



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



DECEMBER 2024

De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter

Welcome to our second 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 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 2025, 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.

We had some wonderful news from the national release of GCSE results in terms of our progress 8 measure which is the measure of progress our young people make from Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4. I am pleased to say that De Lisle is:

- In the top 20 of schools in the East Midlands.
- Fourth highest in the county of Leicestershire.
- 414th nationally.
- A well above average school.

May I remind you that children will return on Monday 6 January 2025. I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas.

Guiding star

Lord, the sight of the guiding star,
brought hope, courage and joy
to those who had journeyed to find you.

When our journey seems long,
when hope seems far away,
when our courage is failing
fill us with faith and trust;
shine your light on our fears,
lift our hearts with your joy.

Help us to recognise you
in our brothers and sisters
throughout the world;
show us how we can work together
so that we may all come to share in the life
promised to us by Jesus,
the Saviour of us all.

Amen.

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2024



Newsletter Highlights

Headteacher Message
Mr Chris Maher

Library News -
Chess Tournament

Year 8 Personal Development

Derby University visit
for EPQ students

Cambridge University Visit

Global Youth Investment
Challenge

Sports News

School Certificate in
Philosophy

Chaplaincy News

School Events Highlight



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



DECEMBER 2024

Library News - Chess Tournament

The Year 7 Chess Tournament has been fantastic this year and we are fast approaching the final matches after 7 weeks of games. It's been great to see the students so keen to play and demonstrating incredible sportsmanship.

The current top players are, Kiran, Reyan, Jacob and Roy but all of the students are playing very well and there's not many points between them. The final will take place at the end of this term.

Mrs A Badock (Library)



Year 8 Personal Development

Year 8 have focused on the theme of 'Staying Healthy' this half term. As well as considering physical health, with the Advent assessments in mind, we have also focused on how we can support our mental health. This has included topics such as how nutrition impacts our mental health, managing emotions, stress, and overcoming obstacles to build resilience. On 7th December, we were fortunate enough to have guest speaker Ash Gangotra join us to share his inspiring story. He has overcome obstacles again and again to build many successful businesses, including the fashion label Pretty Green with Liam Gallagher from Oasis.

If you'd like to see our whole plan for Personal Development, you can find out more [here](#).



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



DECEMBER 2024

Derby University visit for EPQ students

On Thursday 14th November, 36 year 12 students went on a trip to the University of Derby to support their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

The EPQ is an advanced A-Level that is optional for our sixth form students to complete.

The University of Derby liaised with De Lisle college to offer the students support with the necessary skills to be successful with their EPQ and allowed them to utilise the facilities.

The students spent the morning in a classroom learning 'how to find reliable resources (research skills)', and 'how to Harvard reference' correctly; all skills required for the EPQ course. In the afternoon students had the opportunity to put those newly developed skills to the test by sourcing appropriate resources for their individual EPQ, in the university library.

Having access to this higher-level knowledge and experience has enlightened our students and increased their passion to research further into their project.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

DECEMBER 2024



Sixth Form Students Explore Economic History and Innovation at Cambridge University

On Thursday, 28th November, our Sixth Form Business and Economics students embarked on an enriching educational visit to Cambridge University, offering a priceless opportunity to immerse themselves in the historical and intellectual foundations of economic theory. The trip provided a fascinating blend of academic engagement, hands-on learning, and cultural discovery.

A highlight of the day was a rare lecture at the prestigious Faculty of Economics, where students were treated to a demonstration of the Phillips Hydraulic Computer, also known as the MONIAC (Monetary National Income Analogue Computer). This unique machine, developed in the late 1940s by New Zealand economist Bill Phillips, uses coloured water to represent the flow of money within the UK economy, providing a visual and dynamic representation of economic principles. The demonstration was led by Professor Allan McRobie, who expertly explained the machine's operation and its refurbishment nearly 20 years ago, making it one of the few fully functioning examples in the world.



