff demonstrate the same determination and courage in carrying out their roles in college, to support the success of our students.

We have already received several accolades and awards for our work on wellbeing over the last couple of years, and we have now begun to work towards achieving the full **Wellbeing Award for Schools**. Only a minority of schools nationally succeed in achieving this award, and it requires us to show sustained progress over the year in constantly working to improve our provision in this area. Thank you to all of you who took part in the recent parental survey or attended our Parent Forum last month, to provide ideas and feedback for us to work on. Student and staff working groups are taking many of these ideas from parents, children and staff forward over the next few months. Next month we are hosting a Wellbeing Best Practice workshop for headteachers across Leicestershire and Leicester City schools, to share and develop our own practice as one of four case studies from local primary and secondary schools. We are proud of our developments in this area over the last two or three years, but recognise that we still have some way to go, and are determined to continue to improve our provision.

*Mandi Collins,
College Principal*

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Dates for the diary

14th February	College closes at 3pm for half-term
17th- 21st February	Y11 Interventions during half-term
24th February	College opens for second half Spring term
4th March	4:30 to 8:30 pm, Y10 Parents' evening
10th March	Race for Life
12th March	Y7/Y8 Science Fair
17th March	Big Science Team Quiz
17th March	Y10 Revision evening
26th March	Mixed Cross- Country
27th to 30th March	Y8 Paris Trip
30th March	Photographer on site—portraits Y9 & Y11, whole year Y7 & Y11
31st March	School Show dress rehearsal
1st to 3rd April	Show—A Night at the Musicals
3rd April	College closes at 3pm for end of Spring term
6th to 11th April	Easter School—Walk and Talk exams
20th April	College Opens for Summer Term

A Caring Community College

At Thomas Estley we truly believe in the Christmas spirit of giving, witnessed by the generosity of staff, students, parents and the local community in the three articles below—the events all took place before Christmas

Helping the Homeless

Thanks to our generous staff, students, parents and community members and their donations we put on a clothing stall for the homeless in Leicester.



Thomas Estley staff and students distributed the items in Leicester City Centre, in conjunction with

'One Love Leicester' and 'Help The Homeless Leicester'.

Many people in need benefited from the clothing and personal care products and several asked us to pass on thanks to those who donated.



The items that were left over were kept by 'Help The Homeless' who distributed them for us the following week.



The Bridge & Care home

Both Mrs Briggs and Ms Little's tutor groups continued their annual donation to both The Bridge whose vision is: "Resilient, compassionate communities where individuals thrive in safe and secure homes" and a rural old peoples' home. Thank you to our students, our families and the whole community for caring about all those who don't always have all that we take for granted at Christmas, and for all of your kind donations.



Lutterworth & Villages food bank



We were thrilled to see the results of the college wide collection of food items for the Lutterworth and Villages Foodbank. The donations will go towards making food parcels which provide a 3 day supply of nutritionally balanced meals for local families in crisis.



The generosity of students and staff was well received by Debbie Barber, the parish manager, on behalf of the Foodbank trust.



Special thanks also to those students who volunteered to help with the collection and delivering of the donations. In being involved in this charitable work they have demonstrated some of 'The Thomas Estley Way' character qualities that we value: kindness, empathy and integrity.



Remembering Ellie Baxter



Ellie Louise Baxter

7th October 2006 - 10th December 2019



All Saints' Church, Sapcote
Thursday 23rd January 2020
at 11.00 am

Following the memorial service held on 31st January to celebrate Ellie's life, her mother, Sophie, sent the following message:

Just wanted to thank you all so much for the lovely service on Friday. The children were so brave and strong, and also so were all of you too. I have sent this to you, but everyone else that was involved and also who attended I am aiming our thanks too as well.

It really shown how many friends she had and what a massive impact she had on her fellow students, previous teachers and her teachers at Thomas Estley.

All the work you did for Ellie whilst she attended Thomas Estley and all the support to keep her in school, I honestly can't thank you ALL enough.

Just wanted to pass on our thanks, keep in touch.

Hopefully see you all soon.

*Kindest regards,
Sophie*

We have purchased a tree for Ellie which will be planted next week in front of reception and we thank Co-operative Funeralcare, Broughton Astley, for their donation of a plaque. The plaque will read:

Ellie Baxter

7/10/06 - 10/12/19

Always in our hearts.

You brought us smiles and laughter.

We are planning as a community to create a Peace Garden within the college grounds to remember Ellie and to provide a place where students can reflect and remember those they have lost, as well as having space to take time out. Our students are planning money raising events to support this, and we have already raised £580 towards this goal. Thank you to all who have already donated.

Congratulations all round!

Christmas Concert



Well done to our young people for a wonderful Christmas concert - there were many high quality performances.



