

# Welcome To Our Thomas Estley Newsletter April 2025



A Community of  
Courage and  
Commitment to  
Success

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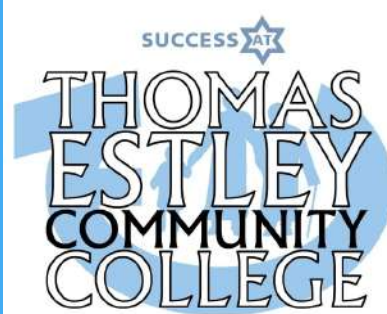
Important reminders and college rules.

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Colour dash, out of school club and teacher training.



# Dates For The Diary



## 28th April

College Opens For Summer Term

## 30th April

Dance Primary Masterclass

## 2nd May

Colour Dash

## 5th May

May Day Bank Holiday

## 7th May

History Primary Masterclass

## 8th May

VE Day

## 12th May

ASDAN Trip To Coop

## 14th May

Spanish Primary Masterclass

## 16th May

South Leicestershire Area Athletics Championship

## 21st May

PE Primary Masterclass

## 23rd May

Year 11 Party On The Playground  
College Closes For Summer Half Term

## 27th May

May Revision School

## 28th May

May Revision School

## 29th May

May Revision School

## 30th May

May Revision School

## Assessments/Exams

8th May-19th June

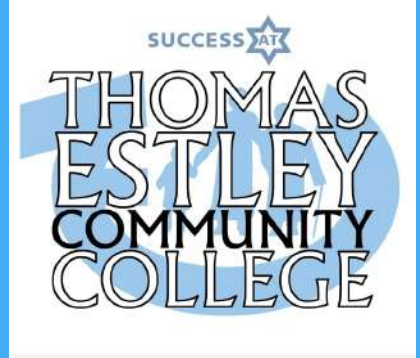
GCSE Exams

12th-23rd May

Year 7 Assessment Fortnight



# A Word From The Principal



I have been extremely proud this half term to see the varied and high quality achievements of our young people, many of which you can read about in this newsletter. I can't believe how many different areas of performance our young people have excelled in.

We have had the most football teams ever through to county cup finals, a winning engineering team through to regional finals, our Glee Club through to the Leicestershire choir finals, a clean sweep of the district netball trophies, Trust Science fair and poetry finalists, performance in the Big Dance Off, and Rotary Club poetry winners, to mention just a few of our young people's achievements this half term. Thanks go to our hardworking and committed staff and volunteers and family supporters, who have supported these achievements.

As we enter Year 11 examination season, together with Year 10 mock examinations, our focus now turns to the academic. Leadership, character and performance achievements go hand in hand with academic success in ensuring that our young people move on to the right future study and career pathways. We wish our older students all the best as they work hard to make the best progress individually that they can, encourage them to study hard and do their best, and look forward to their outcomes.



A handwritten signature of Mandi Collins in black ink.

**Mandi Collins, Principal**

# High Achievers

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A huge congratulations to our maths achievers this term for their outstanding attitude to learning in maths – well done!

## Year 7

Sam Bedford  
Isabel Hurst  
Sonny Chivers  
Poppy Roberts  
Isabelle Greatorex  
Bella Babic  
Hayden McGarry  
Oscar Munday  
Nzelle Manfor  
Amelia Ayton  
Jake Spatcher  
Bella Love  
Phoebe Sharman

## Year 8

Edie Wrighton  
Patrick Hirrell  
Paul Blake  
Ellie Nethercott  
Romeo Granger  
Charlie Jarvis  
Ava Gillespie  
Jensen Amber  
Anashe Machiwenyika  
Seb Iliffe  
Skye Naudusevics  
Holly Jones  
Reggie Holland

## Year 9

Abi Buggins  
Abbie Dowd  
Shiloh Woolman  
Faith Goodwin  
Lacie Ennis  
Summer Webster  
Ilia Shaw  
Emily Fry  
Lewis Turnbull  
Abubakar Saghir  
Riah Cooper-Simmons  
Jess Davis  
Reece Kirkbride  
Skyee-Louise Batson

## Year 10

Jude Reid  
Evie Smith  
Keira Oliver  
Jacob Hood  
Evie Towers  
Max Illife  
AJ Shields  
Will Emms  
Evie Atkin  
Buster Sayers  
Daniel Powell  
Lilly Lucas  
Evie Burton  
James Lemming

## Year 11

Jodie Dann  
Owen Jayne  
Amelia Farmer  
Ava Davis  
Leon Feerick  
Alexia Ennis  
Gracie Iliffe  
Sid Holland  
Poppy White  
Emilia Thurman  
Alex Khovanov  
Jude Lloyd  
Thomas Minion  
Oliver Hurford



Last half term's PEPA faculty star was year 7 Willow. Full of enthusiasm for all that she does across PE and performing arts, Willow is a great role model for others and the brilliant captain of our year 7 girls football team.

Well done, Willow. A real superstar – keep up the good work!



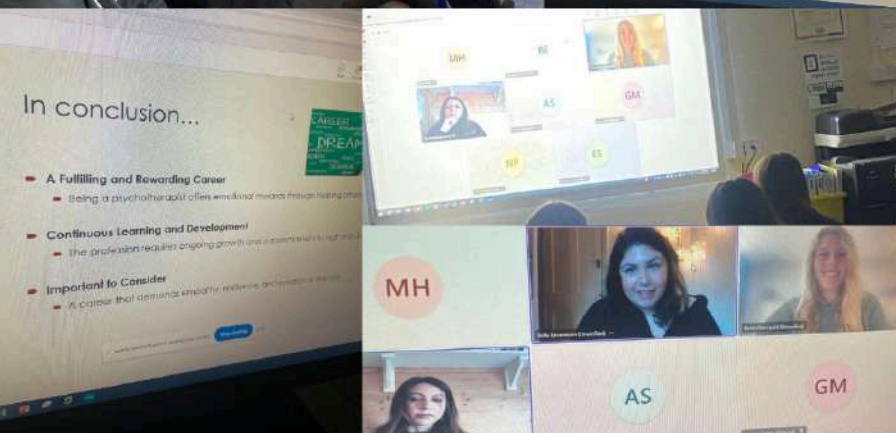
Well done to our character point achievers! A special shout out for the above who were our term winners!



