



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



FEBRUARY 2025

De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to our third 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. This week has been diversity week in school and the students in their lessons have been learning about our British Values. Each day students have learnt about the following themes: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance. We have used Gospel teachings to help our young people to understand these values and they have had some excellent discussions during lessons.

I do want to take this opportunity to congratulate the students who participated in the International Philosophy Olympiad, the Ethics cup, poetry competition, badminton and football tournaments. Our Year 8 students enjoyed an excellent retreat to Alton Castle on the theme rooted and called to be saints, and we have continued with our inhouse retreat program for Year 13 after their hard work in their mock A Level exams.

Please do visit our website and view the celebrating success De Lisle News to see what else has been going on in school. If you haven't bought your tickets already for our school production of Oliver, I would really recommend you do, the rehearsals are going very well.

We are also very excited about the launch of our photography competition which links to our 'Pilgrims of Hope' work.

Jubilee Prayer

God our Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and the flame of charity enkindled in our
hearts by the Holy Spirit,
awaken in us this Jubilee Year a missionary heart for the coming of your
Kingdom.

May the gift of your grace transform us, Pilgrims of Hope,
into your missionary disciples,

blessed with the gifts and talents you give us.

Strengthen us to share our Saviour's message of
love, joy, and peace with all the people we meet this year,
so that we may help build up your Kingdom on earth.

To you our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be glory and praise for ever and ever.

Amen.

I hope you have a lovely half-term break.

Mr C Maher



Newsletter Highlights

Headteacher Message
Mr Chris Maher

Library News

International Philosophy
Olympiad Success

The Ethics Cup Success

CMAT Christmas Poetry
Competition

Sports Achievements

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Highlight at school

Retreat Day 2025

Performing Art in De Lisle



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LIBRARY NEWS



DE LISLE VIDEO NEWS

The latest edition of De Lisle News - 'Celebrating Success' is now available on the website under the News tab. The students have worked very hard to produce the news and would love you to watch and enjoy it.



WORLD BOOK DAY - Thursday 6th March

During the week leading up to World Book Day, the library will be holding 'The Ultimate Harry Potter Quiz', this will be in the style of Mastermind. There has been a lot of interest, and several students have already entered, with team names such as: 'Mischief Managed', 'Those Who Must Not Be Named', 'It's Leviosa, Not Leviosa', 'Expelliarmus', 'The Deathly Marshmallows' plus many more.

Students are invited to come along and watch the teams compete for the title of Ultimate Harry Potter Champions 2025.

The World Book Day £1 book tokens will be available from the library for students who would like to buy a book or swap it for a free book from supermarkets or local bookstores.

Mrs A Badock



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International Philosophy Olympiad Success

A small selection of students competed in the International Philosophy Olympiad. Students had to write a philosophical essay on an unseen topic but also had to do this in another language. We are delighted to say that the results are now in and one of our students (Jess) received a bronze medal. This is an absolutely fantastic achievement as the competition was very fierce.



The Ethics Cup Success

A group of students in Years 10-13 pitted their wits against students from other schools in the regional final of the Ethics Cup. This is a debate competition with a difference where students are encouraged to find ways to work collaboratively to find solutions to ethical problems. After an intense day of competition, De Lisle students had won all their matches and were through to the final round to determine first place.

When the scores were read out, there was an audible gasp as we realised we had won and were through to the national final! Students have now been invited to St Andrews University in Scotland to compete for the cup. Invites have gone out to those students eligible. Wish us luck!





FEBRUARY 2025

CMAT Christmas Poetry Competition

Many congratulations to Johannes who won the Christmas Holiday poetry competition in the secondary category. Mrs Catchpole, Head of English, awarded him with his prize from the Trust. She said that his poem was thoughtful, creative and inspiring. Well done, Johannes.



Christmas Happy Times

At Christmas time, we remind ourselves,
Of happy times and Santa's elves.
We celebrate for Jesus is born.
And at this time, we will not mourn.
We are filled with joy and happiness,
As we enjoy a merry Christmas.
Friends visit us, we visit friends,
Before sunset, as Christmas ends.
But we have hope, as Christmas ends,
To be filled with joy, in Easter again!