Some of our students had also made Christmas crafts which were available for purchase. We are proud of you all.

Youth Forum

Year 8 student Kieran Kendall was nominated by the Autism Outreach Service to attend the Youth Forum, at County Hall, in October 2019.

During the afternoon session, topics discussed were:

- what is important to me
- independent living
- friends
- health
- what should we do to help others understand Autism

This forum will meet once a term to discuss ideas and Kieran will continue to be one of the representatives. Well done Kieran.

We have been receiving some very welcome items of post at the college recently, some in recognition of recent charitable donations and some in recognition of our students' work within local character and wellbeing projects.

Here are two of the items received.

Dear staff, parents and pupils of Thomas Estley

On behalf of all of the staff, trustees, volunteers and clients of The Bridge (East Midlands), may I please extend my sincere thanks for the most generous donation of a food hamper recently. This has been delivered to a Loughborough family with 3 children, who struggle to afford such items.

It is donations such as yours, and the kindness of local people, which enables The Bridge (East Midlands) to continue to help the lives of homeless and vulnerably housed people throughout Leicestershire and Rutland. You are helping us make a real difference, daily.

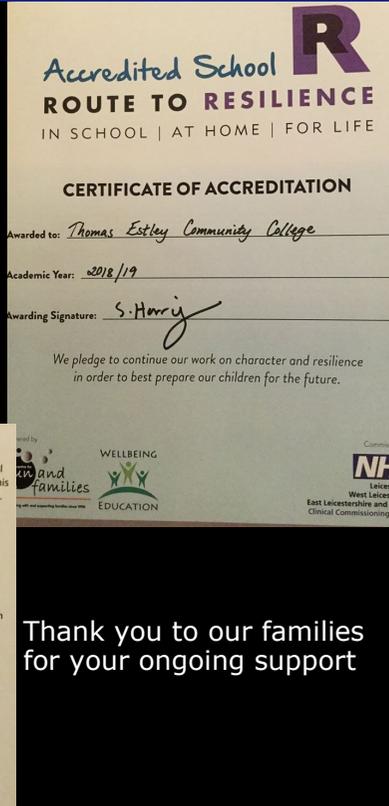
To paint a picture of the crisis we are in, throughout 2018/19 The Bridge (East Midlands) worked with 2,246 households, receiving 4,896 referrals into the different services it provides.

The support provided by The Bridge (East Midlands) has a significant impact upon the people with who it works with. 94% of clients felt that the organisation had prevented/relieved their homelessness, 86% felt they were making more positive life choices and 88% stated that their housing conditions had improved.

All of this is made possible by donors and supporters, such as yourselves.

Thank you again for your kind generosity and choosing to benefactor The Bridge (East Midlands).

Yours sincerely



Thank you to our families for your ongoing support

Thomas Estley Celebrating Success



Thursday, December 19, 2019



Inspirational Teacher Award winner, Gary Place, centre, with Hiren Punjani of sponsor eteach and Des Coleman



At the LeicestershireLive Education Awards, held on 19th December 2019, we were very proud that both of our finalists were recognised.

Our student, Oliver Braithwaite, was runner up in the category 'Beating the Odds' and our teacher Gary Place, Head of Drama, won Inspirational Teacher of the Year.



Congratulations to Emma Cleaver, one of our Year Eleven students, who featured in the national English Youth Ballet's production of Sleeping Beauty/Ballet Etudes in October. We are very proud of Emma and wish her all the best in her future studies and performances in Dance.



English Youth Ballet - Official Facebook Page



Congratulations to Sopia Poor, our Y9 goalkeeper, who in January made her England Debut for the ESFA U15 Girls against the ISFA U16 Girls at Charterhouse School in Surrey. Some lovely football was played during the match which finished at 2-2. Sophia was presented with her kit for the busy season ahead, which will include a training camp in Holland and a trip to Dublin to play the Republic of Ireland. We wish her every success.



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 past students.

Thomas Estley Celebrating success



Hannah Sparham, a Year 10 student, competes internationally in the field of Synchronised Ice Skating.

She and her team, Ice Dreams, recently competed in an International skating competition in the Netherlands, in the 'Lumiere Cup'. Although facing stiff competition from teams from Finland, France and Germany, they were placed 3rd.



Successes like this do not come without a lot of hard work and dedication—character traits that Hannah and her team exhibit week in, week out.

It is not only Hannah's family who are proud of Hannah's achievements; we at Thomas Estley are proud of her too!

Next in the competitive season, which runs from October to April, was the Britannia Cup held in Nottingham.

At this event there are two competitions running side-by-side.

In addition to being placed 3rd in the Britannia Cup the team were crowned as British Champions!