# Careers



As a part of national careers week, our Thomas Estley year 10 child development class had a Teams call with professionals from the field.

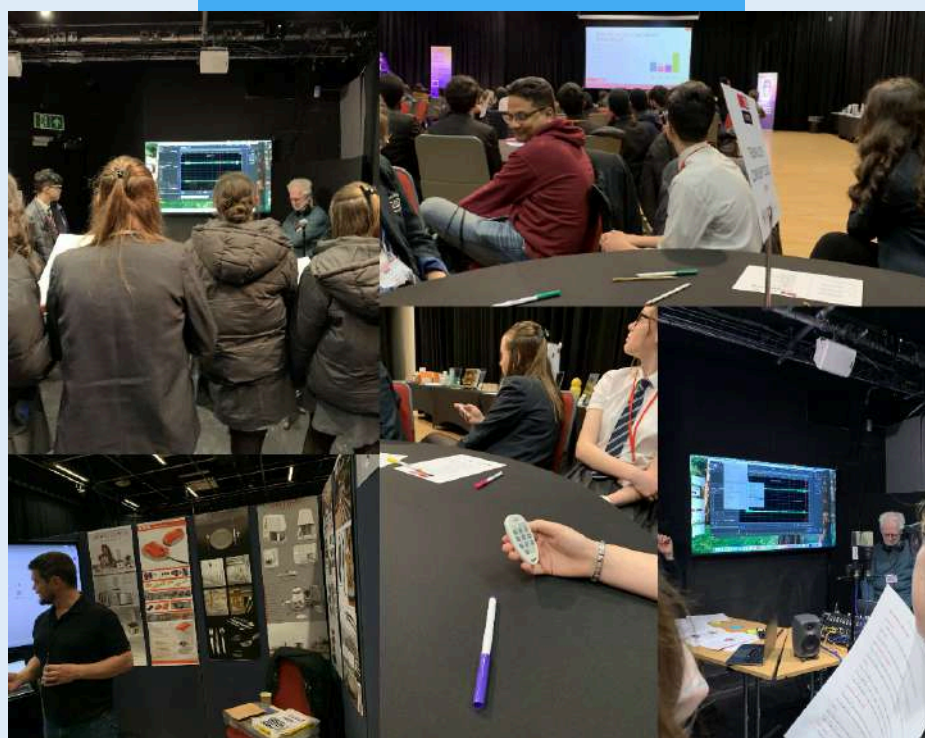


We heard from a child psychotherapist, a clinical supervisor, an EDMR therapist and a neurodiversity trainer. It was great to hear about their professional careers and personal pathways. We discussed the qualifications, skills and qualities needed to work in some of these careers. The students had the opportunity to ask questions directly to the professionals and consider their own career aspirations.

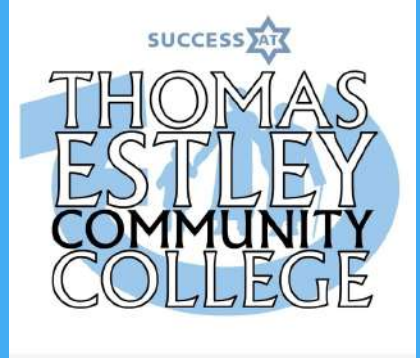
Ten year 10 students attended the TeenTech Festival at DMU, joining students from 18 other schools. They enjoyed meeting companies and participating in hands-on activities across digital, science, technology and engineering fields.

Workshops showcased STEM careers and university and apprenticeship options. The students made a podcast, learned about technical equipment, created a granola product with PepsiCo and designed their own stamp with the School of Arts and Design. Lastly, they explored reverse osmosis with professors from the engineering and sustainable development team.

Our students won a certificate for the best slogan in a design task: "Save the wrecks, purchase the specs!" for their glasses concept that alerts wearers to dangers. They represented Thomas Estley's values exceptionally well.



# Attendance



We all understand that being in school regularly is important — but recent government research makes it clearer than ever just how crucial attendance is for student success and wellbeing. While the report is aimed at schools, it offers some valuable takeaways for families too. It reinforces something we already believe strongly: every day in school counts.



## Key Insights from the Research:

### 1. Strong Attendance = Strong Results

Students who attend school consistently are far more likely to achieve good grades. The data shows that students with over 95% attendance are significantly more likely to secure at least a Grade 5 in both English and Maths.

### 2. Every Subject, Every Lesson

Attendance matters in all subjects—not just English and Maths. Falling behind, even in one area, can lead to learning gaps that are difficult to catch up on. Every 5% improvement in attendance leads to measurable gains in achievement and future prospects.

### 3. Absences Add Up Quickly

Missing just a few days here and there might seem harmless, but the research shows otherwise. Attendance below 90%—which works out to missing just one day every two weeks—makes it much harder for students to reach expected academic standards.

### 4. The Risk of Persistent Absence

Students who miss more than 10% of school time are considered persistently absent. These students are far less likely to leave school with key qualifications, which can limit future education and career opportunities.

## What You Can Do to Help:

- Talk about the value of school: Help your child understand how regular attendance supports their future success—both academically and personally.
- Keep track of absences: If your child is unwell, support their return as soon as they're ready. The school can store any necessary medication at reception.
- Schedule smartly: Try to book routine medical or dental appointments outside of school hours or during holidays whenever possible.

We're here to support every student's success, and attendance plays a vital role in that. If you're worried about your child's attendance or need support, don't hesitate to reach out to our Attendance Officer, Mrs Johnston, on [njohnston@thomasesstley.org.uk](mailto:njohnston@thomasesstley.org.uk).

# Community Kindness

As one of our community kindness intergenerational projects, some of our students visited Arkwright House. It was lovely to see residents and students working together and swapping ideas. All the items that they created together will be sold to fundraise for Dementia UK.

The residents said how much they enjoyed us visiting and they have invited us back in May for another intergenerational project! There were some heartwarming moments as community and confidence were developed together, and we look forward to more opportunities to work together in the future. Thank you for your warm welcome, Arkwright House!



We meet termly with our parents community kindness group to update and take feedback on our ongoing Community Kindness focus – see below for some examples. If you would like to join this group, please email the college to let us know.



We have trained up additional student wellbeing and staff wellbeing ambassadors to add to our current team. These continue to develop practice – eg our student wellbeing ambassadors around Mental Health Awareness Week and our staff wellbeing ambassadors have set up Running and Crafts groups this term as well as a Wellbeing drop in clinic.



