

Welcome To Our Thomas Estley Newsletter March 2026



A Community of
Courage and
Commitment to
Success

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School show, workshops for parents of children with autism, sea cadets, preschool, out of school club and teacher training.



Dates For The Diary

14th April

School Show (Mary Poppins Jr.)

15th April

Maths Primary Masterclass

16th April

Year 7 PSHE Drop Down Day
School Show (Mary Poppins Jr.)

17th April

School Show (Mary Poppins Jr.) Primary Matinee

20th April

Italian Specialism at Orchard

21st April

School Show (Mary Poppins Jr.)

22nd April

Year 10 SEND Parent Clinic (Remote)
Geography Primary Masterclass
Parent Community Kindness Group

28th April

Dance Masterclass
Leicestershire Schools Choir of the Year Finals

29th April

3-in-1 Teenage Booster & Meningitis Vaccinations

30th April

Trust Poetry Evening at Hallbrook

1st May

Year 10 DMU Experience Day

4th May

May Day Bank Holiday

12th May

Spanish Primary Masterclass

15th May

Area Athletics

18th May

Year 9 Computer Specialism

20th May

PE Primary Masterclass

22nd May

Year 11 Party On The Playground
Year 9 Normandy Residential (First Day)

26th May

Year 9 Normandy Residential (Last Day)
May Revision School (First Day)

29th May

May Revision School (Last Day)

Assessments/Exams

20th April-1st May

MFL Speaking Exam

23rd-24th April

Year 11 Art Timed Exam

7th May-18th June

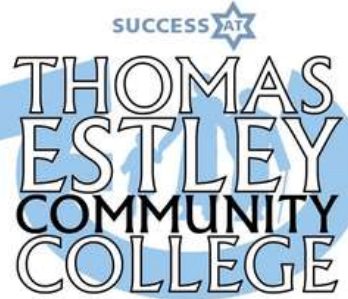
GCSE Exams

11th-22nd May

Year 7 Assessment Fortnight



A Word From The Principal



As we recently marked both Eid ul-Fitr and Easter as important festivals in our college diversity calendar, we have spoken with our students about the importance of all they represent to beliefs.

From the annual season of reflection, growth and self-sacrifice preceding them, through their focus on kindness and charity to those around us, to their opportunity of hope and new beginnings within the cycle of life and seasons, these and other religious festivals contain so much which is important to reflect on. As nature around us wakes up for the spring season, we see too there is a sense of new birth and beginnings as well as an annual cycle of both repetition and new opportunity.

As our year 11 students have the opportunity to push hard for their finish line at college this summer, from their exams to leavers celebrations, we met our incoming year 6 children for the first time in person last night as we welcomed them to our college family.

Our annual show, *Mary Poppins Jr.*, approaches, as our other annual performing arts festivals in dance and music take place - and we are proud to be in the Choir of the Year final once again. Our sports teams bring home another haul of successes as County and National Cup competitions progress. While we welcome this annual cycle, we also believe that is never too late for a brand new beginning. Let's celebrate all our achievements together, and take advantage of every new positive opportunity too. We wish you and yours a very happy Easter.



Mandi Collins, Principal

End Of Last Term



We were delighted to announce that 13 young Thomas Estley writers have now made it to publication. Congratulations to our most recent award winning young writer for his published saga!

In this national competition, our writers were tasked with composing a mysterious saga. We write to express ourselves, to be heard, to inspire change, and to ignite our imaginations. Stories are captivating and powerful!

With great pride, we announce our latest published writer, Buster.

We are very proud of our amazing Thomas Estley students who have worked hard and taken up so many opportunities to demonstrate our Thomas Estley Way character traits. Some of our top achieving students were awarded their Gold Awards last term. Well done; we are very proud of you!



Thomas Estley Year 7 Girls football team faced a strong and well-organised Countesthorpe side in difficult, muddy home conditions. Despite a determined effort, Countesthorpe led 5-0 at half time. Evie Higham delivered an excellent performance in goal, making several impressive saves to keep the score down. In the second half, the girls kept their heads up, continued to encourage one another, and created a few chances, but were denied by a strong opposition goalkeeper. As the score reached 10-0 with three minutes to play, the referee offered to end the game early. Showing great character and resilience, the team chose to play on together until the final whistle. The match finished 11-0, but the girls' perseverance and teamwork were something to be truly proud of.



Player of the match was Evie Higham. We are so proud of the girls' resilience, perseverance, and courage - fantastic role models of our Thomas Estley Way.

High Achievers



A huge well done to all the students who took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. This rigorous competition required strong problem-solving, logical thinking and determination. Our pupils rose to the occasion with impressive maturity. They demonstrated real perseverance, courage and commitment to success throughout the challenge, showing exactly what it means to approach learning with a positive and resilient mindset. Well done year 10 - we couldn't be prouder!



We are very proud of our amazing Thomas Estley students who have worked hard and taken up so many opportunities to demonstrate our Thomas Estley Way character traits.

Above our students that achieved their gold certificates this term. Well done, we are very proud of you and left are this term's Thomas Estley Way highest achievers!

We are so proud of the courage, resilience, perseverance, kindness and respect you have shown this week. Well done!



As part of our Thomas Estley Year 8 Careers Drop Down day, we welcomed 28 employers on site to talk to our students about their business and how they progressed into their area of work. Students found the sessions really interesting and engaged well. Employers were impressed by the probing questions our students were asking!

Students ended the day with a talk from Leicester University about university life. Our year 8 students shone and displayed many of our Thomas Estley Way qualities. Employers and some of our staff also enjoyed a business network lunch generating future ideas and opportunities.

Special thanks go to our employers for providing this fantastic opportunity and volunteering their time – you are really appreciated.

Attendance

SUCCESS  AT

THOMAS
ESTLEY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

**“THIS MORNING, HE
HAD A STOMACH
ACHE...BUT LOOK
AT HIM NOW!”**

Good school attendance plays a vital role in every child's learning and wellbeing. While it's important to keep children at home when they are genuinely unwell, many minor illnesses pass quickly and children often feel much better as the day goes on.

We encourage families to check NHS guidance before deciding to keep children off school. Being in school helps children stay on track academically, build friendships, and maintain a positive routine.

Every day in school really does count.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



HM Government

Search NHS school illness guidance to find out more.



Broughton InTouch

We're delighted to share our latest feature from Broughton InTouch, highlighting the wonderful work at Thomas Estley Preschool. From the launch of their new website to a fun and educational oral health session, the preschool continues to provide engaging, hands-on experiences that support children's development. It's a fantastic example of how our college community comes together to enrich learning and wellbeing for our youngest learners.



New Website and Bright Smiles at Thomas Estley Preschool

Thomas Estley Preschool has recently launched a new website (thomasestleypreschool.co.uk), offering an updated look at the setting and its day-to-day life. The site includes practical information about sessions and routines, along with an overview of its play-based approach to early learning.

Based within the grounds of Thomas Estley Community College, the preschool has been part of village life for many years and continues to help children build character through play and interaction.

Recently, children enjoyed a hands-on oral health session led by Charlotte, a dental nurse and one of the preschool parents. The session gave children the chance to explore dental tools, practice brushing on a model set of teeth and talk about which foods are good for keeping teeth healthy. There was plenty of enthusiasm, especially for "Jack" the model skull! Each child went home with a small goodie bag and guidance leaflet for parents.