Well done to Hannah and her team.



Over the weekend of the 25th January the team were off to Rouen, France, for their next competitive event.

There was strong competition from the Finnish teams but Ice Dreams came home with a Bronze medal.

But there is no time to rest on their laurels as the team are off again in a few weeks, flying to Dresden, Germany, to compete in their final competition of the season, the 'Cup of Dresden'.

Well done on a successful season so far and fingers crossed for another medal.



Introducing:

Hello Everyone,

My name is **Caroline Ward** and I am delighted to be joining the Thomas Estley team in the role of, '**Positive Behaviour Mentor**' and **Thomas Team Leader**.

Having spent the last twelve years predominantly as a Behaviour Mentor in inner city secondary schools, specialising in student welfare and behaviour I am now looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities that Thomas Estley has to offer, for me to support students in all aspects of their education.

As a behaviour mentor, I was responsible for supporting and mentoring students who had a wide range of challenges and needs. I adapted my mentoring style depending on each student's individual needs. As the 'Lead Parent Partnership Co-ordinator' (a recognised award to help schools improve) I endeavoured to develop a close relationship with parents and colleagues in order to support students and enable them to achieve their full potential.

I was, 'School Championship Anti-Bullying Ambassador'; I organised an environmental tree planting day –inviting local MPs and community leaders and outside agencies to the ceremony; I created and managed the school radio station—the first school in the country to have its own fully equipped and working radio station with followers and listeners world wide; with students representing the school I attended the, 'Shine School Media Awards' at Stationers Hall in London—where we were the official host.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know colleagues, students and parents and to integrating myself into the Thomas Estley Team.

On a personal note, I am a family orientated person with three children, two who have already completed their education and the youngest, last autumn, has started his degree course at Kings College London.

I am keen on maintaining a healthy lifestyle and look forward to joining the new leisure centre in Broughton Astley where, no doubt, I will see many familiar faces.



This term our year 7 students were treated to a **dhol drum** demonstration by our very own **Mr Virk**, who performs in a Bhangra band when he is not teaching PE!

In their music lessons students have been introduced to classical Indian and Bhangra music to develop their understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts.

They are practicing chaal rhythms and raga scales to prepare them for their own composition pieces of music, inspired by this learning.

Thank you to Mr Virk for bringing this learning experience to life.



Science

Mr Hillman, one of our Science teachers, was invited to speak at the, 'National Association of Science Educators' conference last week about how we embed education for sustainable development into our Thomas Estley curriculum.

He delivered two sessions to Science teachers from all over England about our college case study and recent enrichment opportunities for new learning projects provided by Urban Science.

Urban Science visited just before Christmas to judge our Science projects (pictured right) and were impressed with the fantastic work of Thomas Estley students.

Sustainable Science



Pictured here are some of our students' sustainable Science projects, which were jointly judged by Margaret Flemming (Urban Science - an EU funded initiative), Richard Dawson (Wild awake) and Mrs Collins.

Students planned independent projects that required them to conduct preliminary research, plan practical, reference sources and evaluate the validity of their data over a 4 week period.

They were asked to make recommendations to an imaginary outdoor café to be built at the leisure centre. Firstly, they needed to consider the implications of a café on the sustainability of the area - this included social, economical and environmental considerations.

Then, they completed background research that included CFCs and the ozone layer, the electromagnetic spectrum, cancer, economy growth and UV radiation.

The completed projects were presented to the judges and students were interrogated about the different aspects of their project and recommendations. All were presented with a certificate and the top three won prizes.