Thank you for your feedback that we need to keep pushing leadership entitlement for as many students as possible to our Thomas Estley leadership projects as some students do not have the confidence to sign up; we will take this on board and continue to encourage our young people to take part. Over 300 signed up this year but we are aware that some students may need additional support to do so in future.

## Community Outreach continues

Student leaders delivering lessons activities in Halbrook, Old Mill, Orchard, Cosby, Richmond, Badgerbrook primary schools this term

Student readers reading with children in Thomas Estley preschool each day

The Arkwright House project

The Remembrance Day and VE day services

Sea Cadet support

Any other ideas?



### Outside religious speakers



Approaching two of those nominated to us by your group. One agreed to deliver courageous kindness assemblies to all our young people the first week of this term (Minister Jonathan from Sutton in the Elms Baptist church) - these were very well received.



### Random Acts of Kindness

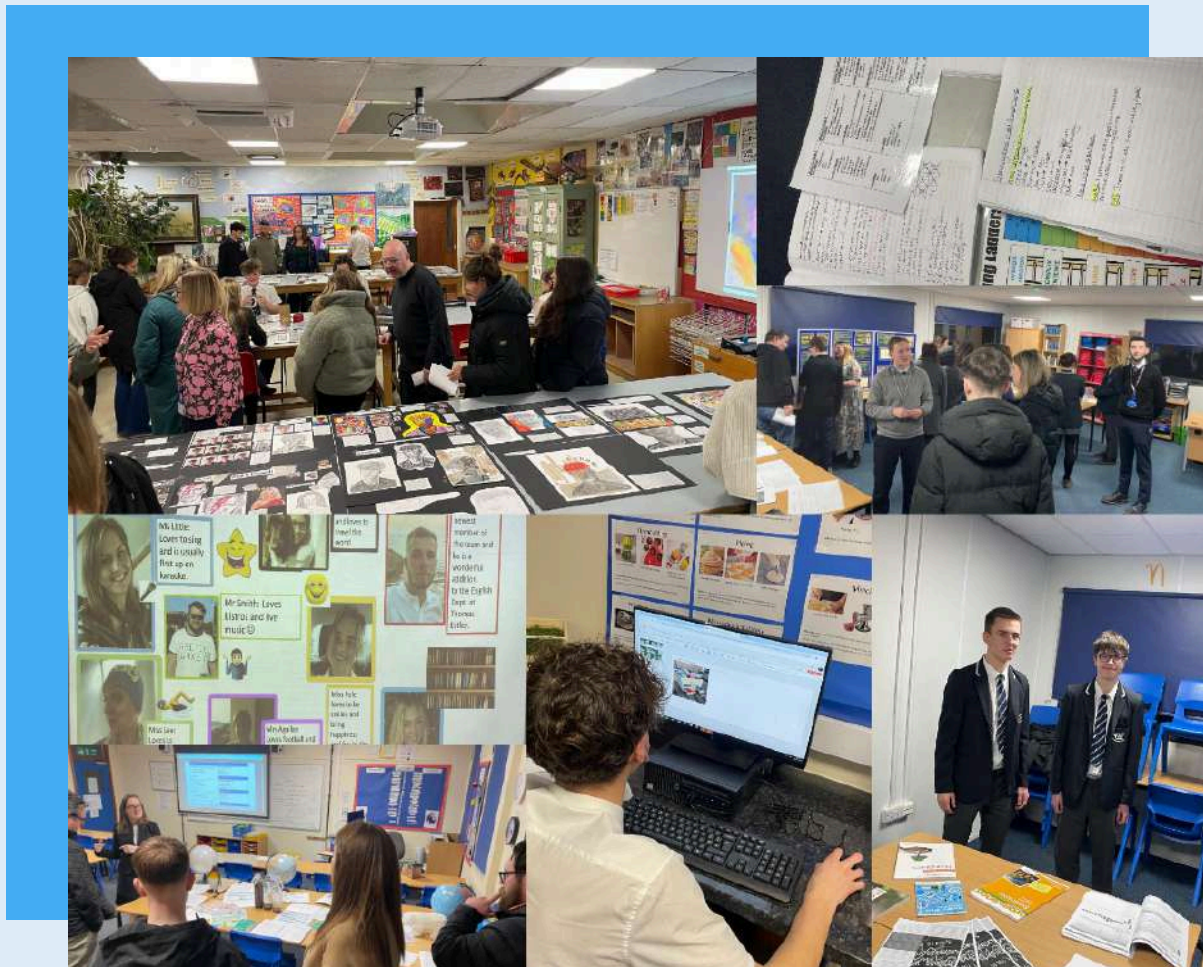


Incorporating these into our Autumn Term reward scheme and celebrating students' acts of kindness - thank you to those of you at the last meeting who said how much your children had enjoyed this - we will aim to repeat it next academic year.



Incorporating these into our Autumn Stressbuster Week for staff

# GCSE Options Evening



We welcomed hundreds of Thomas Estley year nine students and parents to our GCSE Options Evening this term, where student leaders and staff came together to provide detailed insights into the range of KS4 courses on offer. Throughout the evening, attendees had the opportunity to engage with teachers and ask questions about the subjects that interest them most, ensuring students could make informed decisions about their future studies.

With over 20 options available, we take great pride in the variety and depth of our KS4 programmes at Thomas Estley, which cater to a wide range of interests and academic strengths. From traditional subjects to creative and vocational pathways, we are committed to providing students with the tools they need for success in their education and beyond.

We are constantly striving to offer a curriculum that not only meets the needs of our students but also inspires them to reach their full potential. As reflected in the feedback from Ofsted in 2024, "The school has developed a broad and ambitious curriculum," a testament to the hard work and dedication of both our teaching staff and students.

# Show In A Day



Thomas Estley welcomed year 4 and 5 pupils from our feeder schools to experience 'Show In A Day'. The children started the day by splitting into three groups of either dance, drama or music. Our specialist student performing arts leaders then taught them what they needed for their part, from acting to singing or learning the dance routine. Once they had learnt their parts, they then practised putting the first pieces together to make the beginning scenes for Annie.

Next the groups learnt the second part to the performance, where the singing and dancing groups joined together to learn another song and dance routine, whilst the drama group learnt their next scene. Once this was completed it was practice time to put all the scenes together, and to let our lighting specialist student leaders work on the mics, lighting and checking all the speakers and curtains were in the correct place.

