



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOVEMBER 2023

De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter



SECOND HIGHEST SECONDARY SCHOOL RESULTS FOR PROGRESS IN LEICESTERSHIRE!

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to our second newsletter of this academic year. The Advent term is going very quickly, we are nearly at Year 11 mock exams and students are busy revising for these. We are extremely proud to let you know that the national league tables for GCSE results came out recently, De Lisle is second in the county of Leicestershire for GCSE results and 230th out of just over 6,500 secondary schools nationally. With higher results than many independent schools. It is the highest performing secondary school in the St Thomas Aquinas CMAT.

At A Level over 33% of entries achieved an A or A* grade, 91% of students went to their first-choice university and over 1/3 of student's now study at the most competitive Russell group universities.

Best wishes,

Chris Maher - Headteacher

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2023



Newsletter Highlights

Headteacher Message
Mr Chris Maher

All Saints' Day Mass

Upcoming inset day

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Lake District Trip

New York 2023

Inter-house sport



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ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS

We celebrated some wonderful All Saints' Day Masses on 1 November 2023, students sang and participated beautifully in the Masses, leading reading, and the preparation of these Masses. Thank you to Fr Collin.

Commissioning Mass of the Student Missionary Group

We recently celebrated another Mass for our Mission Group students, we have over 60 of these students and they all received Mission badges. The Missionary Group does lots in school working with the Lay Chaplains on our mission and charity work.



Upcoming Inset Day

We have an inset day on Friday 17 November 2023, this means that school will be closed to all students.



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TAIWAN 2023

Over half-term, 31 intrepid year 10 and 11 Mandarin students embarked on the trip of a lifetime to Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. Following a gruelling 26-hour journey via London Heathrow and Bangkok, students and teachers enjoyed an action-packed week exploring the home of bubble-tea and having their eyes opened to Chinese life and culture, putting into context the Chinese language study that students have engaged in as part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme over the last 4 years.

During the week, students learnt how to make 小笼包 (xiǎo lóng bāo - Chinese soup dumplings), enjoyed spectacular views from the top of the Taipei 101 building (the world's tallest sky-scraper until 2010), hiked up Elephant Peak, visited a tea plantation, Taipei Zoo, the spectacular Zhinan Temple and the National Palace Museum. They were treated to a mouth-watering array of delicious Chinese food, including hotpot and Mongolian barbecue, but their favourite culinary experience was without doubt the visit to the Shilin Night Market. Students purchased their own dinner, choosing from a dazzling array of street-food stalls. Some were more daring than others in their choice of menu, but all enjoyed the chance to see and smell the range of Taiwanese delicacies on offer.

Three of the days were devoted to attending language and culture classes at Taiwan's Culture University. Apart from conventional language lessons in the mornings, students enjoyed a craft workshop making candles in the shape of a glass of bubble tea, and also demonstrated their musical talents in their loud and enthusiastic renditions of two Chinese songs that they were taught. Students and teachers were also shown round the main campus of the Culture University, which is situated on the picturesque slopes of Yang Ming Shan (Yang Ming mountain). As part of the tour, students were given the opportunity to speak to 3 students from Cardiff University who are currently completing their year abroad at the university, and were inspired to hear how they have found the experience of living and studying Mandarin on the island.

When asked what aspect of the trip had left the deepest impression on them, students cited:

"seeing all of the massive temples concealed in the mountains." (Milena)

"the night market, because their culture is so interesting!" (Estelle)

"visiting the Taipei 101 – it was truly a wonderful experience!" (Vanessa)

"how different the culture was to ours and experiencing it firsthand." (Baptiste)

"going to the university campus and meeting the teachers and exchange students." (Imogen)

"the politeness of everyone who spoke to me and their patience when I attempted to speak in Chinese." (Matthew)

"experiencing a culture so different from our own. Even the buildings were different, not just the food or the language." (Alice)

Many students also commented on how much they had enjoyed getting to know their fellow Mandarin students during the trip. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs Fisher and Mr Theobald, who accompanied the trip and were wonderful company and a great support to Mrs Aird. Suffice to say, we all returned home with fantastic 'mems' ("memories", for the uninitiated) and will be talking about the trip for many months to come.

Mrs Aird



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YEAR 13 LAKE DISTRICT TRIP

The Y13 geography students visited the Lake District, for three days, before half term. The purpose of the visit was for students to collect data for their NEA (coursework) as well as investigating glaciated landscapes. The students are investigating an array of issues as part of their NEA, including the economic value of glaciated landscapes, the impacts of humans activity and biodiversity variation.

During our stay, our geographers visited Grange-over-Sands and Coniston. Alongside their NEA prep, students investigated key concepts such as the rural idyll and geomorphic processes in glaciated landscapes.

In the evenings, our students worked hard to prepare for their data collection day on the Friday. Upon their final day in Coniston, students worked independently to collect their data. They used a variety of techniques such as footpath transects, soil ph testing, mood and land use mapping and environmental quality assessments.

Luckily the weather was in our favour and the students have now collected their data and are well on their way with presenting and analysing.

A successful trip, making memories along the way.