Students also explored the rich history of economic thought through a guided tour of Pembroke College and Cambridge's famous landmarks. They learned about the influential contributions of renowned economic theorists, such as John Maynard Keynes, Friedrich Hayek, Joan Robinson, Alfred Marshall, Angus Deaton, and Thomas Malthus, many of whom were either born, studied, or taught in Cambridge. This experience deepened their understanding of how these thinkers shaped modern economic practices and policies.

The day concluded with a guided punt along the River Cam, offering students a relaxing perspective of Cambridge's historic architecture from the water—a fitting end to an inspiring and intellectually stimulating day.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



DECEMBER 2024

Highlight of the trip



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



DECEMBER 2024

Economics & Business Yr12

We are thrilled to share an exciting update about our students' progress in the prestigious **Global Youth Investment Challenge Competition**, which has brought together 9,010 students from 62 countries this year. This demanding and competitive program offers participants the opportunity to experience the world of investment and portfolio management while honing their strategic thinking, collaboration, financial acumen and teamwork.

This year, 9,010 students from 62 countries have participated in the prestigious Global Youth Investment Challenge Competition, and we are excited to give an interesting update regarding our students' progress.

Our school proudly has **four teams entered into the competition**, and their performance so far has been nothing short of outstanding. Guided by the Wharton Investment Simulator (WInS), students have been tasked with managing a virtual \$100,000, developing an investment strategy to meet the needs of real-world clients, and building portfolios comprising stocks, ETFs, and U.S. Treasury Bonds.

A particular highlight has been the performance of **Team Endurant**, which currently boasts the largest portfolio growth among our groups, with an impressive profit of **\$41,527.07**. Their ability to analyse industries, choose high-performing assets, and clearly communicate their strategy has truly set them apart.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



DECEMBER 2024

The competition, however, is not solely about profit. Teams are judged on the strength of their investment strategies, their understanding of market dynamics, and their ability to meet client objectives. This makes the challenge as much about analytical depth and collaboration as it is about financial returns.

Throughout this journey, our students have demonstrated remarkable dedication, meeting after school every Wednesday to collaborate, refine their strategies, and tackle the complexities of the financial world. Their participation not only enhances their understanding of Economics and Business but also equips them with invaluable skills for their futures.

As the competition progresses, we will continue to support and celebrate our teams' achievements. We wish all our participants the best of luck as they strive for success on the global stage!



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



Congratulations to Kodi and Her Team!

Huge congratulations to Kodi and her team for their outstanding performance in their recent ice-skating competition, where they earned another gold medal! This incredible achievement is a testament to their dedication, countless hours of practice both on and off the ice, ballet training, and those early 4am starts for coaching sessions. We are so proud of her hard work, determination, and teamwork, which continues to inspire us all. Well done, Kodi!



Year 7 Basketball Success

Year 7 Girls took part in the Charnwood Schools Basketball Competition on Thursday 21st November. They got off to a flying start beating Limehurst 14-0. They followed this up with a 15-8 win against Charnwood and a 26-6 win over Rawlins to go through to the Team Leicestershire Finals. Well done to Ebi, Ade, Elodie, Victoria, Natalia and Phoebe!





—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

DECEMBER 2024



U13 and U16 Girls Table Tennis through to the Nationals!

On Thursday 28th November, a team of 8 Table Tennis Superstars competed in the Team Leicestershire Finals of Table Tennis. The competition was tough and all games were close but both teams came away with silver medals! The standard was so high that Team Leicestershire decided to put the top two teams through in both age groups. The girls will now go on to compete in the National East Championships in Northampton in January!

Well done to the U13 team of Phoebe, Elodie, Natalia and Victoria, and the U16 team of Bethan, Martha, Olivia and Sophie!