Throughout the day, our primary transition leaders helped to ensure the smooth running of the performance and at the end of the day, we welcomed parents/carers and grandparents in to watch the show; all the pupils acted, sang and danced to make a great performance of Annie.

A big thank you to all our student helpers for teaching, helping throughout the day and giving the primary pupils a great theatre experience.

# World Book Day

Thomas Estley was delighted to welcome famous author Bali Rai for student talks and workshops on World Book Day. Our student reading leaders also wrote a reading quiz for all students to try.



We thought you would enjoy a few of the great World Book Day outfits proudly worn by our Thomas Estley staff celebrating the joy of reading. Well done, everyone! Raising the profile of reading is vital as it supports success in studies and improves life chances.

# International Women's Day



We were delighted to celebrate International Women's Day – we are proud of the commitment and achievements of our women and girls, a few of whom are pictured here. We believe that everyone has an equal chance to success, whatever their gender, race, background or other characteristic, and we are committed to work to remove barriers to success.



As well as highlighting International Women's Day this term, a Thomas Estley library display also celebrates Women's History Month which runs during March. Students could select a book to understand and celebrate women's acts of courage and achievements from our library.

Thanks to Ms Gibbs for putting the display together.

# SAT's Science Fair



We were delighted to have the privilege of hosting the Success Academy Trust Science Fair at Thomas Estley, which brought together both primary and secondary school children from across the trust.

There was an incredible array of family projects that were shared during the event, showcasing not only a wealth of knowledge but also an impressive level of creativity and enthusiasm for science. The students' presentations were outstanding, with many demonstrating the ability to explain complex concepts clearly, making excellent use of scientific vocabulary. Their innovative ideas and curiosity were evident in every project, reflecting their dedication and passion for learning.

We were thoroughly impressed by the talent and hard work on display, and it was an absolute pleasure to celebrate these achievements with everyone involved. Congratulations to all participants – you should all be incredibly proud of your efforts!

# New Construction

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We are very excited at Thomas Estley to finally secure our mobile classroom replacement block, which was dropped into place last week and will now be finished and fitted over the next couple of months. Our mobiles have been past their official end of life date for many years now, and the new classrooms will allow History and Social Sciences lessons to be taught in a more positive environment, whilst allowing us to begin improvement work on our playground, and extend it, when the mobiles are removed in the summer term.

Preschool were able to go and watch the new construction onsite take place – the crane was by far the most exciting part. Many of the preschoolers talked about the fact they could see the crane on the walk to school. Some children even came early in the morning, to watch before preschool. Each time they visited the engineers on site were happy to come and have a chat with the children. It was fascinating to watch and a lovely opportunity, that they may not otherwise get!



# Drop Down Day



Our Thomas Estley year 7 students took part in an enhanced learning experience with a real focus on personal safety. There was input on personal first aid (CPR and the recovery position), our diverse society, and conflict resolution, to raise awareness, develop skills and grow confidence and character.

Sessions included understanding and standing up to child on child abuse, misogyny and racism, as well as raising awareness around dangers associated with drugs and learning first aid skills for any future health emergencies.

We were very proud of the attitudes and outcomes in lessons. Thank you to Leicester City In The Community and to Leicestershire Police who joined us to deliver some of our sessions.

# The Great Big Dance Off



Words cannot express how extremely proud we are of every single Thomas Estley dancer that competed in The Great Big Dance Off.

We had to replace an integral member of the ensemble last minute, due injury, with a courageous year 9 student, but ever the professionals, the students thrived on stage and gave an outstanding performance.

Congratulations to the team!

# Choir Of The Year



We're very proud of our Thomas Estley Glee Club, who reached the final of the 'Leicestershire Schools Choir of the Year' competition, hosted by Leicestershire Music and De Montfort Hall. Well done to Lara, Harry, Anna, Jack, Mia, Violet, Mimi, Sophia, Honor and Summer, conducted by Mrs Dickinson.

We competed in the senior schools category. Our choir had some of the youngest students in it, comprising of singers in year 7 and 8 and they competed against much older students, including sixth formers. Judges commented on how our students clearly loved singing and really told the story of each song. They proved themselves to be a choir to watch in the future and already have their sights set on trying to win next year!

Thank you to our parents and staff who went along to support on the evening. Students showed enormous courage, perseverance and commitment, and were kind and supportive of each other and other competing schools. Well done, everyone!

# Musical Madness

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What two incredible nights for “Musical Madness” at Thomas Estley! We are so proud of the talent on show in the performances — our students truly shone on stage.

A massive thank you to Mr Bourne and Miss Russell for the countless hours they’ve volunteered to make this show such a triumph. A special shoutout to our incredible Thomas Estley student leaders (who truly run the show!) and to our amazing adult volunteers — Mrs Rostron, Mrs Neville, Mrs Owen and Mrs Dickinson.

And finally, a huge thank you to our wonderful audience for your support. See you again next year!

# Trips

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Year 9 art award specialism students had a great day out to New Walk Gallery & Museum to undertake activities to fulfill the criteria for their arts award qualification.

They were perfectly behaved and engaged, with some fantastic outcomes.



Some of our Thomas Estley students who work with Mr Ahmed, Mr Bourne and Ms Horrex were able to visit the Curve theatre today to watch a performance. We were very proud of their behaviour and focus – a member of the public commented on how well they behaved and how nicely they spoke to each other – great role models of the Thomas Estley Way!

# Paris 2025



Our Thomas Estley French trippers had an exciting time in sunny Paris! After arriving safely they kicked off their adventure by enjoying some delicious crepes.

The group was greeted with beautiful weather, making for a perfect time full of culture, sightseeing and sunshine. They also had an amazing time at Disneyland Paris, creating unforgettable memories. What a fantastic trip for our year 7's!

# Highlights This Term...



We celebrated St David's Day this term and as always, our office staff joined in with a daffodil yellow theme!



We are very proud of our five Thomas Estley poetry winners in our local Rotary Club competition, who wrote fantastic poetry and prose about the gift of water.

Thanks to the Rotary Club judges who came to feedback in person and to present the certificates.

Well done to Jacob (1st place), Charlie (2nd place) Dougie (3rd place) and Joey and Jensen (special mentions) for their literary achievements. Some great literary talent displayed!