Mrs Richardson

TRIP TO TAIWAN



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NEW YORK VISIT

New York, often referred to as the financial capital of the world, was the destination for a group of 16-18 years old A-level students on a Business and Economics trip. During the visit students experienced a walking tour of Wall Street, where students observed the bustling financial hub, including the New York Stock Exchange and the Charging Bull. They had the opportunity to learn about the history and significance of these landmarks from the New York Law Courts, Federal Reserve Bank and the 9/11 Memorial Garden.

The group explored the United Nations headquarters, learning about international economic policies and global cooperation. The visit gave students a global perspective allowing them to gain a global perspective on economics, as they learned about international economic policies and their impact on nations. During their 5 days tour the students had time to explore the city's cultural and historic attractions, such as the New York Central Library, Grand Central Station, Brooklyn Bridge, The Rockefeller Centre and Top of the Rock viewing platform. With a very special highlight for the last night was dinner at The Hard Rock Cafe, Time Square and theatre show, Hamilton on Broadway!

The cultural exposure in visiting this vibrant and diverse City broadened students' horizons, emphasizing the global nature of business and economics. The students found the trip highly enriching and insightful. They appreciated the balance between educational activities and cultural exploration witnessing concepts from textbooks being applied in real-world scenarios was eye-opening for many students. They felt more connected to the subjects they were studying. The A-level Business and Economics trip to New York was an educational and eye-opening experience for our students. It provided them with a deeper understanding of the real-world applications of their studies and the global nature of economics. The trip was a success, leaving a lasting impact on the students and enhancing their educational journey.

On the following page you can read about what our students thought of the trip!

Mrs Hickman



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"The New York trip was such a great experience. I loved indulging in a different culture, and in particular the Wall Street tour., and having a real presence in NYC is overwhelmingly stunning-something pictures can only partially capture. Also, it seemed to be a great opportunity to meet new people from Year 13, as well as improving some level of self-reliance and organisation. Overall, going to New York is an experience every A-Level Business/Economics student should be offered".

"It was a great balance between education and sightseeing to get a real feel of the difference in culture. My favourite part was Hamilton and going to the top of Rockefeller Center".

"It was a really great trip to bring economics to life and to discover a new place. Having a tour of the UN was really interesting to learn how they are tackling current issues and seeing Hamilton on Broadway was amazing!"

"Visiting New York is a once in a life-time opportunity, and it was a really amazing experience."

"My favourite part was visiting the 9/11 memorial garden, it was so peaceful and eye-opening to the tragedy that occurred"

"The trip was amazing, the UN tour was my favourite part. The food was also 100%. The trip was so fun, it was great to spend time with my friends and also learn. It was a once in a lifetime experience. Loved the trip, went round Washington Park, and did loads more fun activities that were very valuable and educational. Overall, it was a life changing experience and well-run trip".



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INTER-HOUSE SPORT

The inter-house sport season started before half term with boys and girls from the four houses battling it out on the yard, the field and the gym. It was pleasing to see the large number of students participating in competitive (but friendly) sport and the skill level on show was excellent in the games.

Thank you to the sports representatives from each form for coordinating their teams and to the Sixth Formers who supported the PE department by officiating some very closely fought games. As the weather gets a little chillier, don't forget to wrap up warm for the next competitions that start soon!

Inter-house sports results 2023-24 – Advent 1

Year 7 girls' netball			Year 8 girls' netball			Year 9 girls' netball			Year 10/11 girls' basketball		
1 st	More		1 st	Clitherow		1 st	Clitherow		1 st	Sherwin	
2 nd	Fisher		2 nd	Sherwin		2 nd	Sherwin		2 nd	Clitherow	
2 nd	Clitherow		3 rd	More		3 rd	More		3 rd	More	
4 th	Sherwin		4 th	Fisher		4 th	Fisher		4 th	Fisher	

Year 7 boys' football			Year 8 boys' football			Year 9 boys' football			Year 10/11 boys' hockey		
1 st	Clitherow		1 st	More		1 st	Clitherow		1 st	Fisher	
2 nd	More		2 nd	Clitherow		2 nd	Fisher		2 nd	Clitherow	
3 rd	Fisher		3 rd	Sherwin		3 rd	More		3 rd	More	
4 th	Sherwin		4 th	Fisher		4 th	Sherwin		4 th	Sherwin	

Y7 overall position		Points	Y8 overall position		Points	Y9 overall position		Points	KS4 position		Points
1 st	More	7	1 st	Clitherow	7	1 st	Clitherow	8	1 st	Clitherow	6
2 nd	Clitherow	6	2 nd	More	6	2 nd	Fisher	4	2 nd	Fisher	5
3 rd	Fisher	5	3 rd	Sherwin	5	2 nd	More	4	2 nd	Sherwin	5
4 th	Sherwin	2	4 th	Fisher	2	2 nd	Sherwin	4	4 th	More	4

Inter-house sports results 2023-24 Advent 1

Advent 1 standings		Points
1 st	Clitherow	27
1 st	More	21
3 rd	Fisher	16
3 rd	Sherwin	16



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