U16 Badminton Tournament Success

Our Under-16 boys' team showcased their skills at a recent badminton tournament, securing a well-deserved bronze medal. A huge well done to our four Year 11 boys for their fantastic achievement!



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KS4 7-A-Side Football Tournament – Off to County!

The De Lisle KS4 Ladies took part in a local fixture at CWC on the 29th of January. Travelling over the road for a local derby is never an easy task! After countless battles, wins and losses for both sides, we knew that this game was going to be a challenge. However, the 10-person team were not going to let that get in the way. Full of enthusiasm and determination, De Lisle took to the football field as if they had all been playing football together for years.

A dominating first half saw De Lisle also defending comfortably with Maria, Eva and Amelia forming a formidable backline. No one could break them down! A stellar performance also from Keira, who could be seen covering every blade of grass on the field, and excellent pressure from the starting top two team of Abbie and Millie. Although we went into the break with a 0-0 score, we could sense the determination of our team through inspirational speeches from several members of the team.

A few changes at the break saw the defensive duo of Joanne and Ailbe enter the field, aiming to recreate the dominating stance from the first half and the attacking talent of Martha. The second half started with intense, quick counter attacks from Charnwood, aiming to break down our newly formed defensive. On a few occasions the new Charnwood line-up would break through on goal with one player to stand in the way. Shots taken in all directions would see save after save after save from star goalkeeper Dylan. An excellent performance to help keep Charnwood at bay!

As the clock ticked on and legs began to tire, a quick counter attacking ball was thrown out to Keira with three minutes to go. Defence splitting runs were created by Abbie and Martha to help open the space for Keira to dribble downfield. With two defending players closing in, Kiera took a quick glance up to see that Martha was free on the edge of the box. With a lofted pass and a quick first touch, Martha opened the space and released a powerful strike, whipping the ball around a defender and into the bottom corner of the net. The Charnwood keeper had no chance of stopping that strike!

With a few minutes left on the clock and Charnwood constantly pressing for an equaliser, we could see the battle was taking a toll on both sets of players. A last attempt from range saw the Charnwood strike force test Dylan, but another great save kept a very convincing clean sheet for the De Lisle defence.

With the battle won and a great show of sportsmanship at the end, we're proud to see our De Lisle Ladies progress through into the next round of the County Competition!



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Year 7 Girls' Football Team Triumphs at Tournament!

The year 7 football girls attended a tournament at Charnwood College where they competed against four other teams. They won all their matches with a score of 2-0, 1-0 and 3-0, which meant they won the league. This result has put them through to the quarter finals of the Leicestershire county schools competition.



Career Ready



NHS Chef visit

Our GCSE FOOD students were recently treated to an inspiring morning by visiting NHS chefs. They learned about exciting apprenticeship opportunities available to them after GCSE and A levels and got hands-on experience assembling breakfast glasses and tasting smoothies tailored for NHS medical staff. After being given a brief, they practiced their chopping and presentation skills, creating beautiful nachos using the plant-based meat alternative used in the NHS. Honestly, no one could tell it was meat-free!

It was a morning of creativity, healthy eating, and culinary inspiration. A huge thank you to the NHS for making this experience possible!



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Launch event

On Tuesday 28 February, 21 De Lisle College Sixth Form students attended the regional launch event for the Career Ready programme. The event was hosted at CEVA Logistics, located on the SEGRO Logistics Park East Midlands Gateway, and was an opportunity for those taking part in the programme to meet their mentors – who are all business community volunteers. Students also took part in an employability masterclass, delivered by a volunteer with a wide range of professional experience to share their knowledge from.

Students taking part will have a range of opportunities offered to them over the next 12 months thanks to the programme. Highlights will include further masterclasses, monthly 1 – 1 mentor meetings, and the opportunities for paid internships over the summer.

Previous students have valued their experience on Career Ready and we look forward to continuing the programme this academic year with current Year 12 students.

Read more about Career Ready via: [About us](#) | [Career Ready](#)



DHL – Careers and Apprenticeships Talk

On Thursday 6 February, Charlotte Hadley – Apprenticeship Development Specialist from DHL Aviation (UK) Ltd – visited De Lisle to talk to Year 11 students about the wide range of careers at DHL, as well as giving key information about apprenticeships and employability skills.