Our Thomas Estley staff wellbeing arts and crafts club created some beautifully decorated stones to add to the memorial stones in our Thomas Estley Memorial Garden.

# Highlights This Term...



We did it! Thomas Estley Community College wins the IET Faraday Challenge Day! Our students competed against teams from Uppingham Community College, South Charnwood High School, The Cedars Academy, Manor High School and Heath Lane Academy and came out on top!

Not only did they showcase fantastic teamwork and innovation, but they also graduated as industrial cadets at challenger level, receiving a certificate of recognition from the Engineering Development Trust (EDT).

A huge thank you to EDT and the IET Faraday Challenge team for delivering such a brilliant event, inspiring the next generation of engineers and problem-solvers!



We are very proud of Bailey, one of our year 7 students. So far Bailey has raised £415 for The Little Princess Trust and this is still rising.

He decided two years ago to grow his hair and donate it, while raising money for charity, to better the life of someone less fortunate than himself. He has now made the donation, showing great kindness and courage. Here are the before and after pictures!



All faiths are accepted and valued at Thomas Estley and this term we celebrated Eid. One of our teachers shared their personal story of Ramadan and Eid with our students along with a member of our catering team sharing her special Eid cake recipe with our Thomas Estley family.

# Highlights This Term...

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Year 10 child development students completed their practical assessment. The students were tasked with making a suitable breakfast and snack item for a 2-3 year old. They had to plan the caloric and nutritional requirements, of the age group, and adhere to government nutritional recommendations.

The students are also assessed on their personal hygiene measures, food safety adherence and environmental hygiene.

The students will now complete their coursework with an evaluation of their final product. Some great work - well done!

The team got into the spirit once again, decorating offices and wearing green to celebrate St Patrick's Day!



The kitchen team cooked up some delicious cakes for Easter!



Well done to our Thomas Estley IT technician student leaders, busy helping our IT team ensure that systems are operational and efficient. You are doing a great job!

# Sport

Our fantastic Thomas Estley year 7 netball team finished off last half term at the South Leicestershire Netball Tournament at Leicester Grammar School. Our B team played in The Shield tournament beating Leicester Grammar's C, D & E teams. They then met Stoneygate in the final, where they unfortunately lost. A brilliant display from them to finish runners up.



Our A team played in The Plate tournament notching up wins against St Martin's and Welland Park and drawing with Charnwood. They then met Lutterworth College in the final. The match finished 2-2 so the overall winner was decided by goal difference across the tournament – our girls were crowned champions by just one goal!

Thank you so much to the girls who stepped up to make the numbers up so that we could take two teams in a very successful afternoon. There was great support from family members too. Lastly, huge thanks again to our netball volunteer Michelle, thank you for all that you do.



The Thomas Estley year 7 boys football league campaign has crowned the team Broughton and Harborough district champions! The boys have been superb all year with some fantastic results and impressive football displays. Unfortunately, they were knocked out of the national cup, but used this disappointment as motivation for the district final. The boys came out 4-1 winners vs local rivals Lutterworth College. Fantastic team performance, as well as excellent individual displays from Shay and Alfie. MOM Shay Henfrey. Top job boys, now let's go again for the county quarter finals!

# Sport

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Our Thomas Estley under 16 girls football team played the last of their league matches away at Robert Smyth. With only 10 players, our girls were amazing; they worked hard for each other particularly Lydia and Alice at the back.

Goals for Rose (2), Emily G and Violet sealed the 4-2 win to see the girls through to the Blaby & Harborough district final.

Well done girls, we're really proud of you. Thanks to Ms Thorington for giving up her time to run the line and coach the team.

It was our Thomas Estley year 8 girls' (above) turn at the South Leicestershire Netball Tournament. Group wins in the plate competition without conceding a goal against St Martin's, South Wigston and Wigston Academy meant the girls were through to the final. They beat Hastings 3-1 in the final to be crowned Plate Champions. A great achievement despite the hailstones and rain.

The girls were fantastic ambassadors for the college. Huge thanks once again to our netball volunteer Michelle for giving up her time for free. You enable our girls to experience these competitive opportunities and we are very grateful.



The year 10 boys football team delivered an outstanding performance securing a 4-1 victory over Brockington College to be crowned Blaby & Harborough district champions. With the support of an enthusiastic home crowd - comprising around 100 students, parents and staff - the team showed incredible skill and determination to beat their opponents and put on a great display to those who attended. This win propels them into the County Cup quarter-finals, keeping their campaign alive. Well done, lads!



# Sport



Well done to our Thomas Estley year 7 boys football team who secured a place in the semi finals of the county cup. A fantastic first half football display saw the boys take a 3-0 lead. Despite this, a few unforced errors resulted in a nervy second half; the boys showed fantastic resilience and perseverance though to secure a 5-2 victory.

Some amazing football was played by the team in and out of possession. Opposition manager and players voted Shay MOM. Mr Virk's MOM went to Hugo for a commanding defensive and offensive display! Great work boys!

We were so impressed with our Thomas Estley under 14 girls football team in the quarter finals of the England National Cup. They didn't get the result they wanted but they should be so proud of the fight they put up, particularly in the second half. Georgia in particular did a sterling job cancelling out their academy player.

These girls have been outstanding this season and despite the disappointment of today's result they still have lots to play for. Thank you to everyone who has supported their amazing journey. We'll go again next year.



Our Thomas Estley year 9 girls netball team made the journey over to Leicester Grammar School for their South Leicestershire netball tournament. There were four matches in total. Wins against Welland Park and Kibworth, a draw with Leicester Grammar and a loss to Lutterworth College meant no medals this time, but some great netball was played in a lovely atmosphere and some spring sunshine.

Thanks again to Michelle for giving up her time to make this happen. We really appreciate it.



# Sport

Thomas Estley fully immersed ourselves in the FA initiative Biggest Ever Football Session. Our students got a great offer of football both in and out of lessons and as an equal access school, we ensure that this is the same for girls and boys.

All PE lessons had a football theme with coaching drills and lessons indoors and out. This meant groups had a chance to do some futsal as well. We also did some lunchtime football and all tutor groups took part in a quiz to test their football knowledge.

The day was rounded off with our under 14 girls playing their National Cup quarter final. A 3-1 loss but an amazing achievement for them to reach the last eight in England. Thank you to everyone who got involved with this exciting initiative to celebrate football together.



