



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



FEBRUARY 2024

De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to our fourth newsletter of this academic year.

We have had a wonderful half-term at De Lisle College, with so many events, trips and speakers into school. We launched our new school mission statement at the beginning of this term with a week focused on #DeLisleLoves. Each day of the week linked to our key terms related to the word Loves: Love, Opportunity, Values, Encounter and Serve. Our Mission Statement is taken from the words of St Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, 'We are rooted and grounded in Love.'

In our next newsletter we will share with you all of the work we have been doing on diversity across the school during the week of 5 February.

As we move into the liturgical season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on 14 February 2024 I would like to share with some words from Pope Francis, below, as we embark on our Lenten journey.

Best wishes,

Chris Maher - Headteacher



NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2024



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Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex 20:2). Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken.

POPE FRANCIS

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR LENT 2024



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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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ETHICS CUP

A team of De Lisle students from years 9-12 competed in the regional finals of the Ethics Cup at Nottingham University on the 11th of January. The Ethics Cup is a debate competition where students are encouraged to work collaboratively to find an equitable solution to a variety of ethical issues. They returned with a very competitive 4th place. Feedback from the judges was very positive, particularly noting how students responded eloquently and thoughtfully to the case studies presented for debate. The team who won the regional final were our 2nd round opponents and we lost to them by just one single point so it was very close. One of the other team managers commented that our students came across as very well prepared. All of the students represented De Lisle so well and should be incredibly proud of their achievement. Students will be presented with certificates from Nottingham University shortly.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

We are very excited about our upcoming school show which takes on Wednesday 14 February, Thursday 15 February and Friday 16 February 2024 at 7pm. Please purchase your tickets through parent pay. There will be a licensed bar at the school production.



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HISTORY TRIP : ROYAL ARMOURIES AND THACKRAY MEDICAL MUSEUMS.

On the 20th of December, 62 Year 11 students took part in a trip to a pair of museums in Leeds, to see exhibits and talks linked to their studies.

In the morning, the first stop was the Royal Armouries in Leeds. Throughout the museum students saw displays and artefacts linked to their studies of Battlefield Medicine and Anglo-Saxon/Norman England. Whilst there, students were treated to specialist performances from expert reenactors, with a talk on the weaponry used in 11th century England, during William the Conqueror's Norman take over. Students saw and handled weapons such as an Anglo-Saxon sword, as well as trying on chainmail and helmets used by the Norman invaders. This broadened the students' learning and helped bring to life the battles that they have covered in modules from lessons. Students commented on the authenticity of the weapons and their surprise realising the weight of materials (as well as the strength needed to wield these weapons in battle).

In the afternoon, students visited the Thackray Medical Museum, taking a tour around the medical museum. There were a range of exhibits (such as 19th century surgical theatre), as well as a recreation of a Victorian town – containing the sights, smells and sounds of what it would be like for those living in the 1800s. Linked back to our studies on Medicine Through Time, the videos and displays around the museum helped to deepen students' understanding, and the variety of tools showed the grim reality of what medicine was like before modern developments.

Overall, a successful trip, bringing to life many of the stories learnt in class, students had an enriching experience which helped students to recap and recall many of the different ideas that had been covered throughout their GCSE study.



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A LEVEL THEOLOGY CONFERENCE AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY

On Friday 26th January, we took all of the Year 12 and 13 Theology students from De Lisle and English Martyrs to Nottingham University for an A-Level Conference. Students participated in lectures and seminars, covering topics from their A-Level specification and discussing key philosophical ideas such as 'what does good mean?' and 'are moral statements meaningless?' The University staff commented on how engaged our students were and on their willingness to offer a range of ideas to the discussion. Students also experienced a taste of campus university life and many commented on how they felt excited for their next academic step.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE IN PHILOSOPHY

A group of students in years 9 and 10 have embarked on study towards a new qualification we are able to offer, called the School Certificate in Philosophy. Students are being given the opportunity to research and debate a range of philosophical ideas including 'do we have free will?', 'can machines think?' and 'what is truth?' They will also be supported to complete a 1,700 word research project on a philosophical question of their choice. Upon successful completion, students will receive certification from Northeastern University London.

