



—ST THOMAS—
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CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

MAY 2024



De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our sixth newsletter of this academic year.

This half-term has gone quickly, and it has been very busy as our Year 11 and Year 13 students have started their GCSE and A Level examination. We started our immersion programme just after the May bank holiday and Year 11 have been working especially hard in all of the sessions that staff have expertly put together to support them in their preparation for their GCSEs. We have been really impressed with their mature attitude and work ethic.

It was wonderful to celebrate Mass during our holy day of obligation for the Ascension of our Lord. All the students experienced wonderful liturgies prepared by our Lay Chaplains. I would like to take this opportunity to wish one of our Lay Chaplains, Alex Shelton-Bourke, good luck with her new role working for the diocese of Northampton. We are excited to have recruited a new Lay Chaplain to replace Alex and we are looking forward to welcoming him to the De Lisle College community next half term.



We have finished the work on the new fences around the front of the college and we have had a new second electrical gate installed as well as fencing alongside the left-hand side of the college. This is to ensure that all students and staff are safe on the college site. Please could we continue to ask that you park in the visitors' section of the car park and come in through the pedestrian gate which is near the new gates.



I would like to wish you a lovely half-term and I look forward to welcoming our children back on Monday 3 June 2024.

Mr Maher

Headteacher

NEWSLETTER
MAY 2024



Newsletter Highlights

Headteacher Message
Mr Chris Maher

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Prize Giving Ceremony



On Thursday 21st March De Lisle College held its annual Prize Giving Ceremony at Loughborough Town Hall. The event was attended by over 400 parents, carers, staff and special guests, who gathered to celebrate the achievements of over 150 students.

We were delighted to welcome our guest speaker, Dr Tom Breed, a former De Lisle Student, to share his experiences since leaving De Lisle College and to offer his valuable advice to our students. Our fantastic Show Cast and Ensemble were also in attendance, opening and closing the ceremony as well as performing a superb rendition of 'Human Again' from this year's school performance, Beauty and the Beast.



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The number of students recognised, and the breadth of the awards they were being recognised for, is testament to their hard work and dedication. Students in all year groups were recognised for their progress and effort across their subjects, with students in years 11 and 13 recognised individually for their contribution to particular subjects.

Beyond the classroom, students were also celebrated for their commitment in an array of extra-curricular activities, with over 50 students being given headteachers ties in recognition of their contribution to sport, music, drama and the library.

This year saw the addition of a new set of awards, the #DeLisleLoves awards. These prestigious awards reflect the school's mission statement and were awarded to students who exemplify our school values on a daily basis.

Back at school, we recently held a celebration assembly, where all of our prize winners were able to collect their certificates. We are extremely proud of all our award winners and were delighted to be able to celebrate all of their achievements with them.



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Year 11 More than a grade

Year 11 had their “More than a grade” retreat day on 20 March 2024. The retreat day, which is now in its third year, is designed to give students a chance to take stock just before the busy time of exams begins. As we have been for the two previous years, we were blessed to be joined by Margaret and Barry Mizen as our keynote speakers.

The day began with a liturgy led by Alex, our chaplain where we considered what being “rooted and grounded in love” means to us. Alex led a beautiful reflection, steering the students away from the negative messages that we often hear most loudly when we’re stressed, to the positive messages we need to hear to affirm our dignity and worth. Students then spent time writing affirmations to each other – words to build each other up that could be read when times get tough.

Following this, students heard Margaret and Barry Mizen speak to them. Their son Jimmy was murdered sixteen years ago, the weekend before his GCSE exams were due to begin. While listening to Margaret and Barry’s testimony is difficult, they give a very important message: “you are loved, you matter and you are valued” and that we should all strive to work for forgiveness, peace and hope. Students were privileged to spend time with Margaret and Barry later in the day, talking to them and asking questions. They also had time to spend in personal reflection; creating art related to scripture and writing a letter to their future self – to be opened just before their exams begin.

We concluded the day with a celebration of Mass, led by Fr Jonathan Cotton and time with friends enjoying snacks and a chance to relax and be together.

To all our year 11 students, remember – grades are important, but you are more than a grade.

Mrs Jinks

Assistant Headteacher and Head of RE.



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Catenian speaking competition



Jessica S.

“ A few weeks ago, 11 Catholic schools from the area entered a single candidate to speak about one of 25 different topics in the Catenian public speaking competition. I am honoured to have been one of these contestants.

Speeches were thought-provoking and engaging. All of the organisers were incredibly kind, and they did all in their power to make us feel as much at ease as possible before we finally made the walk to the lecturn!

I discussed 'Freedom lies in being bold' and I truly believe that there was some freedom in being able to stand in front of everyone in an attempt to convince them of my viewpoint.