The Thomas Estley year 10 boys football team secured their place in the county cup semi-finals after yet another thrilling penalty shootout victory against Cedar's Academy!

A resolute defensive display and outstanding goalkeeping kept the game goalless in full time, before the Tommo boys showed nerves of steel to triumph 3-2 on penalties. Well done, lads - the show goes on!

The last of the South Leicestershire netball tournaments took place at Leicester Grammar School. It was the turn of our year 10 girls in the plate competition.

The girls played three group matches, beating Leicester Grammar B 9-0, Robert Smyth 2-0 and a 2-2 draw with King Henry VIII school from Coventry. This put them through to the plate final against Stoneygate.

The girls were fantastic, securing a 5-2 win. A great display from them from start to finish. Well done girls. You've made us very proud.



# Sport



Some of our year 9 girls footballers were in action at the Harborough futsal tournament. We beat Kibworth 3-0 and Welland Park 6-0 to be crowned Harborough Champions. Well done girls. Superb skills on show.

Some of the year 7 and 8 girls took part in a rugby festival at Lutterworth Rugby Club, run by Leicester Tigers coaches.

They were taught the fundamentals of the game, as well as taking part in different drills to build their understanding. The girls were brilliant and represented the school fantastically. Some great rugby was played by all of the girls involved. Well done!



Our Thomas Estley year 7 girls football team played their district final away at Brockington. We dominated from the off, Brockington not really testing our goalkeepers at all. Two goals for Willow and one for Verity secured the win but that doesn't show the possession that we had throughout. Every one of the girls put a shift in despite the freezing rain and hailstones.

As Blaby & Harborough district champions, the girls now meet Castle Rock, Coalville, in the county quarter finals - well done and keep up the great work!

A huge thank you to the parents who helped with transport, the large crowd who came to cheer us on and to Fern's Dad and year 7 Shay for running the line for us.



# Sport



Our year 10 and 11 girls district football final against Lutterworth College was a great match this term. Some of the best passing football and team work from the girls saw them 4-0 up at half time with a Darcey hat-trick and one for Maggie.

The second half was played much the same, however we lacked the final edge to extend our lead until Niamh's hard work made it 5. Lutterworth got a consolation goal to make it 5-1 but by then the game was well and truly over.

Another of our teams crowned district champions! The girls are now through to the county quarter finals and will meet John Ferneley from Melton away.

Well done girls. A superb display. Joint players of the match went to Darcey and Alice.



What a performance from our year 7 boys football team (below) in the semi final of the County Cup against Catmose College from Rutland.

The boys dominated from the off, playing high tempo football, exploiting every gap and finishing with precision. We had a commanding 7-0 lead at half time which meant some tactical changes could be made. Every player showcased the Thomas Estley values and the boys thoroughly deserve to be in the county final in their first Tommo season together.

Player of the match went to Eddie, scoring a hat-trick and putting on an all round superb performance. Well done boys. We are so proud of you.



Our year 7 girls football team were in action at the Blaby futsal tournament. Lots of amazing skill and link up play on show saw us comfortably win the tournament.

Well done, girls – superb in all matches.

# Sport

Our year 11 girls futsal team completed the hat-trick of district futsal titles for our girls teams this year. Following on from our year 7 & 9 teams being crowned district champions, the year 11's took on Kibworth in the final.

We didn't start well, Kibworth quickly went 3-0 up. Our girls kept their heads though – Maggie getting two and Emily G getting one to take us into half time equal. Kibworth took the lead again after half time before Maggie equalised to take the game to extra time. It was Emily G who got the winner to seal the victory. What a performance; the girls left everything on the court. We are so proud of them.



Our under 14 girls football team made it three out of three for our girls teams being crowned district champions! Lutterworth College didn't make it easy for us though...

The game was very tense, end to end and could have gone either way but neither team could find the edge to put the ball in the net. The dreaded lottery of penalties was how it was decided in the end.

After five each, both teams had missed one so we went to sudden death. It was our girls who held their nerve to score the three extra pens and give us the 7-6 victory.

Well done girls. Super proud of you all. Player of the match went to Izzy in goal who stepped up to take a pen as well as face eight of them.



Our year 7 girls football team traveled to Coalville for their county quarter final against Castle Rock. After a slow start, Willow broke the deadlock with a goal, followed by two more from her and one from Verity, making it 4-0 at half time. In the second half, Grace scored off a defender for the fifth, followed by Willow, Lacey, Maddie, Kelsey, and India, securing a 10-0 win. Castle Rock named Grace as our player of the match.

# Sport



A huge congratulations to the year 7 boys football team on being crowned county champions at Leicester City's Seagrave training ground! What an incredible season they have had, culminating in a brilliant 5-2 victory against Hastings High School.

From start to finish, the boys have shown exceptional skill, determination and sportsmanship — truly embodying the Thomas Estley values of respect, perseverance and courage. Every single player has been outstanding and both the school and Mr Virk couldn't be more proud of their achievements in their first year with us.

Opposition MOM went to Jacob for his dazzling attacking display, showcasing skill and flair. Mr. Virk's MOM was Dougie for his consistency and leadership, keeping the team ticking throughout the season. Well done, boys! You've made us all so proud.

Our year 8 and 9 girls footballers joined the year 7 and under 16 teams by beating Beauchamp 6-1.

A stunning team display with two goals for Izzy P and Lily and a goal for Freya and Ria, passing football at its best.

Well done, girls. Our referee chose Ria as player of the match.



Our Thomas Estley year 10 and 11 girl footballers were away at John Ferneley College in Melton in the quarter final of the county cup.

A comfortable win saw us 6-2 winners with two goals for Maisie, one for Maggie and a hat-trick for player of the match Violet. Another great team performance!



# Sport

In the run up to the GCSE exams it is important our Thomas Estley year 11's have time for some fun activities too.

Our year 11 netballers were challenged to a match by a group of the year 11 boys. The match was played in a great atmosphere and was a lovely way for the students to take a well earned break from their GCSE preparation.

Well done to all involved. A 12-6 victory for the girls team and a lovely finish to the day in the spring sunshine.



Our year 7 girls footballers (left) made it through to the County Cup final after a dominating display against Catmose College from Rutland. 4-0 up at half time and a final score of 9-1 means the girls now meet Cedars in the final on 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Leicester City's training ground at Seagrave.

The whole team played their part. Passing play was stunning and they thoroughly deserve this after a fantastic season. Catmose chose Willow as our player of the match. Well done girls. So proud of all of you.

Our year 8 and 9 girls football team played their county semi final away at Longfield Academy, Melton. Longfield took the lead from a penalty on six minutes, then doubled their lead on 20 minutes. The second half started with us attacking with purpose and Lily took a great left foot shot to get us back in the game. Ria then made it 2-2. It was constant end to end, both teams desperately trying to get the winner.

As the game moved into injury time and it looked like it was going to the dreaded penalties, we got through one last time and Freya B took us into the county final with the last kick of the game!

A superb second half. Well done girls. Player of the match went to Ria, stepping into the captain role and having a real impact on the match and the team.





The last of our county semi finals was played as our Thomas Estley year 10 and 11 girls were in action against Market Bosworth School. We took the lead early on with a stunning strike from Darcey from outside the box. Bosworth equalised not long after and then stepped up the pace adding two more before half time to put them in the driving seat. All credit to our girls though, they kept fighting. Niamh gave us a lifeline with 15 minutes to go and then added a second to make it 3-3 with eight minutes left on the clock. Neither side managed to get the edge needed to finish the match and so we headed to penalties.

Unfortunately we lost 5-4. The girls should be so proud of themselves though, many of the Bosworth girls are part of their year 10 team who reached the national semi final, so to take them to penalties is an amazing achievement. Well done, girls. A great season. Huge thanks to the parents for their great support with the team and to Miss Thorington for coaching the girls, we really appreciate it. Player of the match went to Alice; an amazing defensive display from her.

The Netball season has now come to an end. What a successful season it has been. We have had more than 50 girls represent the college across the year groups in district league matches, play off matches and tournaments with much success. The girl's skills have progressed really well and many of our girls are now also getting expert coaching at Lutterworth Robins Netball Club.

Huge thank you to our netball volunteer Michelle who gives freely of her time to make all of this happen and to our sponsors Readings and Automated Garage Doors for their continued support of the teams, we really appreciate all that you do to make these opportunities a possibility for our students.

The season has finished with our girls being crowned plate champions at four out of five of the South Leicestershire Netball Tournaments. Lets hope next season is just as successful.



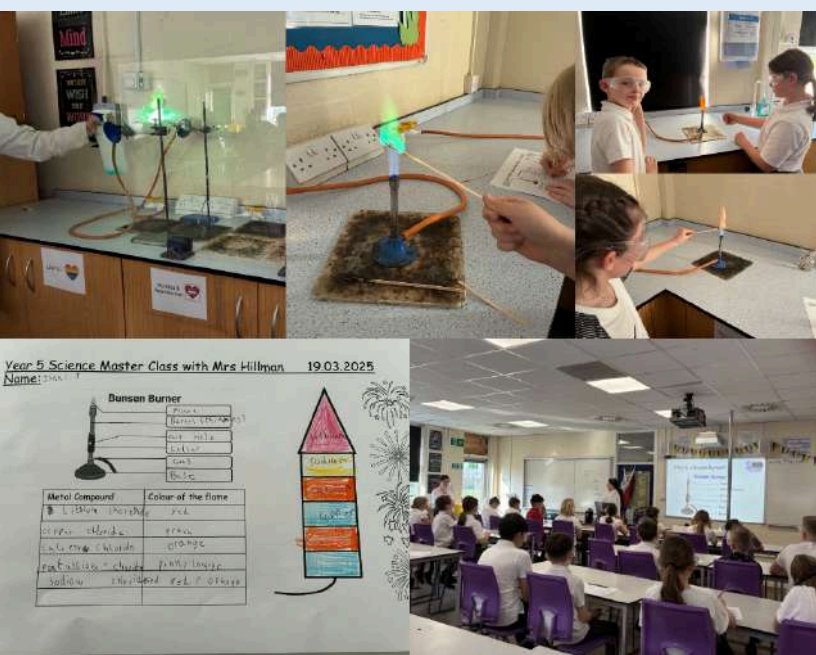
# Primary Masterclasses



We welcomed year 5 children from our feeder schools to Thomas Estley for a French masterclass. They joined in brilliantly with lots of enthusiasm, picking up new phrases quickly. They also got a chance to play bingo, battle ships and rock paper scissors in French.

Well done to our primary transition student leaders, who helped to demonstrate the activities and joined in to make the experience even more special. Our French teacher was impressed by the amazing outcomes!

Our Thomas Estley language leaders delivered a lesson to a few local year 6 students at Hallbrook Primary School. They worked together as a team to plan and deliver their own lesson. The Hallbrook children were engaged, participating and speaking lots of Spanish. It was a lovely afternoon. Well done to you all; we are very proud of you!



Year 5 pupils from our feeder schools joined us for a Thomas Estley science masterclass in one of our science labs. They learned lab safety, including wearing goggles, tying hair and removing loose clothing. The lesson covered the parts of a bunsen burner, followed by an experiment burning metal compounds to see their colour changes, demonstrating how fireworks are made. Mrs Hillman then showcased the spray flame test. Finally, the pupils designed their own fireworks. A big thanks to our primary transition leaders for their help!