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University of Nottingham brings STEM to Year 7

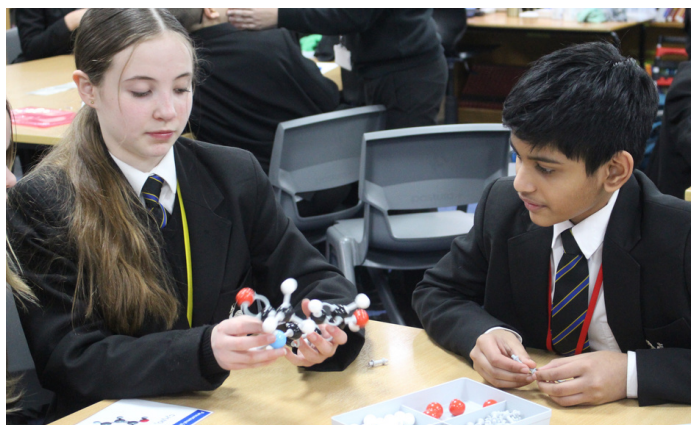
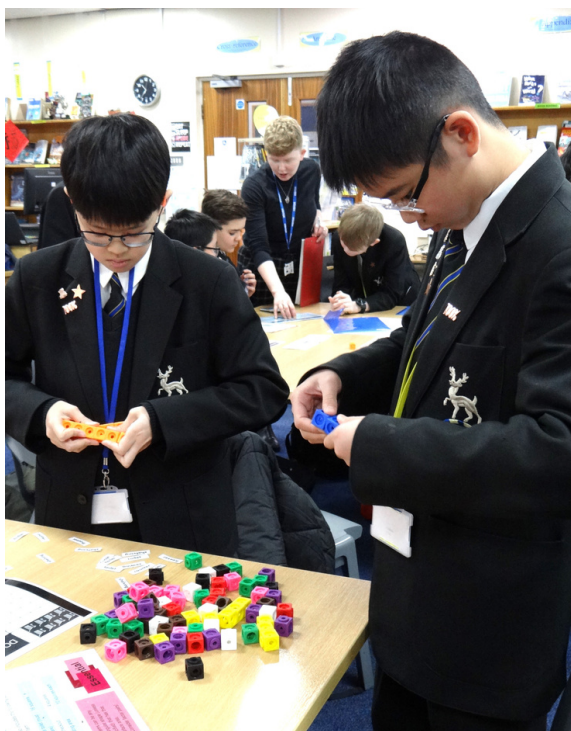
On Wednesday 12 February, Helena French from the University of Nottingham visited De Lisle to run a day of STEM-themed workshops for Year 7 students.

The workshops raised students' awareness of skills used within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and how this relates to the skills built throughout secondary school. Students also found out about some of the careers in STEM and how these link to future educational pathways.

The workshops included lots of engaging activities which formed a team-based challenge. The challenges included using maths, creative thinking, coding and other STEM-related skills and relied on teamwork, time management and problem-solving. As well as finding the activities enjoyable and engaging, students learned a lot about future careers, the world of STEM and reflected on how their schoolwork links to this.

We are most grateful to Helena French for visiting De Lisle and putting the activities together.

Chris Greenwood – Careers and Guidance Officer



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Year 13 Retreat Day – Rooted and Grounded in Love



As part of their journey towards the end of their time at De Lisle, our Year 13 students recently took part in a retreat day centred on the theme "Rooted and Grounded in Love" (Ephesians 3:17).

The day provided them with a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with their faith as they prepare for the next stage of their lives. Through prayer, discussion, and moments of quiet reflection, students explored what it means to be deeply rooted in God's love and how this can guide them in their future choices. It was an uplifting day of faith, friendship, and encouragement, reminding our students that no matter where life takes them, they remain firmly grounded in the love of Christ.

Let us continue to pray for our Year 13s as they discern their next steps, trusting in the plans God has for them.



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Year 8 Retreat at Alton Castle – Rooted & Called to Be Saints



Our Year 8 students recently had the amazing opportunity to take part in a retreat at Alton Castle, exploring the theme "Rooted"—reflecting on how they are called by God to become saints.