North Charnwood KS4 basketball tournament



The KS4 basketball girls have won the North Charnwood tournament and advanced to the next county stages as part of Team Leicestershire Sports. Competing against three other teams—Limehurst, Charnwood College, and Rawlins—they secured victory in two games and faced defeat in one. However, their impressive overall performance, scoring the most baskets across all three games, earned them a well-deserved place in the next stage of the competition.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



DECEMBER 2024

YEAR 7 GIRLS FUTSAL TEAM

Cold. Dark. Miserable. All words to describe the current winter nights, but none of them applicable to the De Lisle Year 7 Girls Futsal team who took part in the local CVL Futsal tournament on the 3rd December. Leaving school early, to travel to Limehurst, the 8-person team took to the field as though they were experienced veterans, having played together for years. In an 8-team tournament, De Lisle were grouped with Loughborough High School, Loughborough Amherst and tournament hosts, Limehurst.

With a dominating set of performances, the De Lisle team, saw off all group stage opponents in a convincing manner. Firstly, fending off Loughborough Amherst in a 4-0 thrashing (with goals from Ivy, Gabriella and Coco hitting the net twice). A 3-0 victory over Limehurst (goals from Eva and a brace from double Coco) and a 4-0 demolition of Loughborough High School (goals from Ivy and a hat-trick from Coco) secured the top position in the table. Goalkeeper Emily, ably aided by alternating defenders, Florence, and Hannah, kept clean sheets throughout the group stage. Supported by the versatile Elise, who swapped positions as suited to the nature of the game, the girls were able to precisely mould their formation to the needs of the match, providing dynamic support down the wings and sides at the start – pressing the opposition, and expertly dropping into a 2-person backline to secure the lead as needed.

The group stages brushed aside, the fight for the crown lay ahead, Iveshead being the last foe. In a back-and-forth game, the girls played a superb match. On the backfoot initially, before pressing back and dominating the ball – keeping things in Iveshead half, the final whistle blew – with a nil-nil draw, leaving things down to penalties. Nerves high, the 5 girls on the pitch each took penalties one by one (a nail-biting affair – certainly not as easy as it may seem on the big screen). Despite some valiant efforts at goalkeeping – Iveshead came out on top with a 4-2 final score on penalties.

Nevertheless, finishing 2nd in the local futsal tournament was a superb effort from the team, keeping up the tremendous efforts of Year 7 in all sporting efforts. All 8 girls involved represented the school and were gracious in defeat and humble in winning. The next tournament awaits in the new year calendar – where hopefully the girls can keep up their clean sheet record and scoring prowess.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

DECEMBER 2024



Year 9 October Football tournament

Following a good showing, against some of the tougher opposition on the 12th September, the Year 9 boys football team took the field once more in the second half of the North Charnwood CVL. Coming off the back of two draws and a loss, there were four games still to play, including local rivals Charnwood College and the undefeated Loughborough Grammar School. Bolstered by midfield and defensive reinforcements from Teddy Wing and Derby County academy product Zane Daley, the fifteen strong squad took to the pitch with everything still to play for.

Charnwood College

In their first game, De Lisle sought to avenge last year's loss to local rivals Charnwood College. An early goal from George Clarke, assisted by Chester Greenway, set the tone. Zane Daley doubled the lead before Charnwood pulled one back. Substitutions brought fresh energy, and Francis Essien sealed the win with a third goal, ending 3-1.

Loughborough Grammar School

Next, De Lisle faced the tournament favourites, Loughborough Grammar School. Despite the challenge, the team stayed composed. Tactical adjustments led to two quick goals by Rhys Cooper-Reynolds and Fadhil Mmbaga, with Noah Peek adding a third from outside the box. The game ended 3-1, breaking the Grammar School's undefeated streak and earning praise from coaches for De Lisle's performance.

Woodbrook Vale

The final match against Woodbrook Vale was critical for knockout qualification. Despite relentless effort, including goalkeeper Harvey Grant's heroic saves, Woodbrook's strong attack secured a narrow win. De Lisle finished the tournament with three wins, two losses, and two draws.

Though they didn't progress, the boys displayed tremendous effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The team is eager for future fixtures, with a new kit on the way and plans to build on their success this year.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

DECEMBER 2024



A TIME OF REFLECTION: YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 ADVENT RETREAT DAYS

As we enter the season of Advent, our Year 7 and Year 8 students were blessed to 'Adventure' through Advent, with retreat days designed to help them pause, reflect, and prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ. Each year group explored a unique theme, drawn from the Advent virtues, to guide their journey of faith. Each student received an Advent Activity Booklet to explore and prepare their own Advent journey.