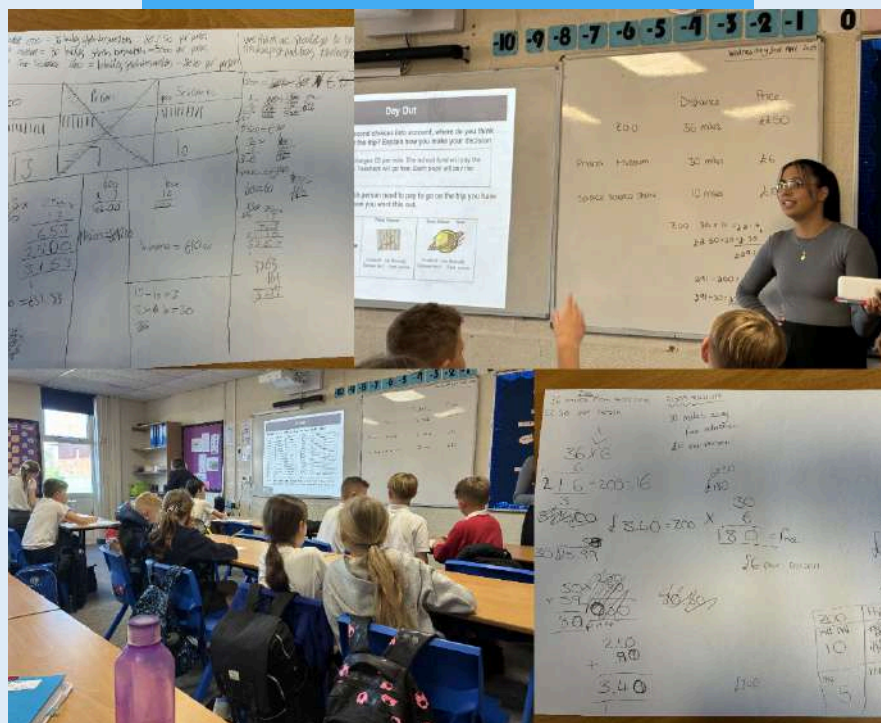
# Primary Masterclasses



Some of our talented Thomas Estley sports leaders visited Badgerbrook Primary School to deliver an engaging netball coaching session for year 5 and 6 students.

With a tournament just a few weeks away, our leaders provided valuable coaching to help the primary school students develop their skills.

A huge well done to our sports leaders, who showcased incredible adaptability and professionalism, delivering a fantastic session with enthusiasm and expertise.



We had a fantastic time running a primary maths masterclass recently, and it was such a pleasure to work with the enthusiastic year 5 students. Their curiosity, effort, and willingness to engage with some mathematical challenges was really lovely to see. From problem-solving to creative thinking, the energy in the room was brilliant.

A special thank you goes to the student leaders, Theo, Lyds and Amelia, whose support throughout the session was absolutely invaluable. Whether it was helping to set up, guiding the younger students, or encouraging them along the way, you played a big part in making it such a success.

# Preschool

Thomas Estley preschoolers took part in the 'Move it March' initiative. They filled in trackers to show how they moved more and learnt that movement can take on lots of forms: swimming, gardening, football, playing at the park, plus lots of other activities.

We supported this with extra yoga & HIIT sessions in preschool, alongside helping the children to make obstacle courses, to improve balance and coordination, spending more time outside being active in their play, using bikes, scooters and the trampoline. We also created some active story times, which have worked really well. Activities have all been both healthy and fun!

Our Thomas Estley preschoolers had a surprise visit from a frog! One of our children and her Mummy found a little frog and bought it in to show us.

The children were very excited and some of them chose to hold the frog. They were very kind and gentle and the frog has now been returned to its natural habitat.

We extended the learning by looking at lifecycles, colouring in frog pictures and singing "5 Little Speckled Frogs". We have also shared resources with parents for them to continue the learning at home too.



# Preschool



Thomas Estley preschool welcomed a veterinarian and a dental nurse to help teach our youngsters about their own health and raise awareness of these careers.

They learnt about fleas, ticks, worms (a popular one), microchips and much more. They also looked at and handled some of the equipment a vet would usually use and even had a go at using bandages on each other and using a stethoscope to listen to each others tummies. All the preschoolers listened and shared really well, talking about their own pets and experiences.

Charlotte came in to help them learn to look after their teeth. She brought in a skeleton of a jaw – the children voted this their favourite; he was called Nick! They learnt lots of interesting facts and also had the opportunity to look at large teeth and to practise their cleaning techniques. The children all received a goody bag, including a two minute timer and a dental mirror.

Massive thanks to both ladies, who gave up their own time to come in and talk to the children about their relevant professions – we really appreciate it!

# Outside Tommo



We're so proud of our Thomas Estley students who took part in the amazing pantomime performances of Robin Hood and The Dame of Thrones over half term!

Ash played Big John, Chloe was Gilly, the Dame's assistant, and Amber brought to life Lucindra, an evil witch. They were joined by Hope from Birkett House Centre, who dazzled everyone with her dance and passion for singing!

Beyond their fantastic onstage performances, they truly showcased kindness and perseverance — helping with painting, assisting younger cast members, organising props and even cleaning up after the show. We're thrilled to see them shine both on and off the stage. Well done, everyone!

Well done to year 7 Bailey who not only has gained his brown tag belt in kickboxing, but who achieved a medal for his rugby team winning the Loughborough Rugby Tournament! There were around 20 teams competing, so this is a huge achievement! Well done Bailey.



Well done to year 11 Sean, who raced in Verona, Italy at the rounds 1 and 2 at the UEC European Cup. We are very proud of Sean, who finished 72 out of 133 in Europe, including crashing and recovering during a race. A great role model of our Thomas Estley way character values of courage, resilience and perseverance, as well as a very talented young sportsman.

# Outside Tommo

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ESTLEY  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

Thomas Estley year 8 Harry performed at the Benn Theatre in Rugby as the lead in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Some of our PEPA staff went along to see the show and were blown away by the talent. The whole cast were stunning, but our Harry shone though in an exciting, lively performance where he owned the stage.

Well done Harry - we're all very proud of you.



Some of the Thomas Estley staff went to support our very own Mrs Nattrass performing in Helen Guy's annual show, 'Idols'. She, along with several Thomas Estley students (most pictured left and in addition, Kaira, Jessica, Kaci and Summer), gave an amazing performance that everyone thoroughly enjoyed!

Congratulations to all. What a spectacular demonstration of the Thomas Estley values. It was also lovely to see Amy and Isla, TECC alumni, and to hear about their successes since leaving us. What a lovely evening.

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@thomasesstley.org.uk](mailto:PAtoThePrincipal@thomasesstley.org.uk)

# Don't Forget!

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*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 ParentMail.*

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!

## 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 24th Feb & the Easter break begins on Mon 14th April*

## 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.*

The background is a light green color with various water splashes and paint splatters in blue, pink, and yellow. A large blue splash is on the left, and a pink splash is on the right. There are also smaller splatters in the top corners.

# SAVE THE DATE SUPER SOAKER COLOUR DASH

**2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2025**  
**YEAR 7 ONLY**



# 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](mailto: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](http://telaonline.co.uk)

**Contact: Jo Robotham**  
**Tel: 01455 283263 ext 286**  
**Email: [tela@thomasestley.org.uk](mailto:tela@thomasestley.org.uk)**