Through outdoor adventure activities, prayer, and discussions, students considered what it means to be firmly rooted in faith and how they can respond to God's call in their daily lives. They were reminded that sainthood isn't just for a select few, but something each of us is called to through love, service, and trust in God.

It was a powerful and inspiring retreat, helping students grow in faith, friendship, and confidence in their God-given mission. We pray that they continue to walk the path of holiness, rooted in Christ.

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Personal Development in De Lisle

Year 9 have had an important half term and as they've considered their Pathways, they've been supported in their Personal Development lessons by looking at different careers and options for the future. Mr Greenwood, our amazing Careers Lead, has arranged two talks this half term where pupils have had the chance to listen to people talk about how their Pathways connect to Post-16 options.



Year 7 have had a talk from Leicestershire police as part of their Personal Development work this half term, which has focused on them staying healthy and safe. They heard about the potential dangers of people who might want to take advantage of them, as well as how they can stay safe and who to speak to if they are worried. Years 8 and 9 will also receive a presentation from Leicestershire police on the same topic.



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Get creative with the De Lisle College Photography Competition!

Calling all budding photographers! This term, we invite you to capture images of **HOPE** — that feeling that something good is coming, even in tough times. It could be a smile, a helping hand, a new beginning, or the quiet beauty of nature. Use light, colour, or people to tell a story of optimism and possibility! Your photo doesn't have to be perfect—it just needs to show that spark of hope you feel!



Competition Details:

 **Deadline:** March 3, 2025

 **Open to:** All De Lisle College Students

 **Submit here:** <https://forms.office.com/e/Nk1tDQEtgx>

 **Prizes:** Gift vouchers, certificates & your work displayed in school!

Any questions? Please email Mrs Howells on PhotoComp@delisle.leics.sch.uk.



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School Performance: Oliver!

It's Almost Showtime!

After six months of dedicated rehearsals, our talented students are ready to bring Oliver! to life on stage! With incredible performances, stunning sets, and unforgettable songs, this is a show you won't want to miss. This will be a celebration of hard work and talent, with some taking to the stage for the very first time and for others this will mark their final performance at De Lisle. This year for the first time we are inviting four primary schools to join us for the opening number and it has been our pleasure to visit Sacred Heart, St Winefride's and Holy Cross to deliver a workshop.

Join us in two weeks for an evening of drama, music, and magic. Secure your tickets now and support our amazing cast and crew!

 **Show Dates: Wednesday 26th-Friday 28th February**

 **Tickets: Available on ParentPay.**

We'd love to see you there—consider yourself part of the family!

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

Oliver



Wednesday 26th:

- Matinee for primary schools
- 7pm, featuring students from St Winefred's and Holy Cross

Thursday 27th:

- 7pm, featuring students from St Mary's

Friday 28th:

- 7pm, featuring students from Sacred Heart

ADULTS: £10
CHILD: £7
AVAILABLE VIA PARENT
PAY OR THE FINANCE
OFFICE

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY LIONEL BART



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FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2025

As the February half term holiday approaches we wanted to send our usual information sheet out to you with some ideas to keep costs down

Discounted meals

There are lots of places offering free or very discounted meals for children. At Pizza Express, children can enjoy a free Piccolo meal when dining in one of their pizzerias from Monday to Sunday, between February 17 and March 2, 2025. This offer is valid for children dining in the restaurant only and requires the purchase of an adult main meal.

For more discounted ideas click on the envelopes!



Things to do

Click on the balloons to see low cost family friendly activities at the Leicester Museums and Galleries. Events include Puppets Playtime, The Cabinet of Curiosity and Frosty Fun Day.



More things to do

Which have produced a list of ideas for family friendly activities to ensure a fun February half term. Click on Cupid for some inspiration.



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. i.e. Angus Steakhouse in London. Click on the bow for some inexpensive food inspiration!



Half term baking competition!

We would love to see you getting creative in the kitchen and baking this half term. The theme is 'Made with Love' in honour of Valentine's Day and we would love to see your creations made for someone you care about. How about a cake for someone in your family, or biscuits for a friend! There is a prize for the winning primary pupil and one for secondary! Photos of the student with their bake should be sent via email to: **kstuart-jones@aquinas-cmat.org** and should state the 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 24th February 2025 at 9am.**