I enjoyed every moment of my experience, from exploring my ideas to conveying them to my audience. I hope they enjoyed it too, and maybe took a little of what I said away with them as well! ”

Modern Foreign Languages Easter Competition

Before Easter, students in years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a competition to design an Easter poster or poem for French and Spanish, or to write out and decorate a poem in Mandarin.

We received lots of fantastic entries and the standard was very high.

After a difficult judging process, the winners for each year were:

Year 7 - Thomas Willmor, 7F2.

Year 8 - Faith Boland, 8F2.

Year 9 - Eva Mitsevskia, 9M2.

Runner Up - Emma Salter, 8C1.

Well done to everyone who entered, and congratulations to the winners!

Mrs. Goodacre Phillips

Modern Foreign Languages



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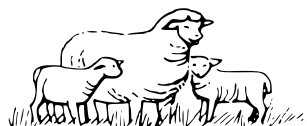


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Brooksby College visit



The Year 10 Animal Care students recently enjoyed a visit to Brooksby College in Melton as part of their animal health and welfare studies. The students were able to see the variety of animals that the college have and the amazing opportunities on offer there for post 16 study. We were privileged to see the newborn lambs with their mums and a few of the students were able to hold one of the orphaned lambs being hand reared by the staff and students. We were able to see how the college meet the 5 Animal Welfare Needs for their animals, but unfortunately all of the lambs had to stay at Brooksby and we weren't allowed to bring one back to school!

Mrs L Ruddy

PHOTO
ALBUM



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THE DE LISLE BIBLIOPHILES

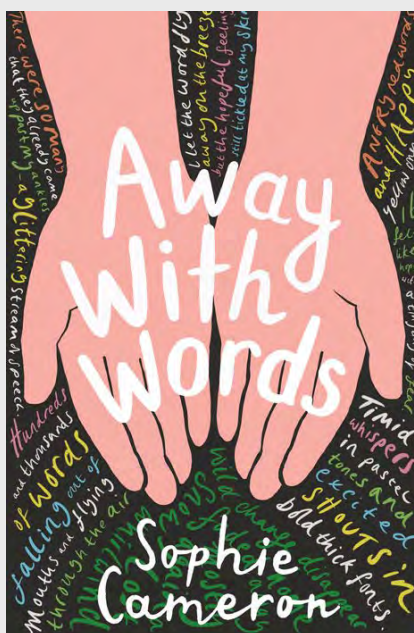


READING, DISCUSSING AND ENJOYING BOOKS

Every Wednesday after school, a large group of keen readers can be found in the library discussing the shortlisted books for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing. This is a fun and relaxed group where students share what they have read and eat biscuits!

The young people taking part are known as 'shadowers' as they 'shadow' the judging process for the Yoto Carnegie Medals. There are 8 books on the shortlist to read and review and in June, the students vote for their favourite book to win the Shadowers' Choice Awards.

Mrs Badock (LIBRARIAN)



Away With Words by Sophie Cameron (Shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Award 2024)

This book transports you into the minds of young people who have recently moved to a foreign country and how they deal with it. It also talks about bullying, anxiety, and family issues. I love this book and give it 10/10.

Reviewed by Lizzy



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GCSE Geography trip to Norfolk

Our Y10 geographers spent three days at the Kingswood Centre in Norfolk completing the fieldwork element of the GCSE course. The focus of the fieldwork was to investigate geomorphic processes along the North Norfolk coastline.

Students familiarised themselves with the enquiry process by devising a hypothesis, exploring data collection and drawing conclusions. Students visited four different beaches during our stay, including Salthouse, Sheringham, Weybourne and Overstrand. Whilst on the beach's, students explored different fieldwork techniques which included beach profiles, longshore drift tests, wave counts and a pebble analysis. Our students expertly used the equipment and recorded their results in small groups- this was great for team building too!

Once students collected their data, they returned to the classrooms in the evening to interpret, analyse and draw conclusions from their results. Students really impressed the centre staff with their knowledge and contributions to the evening classes.

Alongside collecting data, students also took part in a number of recreational activities including archery, bouldering, fencing and 'nightline'. Some students overcame some fears and the way they supported each other was admirable.

A fantastic trip with many memories made!

Mrs E Richardson





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Temple Church Organists Trip



As part of a CMAT collaboration project and in partnership with Leicester Music Festival, a selection of our Grade 4 and above Organists visited Temple Church, London on Wednesday 17th April. As well as every student being given the opportunity to try out a piece that they are studying on the magnificent 4-manual Harrison & Harrison Ltd, there was also a public lunchtime concert and private Masterclass with Thomas Allery, Director of Music with the opportunity to gain feedback from a highly esteemed professional organist totally free of charge.



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Lent 2024



During Lent, staff and students had the chance to buy soup and bread for lunch once a week in place of their usual lunch. Proceeds for this went to CAFOD. I am pleased to say that we raised over £200 for CAFOD, who work with some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Alongside this, a large donation of food and supplies was taken to John Storer House in Loughborough, to YourStore – a social supermarket that aims to provide affordable groceries to families and individuals living in the local area.



Also during Lent, we were fortunate to offer families and members of the parish communities a chance to come to a Lenten reflection evening with Margaret and Barry Mizen, focusing on the theme of forgiveness. It gave all who attended a much-needed chance to stop and think, to offer prayer and to consider the value of forgiveness in our own lives.

Finally, thank you to our local priests Fr Paul Gilham, Fr Michael Eastwood and Fr Gabriel Offor who came to offer our students the chance to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. It was a beautiful opportunity to receive our Lord's forgiveness before the celebration of Easter.



Thank you to Fr David for coming to celebrate a wonderful Mass with us on the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. It was wonderful to gather students from across the college to celebrate Jesus' return to His Father in heaven. Our students led with the readings and the Psalm, reading the prayers of intercession, and serving at the altar.

We have also recently held cake sales to support a member of our community who needs a new wheelchair. Many thanks for the generosity of those who supplied cakes. Lots of the community enjoyed the delicious cakes and so the fundraising was a pleasure for those who managed to get cakes before they sold out! I am pleased to say that we made over £450.

Mrs Jinks

Assistant Headteacher and Head of RE.



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School bake sale



Fundraising and support for others is at the heart of the De Lisle community. This ethos was demonstrated through the school bake sale, which took place on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th of April. Members of the Mission team across all year groups helped sell cakes during lunchtime on these days, to raise money for a member of our De Lisle community. It was amazing to see how many people came together and brought in so many cakes to sell. Arranged by Lorley and Alex, the school Chaplains, the bake sale was a huge success, with us raising £457.36. Thank you to all who took part, whether it was through bringing, selling or buying cakes!

Katelyn Boland, Year 10



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Performing Art



It has been a busy half term for the Performing Arts department, and we have lots of exciting plans for the final half term of the year too.



If you would like any details about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact me at lrobeymonks@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Head of Performing Arts
Lucy Robey-Monks

Summer Concert Monday 1st July



In a few weeks time we will host our annual summer concert, an evening of music performed by our many talented musicians. There will be solo performances as well as performances from both ensemble groups, the steel pan group and the school choir. It is always a wonderful celebration of the work put in by these students throughout the year and we invite you to join us for a special evening of music, you are welcome to bring a picnic along to enjoy as you listen.

Tickets will be available on ParentPay after half term.

Welcome Back



Everyone in the Performing Arts Department is really looking forward to welcoming back Mrs Payne our Dance teacher. Mrs Payne has been on maternity leave since September and she re-joins us after half term, we are delighted to have all three departments reunited once again.



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Exciting New Opportunities for Year 9



Our year 9 classes have been embracing technology in their Music classes, as we launched brand new modules in beat-boxing and DJ'ing. The students have enjoyed scratching on state of the art turntables and recording their beats on looping machines. The students have embraced the challenge, as have Mr Dellaca and Mrs Fisher! It has been wonderful to hear the creativity and engagement in this trial and we hope, due to the popularity, it will become a regular fixture in the curriculum.



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Drama Club



After Easter we launched a new Drama club for years 7-10 during prep time. It has been fantastic to see new faces coming along to join in and I am pleased with all the prospective talent. So far we have looked at improvisation, performance skills and using script. In the final weeks we will explore comedy and puppetry. All 30 spaces are currently full; however I hope to offer more opportunities to those on the waiting list.

School Production Auditions – “You want more?”



Following on from the huge success of Beauty and the Beast, the time has come to start planning the school production for 2025! A true highlight of the academic year, the school production is a collaboration of students from year 7-13 and a celebration of the incredible talent we have at school. Next year we revisit a classic that was last performed at De Lisle in 2006... Oliver!

In 2006 the title was played by a year seven by the name of Niall McNamee. Since leaving De Lisle he has gone on to star in multiple TV dramas, films, most recently playing the lead in a film Love Without Walls, where he also wrote and performed the soundtrack. Who will be our next star?

Auditions for all students in year 7-13 will begin after half term, we invite all those interested to register for an audition or to join the backstage team. The link is provided below and will be shared with all students via email.

[Click here to register School Production Auditions](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6X6A372YaE24KJDknNKQ_b1JrFo8h1JJqkVyK2Wih8IUOTZXU1NNUudBRTNPVIM4TOVXUkQwUjFQSS4u)

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6X6A372YaE24KJDknNKQ_b1JrFo8h1JJqkVyK2Wih8IUOTZXU1NNUudBRTNPVIM4TOVXUkQwUjFQSS4u)

[id=6X6A372YaE24KJDknNKQ_b1JrFo8h1JJqkVyK2Wih8IUOTZXU1NNUudBRTNPVIM4TOVXUkQwUjFQSS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6X6A372YaE24KJDknNKQ_b1JrFo8h1JJqkVyK2Wih8IUOTZXU1NNUudBRTNPVIM4TOVXUkQwUjFQSS4u)



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Year 12 Chemistry Trip



Year 12 chemists have been enjoying chances to explore chemistry outside of school with two trips to universities. In the first exciting opportunity students attended the University of Nottingham for a tour and to hear from an expert in polymer chemistry about the role science can play in solving issues facing our future. Just over a week later our chemistry students were hosted by the University of Leicester for a day in the lab where they carried out a Fischer esterification under the expert guidance of the chemistry department's teaching staff before touring the analytical facilities. Students and staff had a great time and enjoyed the opportunity to expand their horizons beyond the key stage 5 curriculum and get hands on with analytical tools usually reserved for undergraduates and researchers



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Medical Society



At this juncture, reflecting on the past year of the Medical Society's journey brings a sense of pride and accomplishment. Our initial vision was to ignite a passion for Medicine and Healthcare among students and to provide invaluable support for those navigating the application process. Starting with Year 10 students, we've gradually expanded our reach to Year 9, witnessing a growing interest in our activities and resources.



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As an integral part of the Medical Society, we've delved into various facets of the medical application journey. From dissecting the intricacies of application procedures to tackling different interview formats, we've equipped students with essential skills and knowledge. Drawing from our own experiences, we've offered insights and techniques to excel in interviews, emphasised the importance of ethical considerations in medicine, and provided guidance on taking the UCAT exam.

The success of our Year 10 and Year 9 initiatives has been evident in the enthusiastic participation and engagement of students during our sessions. It's been heartening to see the sheer number of individuals aspiring towards a career in medicine, underscoring the importance of initiatives like ours in nurturing and supporting future healthcare professionals. Looking ahead, our sights are set on expanding our reach even further by including Year 11 students in the upcoming academic year. This expansion not only broadens our impact but also ensures that more students benefit from the resources and support offered by the Medical Society.

As we celebrate this milestone, we remain committed to our mission of inspiring and empowering the next generation of medical professionals. With each passing year, we aspire to continue evolving and refining our offerings, ensuring that students have the best possible preparation to embark on their journey towards a career in Medicine and Healthcare.

De Lisle College Medicine Society (S8)



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U15 County Cup Winner

Congratulations to Tom and Toby (Year 10) on winning the U15 County Cup with Syston RFC, beating Hinckley 17-12. They also took part in the Tom Ward 7s Tournament, winning all games played. Well done on a very successful season boys!



Leicestershire and Rutland County Athletics Championships

On Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May, Betty Rennocks (Year 10) and Alexandra Nathaniel (Year 10), ran in the Leicestershire and Rutland County Athletics Championships.

Congratulations to both girls on their great achievements. We can't wait to see you run on sports day!



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Inter-house Sports

The inter-house competitions for this half term reached a thrilling conclusion, with some very close games and even tighter league positions across the age groups (all four teams were separated by just three points after 48 games!). Thanks to the staff who have coordinated the competitions, the sports representatives who managed their teams, and to the many students who took part. With just rounders on the front field and sports day to go, there are still plenty of points available in the final half term of 2023-24!

Inter-house results 2023-24 – Pentecost 1

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

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

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

Inter-house sports results 2023-24 Pentecost 1

Pentecost 1 standings		Points
1 st	Clitherow	21
2 nd	More	21
3 rd	Fisher	20
4 th	Sherwin	18

Inter-house sports results 2023-24 Overall

Overall standings		Points
1 st	Clitherow	102
2 nd	Fisher	82
3 rd	More	71
4 th	Sherwin	65



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MAY HALF TERM

As the May half term holiday approaches 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 on the breakfast for an example offer:

Discounted meals

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

- Morrisons, Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys
- Frankie & Benny's
- Sizzling Pub and Grill
- Ikea
- YO! Sushi



Click on the sushi for more information:



Things to do

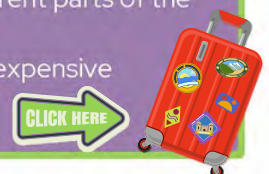
Leicester Museums and art galleries have a variety of free/inexpensive activities including Islamic Art, Garden Delights and the Siege of Leicester. Local museums often have free activities i.e. Oakham, Melton, Market Harborough, Charnwood and Hinckley. Click on the fountain for more information on activity ideas from across the region.



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!



May half term reading competition

We would love to see photos of pupils and staff reading during the holidays. The theme is 'nature' so we would love to see your photos of pupils/staff reading in and amongst nature. 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 Monday 3 June 2024 at 9am.**