SCIENCE CLUB

The Year 7 Science Club has been a resounding success, with students showcasing remarkable enthusiasm and curiosity over the past few weeks. Engaging in hands-on experiments such as making slime, conducting flame tests, exploring thermite reactions, and even experimenting with screaming jelly babies. Students have really enjoyed discovering experiments and concepts outside of the normal lesson. Congratulations to all for making the club such a thriving and engaging experience!

MEDICAL SOCIETY

A new, exciting medicine society has now been created for aspiring medics in Year 10 by our Sixth form prefects. The society aims to allow students to explore, learn and collaborate with like-minded students on their journey towards a future medical career. With a variety of medicine related topics delivered each week (for example: entry requirements for medicine, qualities of a doctor and ethics), students experience the multi-faceted nature of medicine. The society is currently open to Year 10's and occurs every Thursday. We anticipate expanding our society to aspiring Year 9 medics. If you are interested in joining the medicine society please do not hesitate to contact Noal Quilongquilong (Year 13), Faith Beya (Year 13) or the official Medical Society email (medicinesociety@delisle.leics.sch.uk)

SIXTH FORM

On Tuesday 31st January, Jeevun Sandher the Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Loughborough came to speak to students in the Sixth form. It was an opportunity for students to listen to and question a candidate ahead of the general election, in which many will be able to vote for the first time. Students asked a range of questions on a variety of issues. Jeevun was also able to talk about his career in economics and how he got involved in politics, a valuable insight for our students considering a career in these fields. The history and politics students are now looking forward to the opportunity to visit parliament next week and hopefully have the opportunity to meet and question our local MP Jane Hunt.

As with all political visits we are inviting representatives from a range of political parties into De Lisle to ensure our young people listen to a balanced view of politics.



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ALTON CASTLE

This term our students in year 8 were given the opportunity to go on a Catholic retreat to Alton Castle, in the archdiocese of Birmingham. We spent two nights and three fun-filled days of exploration, meditation, reflection and prayer. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in many fascinating activities such as: archery, a low ropes adventure course, trekking, survival skills, crate stacking and biking. All activities pushed the students out of their comfort zone and helped them bond with friends, both old and new. We were so fortunate to be visiting with St Martin's, Nuneaton, another school in our CMAT and it was a joy to see our students working with them in an open and respectful way.

The retreat gave pupils the chance to spend some time reflecting on their faith, particularly focusing on the concept of being rooted and grounded in God. It was a great opportunity to also reflect on our new school mission statement #DeLisleLOVES- "rooted and grounded in love", based on the scripture Ephesians 3:17. Each night, in our small groups, the students took part in evening prayer sessions in different rooms of the castle, lighting candles and taking time out from the day's busy activities, to remember the important things in life. On our final night in the castle, the stay drew to a close with a beautiful Mass in their historic church, where students led us beautifully in prayers of the faithful, readings and altar serving. We closed our final evening with an energetic disco where all the students enjoyed social time together.

A huge thank you to Anna and all the staff at Alton Castle for making us feel very welcome and for providing us with a fantastic, memorable experience.



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HISTORY BATTLEFIELDS WORKSHOP

On the 1st February, students in Year 10 and Year 11 participated in a Battlefields Workshop, covering Medicine in the First World War. Students have been studying Medicine in the First World War throughout their GCSE History, and this was supplemented by workshops which brought to life many of the equipment, treatments, and wound-causing implements (weapons) used from 1914-1918.

Up An' At' Em! History provided an exciting workshop, showing students the weapons, medical equipment and the uniforms of the soldiers who fought in the First World War. A detailed account of all aspects of the British army on the Western Front was provided, linking to all the parts of the course we have covered. The workshop gave students a chance to see bone saws, bed pans and even the food that soldiers would eat as part of their daily rations. Students remarked of the heaviness of the Lee Enfield Rifle, used by soldiers in the First World War, and learnt about the explosives used in amongst trench warfare. This was capped off with their surprise at the weight of a stretcher with a body on!

Special thanks to Jed Jaggard, the owner and director of Up An' At'Em! History for delivering an incredibly vivid workshop to students of Year 10 and Year 11.



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