Year 7: Hope in the Promise of Christ



For our Year 7 students, the retreat focused on the first week's theme of hope. Through engaging activities, reflective prayer, and Scripture, they were invited to consider what it means to live in hope. They explored how God's promises in Advent – the promise of Emmanuel, "God with us" – inspire us to trust in His plan, even during uncertain times.



Year 8: Finding Peace in God's Presence



Meanwhile, Year 8 students embraced the theme of peace. The retreat day encouraged them to reflect on how they could become peacemakers in their daily lives, following Christ's example. Group discussions centred on 'Jesus the refugee' and finding peace through prayer and reconciliation. Students were challenged and shared ways they could bring calm and understanding to their relationships, creating a ripple effect of God's peace in their homes, school, and wider world.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



DECEMBER 2024

Both retreat days concluded with Holy Mass, where students joined in prayer and song, celebrating the Eucharist, united in their preparation for Christmas. These retreats reminded us all that Advent is not only a season of waiting but a time to embrace God's transformative hope and peace in our lives.

As we continue through this holy season of Advent, may the reflections and commitments made during these retreat days inspire us all to live as bearers of Christ's light and love.



Ethics Cup

A group of students in years 10-13 are making their final preparations to enter the regional final of the Ethics Cup in January. The competition is run by St Andrews University and the regional competition is at the University of Nottingham. It is a debate competition with a difference where competitors are encouraged to work together to come to a more rounded and thoughtful conclusion. The regional final is on the 9th of January - wish us luck!



Spirited Arts

We are delighted to say that two of our students were prize winners in this years Spirited Arts competition. Students had to learn about some religious themes and create artwork in response. Alongside our illustrious winners, we also had a number of students work selected to be exemplars on the competition website. Prizes are on their way to the winners shortly.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

DECEMBER 2024



Advent Foodbank Donations at De Lisle

This Advent season, we have been organising a special collection for those in need. We have asked our students and their families to donate items such as tinned goods, toys, and winter coats. These donations will be delivered to John Storer House in Loughborough, supporting local individuals and families during the festive season. Through your generosity, we reflect our De Lisle Loves mission, turning our values into action. Thank you for helping us to make a difference in our community.



Experiencing the Joy of Advent with the Trust Travelling Crib

This Advent season, we were delighted to welcome our Trust Travelling Crib, a cherished tradition that invites us as a community to reflect on the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

Students and staff spent peaceful moments with the crib, reflecting on its significance and the joy of Christ's coming. Many also took the opportunity to write prayer intentions, which will be gathered and offered during the Mass on our Trust Feast Day in January.

This meaningful tradition brought our school community together in faith, hope, and prayer, reminding us of the true spirit of Advent.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

DECEMBER 2024



School Certificate in Philosophy



Mr Maher was very proud to present a group of Year 10 and 11 students with their certificates for completing the School Certificate in Philosophy. Students had to undertake a research project on a philosophy topic of their choice and present it to a high educational standard. All projects have been moderated by Northeastern University London, with a large proportion of students achieving grades 7-9.

A new batch of students will be enrolled onto this course shortly alongside our new partner, the University of Nottingham who have kindly agreed to support students with this valuable project. Letters to invited students will go out in January.



International Philosophy Olympiad

Four students in years 12 and 13 have been competing in the national stage of the International Philosophy Olympiad. Not only do students have to write a philosophical essay, they also have to write it in a different language. We are currently awaiting the results to see if we have been successful but this was an amazing achievement for these students whatever the result.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

DECEMBER 2024



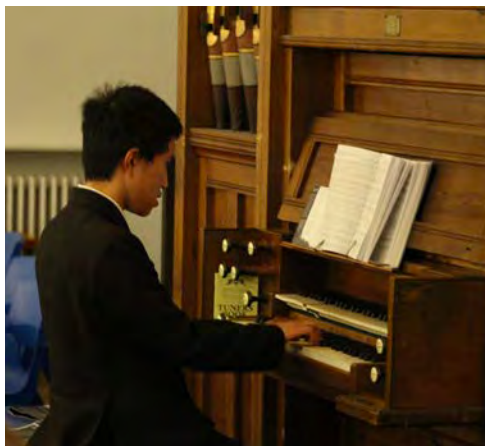
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT



As has become tradition at De Lisle, we started our advent season in celebration and style at our annual Christmas Carol concert. This magical festive evening brought together talent from around the school including dances from our BTec and key stage 3 dance groups, Christmas stories and poems from our GCSE and A Level Drama groups, music from our ensemble group and both steel pan groups and soloist singers.



It was a delight to see the hall packed with family and friends joining together to sing traditional Christmas carols. Thank you to everyone who attended and for your generous donations to our food bank collection. We hope the evening brought festive joy and from all in the performing arts department we wish you a very Merry Christmas.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



DECEMBER 2024

MY FAIR LADY - CURVE

On Wednesday, 11th December, the A Level and GCSE Drama students were lucky enough to visit Curve Theatre to watch their latest show My Fair Lady and take part in a show workshop.

Workshop

We started our day in the main auditorium at Curve with a fantastic workshop. This gave us a sneak peek into the set that would be used for the production for My Fair Lady. The workshop was led by Associate Director Allie O'Connor, and the students were delighted to be joined by leading actors Molly Lynch, who plays Eliza Doolittle, and David Sutton-Young, who plays Henry Higgins, as well as choreographer Jack Skelton and ensemble member and vocal trainer Abigail Matthews.



The insights these professionals shared with our students were truly inspiring, offering a glimpse into the backstage preparations for musicals such as My Fair Lady.

Students participated in a physical warm-up led by choreographer Jack Skelton and a vocal warm-up conducted by Abigail Matthews. The workshop concluded with a Q&A session, where students' thoughtful questions were answered.

The Show

The highlight of the day had to be sitting down, five rows from the front to watch the spectacular new Curve production of My Fair Lady. Without a doubt the workshop engaged the students and helped to build the excitement and anticipation for the production. The show is a smash hit, the set is innovative, the music emotive and the acting exceptional.

It was a true delight to experience this fabulous show and to see the students laugh, gasp and cry as the show transported us to Edwardian England and told us the classic rags to riches tale of Eliza Doolittle. Conversations and discussions about the outcome for Eliza, the ending of the play and opinions on Henry Higgins filled the coach all the way home and it was a delight to hear the students so inspired by their live theatre experience.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

DECEMBER 2024



🎭🌟 **DON'T MISS OUR SCHOOL'S SPECTACULAR PRODUCTION -- OLIVER!** 🎭🌟

The newest school production is now only 2 months away!

For the last four months our talented cast and crew have been gathering in the hall twice a week after school to prepare for our school production in February. Back in 2007, 17 years ago, we staged a production of Oliver, in which delighted audiences discovered new talent.

Our original Oliver was a year seven boy by the name of Niall McNamee, who is now an award-winning stage and screen actor, musician and performer, what could the future hold for our current cast. Our 2025 production of Oliver features students from year 7 to 13 in title roles from Nancy to Oliver and Dodger. The show will be hitting the stage on Wednesday the 26th of February running for three nights and we can't wait to welcome you through the doors. All tickets are available on parent pay and your support at these events as always is very much appreciated. Come and enjoy the classic songs such as *Oom-Pah-Pah*, *As Long As He Needs Me* and of course *Consider Yourself*. Theatre can be magical, immersive and engaging so purchase a ticket as a Christmas treat today you never know our De Lisle stars of Oliver could be the next West End stars.



DE LISLE NEWS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



We are excited to share that our students have created a fantastic De Lisle News Christmas Special! Featuring interviews with staff and contributions from students across the school, this video is a wonderful celebration of the festive season.

Parents and families can watch the [video](#) on our school website under the **De Lisle News Videos** section.



**WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS FESTIVE HIGHLIGHT,
AND WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!**



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk