



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MARCH 2024

De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our fifth newsletter of this academic year.

As we are about to break up for the wonderful celebration of Easter, I wanted to thank you again for your support. Easter is my favourite time of the year when we can reflect and give thanks for the huge sacrifice which Jesus made for all humankind. It's an opportunity for us all to pause and rest and hopefully spend some time with our loved ones.

Although we have had a very short half-term we have packed a lot into it. We have had a visit to SPEC retreat centre for Year 9, a fieldwork trip to Norfolk for Year 10, theatre trip for our Year 11 and 13 performing arts students and prize giving evening. Below is a Lenten reflection by CAFOD which asks us to consider our Lenten journey towards Easter.



The grace of forty days – CAFOD Lenten reflection

Time to make the desert journey and renew our way to life.

Time for testing and for changing. Time to trust the word of God.



Time to recognise holy presence and share Cyrene's work.

Time for forgiveness and for healing and to repent our broken lives.

Time to build God's dwelling with us and proclaim full life for all.

Time to watch and wait with Jesus and to prepare the upper room.

Time to turn our lives again to God and to transform our world with love.

Amen.

For our Years 11 and 13 students, this is a really important time as they prepare for their summer exams. The Easter holidays offer a great opportunity for revision, and we are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 students to our Easter revision school. We will be doing everything we can to support them during the next few months.

I would like to wish you all a very happy and holy Easter and I look forward to welcoming our children back on **Monday 8 April 2024**.

Mr Maher
Headteacher

NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2024



Newsletter Highlights

Headteacher Message
Mr Chris Maher

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Friends of De Lisle

The Friends of De Lisle (FoDL) is now up and running and bristling with ideas of how we can improve the surroundings for our young people. We have two definite dates booked in for events already which we are hoping to turn into an annual event. The first of these is our quiz night which will be taking place on Friday 10th May (details tbc) and our Christmas Gift and Craft Fair which will be happening on Saturday 23rd November. If you own or know of any businesses who may be interested in the Christmas Fair please get in touch sooner rather than later to register your interest.

There are a lot of activities in the planning stages - from Gardening with Grandparents to Fashion Shows, Clothes recycling - both uniform and non-uniform to enhance some of the outdoor spaces around the school as well as the opportunity to "Buy a Square" to help us raise funds to recarpet some of the Learning Support Areas...every activity will go a long way to improving the lives of our young people at De Lisle.

Calling all parents! We need your help to ensure the success of our upcoming events. Volunteers are sought for tasks ranging from setting up and cleaning up at events to manning the bar and welcoming teams. Your contribution, big or small, will make a significant difference. If you're available to lend a hand, please contact Georgina Budding at georgina.budding@delisle.leics.sch.uk to get involved.

Furthermore, there's a hassle-free way you can support our school without spending extra money! By simply shopping online through the app, a donation will be made to De Lisle College. It's an effortless way to make a meaningful impact. Visit the link below to start shopping and contributing: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/de-lisle-college/>.

Whether you have ideas to share, a desire to volunteer, or simply want to stay informed about upcoming events, we welcome your participation and involvement. Reach out to us today and be a part of the positive change happening at De Lisle College!



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WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

World Book Day '24 proved to be a great opportunity to celebrate and promote reading for pleasure at De Lisle.

Staff excelled in their book character costumes this year, with staff in the English department dressed as characters from 'Alice in Wonderland'. Teachers in the Science department made great pirates from 'Treasure Island' including one fabulous but rather rogue space pirate.

The teaching staff in Humanities were different ends of the literary scale representing the thought provoking, 'Animal Farm' & the more light-hearted 'Where's Wally'.

Learning Support were all '101 Dalmatians', including a very kind looking Cruella De Vil. Miss Zafar was Princess Jasmine and Mrs Badock in the library was Ratty from 'The Wind in the Willows'.

Students didn't miss out and at the beginning of each lesson read a chapter of the short story 'Lamb to the Slaughter' by Roald Dahl. They also took part in quizzes and activities in the library including a Whodunit Quiz (it was Mrs Atkins!), Guess Who's Reading Competition, Book Villains and Name the Teacher Quiz.

We're all looking forward to next year!

Mrs A Badock
(LIBRARY)



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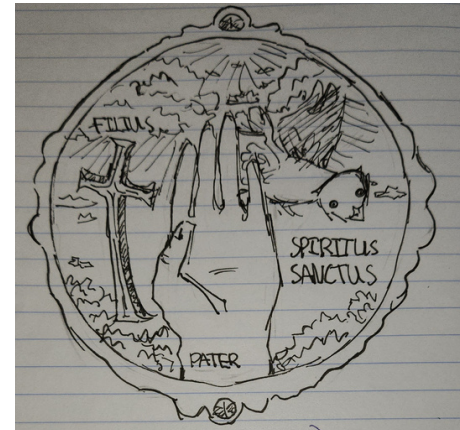
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

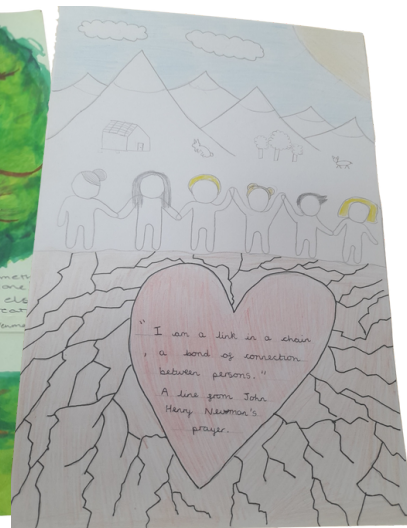
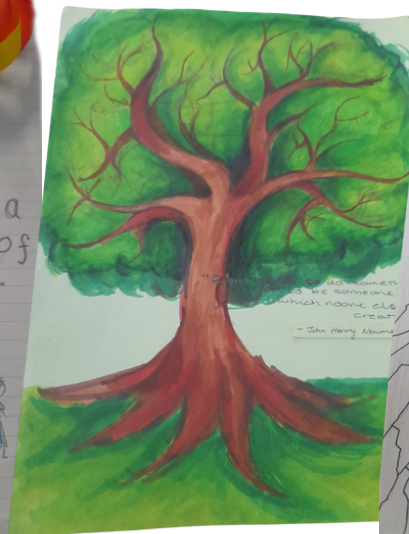
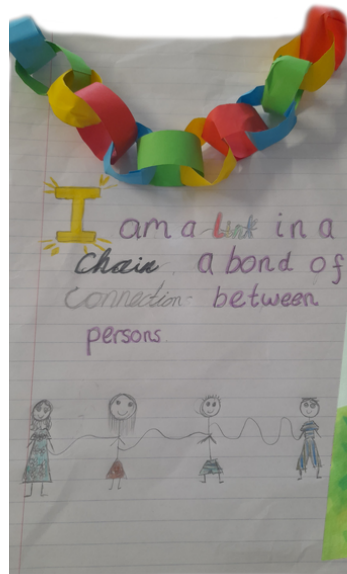
Year 7

Year 7 have been learning about the doctrine of the Trinity as expressed in the Nicene Creed. This doctrine, the belief of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit being the three persons of the one God, is known as a mystery as it is beyond human understanding. Students were asked to respond creatively to their learning and create an image that helped them explain this belief.



Year 8

Year 8 have been learning about the theme of vocation. They have looked at the prayer by John Henry Newman called 'some definite service'. As part of their learning, they were asked to pick out a line from the prayer and respond creatively to it.



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Drama: Beauty and the Beast

That's a wrap!

After six months of rehearsals and a week of performances, our 2024 production of Beauty and the Beast has finished! The show was met with brilliant audience feedback and a lengthy standing ovation, bringing all the magic and romance of the classic Disney tale to our De lisle stage. The cast and crew are extremely proud of what we were able to produce, having worked non-stop to maintain our reputation for performing engaging and professional shows. This show truly had an inclusive cast and crew, with students from year 7-13 and a high representation of SEND students, we are always proud to fully represent our school community on the stage. Thank you to all those who came to support this tale as old as time, we cannot wait to see you again next year for our 2025 production and hope to keep delivering our same spectacular standard.

Lucy Robey-Monks
Head of Performing Arts



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Beauty and the Beast and much much More!

As a group of staff from the SEN department settled down to watch our school production, we examined the programme, and excitedly pointed out the names of students we worked with. Lots of them!

Our SEN students were out there! On stage, in main and supporting roles, speaking, singing and dancing! Back stage doing the technical stuff! They were all fully integrated into the school production and did a marvellous job!

This got us thinking about other positive things our SEN students did in the community. A snapshot showed us their involvement in the following activities;

- *Dance, classes and performances,*
- *Stage Productions*
- *Lots of sport, some playing regularly at a high level, others playing in Inclusive Teams.*
- *Riding, including Riding for the Disabled*
- *Scouts and Guides*
- *D of E*

As a group of staff we are so proud to work with these students and watch them make such a positive contribution not only to the school community but the wider community as well.

British Science Week 2024



Last week KS3 students have been celebrating British science week in their Science lessons. British science week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths and this year had the theme of 'Time'.