It was a lovely example of how members of the community share their skills and experiences with the children.

If you feel like you can share your skills with our preschoolers or would like to find out more, please email nsadler@thomasestley.org.uk.



Student Voice

If you enjoy singing, acting or dancing, please join Musical Theatre! The rehearsals are every Tuesday at lunch and after school until 4pm and every Thursday after school until 4.30pm.

You improve your confidence, we like to laugh and we made new friends. At the moment we are doing Mary Poppins Jr.

Come along and give us a try and you will see that we are supercalifragelisticexpialidocious fun!

Georgia, Year 7



If you like playing sport and want to try something new, join netball. You can make new friends and have so much fun. Netball training will be on Tuesday until 3pm to 4pm and there will be a tournament that takes place at Leicester Grammar School!

Georgia, Year 7

Join Our School Dance Club!

Want to learn how to dance in a supportive, focused group? Come to Dance Club every Wednesday, 3-4pm in the Drama Studio.

Miss Bancroft teaches brilliant technique and helps everyone improve - whether you're a beginner or already have some experience.

We have a competition the 29th of April where we'll be welcoming new members! If you're interested in learning to dance, come and try it!

Rosie, Year 7

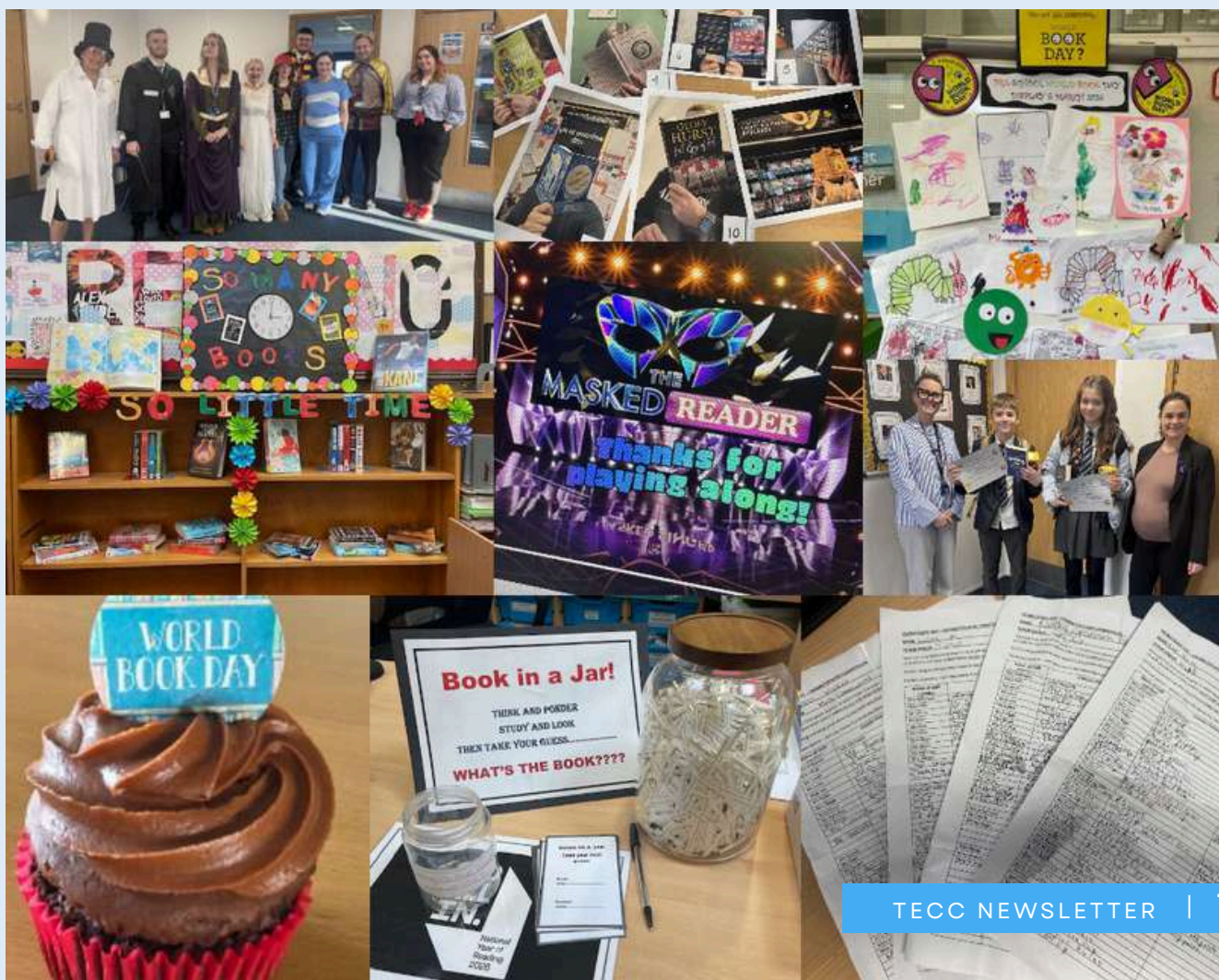


World Book Day

What a fantastic World Book Day at Thomas Estley this year! We were truly blown away by the incredible effort from staff, matched by the enthusiasm, positivity and joy shown by our students. It was wonderful to see the whole school embracing reading even more than we usually do. The day was packed with activities, including a "Masked Reader" competition, a character hunt, a "guess who's reading" photo challenge and a tutor quiz created by our reading leaders. Our canteen also got involved by preparing some delicious World Book Day treats, helping to make the celebration feel even more special. Altogether, it was a fun, uplifting and genuinely wholesome day that brought our school community together through a shared love of reading.

Lara and Sam worked tirelessly to try and discover as many of our staff's pseudonyms as possible on the day, beating off all the competition to be awarded with a certificate, chocolate and a brand new and exciting novel. We were very proud of their efforts and their passion around reading. What amazing ambassadors and role models here at Thomas Estley!

Lastly, our library celebrated the day with both secondary students and preschoolers. Everyone enjoyed getting into reading and taking part in competitions and activities. Here are some interesting facts about reading: Children who read daily score significantly higher on reading and vocabulary tests and reading for six minutes can reduce stress by 68%, making it even more effective than listening to music or walking! So, why not take the chance to pick up a book and enjoy reading



International Womens Day

This term, we have celebrated International Womens Day at Thomas Estley. Through raising its profile and awareness, we have recognised and celebrated the incredible women who inspire, lead and support others every day. From our classrooms to the wider college and local community, we are proud to celebrate the achievements, strength and impact of women everywhere.

This year's theme was Rights/Justice/Action, and a focus on working together to ensure that women and girls' rights are supported everywhere.

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2026



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2026



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2026



Left are photos of our fabulous International Womens Day display in the library.

SAT Science Fair



We were delighted to host our annual Trust Science Fair, which brought together students from across the Trust to celebrate their curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm for science. We received a total of 11 fantastic entries, including projects from Hallbrook, Richmond and Thomas Estley. The standard of projects was extremely high, with students investigating a wide range of scientific questions and presenting their findings with great confidence and enthusiasm. After careful consideration by our judges, including former student Tom Cowperthwaite, awards were presented for a Secondary Winner (Nate), a Primary Winner (Jason/Ariya), and a special Parent and Carer Award, recognising a project that particularly impressed our visitors.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for students to share their ideas, learn from one another and develop their scientific thinking. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the students who took part for the time, effort and creativity they put into their projects. We would also like to thank the parents and carers who attended to support the event, as well as the staff who helped organise and run the evening. Your support helped make the Science Fair such an enjoyable and successful celebration of science across our Trust.

