



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

MAY 2025



De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our fifth 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 examinations.

We started our immersion programme just after the May bank holiday and Year 11 have been working especially hard in all 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. Year 13 students have been working hard in their lessons leading up to their study leave and they have all received expert advice, so they are fully prepared for their exams.

Thank you to all the parents that attended our parent information evening and thank you again for all the lovely feedback. We have also prepared a letter to send to you just after half term to provide you with feedback from the parents evening parental questionnaires.

We have some excellent events coming up next half term in school such as our De Lisle's Got Talent on Thursday 12 June at 7pm and our Summer Soirée on Tuesday 24 June at 7pm. Please see the details inside the newsletter.

We have had some excellent feedback from visitors to our school from Bishop Patrick to the MP Dr Jeevun Sandher. We are looking forward to inviting leaders next half term from across the region to De Lisle College as part of an Exemplary Leadership programme where we are showcasing our excellent behaviour culture, curriculum and teaching.

I would like to wish you a lovely half-term and I look forward to welcoming our children back on Monday 2 June 2025.

Mr Maher
Headteacher

NEWSLETTER
MAY 2025



Newsletter Highlights

Headteacher Message
Mr Chris Maher

Year 7 Chess Tournament

Faraday Challenge –
Year 8 STEM Competition

Religious Life in De Lisle

Local MP Visits

Students Success

De Lisle Photo Competition

Performing Art in De Lisle

Parent Information
Evening Summary

May Half Term Break Info



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2025

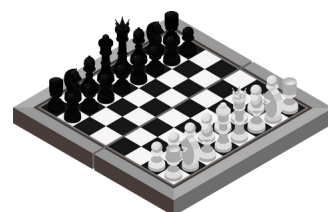
DE LISLE YEAR 7 CHESS TOURNAMENT - Spring '25

After 6 weeks of hard-fought matches by our Year 7 chess enthusiasts, the winners were:

1ST PLACE: JOHN 7M2

RUNNER-UP: KIRAN 7C1

JOINT 3RD: ROY 7F1 & CALEB 7M1



The students showed skill and a great deal of sportsmanship.

Well done to all who took part.

Mrs Badock (LIBRARY)



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



MAY 2025

Faraday Challenge – Year 8 STEM Competition

The Faraday Challenge is an annual competition with events held throughout the country. On 14 May, two groups of students from De Lisle attended the Loughborough event, held at the Charnwood Science Campus. Working in teams of six, students were given an engineering challenge involving planning, building and presenting a prototype device. Students were supported (and later judged) by STEM ambassadors and worked together to create circuits and used a range of design materials in their prototypes. Congratulations to Harry, Alex, Ryan, Lily, Isla and Kodi for being judged as the winning team on the day. All students had an enjoyable day and we are grateful to the Institute of Engineering and Technology and LEBC for organising the day.

Mr Greenwood





—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2025

Catholic Young Writer Award

Students in Year 9 have taken part in a national competition called the Catholic Young Writer Award. Students had to write a response to a friend to explain why Catholics believe that Jesus is the Son of God in no more than 1,200 words. Entries have been received and we are now waiting to see if any of our students were successful. There is a cash prize and a chance to go to London for the award ceremony for the winner.



Philosophy Project



Students in Years 9 and 10 have now submitted their philosophy projects to the University of Nottingham for moderation. Lecturers from the University will be visiting school in June to discuss the projects directly with the students before their grades are finalised and certificates are presented. This year we have had a broad range of research topics from 'is Communism an ideal society' to 'do our choices matter if we are living in a simulation'.

Ethics Cup

The final team selection for the National final of the Ethics Cup competition has taken place. Competition was fierce but we have selected a team of 10 to travel to St Andrews University to compete on the 10th of June against highly prestigious schools from across the country. Students will also get the chance to stay in University accommodation and experience a little of campus life, along with enjoying a special reception for all the competitors.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



MAY 2025

Celebrating Pope Francis and Welcoming Pope Leo XIV!

At De Lisle College, we marked a historic and joyful moment in the life of the Church as we gave thanks for the remarkable papacy of Pope Francis and celebrated the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

Throughout his time as pope, Pope Francis has inspired our school community with his message of mercy, simplicity, and care for the poor and our common home. His example of humble leadership and tireless advocacy for peace, justice, and dialogue has shaped the hearts of our students and staff.