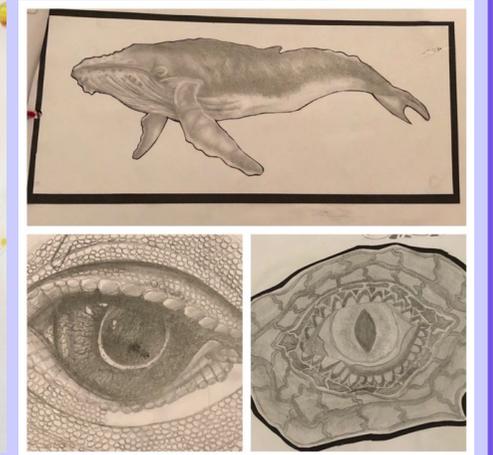
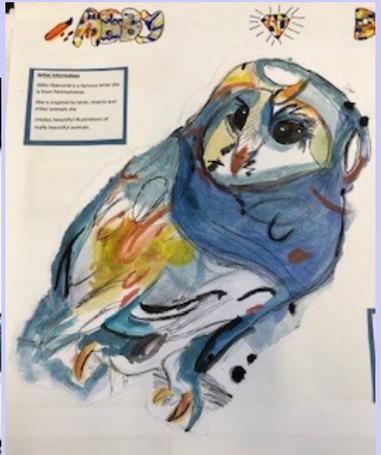
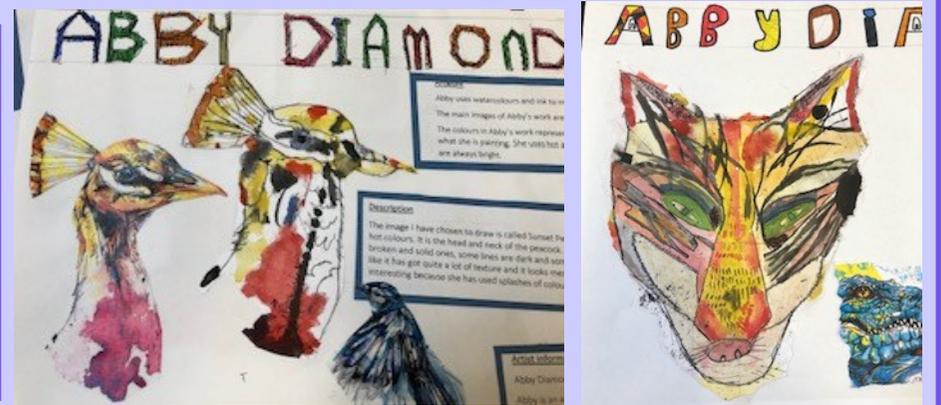


Year 9 Art



Weird and Wonderful
 Phenomenal Year 9 Art work for their
 'Weird and Wonderful' project!

Pictured here are some of our budding
 artists' studies to be integrated into their
 final piece of work.



Y9 Les Misérables , London



Year Nine students study the famous novel Les Misérables for extended French homework. To that end, a group of thirty-five of them had the opportunity to go to the Queen's Theatre in London to watch the musical. In the morning they attended a Drama workshop, where they learnt about the political context behind the novel as well as musical theatre.

Their re-enactment of the barricade scene was very moving and showed outstanding acting skills.



Following lunch in Trafalgar Square the students went to the theatre to watch the musical.

Below is some of the feedback from students about the visit.



"I loved the trip. The performance was really good but sad. It was very entertaining and I would recommend students to go on this visit"

"The workshop was amazing. The show was fantastic and I would recommend the trip to anyone"

"It helped me to understand the situation in France at the beginning of the 19th Century. My favourite song was 'Lovely Ladies' and my favourite characters were the 'Thénardiens' because they were funny"



Maths Achievers / English Pirates

"It has been a brilliant start to 2020 in the **Maths department** and we have been very impressed with the tremendous amounts of effort and perseverance that our students have shown.

We are especially proud of our 'Achievers of the week' and the table and photographs show the students that have been given this award."

Date	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
10/01/2020	Thomas Scott	Callie Robinson	Evie Roe	Harrison Russell	Louisa Howard
17/01/2020	George Woodward	Liam Elson	Ellie Malin	Eleanor Harvey	Harry Stevens
24/01/2020	Luke Lissaman	Brandon Carver	Noah Darlison	Connor Musson	Alfie Hunter
31/01/2020	Sophie Klapot	Spencer Thorpe	Oliver Poolley	James Ravenhill	Charlie Cartwright



Ms Pole's **Year 7 English** group were tasked with creating something 'Pirate' related in a form of their choice to enhance their English pirate project. The efforts were outstanding and they all had a fabulous time eating some of their wonderful creations - a sample are pictured here!



Subject Enrichment

Woman in Black

The Drama department enjoyed watching 'Woman In Black' at Leicester's Curve Theatre on 20th January. Pictured above are some of them having fun with actor **Robert Goodale** after the show.

The students will be writing about the performance in the Component 3 part of their written examination in the summer.



Language Leadership Award 2019-2020

Our Language Leaders recently taught their first KS2 lesson at local primary schools: Hallbrook, Cosby and Old Mill .

The lessons they had planned, about Christmas, were delivered during their French lesson and were very much enjoyed by all the KS2 pupils.

The Language Leaders are now looking forward to going back to teach in February / March. Bravo les Leaders! Je suis fière de vous. Mme Anderson



Visit to Oxford University

Some of our students had the fantastic opportunity to visit Oxford University in January, as part of a project that also involves them writing a university level dissertation to be marked by university lecturers!