Trips



Continuing our intergenerational project with Arkwright House, students and residents met with a representative from Guide Dogs charity who spoke to them about all the work they do in training puppies and helping people with vision issues. A volunteer also came with their guide dog to demonstrate how they are supported by the dogs and the charity.

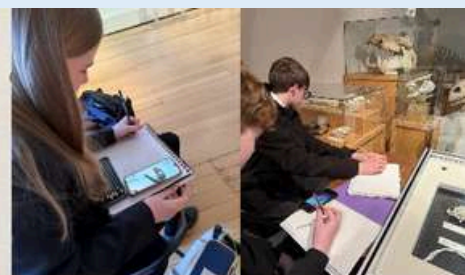
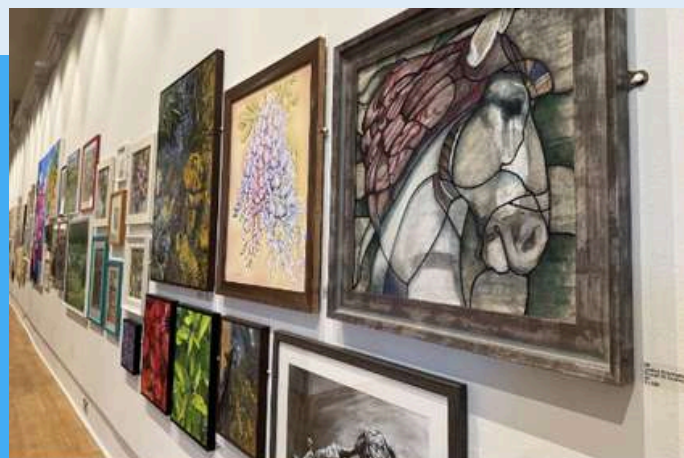


Some of our students will be visiting again and playing board games with the residents to support community happiness and mental health together.

Year 9 Thomas Estley Art Specialism students have been on a trip to New Walk Gallery in Leicester as part of their Arts Award specification.

Students were engaged with all the art work and had an experience of being in a gallery setting.

Well done, Year 9!



Trips

SUCCESS 

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COMMUNITY
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Our year 7 Paris trip started with a fun-filled and sunny day exploring the many sights of Paris. Students walked to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower, took a boat trip along the River Seine and visited the Louvre - a day full of culture for all!

Our French trippers rounded off their visit with a wonderful day at Disneyland Paris. We have been so proud of how well the students have represented Thomas Estley throughout the trip - thank you to them for demonstrating our character traits so well and thank you to the staff who gave their time to facilitate the trip - à bientôt, Paris!

Highlights This Term...



We embraced gratitude in the Thomas Estley Wellbeing Hub. Our "Thankfulness Tree" changes with the seasons, serving as a daily reminder to pause and reflect. Every day, we take a moment to ask ourselves, "what am I thankful for?" Whether it's something small or something big, cultivating an attitude of gratitude has a profound impact on our well-being. From spring to winter, the creativity of our young people blossoms as they contribute to the thankfulness tree, even during difficult seasons. This daily practice of gratitude helps us zoom out and focus on what brings us joy and what makes us resilient.

Year 10 students are continuing to build their skills, with peri-peri chicken and spicy rice. Students worked quickly and precisely, removing the chicken backbone to reduce cooking time, finely dicing vegetables, and carefully controlling heat to cook perfectly steamed rice using the absorption method. Well done to all!

Key **preparation** skills:
 marinating, measuring liquids

Key **knife** skills:
 deseeding, dicing, spatchcock

Key **cooking** skills:
 basting, roasting, sautéing, simmering, steaming



Y10 Hospitality and Catering - Peri-peri chicken with spicy rice



Year 7 Food Healthy Eating: Pasta salad

LO: to use **boiling** and **simmering** to cook pasta



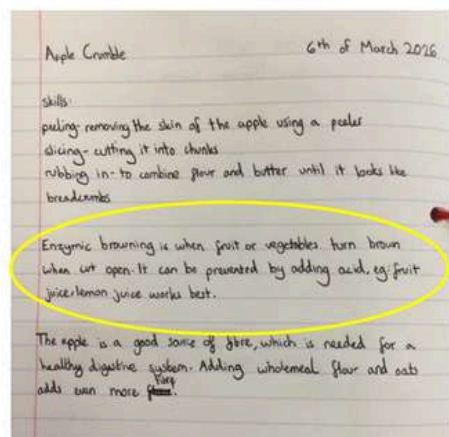
Success Criteria for achieving Greater Depth Standard

- pasta is cooked 'al dente'
- salad vegetables are even in size and shape
- good distribution of a variety of colours

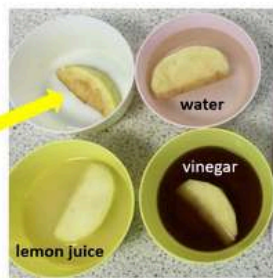
New year 7 Food rotation students are aiming high and we're so proud of their achievements - well done everyone; fantastic work this rotation.

Alternative provision: Food science

LO: to experiment with preventing enzymic browning.



This is **enzymic browning**.



Final outcome - **Apple crumble**



Some fascinating experiments this term to understand enzymic browning in action in food - well done to Melissa, whose outcome is pictured here.

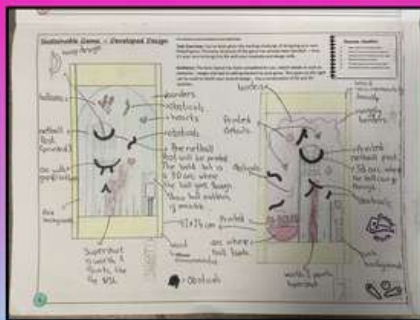
Highlights This Term...

SUCCESS AT

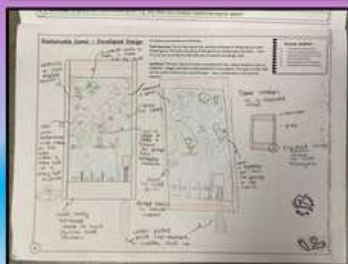
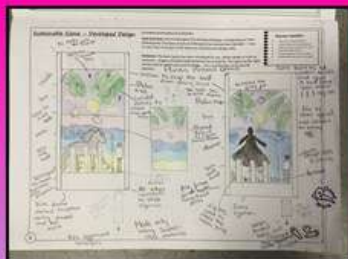
THOMAS ESTLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Year 9 Resistant Materials

Sustainable Pinball Project



Skills learnt during this project include; making wood joints, using tenon saws and manufacturing a working mechanism using standard components.



Year 9 Resistant Materials. Sustainable Pinball Project



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Year 9 Resistant Materials. Sustainable Pinball Project



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Year 9 Resistant Materials. Sustainable Pinball Project



Skills learnt during this project include; making wood joints, using tenon saws and manufacturing a working mechanism using standard components.

Our year 9 students completed their Resistant Materials rotation in ADT, and we couldn't be more impressed with what they created. This term, they were challenged to design and build their own sustainable pinball games, combining creativity, problem-solving, and responsible material choices. The images show the final pinball game products, design development pages showing their thinking and iteration and perspective drawings demonstrating growing technical drawing skills. It's been fantastic to see students bring together design, sustainability, and hands-on making in such imaginative ways.

