



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

DECEMBER 2023

De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter



God of patience and love, be with us in this time of waiting.

Though the pressures mount and distractions increase,
keep our eyes open to Your beauty, our minds open to Your wisdom,
our ears open to Your word, our hands open to do Your work.

Help us to gently guide those in our care, as Your star led the Magi.

So we might all journey together, inspired by Your truth and love.
May our school look forward to Christ's birth with hope, that we might
prepare for Your arrival as communities of joy, justice and faith.

Amen.



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to our third newsletter of this academic year.

As we approach this most wonderfully joyous time of year, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for your support and lovely welcome this term. Christmas always provides us with an opportunity to stop, think and pray. Jesus' coming symbolises immense joy and happiness and as we approach 2024, we pray for a sense of spiritual renewal and a positive start to the new year. I would like to thank my colleagues for all their hard work during this term. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that your child is cared for and that their lessons have been carefully planned and effectively delivered. May I remind you that children will return on Monday 8 January 2024. I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas.

Best wishes,

Chris Maher - Headteacher

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2023



Newsletter Highlights

Headteacher Message
Mr Chris Maher

Nativity Scene
Competition

GCSE Food

Public Speaking
Competition

Singing

Y7 Retreat & The Briars

Chess Tournament

Our Mission Statement



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NATIVITY SCENE HOUSE COMPETITION

Students have been working hard on the nativity competition below are some of the entries from this competition. The image to the left from St John Fisher House is the winner.



TERM DATES

You can find all of our term dates on our website. Click below:

[Term Dates](#)



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GCSE FOOD AT DE LISLE

GCSE Students have been doing some fantastic learning both in and out of the kitchen this term. From portioning chicken and filleting fresh fish to mastering yeast dough, whipping up mayonnaise, cooking a classic tomato sauce or working on their presentation skills, they have grown in food knowledge and skills. Staff have sampled perfectly cooked fish, delicious Stromboli and Pizza and had to judge between many beautifully styled desserts to choose a favourite!



GCSE Food



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PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION: A TRIUMPH OF ELOQUENCE

In a display of eloquence and confidence, 9 students from De Lisle were selected to compete in the quarter finals of our Trust wide public speaking competition. Bringing together 40 students from our four secondary schools, the demanding competition challenges students to present their speech to a panel of guest judges. Known for its challenges in articulation and poise, the competition proved to be a platform where our students not only met but exceeded expectation.

Public speaking is a daunting task for many, requiring a unique blend of verbal prowess, charisma and the ability to think on one's feet, the aim behind this competition is to nurture these skills and challenge participants to communicate effectively on diverse topics.

Despite palpable nerves, our students shone, delivering thought provoking and compelling speeches that left a lasting impression on both the judges and audience.

The successes achieved by our school is a testament to the students' commitment, preparation and communication skills.

We celebrate the achievements of all nine students and are exceptionally proud that six were chosen to go through to the semi-finals!

What wonderful ambassadors for our school and a shining example of personal triumph and our commitment at De Lisle to fostering not only academic excellence but the holistic development of every child. Congratulations to all involved, it was a pleasure to be engaged, entertained and inspired by you all.

Mrs Robey-Monks



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SINGING!

Year 7 Big Sing

On Tuesday 14th November the day of the much-anticipated Year 7 Big Sing arrived. We prepare Year 7 for the Big Sing in their curriculum music lessons as a way to build a confident, supportive environment and develop relationships between the students who arrive from over 30 feeder schools. Our music classes spend the first half term practising towards the competition. This year, the theme was songs from the musical, Oliver. This ties in nicely with their English Literacy lessons where they are studying Oliver. It was clear from the outset that the competition was going to be fierce and that was just between Mr Dellaca and Mrs Fisher, as to who would have the winning class! The competition was judged by Mr Maher, who was joined by the Head Boy and Girl, Joe and Faith. Every single class sung enthusiastically as they lost their nerves and strived to be the winning class. After much deliberating, the winners in reverse order were 7R with a fast and word-perfect rendition of Be Back Soon, 7B giving us some Oom Pah Pah to take second place with the winners being 7I (and Mrs Fisher) with an energetic and perfect version of Consider Yourself.

Menphys Concert

De Lisle College took part in the Menphys Concert at De Montfort Hall in Leicester on Friday 1 December. We were one of 24 Catholic schools from all over Leicester and Leicestershire. Our young people were incredible. Thank you to Mrs Fisher and Mr Dellaca for organising this.



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YEAR 7 RETREAT

On Wednesday 29th November, Year 7's had a retreat day in school. The theme was how 'Young People Can Make a Change' in our world today and was based on the scripture 1 Timothy 4:12: "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity."

Seven local and global organisations came into De Lisle to lead sessions on how their charity positively impacts society and how our young people can make a change. The organisations included Jesus Youth, Pax Christi, CAFOD, Loughborough Town Sanctuary, Refugee Roots and Falcon Support Services.

It was incredible to see our young people engaged in these sessions. All the sessions aimed to inspire the young people to make a change in the world and that they are not too young to start doing this now.

To end our day, Fr Jonathan Cotton celebrated Mass with us. This was such a lovely way to end the retreat and thank God for the blessings we received throughout the day and all that we learnt. After Mass, there was a period of social time where refreshments were given out to students.

Students said that they really enjoyed the retreat day as they each learned something new and felt inspired to make a change in the world today.



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YEAR 7 AT THE BRIARS

We were very delighted to take 50 year 7 students to the Briars Catholic Youth Retreat centre from Wednesday 25th October - Friday 27th for a spiritual retreat unpacking the theme 'Defined'. The three days were jam-packed with activities exploring what and who we are defined by, and how ultimately what the Lord says about us is the most important thing.

We had a very excited coach full of students setting off to Crich after lessons on Wednesday and arrived at the retreat centre in time for a warm welcome from the team and a delicious evening meal full of laughter and excited conversation - mainly about the struggle of making beds and who got to the top bunk first! Small groups were formed and named, and the young people spent time getting to know each other, and their Briars team leader, better with a scavenger hunt around the site. The day concluded with a calming night prayer. Students settled to bed and there was some sleep amongst the chatter and fun of being away with our friends.

On Thursday morning, the students filled up on a wonderful breakfast and then gathered back in their small groups to take part in a type of prayer called Lectio Divina to start their day. There were lots of activities both together in small groups and as a whole group. We thoroughly enjoyed the outside team building activities, despite the mud and rain, morale and competitiveness was still high between the groups. Once we all warmed up, after many hot showers and cups of tea for the staff mainly, we started preparing for our celebration evening, with each small group preparing part of the Mass and some beautiful singing in our hymn practice too!

Fr Paul Newman celebrated a fantastic Mass and the young people all took on various roles in the Mass, making it a very personal and reverent time of prayer. Fr Paul commented on how much potential there was in the room, especially regarding the beautiful singing, prayers of intercession and expert bell ringing, from one of our altar servers. All the young people were so respectful and participated in the Mass.

Throughout the retreat new friendships were made and students learnt more about themselves and each other, and the world we live in. The De Lisle staff greatly enjoyed the company of the young people and themselves gained a great deal from the experience. It was a great encouragement for all to be rooted in the love God has for each one of us and to be grounded in our identity as his sons and daughters.



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YEAR 7 AT THE BRIARS: WHAT DID OUR STUDENTS THINK?

"My experience of the Briars was one of the best experiences I've ever had!"- Lily 7S1

"The Briars was really good because it brought us closer to God in prayer and it gave us a break from life. We also did fun activities with our best friends and had a great time"- Santino 7M1

"The leaders were really kind and made sure ALL were involved, it gave me a chance to make new friends in my year" – Rebecca 7M2

"The Briars was a great experience for everyone who went, we had lots of socialising with others and connecting with God in Mass." – Seth 7F2

"My time at the Briars was wonderful. The briars team were so welcoming and warm-hearted. They came up with the best games to include us all and they had the yummiest food."- Hailey 7S1



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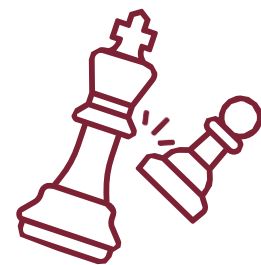
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AUTUMN CHESS TOURNAMENT

The De Lisle Autumn Chess Tournament is currently taking place in the library on Wednesday lunchtimes over the next few weeks.

Keen chess players are competing against each other for the title in their year group, and for points for their house.

Watch this space for photographs of the winners.



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DE LISLE COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

“Rooted and grounded in Love”.

Ephesians 3:17

Our mission is to be rooted and grounded in God's love so that each student receives the highest quality Catholic education and knows that they are loved deeply by Jesus Christ.

- All students experience the Love of Jesus Christ every day.
- Everyone is given the Opportunity to grow.
- Everyone Values themselves and each other by 'doing what is right, not what is easy' in the words of our school motto.
- Above all, we will grow actively in our faith by seeking a personal Encounter with Jesus Christ, so that we bear witness to the good news and to the teachings of the Church.
- We all Serve our neighbours near and far as missionary disciples.

At De Lisle

L = LOVE

O = OPPORTUNITY

V = VALUES

E = ENCOUNTER

S = SERVE

#DeLisleLoves



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