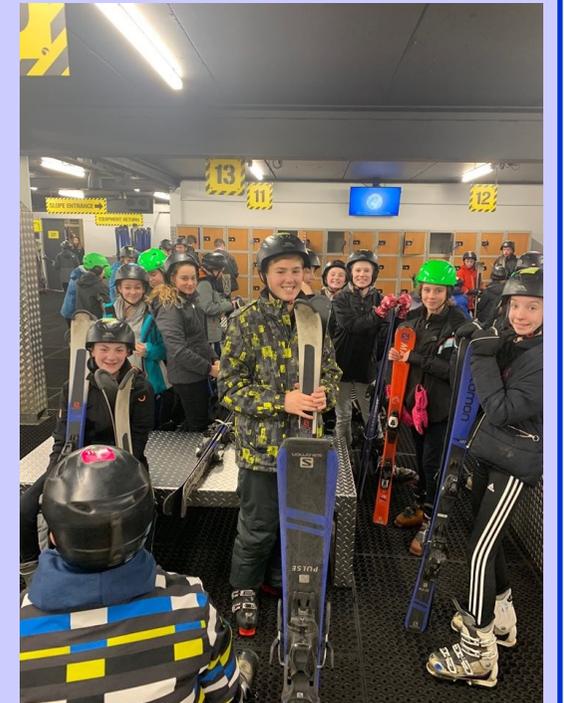
We wish them all the best in their work this year.

Skiing at the Snowdome

Thirty-five excited, budding skiers enjoyed their second skiing lesson at the Snowdome.

There may have been a few small slips and tumbles but they were accompanied by beaming smiles and lots of laughs.

All students are looking forward to the trip at Easter even more now they're getting the hang of it!



Year 11 Holiday Schools

The Year 11 GCSE practical examinations are well underway and many subjects have controlled assessment or coursework deadlines early this term. Research tells us that two factors have the most impact on GCSE results: increasing teacher facing time and increasing the quality alongside the quantity of independent revision outside of school. With this in mind see below a copy of our Holidays schools open to all Year 11 Students. Details on how to book have been emailed to parents via parentmail.

February Half Term			
	Subject	Staff Teaching	Senior Staff On Site
18th February, Tuesday	Textiles	Mrs Burnett	Mrs Hartley
20th February, Thursday	RM	Mr Curtis	Mrs Cornelius
Easter Holiday			
	Subject and room	Staff teaching	Senior Staff On Site
6th April, Monday	Economics Music Spanish	Mrs Bryan Miss Plumb Mrs Coles	Miss Plumb
7th April, Tuesday	HSC Business	Mrs Hartley Mrs Bryan	Mrs Hartley
8th April, Wednesday	Psychology	Miss Lee	Mrs Young
9th April Thursday	Geography	Mr Schalkwyk	Mrs Young
14th April, Tuesday	Art Maths Higher French	Mrs Strudwick Mrs Taylor Mrs Anderson	Mrs Cornelius
15th April, Wednesday	Biology IT	Mr Hillman Mr Hardy	Mrs Cornelius
16th April, Thursday	Chemistry Computer Science	Mr Draycott Mr Hardy	Mrs Collins
17th April, Friday	English Literature	Miss Eatwell	Mrs Collins
May Half Term			
	Subject and room	Staff teaching	Senior Staff On Site
26th May, Tuesday	History Maths Foundation	Mr Hancock Mrs Taylor	Mr O'Flynn
27th May, Wednesday	English Language	Miss Eatwell	Mrs Collins
28th May, Thursday	Food Physics	Mrs Pooley Mr Ansley	Mrs Collins
29th May, Friday	Dance Citizenship	Miss Bancroft Miss Geraghty	Mrs Collins
PE not running a session			

Many thanks to the teaching staff for committing these additional hours to support our students. This should be in addition to the independent revision that the students will be completing outside of school. The sessions will be from 10am - 2pm on the given date and students are to attend in non-uniform with a packed lunch. Unfortunately we cannot provide transport to and from college. However, regular arriva buses run into the village at these times.

In the event of a clash I can advise which subject your child should attend. Obviously students do not need to attend days where they do not take that subject. Any questions please contact me at the college on 01455283263 or ihartley@thomasestley.org.uk. Thank you. Mrs Hartley

Wellbeing Awareness

Wellbeing awareness from YoungMinds

How can I help my child?

All children and young people get anxious at times, and this is a normal part of their development as they grow up and develop their 'survival skills', so they can face challenges in the wider world. We all have different levels of stress we can cope with - some people are just naturally more anxious than others, and are quicker to get stressed or worried. There are many ways you can help your child to manage their anxiety.

If you feel your child's anxiety is not getting any better or is getting worse, and your efforts have not worked, contact your GP to get professional support.

These are things that can really make a difference:

1. Talk to your child about anxiety, what is happening in their body and why it happens. Many children and young people don't know what they are feeling when they are anxious, and it can be very frightening and overwhelming. They might even think they are very ill or that they are having a heart attack.
2. Help them to recognise anxious feelings so they can tell when they are becoming anxious and can ask for help.
3. Tell your child it will be okay, and the anxiety will pass. It can be helpful to describe the anxiety as a wave to ride or surf that gets smaller after it peaks.
4. Get your child to breathe deeply and slowly, in through their nose for three counts and out through their mouth for three counts.
5. Distract them by focusing on something else.
6. Give them a cuddle or hold their hand if they will let you - touch can be soothing.
7. It can help to talk to your child about finding a safe place in their mind - somewhere that they feel relaxed and happy. It may be a grandparent's or friend's house or a holiday beside the sea which they can picture when 'wrong thoughts' come into their head or they are feeling anxious. Sometimes holding a memento, like a seashell or pebble, can help.
8. If your child is feeling the need to check things or repeat certain actions, suggest they count up to 10 before they start checking as a delaying tactic. This website <http://www.handsonscotland.co.uk/relaxation/> has some good ideas.
9. Encourage your child to notice what makes them anxious. Talking it through can help but your child could also try keeping a diary or a 'worry book'.
10. Make a 'worry box'. Your child can write each worry down and post it in the box out of sight. Small children will enjoy decorating the box too. They can leave the worries in there for, say, a week to see if they were worth worrying about (if not they can be torn up). Alternatively, you could designate a specific 'worry time' for around 10 or 20 minutes, (but not too close to bedtime, or when the child is in bed), so worries can be saved up for that time. This gives the message that we are in control of their worries and not vice versa.
11. Work on positive-thinking. Name their worst case scenarios and think through together how to sort out the situation if it happens, e.g. 'I'm worried that we'll miss the bus.' 'What do you think we could do if that happens?' 'We could get the next bus'
12. Help them maintain a healthy lifestyle with regular exercise to reduce the levels of stress hormones, good sleeping habits, calm bedtime routines, limited screen or computer time in the evening, and a healthy diet.

To find more information and support go to <https://youngminds.org.uk/>



YoungMinds - children and young people's mental health charity

We're the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health. We will make sure all young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's challenges.

Our work with Leicester City Football Club 'Leicester City in The Community' (LCiTC) continues to grow, and we were delighted to be featured again on the club website, this time as a celebration of the work which LCiTC Inspire mentor Kwesi has done with some of our students. Well done Jason and Kwesi. An extract of the article is reproduced below:



Through Leicester City in the Community and the Premier League 'Inspires' programme, one student has reevaluated his life choices and is now focused on getting the best out of his time at school.

Jason, a Year 9 student at Thomas Estley Community College, has been participating in numerous group sessions, which has enabled him to think about getting the best possible future he can.

For Leicester City in the Community Inspire Coach Kwesi Darkwa Ampadu, a focus around the Broughton Astley school and their philosophy of developing leaders, has worked hand in hand with objectives of the Inspires initiative.

"Some of the work we have been covering with Jason [and other pupils] is around emotional intelligence," said Kwesi.

"[Pupils] can really develop leadership skills and become well-rounded characters – we do this to fit in with Thomas Estley's philosophy.

"The biggest difference with Jason is his ability to differentiate when and what he needs for the right time – going into GCSE's that is going to help him massively."

Jason is a pupil that is liked considerably with peers across the school, with a polite and humorous personality, as well as a kind heart.

Demonstrating his skills and admiration for the art of magic, Jason said: "I'm much better than last year, or the year before, mainly because of Kwesi and his Inspires group helping out".

"When I am having lessons now, I don't waste time, so I have more time to learn."

At Thomas Estley, LCiTC work around their way of working to complement pre-existing offer to students. Of which, Headteacher Mandi Collins praised the work of Inspires Coach Kwesi and the Inspires programme.

"Kwesi has been with us since January," she said.

"He has had an amazing impact on some of our Year 8 and Year 9 male pupils in particular. "Some of our students who were struggling are now absolutely blooming!"



LeicesterCity
in the Community

A medley of information

Exam booklets and individual examination timetables will be issued to year 11 candidates before we break up for February half term.

The GCSE exam season will commence on the 11th May. Prior to this date, some practical exams will be taking place. Candidates have already been issued with timetables for these early practical tasks.

If you have any questions about the examinations process, please speak to our Exams Officer, Liz Knott (email: eknott@thomasestley.org.uk)

Insight

A reminder that the Insight parent portal can be used for checking students homework, attendance, rewards and detentions and that their school reports are issued to Insight.

You can access Insight via the Thomas Estley website under Links or use <https://217.181.40.130/INSIGHT/secure.aspx?>

New Students will need to collect the temporary passwords from reception. If you are having any problems accessing Insight, please contact Natalie Johnston, Data Manager on 01455 283263 or njohnston@thomasestley.org.uk.



This term we have already or will bid a fond farewell to:



We wish them all every success.



We warmly welcome the following members of staff, some whom have already joined us:

Friends of Thomas Estley

Your college needs you! You are invited to a family quiz evening with a pie and chips supper on Thursday 13th February, at 7:00pm, at the college. We would be very pleased to receive any donations from local companies or families for either prizes for the event or items for the raffle. If you are able to support us in this way, please drop your donations into Thomas Estley Community College reception.

Many thanks from Friends of Thomas Estley.



Family Quiz Evening

Which includes a Pie and Chips Supper!

Presented by

Friends of Thomas Estley

Date: Thursday, 13th February 2020

Time: 7pm—930pm

Tickets are available from reception

Price £6 or £4 for concessions (under 16s/ over 65s)

Join the fun and get quizzing!

Raffle and lots of prizes on offer

Soft drinks on sale on evening, or bring your own

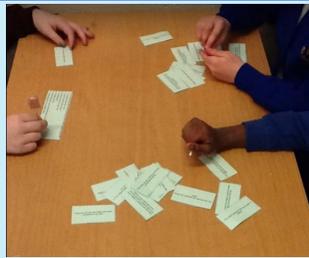
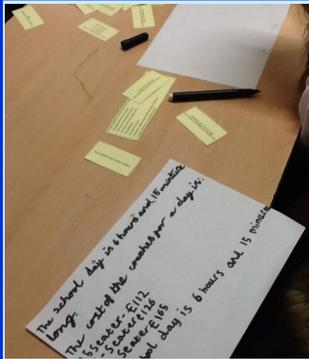
Enquiries to :

Admin@thomasestley.org.uk

Tickets are limited, buy yours early to avoid disappointment!

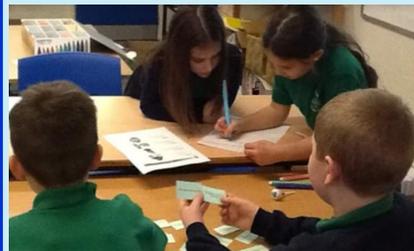
(if you want a veggie option please let us know for catering)

Masterclasses last month



Maths
 The Maths department welcomed year 4 pupils from local primary schools to our Maths workshop.

The pupils completed a problem solving activity where they needed to work in groups to plan a school trip.



It was fantastic to see how enthusiastic the pupils were and how well they worked as a part of a team.

The pupils were a credit to their schools and we cannot wait to see them again!



Business & Enterprise

We were delighted to welcome Year 4 & 5 pupils to a Business and Enterprise day.



At the end of the day their products were pitched to the dragons at the end of the day.



Comments from the children included:

'I liked pitching my idea!
 'It was fun and challenging at the same time.'
 'We did interesting things but I liked the speech best - it was interesting to hear what people had to say.'
 'We got to think and put different ideas together.'



'It was fun and creative'.

'I liked making new friends'.



Thanks also to our Thomas Estley Transition student leaders who did a great job.

Mixed Multi-skills



We were privileged to welcome Some local Year 1 and 2 pupils to Thomas Estley for a mixed multi-skills session.



The event was facilitated by our student sports leaders.

Some amazing results!



Play in a Day



'Play in a Day' brought out the very best in the children who joined us at Thomas Estley from our local and feeder primary schools.

It was a 'masterclass' in drama, learning the play over the course of a few hours and then performing it to an audience of their parents and friends.



We couldn't believe the high level of the performance which they turned out on Saturday afternoon!

Well done to all who took part.



The children said that they loved:

- 'making new friends'
- 'learning new things'
- 'when we did the show at the end'
- 'improving my acting',
- 'the whole day' and 'it was just fun!'

Forest School



This term a group of our preschool children have been enjoying Forest School activities and challenges run by our trained Forest School practitioner, Amanda Foxon.

Forest School is an inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence through hands-on learning in a woodland environment, nurturing an understanding and respect for natural places. Participants experience nature at first hand through play and a series of engaging and achievable tasks.



The forest school experience brings learning to life and improves an individuals ability to work co-operatively while offering the opportunities to take risks, make choices and initiate learning..... and have lots of fun getting covered in mud!



Pre-school



Ice marking

What an exciting way to learn. Children in preschool recently enjoyed a child led activity involving making marks with blocks of frozen paint and water.



A child had enjoyed playing with water and when asked what they would like to do next they looked through a book for ideas and chose this activity - which their key person then put into place.

The whole group have benefited from the activity- learning to watch and identify changes as the ice blocks get warmer and become smaller.



There is not much that the our pre-school children enjoy more than getting outside and nothing as boring as the weather will put them off.

The recent 'Listening Walk' was a fine example of this.



It may have been a little bit wet and foggy but the children wrapped-up well, put their hoods up and, with a keen eye on safety, wore bright hi-vis jackets.

Whilst walking they talked about what they could hear - birds in the trees, dripping water, cars and ducks.

They carefully followed the sound of the ducks until they found them splashing in the stream near the church.

The children were all very well behaved and followed instructions. It was a pleasure to take them out.



Sports round-up



Our Yr7 Girls Footballers were fantastic on 16th January, in their National Cup Match away against RSA Academy, Tipton. A comfortable 6-0 win thanks to a great team performance. Goals for Summer Baxendale (2), Charlie Tarbert (2), Millie Pryde and Millie Chamney. Player of the Match went to Charlotte Fry who marshalled the defence brilliantly. Well done girls, a great match. Bring on Round 4!



Our Y10/11 Girls Football Team had their first taste of league action away at South Wigston. Many of the girls are using football as one of their GCSE practical assessment grades. The game finished 2-2 with goals from Izzie Smith and Maddy Kane. The whole team worked really hard, but a particular mention is due to player of the match Amber Wroblewski in midfield, whose work rate tonight was stunning. Well done girls. Great ambassadors for the College. We're really proud of you.

Our Y7 Girls team represented South Leicestershire at the Regional Indoor 5 a side football tournament in Derby, and were crowned **Eastern Region Runners-up**. Six wins out of six games saw the team progress from the group stage to the semi-finals, where they dispatched Tollbar Academy from Grimsby with a 6-3 win (goals from Charlie Tarbert (3), Summer Baxendale (2) and Ruby Cramp). The final against South Hunsley High School from Humberside, was exciting and looked destined to go to extra time, after we came from behind twice with goals from Summer and Charlie. With just seconds to go Hunsley squeezed the ball into the bottom corner just out of reach of Izzy's outstretched fingers. We are so proud of each and every one of the team, who were excellent today. Our player of the tournament today went to Izzy Townsend.



Some of our girls football teams were in action in the first of our Blaby and Harborough League matches. Our Y7 and our Y8/9 teams made the short trip to Countesthorpe.

Y7 students are coached by one of our learning support assistants, Miss Thorington, (who recently qualified at FA Level 1). She did an amazing job with team rotation and coaching throughout the match. They were comfortable 4-0 winners, with goals from Millie Pryde (2), Summer Baxendale and Charlie Tarbert. Player of the match was shared by Ava Briers and Jasmine Cook whose defensive skills kept the clean sheet.

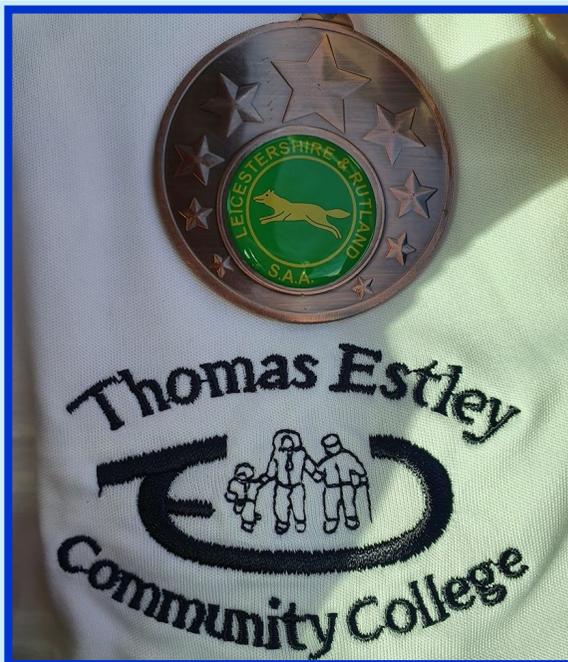


Just across the field, our **Y8/9 team** were running riot, culminating in a 10-2 victory with goals from Poppy Hobson(4), Ellabelle Weston (4) and Sophia Poor(2). The team played superbly, enabling us to rotate players and positions with ease; the girls taking on new roles without any problems.

Player of the match went to Lina Jacques who showed every element of our Thomas Estley Way today. Thank you to the parents who came to support—is is much appreciated. The girls' next league match is away at Brockington.



Cross country



County Schools Cross Country

Well done to our amazing athletes who turned out for the County Schools Cross Country race at Ratcliffe College.

We are really proud of your commitment to school sport and you have been great ambassadors for the College. Thank you.

Our year 9 Boys Team finished 3rd behind Loughborough Grammar School and Oakham School. An excellent achievement.





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 for half-term from
17th February to 21st February
(inclusive)
College re-opens to all students on
Monday 24th February

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.

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.



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.