Thomas Estley Community College has launched an official Instagram page where we'll be sharing photos, student achievements, college events and day-to-day life around the college. If you'd like to see more of what our students get up to, give us a follow and stay connected with the Thomas Estley community.

@thomasestleycollege



Highlights This Term...

We're proud to celebrate our students Lara and Oliver, who represent young people from our school on the Blaby District Youth Council! They recently shared a little about their experiences. Oliver has been involved for a year and Lara for two, after both attending the Blaby Youth Conference with their citizenship teacher through school and signing up when the opportunity arose.

As Youth Council members, they help organise the annual Youth Conference, write to MPs to campaign about issues affecting young people, most recently supporting the move to remove disposable vapes, and take part in local projects such as the diversity initiative linked with the Cosby Yarn Bomb.

For Oliver, the best part is being able to make a positive change for young people in the local area, while Lara enjoys having her voice heard and representing others. They both highlighted the benefits too: meeting new people, gaining opportunities like a free gym membership, and building valuable experience that looks great on post-16 applications. If any students are interested in getting involved, Lara and Oliver say the best place to start is by coming to talk to them so they can share the details!



We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in our application for funding for our one of our Thomas Estley Intergenerational Projects. Platform Housing have confirmed that they will fund three activities for us to do with Arkwright House. We are planning visits to Arkwright House from Alfie the Therapy Horse and a demonstration from a birds of prey team.

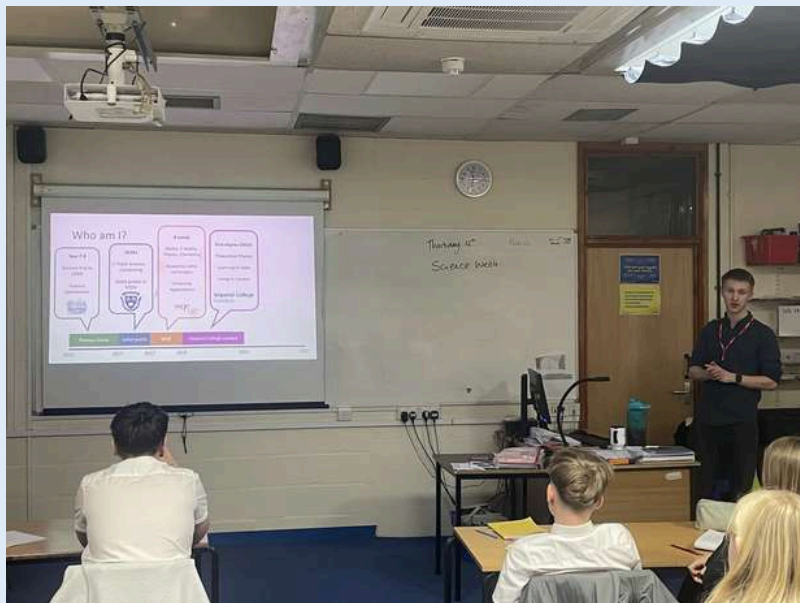
Later on in the year, we will be taking the residents and students on a trip to an Alpaca Farm where we will have a meet and greet experience with the alpacas followed by afternoon tea.

The Intergenerational Project has been a huge success and the students involved and the residents have formed friendships with one another. Seeing some of our students who struggle with confidence and low self esteem interacting with the residents is lovely and makes the project very rewarding for the staff involved. We are looking forward to the year ahead with our friends at Arkwright House. A big thank you to Platform Housing!



Highlights This Term...

As part of our British Science Week celebrations, we were delighted to welcome back former student Tom Cowperthwaite, who returned to work with our year 9 and 10 students. During the session, students explored how artificial intelligence (AI) and automated machines are increasingly used in everyday life. Students took part in an engaging task that challenged them to think about where AI appears in the world around them, from voice assistants and recommendation systems to self-driving technology and smart devices. They also discussed both the benefits and the challenges of relying on machines and automation in modern society.



The workshop gave students a valuable insight into how science, technology and engineering skills are used beyond school, while also encouraging them to think critically about the role AI may play in their future careers and daily lives. It was also great for the students to hear what Tom has done since leaving Thomas Estley and how his studies in both Science and Maths have continued. It was fantastic to see our students asking thoughtful questions and engaging enthusiastically with the activities. We would like to thank Tom for returning to share their experiences and help inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. We hope to see Tom back at Thomas Estley again soon.



Merci beaucoup to the Onatti theatre company (left) for delivering their play 'RSVP' to our Thomas Estley Year 8 students before half term. Our students really enjoyed the production and it was lovely to see students get involved and put their learning to the test. Well done to our brave volunteers who also got involved in the performance. C'était magnifique!



Highlights This Term...

Congratulations, Thomas Estley writers for being selected for this year's Rotary Award! Outside judges came to meet our winners and were very impressed by the depth of their gripping fiction and poetry. From love to war to changing the planet, our writers' creativity was inspiring.

Here are this year's finalists: Bronze: Toni, Silver: Amelia, Gold: Sana.

Also, a big well done to all those who took part. We loved reading all of your work and can't wait to see what you write next! Writing is powerful; we can use it to reflect, express ourselves, and inspire change. Your voice matters, so keep writing!



There was a real buzz in English after school with Mr Love's T6 session well-attended and focused, and, simultaneously, Mr Pallett's English Language booster group working incredibly hard.

Well done to the year 11 students who had given up their free time and attended these sessions, out of school hours, in an attempt to achieve the grade they deserve in English. What fantastic attitudes to learning and perseverance in pursuit of excellence. So many of our young people are attending T6, holiday schools, and revision sessions across their subject areas they work hard to achieve the goals in the summer.

Well done to you all; we are very proud of you.

Highlights This Term...

SUCCESS AT

THOMAS ESTLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Our college 'Glee' choir have been selected to go through to the grand final of Leicestershire Schools Choir of the Year, which will be at 7pm on Tuesday 28th April at De Montfort Hall. This is our second year as finalists (left is a photo of our 2025 finalists) and our 15 vocalists are working on two performance pieces, with Mrs Dickinson and student vocal leaders, Harry and Lara. Please do come along and support our students, in what will surely be an exciting evening. Tickets will go on sale to the public on 28th March, priced at £8 per ticket, from the De Montfort Hall Box Office.



Thank you to Mrs Gibbs for our speggtacular Easter library display as well as the kitchen team for the delicious Easter cakes, and reception for their beautiful celebration tree!



We wished all our Thomas Estley community celebrating Eid, Eid Mubarak!

Highlights This Term...

A big thank you.

Thank you for helping with interviewing our new trainee teachers. You did an amazing job speaking to applicants and asking thoughtful questions. What you might not realise is just how important your role was. The people you helped to select will go on to teach many future students—just like you! That means your ideas, your questions, and your opinions will help shape classrooms, lessons, and learning experiences for lots of children in the future. That's a really special impact to have.

We are so proud of the maturity, kindness, and responsibility you showed throughout the process. You represented your school brilliantly. Thank you again for all your hard work—you've made a real difference!



We are incredibly proud of our TELA Student Leaders!

Over the past few weeks, our amazing student leaders have been supporting trainee teacher recruitment, and they have been fantastic. From interviewing potential teachers to sharing their honest insights, they have represented Thomas Estley brilliantly. We hope that they enjoy their Easter treats!