Students enjoyed their practical lessons and got involved with quizzes and poster competitions. Mr Akhurst wowed the students in a special science assembly, show-casing ambitious experiments and fun facts.

Staff and students have thoroughly enjoyed the week's celebrations.



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Year 9 SPEC



A group of year 9 students have just returned from a wonderful 3 days at SPEC, a Catholic retreat centre in Pinner, North London. The retreat was titled “Called by name” to reflect the belief that we are all chosen and loved by God.

Over the course of the three days, students had the chance to spend time in small groups led by the team based at SPEC. The groups spent their time in prayer and discussion, participating in group activities, such as writing a letter to God and games such as capture the flag and an obstacle course. The whole group came together for leisure time, where they could play sports and walk in the beautiful grounds. We enjoyed a movie night and a campfire. We had times together in prayer, such as praying the Rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Stations of the Cross. The retreat was enjoyed by all. It was lovely to see the students engaging so well with the different activities and to see friendships deepening over the short time we were there.

Rebecca Jinks
Assistant Headteacher / Head of RE



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St Thomas Aquinas Public Speaking Competition

The annual Public Speaking Competition reaches the final this week, after two terms.

At De Lisle we started with 23 candidates and through round one we selected ten students for the quarter finals. These were held at English Martyrs school in November and the four judges chose six De Lisle students to make it through to the semi-finals at St Pauls in February. The six semi-finalists presented their five-minute speeches in front of an audience of 35 peers and a panel of 4 judges. I was incredibly proud of every student that entered the competition this year. Throughout the competition, our students demonstrated exemplary communication skills, showcasing their ability to express themselves with clarity, passion, and conviction. They captivated the judges and audience alike with their powerful narratives, insightful analysis, and persuasive arguments.

I am delighted to tell you all that we have managed to gain 4 of the 10 final places!
Against stiff competition De Lisle showcased great talent.

After a compelling and inspiring final in which every student truly impressed, De Lisle came away with the 'Best Speech' award in the junior category. Congratulations must go to Neve Hayley on securing such a prestigious prize. Isla, Johanna and Lyan were excellent ambassadors for our school. The final speech titles were.

Isla Searancke JUNIOR - There should be a limit on carbon footprint.

Neve Hatley JUNIOR - A Love of reading enhances your outcome in life

Johanna Philips JUNIOR - Education should not be the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire

Lyan Nassar SENIOR - Empathy's Resurgence: Healing the Heart of Humanity

Lucy Robey-Monks



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Inter-house sport

Congratulations to the students who took part in the inter-house competitions this term. With two more inter-house competitions and Sports Day to come in the Pentecost term, there are still lots of opportunities for students to take part in competitive sport. Thanks to the sports representatives for organising their teams and to the staff for running these competitions.

Inter-house sports results 2023-24 – Lent 1

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

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

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

Inter-house sports results 2023-24 Lent 1

Lent 1 standings		Points
1 st	Clitherow	27
2 nd	Fisher	21
3 rd	More	17
4 th	Sherwin	15

Inter-house sports results 2023-24 Overall

Overall standings		Points
1 st	Clitherow	81
2 nd	Fisher	60
3 rd	More	52
4 th	Sherwin	47



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EASTER HOLIDAYS



As the Easter holidays approach we wanted to send our usual information sheet out to you with some ideas to keep costs down

Free Breakfast

There are lots of places offering free breakfasts for children when adult meals are purchased, including:

- Brewers' Fayre
- Table Table
- Travelodge
- Premier Inn
- Beefeater

click
here



Click on the hot cross buns for an example offer

Discounted meals

There are lots of places offering free or very discounted meals for children, including:

- Morrisons, Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys
- TGI Fridays
- Sizzling Pub and Grill
- Ikea
- Bella Italia

click
here



Click on the Easter egg for more information



Things to do

Leicester Museums and art galleries have a variety of free/inexpensive activities including Easter fun day, fairytale garden, railway days and more. Local museums often have free activities i.e. Oakham, Melton, Market Harborough, Charnwood and Hinckley.

Click on the park for more information on events at Leicester Museums and Galleries.

click
here



Going away?

There may be restaurants that we don't have in Leicestershire or Rutland whose discounts you can take advantage of if you are going on holiday or visiting friends and family in different parts of the country.

Click on the suitcase for some inexpensive food inspiration!

click
here



Easter reading competition

We would love to see photos of pupils and staff reading with an Easter theme during the holidays. A book of your choice is the prize for the winning photograph! Entries should be sent to:

kstuart-jones@aquinas-cmat.org and should state the staff/pupil name and school name. Pupil photos should be emailed in by parent/carers and by entering you consent for your child to be featured on our social media pages.

Closing date is Thursday 11th April 2024 at 9am