Their maturity, kindness, and strong sense of responsibility have truly shone through. The commitment they've shown will have a lasting impact on future students, their ideas, opinions, and thoughtful questions will help shape classrooms and learning experiences for many children in the years to come.

A huge well done and thank you to each of them.

If you are interested in training to teach, please get in touch:

tela@thomasestley.org.uk



Highlights This Term...

SUCCESS AT

THOMAS ESTLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Year 9 : Urban Art



Year 9 : Urban Art



Year 9 : Urban Art



Year 9 : Urban Art



Well done to Thomas Estley year 9 art students who have shown perseverance in their Urban Art Project, achieving great outcomes, with some pictured above. We are very proud of your hard work and achievements!

We are incredibly proud of the enriching opportunities we offer our pupils at Thomas Estley in maths. One brilliant example is shown below, where students work together to tackle a range of mathematical challenges set in unusual and exciting contexts.

These activities not only deepen their mathematical thinking, but also help pupils develop essential life skills such as teamwork, communication, perseverance and resilience. It's wonderful to see their confidence grow as they collaborate, problem-solve, and support one another. Well done to all involved - keep up the fantastic work!



Sport

SUCCESS  AT

THOMAS
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Massive congratulations to our year 8 boys football team on an incredible 9-1 victory over Wigston Academy in the County Cup quarter-final! From start to finish, it was a dominant team display – brilliant passing, relentless energy and football played the right way. Every single player stepped up and delivered.

Special shoutout to Ollie for an outstanding hat-trick and a well-deserved Man of the Match performance – unstoppable!



We're thrilled to share some fantastic news about our Thomas Estley year 8 girls' football team, who have secured their place in the semi-finals of the National Cup competition as one of the best four teams in the whole of England!

This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to the hard work, commitment and teamwork the girls have shown throughout the tournament. In a closely contested match, they delivered an outstanding team performance to claim a well-earned 1-0 victory.

The decisive moment came when Willow showed brilliant skill and composure, dribbling into space and weaving through a strong defence before striking superbly to beat the goalkeeper.

A special congratulations to Willow and Laila for their standout performances – both were deservedly named Players of the Match. We are incredibly proud of the entire team!

Sport



Our year 8 girls football team faced a strong side who had travelled from the Wirral to compete in yet another National Cup fixture. From the first whistle, it was clear this was going to be a fantastic contest between two well-organised and determined teams.

The first half ended 0-0, with neither side willing to give anything away in a tightly fought battle. Early in the second

half, the visitors found the breakthrough, putting Thomas Estley Community College 1-0 down. The girls responded brilliantly. After seeing a goal ruled out for offside, they refused to let disappointment affect them and instead raised their intensity. Grace drove powerfully through the opposition's defence before putting the ball through to Laila, who calmly slotted it past the goalkeeper to bring the game level at 1-1.

Momentum quickly shifted in our favour. With growing confidence, the team continued to create chances and apply pressure. Sofia battled brilliantly in the box to find the net and put us 2-1 ahead. Incredible, that the first two goals came from our two year 7 players, that play up a year with year 8 team! To seal an incredible performance, Willow produced a moment of magic in the closing minutes, dribbling past defenders before striking superbly into the net, leaving the goalkeeper with no chance and confirming a well-deserved 3-1 victory.

The win saw the girls progress to the quarter-finals of yet another National Cup competition - an incredible achievement! There truly is no stopping this team. Players of the Match went to Willow and Grace, who were exceptional throughout.

Well done, girls – we are so proud of you!

Our Thomas Estley year 10 girls netball team travelled to Leicester Grammar School to compete in an exciting netball tournament. Drawn in a group of eight teams from different schools, the girls put in a fantastic performance, securing six wins out of eight matches. Their impressive results earned them a well-deserved 3rd place finish overall.

The team demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and resilience throughout the afternoon, even when the rain set in! A special mention goes to Belle Dixon, who was outstanding on the day and deservedly named Player of the Match. Well done girls - a brilliant achievement!



Sport



Our Year 7 girls proudly represented Thomas Estley Community College at a netball tournament hosted by Leicester Grammar School. The team were fantastic throughout the day, showing determination, resilience and great teamwork in every match. They faced some very strong opposition and put up an incredible fight in each game.

Although the results didn't quite reflect their efforts, the scores were extremely close with no game lost by more than 3-0, proving just how competitive and hard-fought the matches were. The girls finished the tournament with six losses and two draws, narrowly missing out on what would certainly have been well-deserved victories. Their positive attitude and commitment never wavered, and they should be incredibly proud of their performance.

A special congratulations goes to Myla who was awarded Player of the Match for her outstanding effort and contribution throughout the day. Well done to all the girls involved, you represented the school brilliantly!

Congratulations to our under-13 girls football team showed great determination and resilience throughout the current national tournament, as the Leicester City FC chosen schools team. After a tough group stage where they finished 4th and progressed on goal difference, the girls produced an excellent performance to beat Derby 1-0 in the semi-final. They then faced Tranmere in a closely contested final that went all the way to sudden death penalties. Unfortunately it wasn't to be our day, but the team should be incredibly proud of their effort, teamwork and attitude throughout. The girls now look ahead to two exciting opportunities, with semi-final matches still to play in both the ESFA National Cup and the Sisters in Sport National Cup.





A huge well done to Ruby for an incredible performance at a national tournament! Ruby worked tirelessly in defence throughout the games and showed real determination and commitment for the team.

Her effort didn't go unnoticed by those watching closely, and we're really proud to share that she was awarded Girl of the Tournament! To make the day even more special, Ruby also scored our team's first goal of the tournament. She gave absolutely everything on the pitch and played a huge role in the team's efforts across the day. We're so proud of her hard work, attitude and team spirit.

Well done Ruby - a fantastic achievement! We are very proud of you.



Well done to our year 8 boys football team on an unbelievable 9-0 victory vs Bosworth Academy in the County Cup semi-final! The boys were outstanding from start to finish, relentless both in and out of possession, showing true determination, teamwork, and quality throughout. Some superb football was played across the pitch, making it a performance to remember! It was 1-0 at half-time, but the team stepped up to another level in the second half, scoring an incredible 8 goals!

Special mentions go to Alfie, awarded Mr Virk's Man of the Match, Shay with a superb hat-trick, and goals from Eddie and Jacob! A fantastic performance and fully deserved place in the final - we couldn't be prouder!



Our year 8 girls travelled to Preston to compete in the National Cup semi-final – a fantastic achievement in itself! Facing the reigning champions, the girls knew they were in for a tough challenge. The opening moments were tense, with an early penalty awarded to the opposition. However, Lydia rose to the occasion brilliantly, producing an incredible double save to keep the score level and spark belief across the team.

Despite continued pressure and several efforts on goal from the opposition, our defence and goalkeeping remained strong. One well-taken strike gave the opposition a 1-0 lead at half-time, but the girls were far from finished. The second half was, without doubt, one of the best performances this team has delivered. Showing determination, resilience, grit and outstanding teamwork, the girls fought for every ball. Laila came close with a fantastic effort that narrowly cleared the crossbar, before a dramatic spell saw three goals in quick succession. Willow seized her opportunity with a superb long-range lob, and later calmly converted a penalty after a handball in the box to bring the score to 2-1.

India also made a huge impact in goal during the second half, making a brilliant double save and showing great composure under pressure and being fearless in every given opportunity. In the end, the match finished 3-2 to the opposition, but the scoreline does not reflect the incredible effort and spirit shown by this team. Every player should be immensely proud – they are a true credit to the PE department and Thomas Estley. It was also fantastic to hear the opposition praise the quality of our two goalkeepers.

Player of the Match went to Mimi for an outstanding performance in defence. Her strength, determination and relentless effort were exceptional from start to finish – thoroughly deserved!



Our year 10 GCSE Dance students had an incredible opportunity to visit De Montfort University for an Inspire Day. Throughout the day, students took part in two workshops led by university lecturers. The first was a musical theatre technique class, where students explored performance skills, expression and stage presence. The second workshop focused on contemporary dance and choreography, introducing students to the Alexander Technique and different ways of creating and manipulating movement phrases. To end the day, students watched a third-year performance titled 'Can We Save the World?'. This was followed by a Q&A session with the performers, giving our students valuable insight into studying dance at university and the creative process behind the production.

The students were outstanding throughout the day. They were polite, engaged and willing to step outside of their comfort zones with enthusiasm. They supported one another brilliantly and worked together as a team throughout the workshops. A true display of the Thomas Estley Values. We are incredibly proud of them.

Our Thomas Estley KS3 and KS4 extra-curricular dance students took to the stage at the Great Big Dance Off Regional Finals at Dudley Town Hall.

While we will not be progressing to the National Finals this year, we are incredibly proud of the performance our students delivered. Their commitment, professionalism, and teamwork were evident throughout, and they represented the school brilliantly.

A special mention goes to our year 11 students, Imogen and Elisa, who choreographed the KS4 routine this year. Their creativity and leadership have been outstanding. Thank you to all the parents and families who made the journey to support us, and to our volunteer chaperones, Mrs Buncher and Mrs Philips, for giving their time and support. Well done to everyone involved.



Primary Masterclass



Thomas Estley maths teachers and student leaders welcomed year 4 pupils for a maths masterclass. Acting as detectives, they worked in small groups to solve a "metal detector treasure" mystery by completing five maths challenges. Tasks included a place value maze, a times tables true/false quiz, finding perimeter, working with decimals, and solving time problems. They worked brilliantly to uncover clues and solve the mystery. A big thank you to the Thomas Estley student leaders for their support.

jewellery	silver	medieval	200g	5cm
jewellery	silver	Tudor	30g	60cm
miscellaneous	aluminium	modern day	30g	15cm
costume	copper	Victorian	200g	15cm
miscellaneous	gold	Roman	100g	15cm
jewellery	gold	medieval	100g	15cm
weapons	iron	medieval	100g	15cm
weapons	iron	Roman	100g	15cm
weapons	silver	Tudor	100g	15cm
weapons	iron	Tudor	100g	15cm
miscellaneous	iron	modern day	100g	15cm
miscellaneous	aluminium	modern day	100g	15cm
kitchen utensil	silver	Tudor	100g	30cm
kitchen utensil	silver	Victorian	200g	30cm
kitchen utensil	gold	Victorian	200g	15cm
weapons	iron	medieval	3000g	60cm
miscellaneous	iron	Roman	50g	15cm
jewellery	gold	Victorian	2000g	60cm
costume	copper	Roman	100g	15cm
costume	aluminium	modern day	100g	30cm
costume	copper	Victorian	50g	5cm
miscellaneous	copper	Tudor	5000g	90cm
kitchen utensil	aluminium	modern day	2000g	60cm
kitchen utensil	copper	medieval	2000g	60cm

Clue 1: Place Value Maze
Work your way through the maze using your knowledge to check each calculation is correct. First to get to the end of the maze wins. The maze can be made vertically or horizontally.

Start	$377 - 10 = 367$	4662
$1040 + 100 = 1140$	$2380 - 0 = 0$	609
$9792 - 1000 = 8792$	$708 + 100 = 718$	4578
$2000 - 70 = 1930$	$4999 - 1 = 5000$	$3553 + 100 = 3653$
$5900 - 100 = 4900$	$4962 + 10 = 5002$	$1346 + 1000 = 2346$
$7345 + 1 = 7355$	$305 - 10 = 295$	$9999 - 1000 = 8999$

The mystery treasure is not made from iron. The mystery treasure is not made from silver. The mystery treasure is not made from aluminium.

Clue 2: The mystery treasure is not gold.



Well done to the year 5 students who joined our Thomas Estley history masterclass. The children investigated skills and clues that a detective would use to discover what had happened, watched a short film on the Tollund Man, then worked in teams to solve the mystery.

They investigated preservation and scientific clues as well as learning about the historical significance. Was his death murder, sacrifice or accident? As always, a big thank you to our Thomas Estley primary transition leaders for all their help.

Primary Masterclass



Year 5 experienced a French Masterclass and they were put through their paces speaking in French, doing exciting games to use their French listening and speaking skills.

They enjoyed playing wink murder, lotto, battleships and sentence stealers. They were all so enthusiastic and spoke with confidence in French.

A big thankyou to our primary transition leaders who helped and joined in to make the session so fun.

Year 5 pupils enjoyed a masterclass in science. This was the first time they had been in a lab, they were taken through the safety rules as using Bunsen burners: hair tied up, long sleeves removed and goggles on.

They were looking at different acids, and made a red cabbage indicator to test the different levels each solution had, from this they could work out how much acid was in each one.

The year 5s experienced using the Bunsen burner to boil the cabbage, then filter to make the cabbage indicator. Then they tested the solutions in the test tubes adding the red cabbage indicator to see the acid levels in each solution.

A big thank you to our primary transition leaders who helped with the experiments and going through the acid level scale.



Preschool



Thomas Estley preschool, where both reading and mental health are at the heart of what we do, would like to thank Midland Rock, a local construction provider. They have very kindly funded a set of books for us from Usborne Books, supporting Children's Mental Health Week 2026. Here are some of the children opening the books and looking at them with excitement. They are lovely books and children have already started some super conversations around being kind and good friends.

We are incredibly grateful to both Midland Rock for funding the books and Kate a local Usborne Publishing representative for arranging this for us. Thank you!



At Thomas Estley preschool, we love to celebrate character together! Preschool's latest character award winner is Amelia. Amelia has grown in confidence this year and attitude towards preschool has matured, since September. She has blossomed into a friendly fun little girl, who takes care of her friends and includes everyone in her play. Amelia has consistently good manners and never needs a reminder to use them. Well done Amelia; we are very proud of your progress!

Preschool

As part of Move it March, Thomas Estley Preschool were invited to the Leisure Centre. The children were shown around the sports hall, the cycle studio, the gym and dance studio. They learnt all about different types of exercise, the names of equipment, played some dance games, did some super stretching but they all said they enjoyed the flashing rainbow lights in the cycle studio the best!

Thank you so much to Scott & Hannah at Broughton Astley Leisure Centre for making this possible and being so lovely and patient with our children. They had a super time! We had a lovely safe walk in the sunshine, using the college path. We stopped to sit on the bench and say "hello" to the owl on the way back!



We were visited this term by one of the college staff, Miss Jussab. Having recently celebrated Eid, she told us all about her celebrations and explained that they are similar to those at Christmas. We were shown photos of her family celebrating at the park, where they had a huge feast! We looked at henna patterns, and had the opportunity to copy patterns on to hand prints and to make our own.

The children sat and listened beautifully. They were all polite and respectful, using their manners and saying thank you when she left. A big thank you to Miss Jussab!

Outside Tommo



Look at this fantastic home baking by year 7 student Nate. Our food department continues to inspire future chefs, with many of our students choosing to study food post-16. If you are a budding baker/cook who explores your interests and further develops your practical cookery skills at home, please continue to share your outcomes with Mrs Owen and Mrs Keight. We also get many students asking for recipes that their families have enjoyed so much they want to eat them again! All recipes can be found in the Students Shared Area.



Well done to our own Ms Chantler who reached the last 16 out of 136, in two competitions in the EBPF (English Blackball Pool Federation) National Singles and Team Event, both individually and with the Leicestershire team, progressing to the Nationals in a top 2 regional team finish. She told us: 'During the last 32 game, I went 2-0 down in one match and 3-1 down in another, to bring the match back to win 4-3 through sheer resilience and perseverance. I hope to encourage our students to not give on things themselves, even when they find it difficult, whatever that may be.'

Outside Tommo



We are very proud to celebrate the achievements of two of our musical theatre student leaders, Lara and Harry. While working tirelessly on our school production of *Mary Poppins Jr.*, they have also been dedicating their time and talent to rehearsals for *Beauty and the Beast* at Ben Hall in Rugby.

Mrs Dickinson and Miss Bancroft, along with many members of the Thomas Estley community, were in the audience to show their support. The performance was outstanding. Harry shone in his role as Chip, and Lara delivered a fantastic performance as part of the ensemble.

Their commitment, passion, and professionalism truly embody the Thomas Estley way. Well done, Lara and Harry. You have made us all incredibly proud.



Congratulations go to Freddie who received his Promotion to Junior Cadet First Class and two badges

If you have any student successes outside of college and you would like them to be included in next term's newsletter, please email:

PAtoThePrincipal@thomasestley.org.uk

Don't Forget!

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 Parent Mail.

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 yourselves.

Thank you!

Headphones, Earbuds & Air Pods

The use of headphones/earbuds/AirPods are only permitted outside of the college building. Any that are visible inside college will be confiscated and, on the first occasion, will be returned at the end of the day. On any subsequent occasion they must be collected by a parent/carer.

Absence During Term Time

If your child is too ill to attend college please contact reception on the first and each subsequent day of absence and leave a message on the 'absence line'. We will contact you by text message if we have not been given a reason for absence - please telephone us in response to the message.

Where possible, please make medical appointments outside of college hours.

Mobile Phones

Students are not allowed to use mobile phones in college unless they have express permission from a member of staff. This is to protect students' learning and social development and is in line with our safeguarding policy. This refers to any use anywhere on the college site, including break and lunchtime - phones should be 'not seen, not heard.'

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.

College reopens on Mon 13th April & closes for half term on 25th May

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 school transport it is a good idea to have a contingency plan with them, for getting to school/home in the event that for any reason they miss their bus.

Since our transition to Arbor please ensure your child's medical status is up to date.



WHO TO CONTACT

FOR ALL GENERAL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT RECEPTION

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE A CONCERN?

NATURE OF CONCERN

My child is underachieving



Subject teacher



Form tutor

My child is underachieving in a number of subjects



Form tutor



Team Leader

General enquiry homework, consequences or pastoral



Form tutor



Pastoral Lead

Safeguarding, wellbeing or student support



Pastoral Lead



Safeguarding Lead

PUPIL PREMIUM OR SEND CONCERN



PP
Co-ordinator
-
Mrs Briggs



SENCO or
Inclusion
Manager
-
Ms Plumb
Mrs Wall

Please see staff email addresses on
'Links' tab > Contact Us

We will endeavour to respond to all enquiries within two days.

Safeguarding enquiries within 24 hours.

If a meeting is required, we will endeavour to schedule this in seven working days

If you are unsure where to direct your enquiry, please email admin@thomasestley.org.uk
Enquiries made during the weekend and holidays will take longer to receive a response.

Self-harm is defined as intentional self-poisoning or self-injury, regardless of the apparent purpose of the act.

Source: NICE Guidelines 2022

Self-harm is a means to manage difficult emotions or feel some control, keeping a sense of hope. It does not necessarily mean that the person wants to die.

Common forms of self harm

Self-harm can take many different forms, but here are some of the common forms to be aware of:

- Cutting the skin (using sharp objects)
- Scratching or burning the skin
- Hitting or punching oneself or objects
- Interfering with wound healing (e.g. picking scabs)
- Hair pulling
- Ingesting harmful substances (non-lethal amounts of medication, chemicals, etc.)

Why do people self harm?

Self-harm is not a “cry for attention.” Young people may do it to:

- **Cope with overwhelming emotions:** Some young people feel so upset, angry, anxious, or sad that they don't know how else to express or release those feelings. Self-harm can feel like a temporary way to “let the pressure out.” It may bring a brief sense of relief — though that relief doesn't last and often leads to guilt or shame later.
- **To feel something when they feel numb:** Sometimes, emotional pain can turn into numbness — feeling nothing at all. Self-harm might be used to feel something real again, even if it's physical pain.
- **To regain a sense of control:** When life feels chaotic or out of control — due to stress, trauma, or conflict — self-harm can seem like one thing the person can control. It can become a private, secret way to manage what feels unmanageable.
- **To express feelings they can't put into words:** Some young people struggle to talk about emotions or might not have the words for what they feel.
- **To punish themselves:** Feelings of guilt, shame, or self-hatred can lead someone to believe they “deserve” to be hurt.
- **Underlying mental health issues:** Self-harm often occurs alongside: Depression, Anxiety, Trauma or PTSD, Eating disorders, Borderline personality traits, Substance use.



DID YOU KNOW?



Around 20% of young people in the UK have self-harmed. That's equivalent to one in every five teens.

Source: The Mental Health Foundation

Supporting a young person who may be self harming

Stay calm and listen – Don't judge or panic. Listen with empathy and thank them for trusting you. Avoid insisting someone stop self harming immediately. Removing a coping strategy without support or alternatives can increase distress and risk.

Acknowledge feelings – Understand that self-harm is often a way of coping with deep emotional pain.

Encourage safer coping – Suggest alternatives like writing, drawing, breathing exercises, or talking to someone they trust.

Keep checking in – Show ongoing care and help them build a support network.

Get professional help – Tell a family member, GP, or counsellor. In an emergency, call 999 or go to A&E.

If they're in immediate danger: stay with them and call emergency services or contact Papyrus HOPELINE247 (0800 068 4141 / text 88247).

Support & Advice

There are a number of services and organisations that can offer advice and support. Click on the logos to head straight to their websites!



NSPCC



PAPYRUS
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

BARNARD'S

Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.

YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health



NHS



Move it March is back!

HARMLESS
the centre of excellence for
self harm & suicide prevention

Move it March is our biggest ever physical activity programme! The project aims to encourage children and young people, across South Leicestershire, to become more physically active and increase the number of children achieving the recommended guidelines of at least **60 active minutes** per day. Last year, **15,919** participants in South Leicestershire took part and moved for a total of **9.2 MILLION** active minutes!

How many active minutes can you achieve this March? Whether it is a walk, a game of tennis or dancing, it all counts!

LET'S GET SOCIAL!



Health | Well-being | School Sport | PE | Physical Activity
Supporting South Leicestershire Schools to provide opportunities for all young people



Health | Well-being | School Sport | PE | Physical Activity
Supporting South Leicestershire Schools to provide opportunities for all young people

South Leicestershire Community Board



The All Languages Group

Runs from Oadby Youth Centre on Tuesdays, 11am-1pm for those who have English as a second language - chance to connect and socialise, and local trips arranged.

Contact Louise 0752 692 7372 for more information

Family Hubs

Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire

Chill, Chat & Connect

Are you a parent or carer of a young person aged 0-19? Come along to our family wellbeing advice and drop in session. A safe space to chat

A time for family wellbeing workers to look at any services that may be helpful to you & your family. Children welcome!

Braunstone Town Family Hub, Kingsway North, Braunstone Town, LE5 3BD
Every Monday 12.30pm-2pm



Warm Space

Warm Space at Oadby has now started up and is a very welcoming and lively social group held at the church next to Launde Primary every Friday 11:30-1:30pm.

Contact Louise 0752 692 7372 for more information



JUST SIGN UP
JUST GET ACTIVE
JUST GET INVOLVED

19th January - 22nd March '26

WHAT IS JUST GET INVOLVED?

Want to be more active but don't know where to start? - Let us help you!

- » Access to 60+ classes ran by friendly instructors in South Leicestershire
- » FREE taster sessions
- » FREE reward for your attendance


Let us help you make 2026 your most active year yet!


WHAT IS JUST?

JUST is a physical activity programme which provides the opportunity for women of all ages and abilities to get involved in activity sessions across South Leicestershire. You don't even have attended an exercise class before to take part in JUST- it's for everyone!

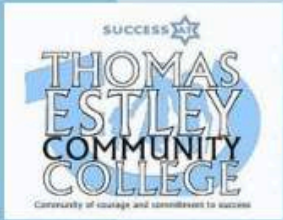
JUST will run between 19th January - 22nd March 2026. During this time, you will have the opportunity to attend a large selection of local activities and collect some free merchandise along the way!

Interested? Want to JUST Get involved?
Sign up to our newsletter for exclusive updates!

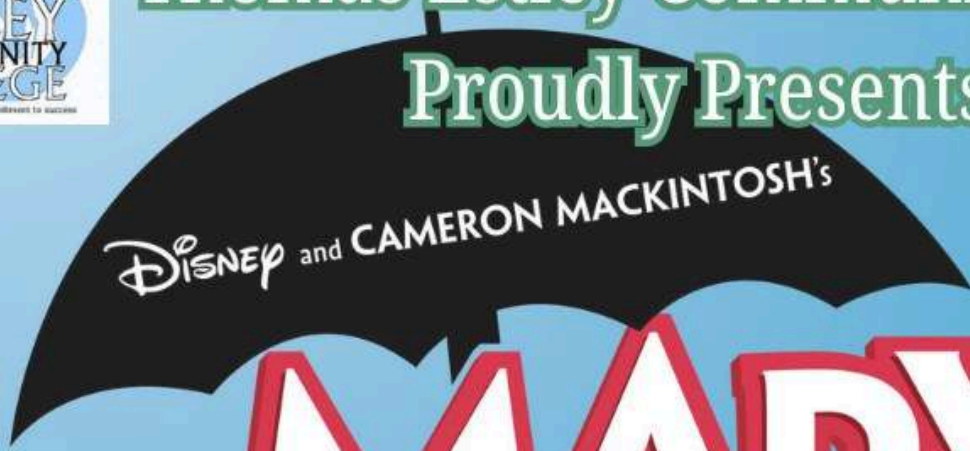
 JUST Get involved

 @JUSTGetInvolved





Thomas Estley Community College Proudly Presents...



MARY POPPINS JR.

©Disney/CML

Performances dates:

14/04/26 Cast A

16/04/26 Cast A

21/04/26 Cast B



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../mary-poppins-jr-tickets...>

May 2026 Workshops for parents of children with Autism

**2 half-day workshops for parents or carers of young people
with an Autism (ASD) diagnosis.**



Leicester
Psychology
Clinic

These workshops will be delivered by specialist professionals in a safe and open environment and offer an opportunity to meet with other parents with similar experiences. There will also be time within the sessions for you to ask questions specifically related to your child. We are hoping to cover a number of useful topics, including:

- Emotional regulation and behaviour
- Anxiety
- Meltdowns, shutdowns and masking
- Communication and interaction
- Sensory processing
- Supportive strategies

Fees: The total cost for the 2 half days will be £220 for 1 person. Or £300 for a couple.

Dates: 14th May and 11th June 2026.

Time: 10.30am – 1.30pm.



BROUGHTON ASTLEY'S NEWEST CHARITY!

Broughton Astley Sea Cadets are now known as Training Ship (TS) FOX

We are now a registered charity No 1216908

We meet at TECC on Monday evenings 7-9 pm

All kinds of water sports activities, qualifications and adventures await

for 12-18 year olds

Contact us at

broughtonastleyscc@gmail.com

Care and Education for 2-4 year olds



THOMAS ESTLEY PRESCHOOL

- ✓ All types of FEE funding accepted – where self-funded, competitive pricing with sibling discounts.
- ✓ Rich, varied provision includes indoor and outdoor free flow, separate forest garden, access to library for stories and singing, field and gym for sport skills and play.
- ✓ Learning opportunities include messy play, construction, yoga, early phonics, maths activities sand/ water play, small world, local area walks and visits
- ✓ School readiness focus afternoon inputs for 3 year olds
- ✓ Hot lunches cooked onsite available as a lunch option

7:30-12:00

7:30-3:00

7:30-6:00



9:00-12:00

9:00-3:00

9:00-6:00

12:00-3:00

12:00-6:00

'Children are gaining a love of books.' (Ofsted 2022)

'Children value the caring nature of the staff; they feel reassured and safe.' (Ofsted 2022)

'Parents are highly complementary about the pre-school and say they would not change a thing.' (Ofsted 2022)



Book Now!

Contact Us

01455 283 263 Ext 205

nsadler@thomasestley.org.uk



Based at Thomas Estley
Station Rd, LE9 6PT

Childcare for 3-11 year olds



THOMAS ESTLEY OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

- ✓ Open from 7:30am and until 6:00pm
- ✓ Drop offs and pick ups – Thomas Estley pre-school & Old Mill Primary School
- ✓ Competitive pricing with sibling discounts – tax-free/ universal credit options apply
- ✓ Wide range of free choice activities including outdoor play, craft, cooking, sport, reading and board games
- ✓ Breakfast, after school snack and light tea included



Book Now!

Contact Us

01455 283 263 Ext 206

squittenton@thomasestley.org.uk



Based at Thomas Estley
Station Rd, LE9 6PT

Interested in a career in teaching?



Make a difference in your community

Are you interested in finding out more about training to teach locally? – Contact Jo at Achieve with TELA

Achieve with TELA provide teacher training in local primary and secondary schools with our partners at the Leicester and Leicestershire SCITT.

Jo can answer any questions you may have:

Can I afford to train?

Are any bursaries available while I train?

What is the course structure?

What qualifications do I need?

How do I apply?

Are there any age limits?



Visit our website telaonline.co.uk

Contact: Jo Robotham
Tel: 01455 283263 ext 286
Email: tela@thomasestley.org.uk