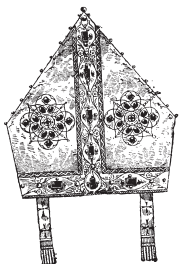
To mark this transition, students took part in a special Celebration of the Word and form time reflections, looking back on Pope Francis' legacy and praying for Pope Leo XIV as he begins this new chapter in the Church's journey.

In the lead-up to the papal conclave, each form group took part in our "Adopt a Cardinal" initiative. Every class was assigned a cardinal to pray for during the election process, offering daily intentions that the Holy Spirit would guide the cardinals in choosing a new pope filled with wisdom, compassion, and courage.

To help students better understand the process of choosing a pope, we also held a Conclave Quiz in prep time. From fun facts about past popes to questions about the role of the Holy Spirit, students were enthusiastic and engaged—many discovering the beauty and mystery of this ancient Church tradition for the first time.

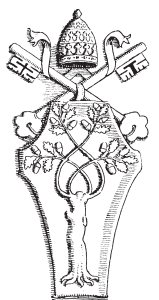
Our chapel and sacred spaces around school became spaces of reflection, where students explored the role of the pope, the symbols of papal leadership, and what it means to be a servant of the servants of God.

As a Catholic school, we are reminded that we belong to a Church that is alive, guided by the Holy Spirit, and constantly renewing itself. We pray that Pope Leo XIV will be a shepherd of courage, compassion, and deep faith.



*"Shepherd of the flock, servant of the servants of God –
may he lead with wisdom and love."*

"Where Peter is, there is the Church." — St. Ambrose





—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2025

Celebrating Eastertide at De Lisle



"He is not here; He has risen!" (Luke 24:6)

At De Lisle, the Easter season – known as Eastertide – is a time of deep joy, renewed hope, and vibrant celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. From Easter Sunday through to Pentecost, our school community continues to embrace this sacred season with prayer, reflection, and acts of witness.

Throughout Eastertide, students have been reminded that the Resurrection isn't just a moment in history—it's a living truth that transforms how we see ourselves, others, and the world around us. In chapel, prayer spaces around school and Celebrations of the Word, we've explored the meaning of new life and how we are called to share the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Students also took part in creative acts of service and kindness, living out the message of Easter, from form Easter Egg Hunt with Easter messages and missions, writing prayers of hope to preparing artwork for display and reaching out to others in need.

Our Chaplaincy Mission Team have a mission for you!

Be a witness of God's love. Let others see Jesus in you. Just like the first disciples, you are called to be a witness, to show by your life that God is with us and that we are never alone.

As we journey toward Pentecost, may we continue to celebrate the Risen Christ in our hearts and in our school, proclaiming with joy:

"Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed!"

Kind regards and God bless,
Hugh



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



MAY 2025

More Than a Grade – Year 11 Retreat Day



On Wednesday 9th April, our Year 11 students took a meaningful pause from the intensity of exam season to take part in a special retreat day themed “More Than a Grade.” The day invited pupils to reflect on their true identity, beyond academic results, and to explore where they find their value, hope, and purpose.

We were honoured to welcome Margaret and Barry Mizen, whose powerful message of forgiveness and peace touched hearts and challenged minds. Their story inspired students to consider the kind of legacy they wish to build—not just through achievements, but through compassion, courage, and community.

Mizen Foundation – Forgiveness Peace & Hope

The Briars Team from NDCYS led engaging workshops that encouraged pupils to deepen their faith and connect with one another through creativity, discussion, and prayer. Each session offered a space to step back, be still, and rediscover the importance of being rooted in something greater than exam results.

Let us continue to remind our young people: you are more than your grades—you are deeply loved, uniquely gifted, and called to make a difference.





—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

MAY 2025



Local MP Visits

On 9th May, we were delighted to welcome our local MP Dr Jeevun Sandher for a visit with our Mandarin students. The visit gave students a wonderful opportunity to showcase their language skills, discuss their learning, and highlight the value of studying Mandarin and Chinese culture.

It was a memorable experience and a proud moment for our school community.



Grim Tales competition



Before Easter, year 7 took part in a short story competition called Grim Tales, writing a reinvention of a fairy tale in under 100 words. We had over 50 entries, ranging from retellings of traditional fairy tales, to original stories and creations. Although the results from the national competition are yet to come through, the English department at De Lisle selected some winners to win a house point and an Easter treat.

Highly commended: Joshua in 7F1 and Eadie in 7S1.

Overall winner: Amber in 7C2 – you can read her story below.

Little Red Riding Hood ventured into the darkness of the woods, unaware of the wolf's sinister presence. Her grandmother's house lay ahead, but the air was thick with danger.

Inside, the wolf lurked with a pair of yellow, hollow eyes, ready to seek its revenge. It moved without sound, his breath a damp murmur against Red's ear.

She ran, but the forest would not let her go; it was like she was trapped in a room all by herself. Branches snagged. Her screams were sent into an unknown abyss; no one could hear her.

By nightfall, only her red cloak remained.

Well done to all the entrants!

Mrs Steed



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

MAY 2025



Exciting News: Leicester Tigers Academy Selection! 🐯🏉

We are thrilled to share that Toby has been selected for the final squad of the Leicester Tigers Academy for the 2025/26 season! After two years of dedication, assessments, and hard work, he will begin pre-season training the day after prom and will train three days a week over the summer, including festivals and games against top clubs like Sale Sharks, Bath, and Saints.

He has also secured a place at Loughborough College, where he will join the Tigers ACE Academy programme while studying for a BTEC in Sport and Exercise Science starting this September.

This is a remarkable achievement that reflects not only his talent and commitment but also the resilience he has shown in balancing school life and personal challenges. We're incredibly proud of him and look forward to seeing what the future holds. Well done! 🌟



Visiting Netball Tour - Ripley St Thomas Academy Friday 9th May 2025



On Friday 9th May, De Lisle hosted a visiting school from Lancaster for a Netball Tour. Ripley St Thomas Academy travelled down for a weekend of Netball, playing a tournament at De Lisle before some LaserQuest and watching Loughborough Lightning over the weekend.

De Lisle put out 5 teams, the Year 7s played up a year against their Year 8B team, our Year 8s had a team, Year 9s had 2 teams and our Year 10s fielded one team. The weather was glorious, competition and spirits high and all teams had good competitive games. The highlight would have to be the Year 7s winning their first game 20-0, with Coco and Adi demonstrating some outstanding shooting! We hope Ripley enjoyed the rest of their tour and saw everything that Loughborough has to offer!



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2025



Charnwood Schools Area Athletics

Wednesday 7th May 2025 saw the annual U13 and U15 area Athletics competition take place at Quorn Playing Fields. De Lisle took a strong team of 30 boys and girls from Years 7 to 9 to compete against local Charnwood Schools.

On the track, Coco kicked off the event with a win in the U13 girls 1200m. She also came 1st in the U13 girls High Jump. Alana came 1st in the U13 girls Javelin. Deshaun came 2nd in the U13 boys 100m and the U15 boys 100m was hotly contested with De Lisle finishing 1st and 2nd. Rufus dipped under 12 seconds for the first time to win the event in 11.95 seconds, with Ephraim not far behind in 12.20 seconds. Neve came 3rd in the girls U15 100m, racing a year up.

Isla finished 3rd in the girls U15 200m. David, also running a year up, finished first in the U15 boys 200m in 26.40 seconds. Alex finished in 3rd in 27.83 seconds. Finley achieved second place in the U15 boys 1500m. Isaac rounded off the individual track events with second place in the U15 boys 800m.

In the field events, Seye came 2nd in the U13 boys Javelin, with Riley 3rd in the U15 boys Long Jump. Seyi won the U13 boys Shot Put with 5.92m. Neve won the U15 High Jump with 1.25m.

The evening finished off with the relays which are always hotly contested events! The U13 Girls 4x100m relay team finished 3rd, whilst the U13 boys team went one better and finished 2nd. The U15 boys team of Rufus, Piers, David and Ephraim went into the final as clear favourites with their depth of sprinting, but know from last year that the smallest of mistakes can be costly, so looked for 3 safe baton exchanges. Despite this, they still ran out clear winners by over 30 metres to take the victory and round off what was a fantastic evening of Athletics for De Lisle.

Wednesday 14th May saw our U17 athletes compete at the Charnwood Schools Area Athletics. Despite this falling in the exam window, De Lisle still took a small but strong team of Year 10 and 11 athletes.

Oliver kick started us off with a win in the U17 boys 400m, quickly followed by 1st and 2nd respectively for Betty and Keira in the U17 Girls 300m. Millie took 1st place in the U17 Girls 200m with Amara close behind in 3rd. Sofia finished 2nd in the U17 Girls 100m, and Rueben rounded the field events off with 3rd place in the U17 Boys 800m.

In the field events, Sofia came 1st in the U17 Girls Long Jump, Kyla was 2nd in the U17 Girls Discus and Imogen finished 3rd in the U17 Girls Shot Put.

The final event saw the U17 girls relay, and due to some incredible depth of sprinters, we were able to field 2 teams, finishing 1st and 3rd! Well done to all who took part both this week and in the U13 and U15 events last week. We have a large number of students who will now go on to represent Charnwood Schools in the Leicester Schools Competition on the 5th June at Loughborough University.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



MAY 2025

De Lisle Photo Competition – Hope



Congratulations to Matthew, the winner of our De Lisle Photo Competition!

His striking image of a sunrise breaking through a frosty winter morning captured the theme HOPE beautifully, offering a powerful symbol of light and renewal.

In second place was Miriam's image of a beautiful reflection on a church floor. Jacob's colourful image of dandelions, framed by weathered stone, placed third.

Thank you to everyone who entered—your creativity and insight were truly inspiring!

Our next theme is SHADOWS - a chance to explore contrast, mystery, and depth through your lens.

We're excited to see how you interpret it!





—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2025

De Lisle's Got Talent – Coming Soon!

Get ready for a night of entertainment, excitement, and extraordinary talent as De Lisle's Got Talent returns on Thursday 12th June at 7pm!

This much-anticipated event promises to be a spectacular showcase of the wide-ranging talents of our amazing students – from singers and dancers to magicians, musicians, and more. With plenty of surprises in store, it's sure to be a night to remember!

Tickets are just £5, and each one comes with a voting ballot, giving you the chance to support your favourite act and help decide who will be crowned this year's De Lisle's Got Talent champion!

Tickets go on sale from Monday 2nd June and can be purchased via ParentPay. Make sure to get yours early – seats are limited and demand is always high!

Come along, cheer on our talented students, and be part of an unforgettable evening celebrating the creativity and spirit of our school community.

   See you there!



You're Invited to Our Summer Soirée!



Join us for a wonderful evening of music and celebration at our Summer Soirée on Tuesday 24th June at 7pm!

This special concert will feature performances from our talented school ensemble, the vibrant steel pan group, and our incredibly skilled GCSE Music students. With a rich variety of musical styles and something for everyone to enjoy, the evening promises to be a perfect way to celebrate the end of the school year.

Tickets are just £5 and will be available to purchase via ParentPay throughout June. All proceeds go towards supporting our music department and future performances.

Bring your friends and family, and come enjoy an uplifting evening filled with talent, passion, and the joy of live music.

  We look forward to seeing you there!



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2025



Celebrating Our Drama Students – Well Done Year 11 and Year 13! 🌟

As the academic year draws to a close, we want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of our Year 11 GCSE Drama and Year 13 A Level Drama students.

Throughout their courses, these students have demonstrated creativity, resilience, and a genuine passion for the performing arts. From powerful scripted performances to imaginative devised pieces, their commitment to their craft has been nothing short of inspiring.

We are so proud of everything they have achieved in the rehearsal room, on stage, and in the classroom. Now, as they head into their final exams, we want to wish them every success. You've worked hard, and your talent and dedication will undoubtedly shine through.

To our Year 13 students moving on to the next stage of their journeys—whether that be university, drama school, or other exciting paths—we send our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the future. You leave a lasting legacy in our department, and we can't wait to see where your journeys take you next.

Break a leg – and thank you for all you've brought to Drama at our school! 🎬🎓🌟



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



MAY 2025



Celebrating Success: Alex Earns Place at Mountview



We are thrilled to announce some fantastic news from our Year 13 cohort: Alex has secured a coveted place at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts to study Musical Theatre!

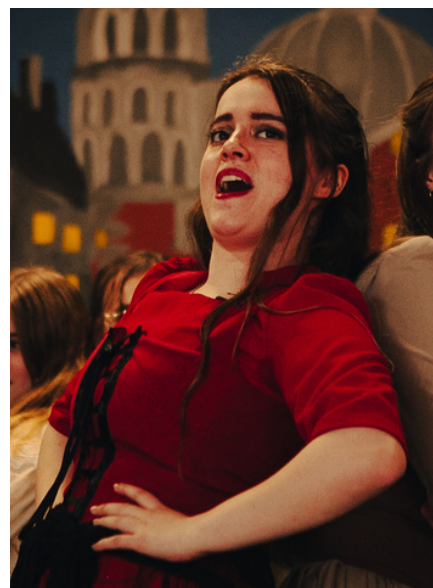
Mountview is one of the UK's most prestigious drama schools, renowned for producing talented performers who go on to thrive on the West End stage and beyond. Competition for places is fierce, with thousands auditioning each year – so Alex's achievement is nothing short of extraordinary.

Alex has been a shining star in our performing arts department throughout their time at school. Whether commanding the stage in school productions or contributing behind the scenes, Alex's passion, professionalism, and dedication have always stood out.

Their journey to Mountview has involved countless hours of rehearsals, vocal coaching, and audition preparation – not to mention academic excellence and unwavering commitment. It is a testament to her resilience, talent, and love for the performing arts.

We couldn't be prouder of Alex and this incredible milestone. We know this is just the beginning of an exciting future on stage, and we look forward to watching their star continue to rise.

Congratulations, Alex – break a leg at Mountview!



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



MAY 2025

Mixing It Up: Year 9 Explore Scratching and Looping in Music Tech

For the second year running, our Year 9 students have been diving into the exciting world of Music Technology, with a focus on two dynamic and modern techniques: scratching and looping. These hands-on lessons are giving students a taste of what it takes to create, mix, and manipulate sound like professional DJs and producers.

Using industry-standard software and equipment, students have learned how to build beats, layer samples, and experiment with live remixing. Scratching has quickly become a highlight of the sessions, offering a fun and creative way for students to explore rhythm, timing, and performance skills.

The looping workshops have also sparked a wave of musical creativity, as students construct their own tracks by layering vocals, drum patterns, and melodic hooks. With each loop, confidence grows—and who knows, the next breakout DJ might just be sitting in our Year 9 classrooms!

This innovative approach to music education not only develops technical skills but also encourages experimentation, collaboration, and a deeper understanding of music production. It's been fantastic to watch students take risks, express themselves, and enjoy making music in a fresh and modern way.

Keep an ear out—our future DJs are already in the mix!





—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2025

Spotlight on Success: KS3 Dance and Drama Clubs Shine!

Our KS3 Dance and Drama Clubs have been buzzing with energy, creativity, and growing confidence this term! These vibrant enrichment clubs have provided a fantastic platform for students to explore their talents, develop performance skills, and build self-assurance in a fun, supportive environment.

Each week, students from across Years 7 to 9 have dedicated their time to rehearsing routines, refining dramatic technique, and working collaboratively to bring ideas to life on stage. From powerful monologues to energetic choreography, our young performers have shown commitment and passion that deserves a standing ovation!

The clubs have not only nurtured creativity but also helped students build friendships, teamwork, and communication skills—key ingredients for success both on and off the stage. With every session, confidence grows, voices become bolder, and the joy of performing arts becomes more evident.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of something inspiring! Whether you're a seasoned performer or new to the stage, there's a place for you in the KS3 Dance and Drama Clubs.

Sign up today via Arbor and step into the spotlight!



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



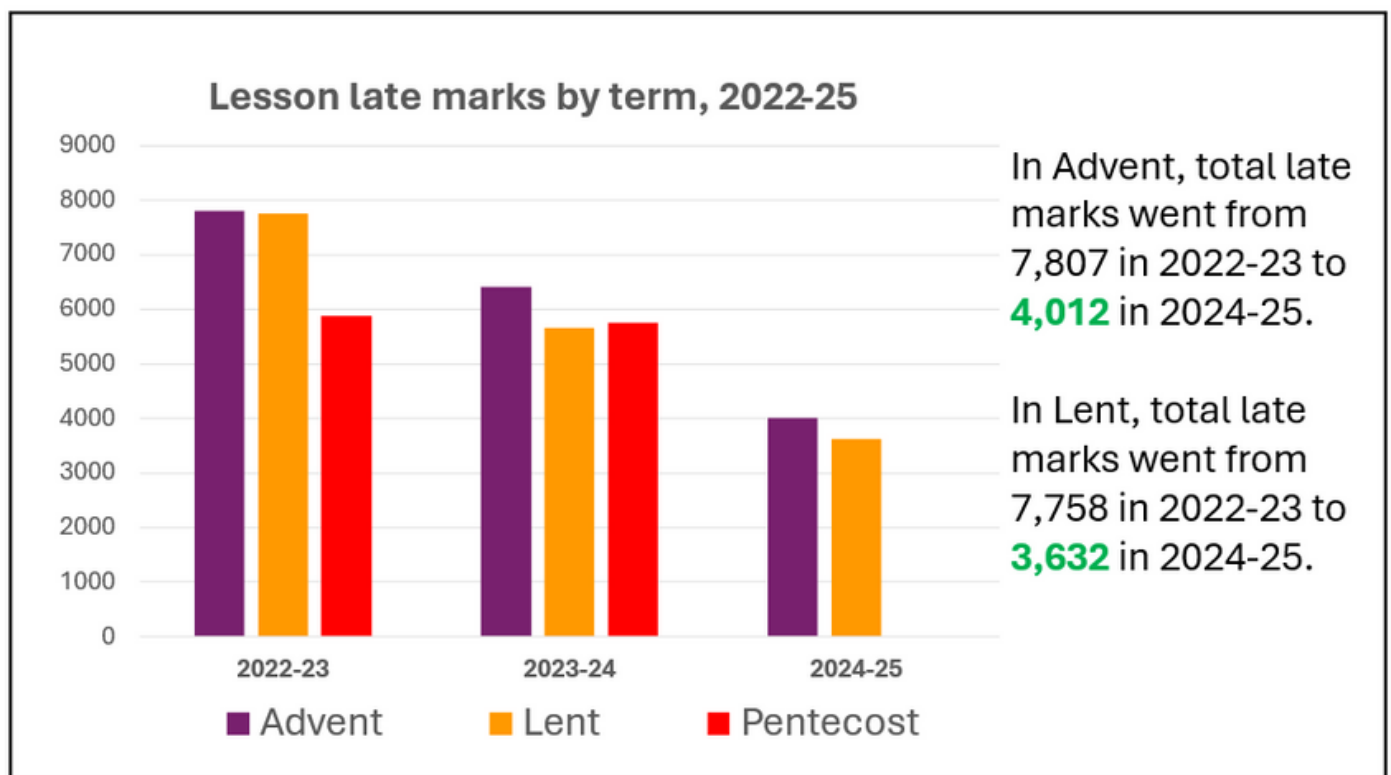
MAY 2025

Parent Information Evening – Summary



Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our information evening on 7th May to find out more about the school and to have their questions answered by the senior leaders who were presenting. A summary of the content of the session is below.

- Golden tickets have been re-designed to support rewards at home and in school through a weekly prize draw.
- Unsung Heroes praise assemblies for students with clean conduct cards (and prize draws) are celebrated every half term.
- The positive impact of conduct cards on punctuality across the school:





MAY 2025

- The teaching and learning focus for this year has been active observation to address student misconceptions quickly, highlight good examples from the students, and regularly check understanding in lessons.
- Advice was given on teenage smart phone use, including recommended reading: Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*. Guidance included:
 - Talking to and educating children
 - Speaking to other parents
 - Learning about the platforms children are on
 - Understanding and using parental controls
 - Having clear boundaries for use of smart phones, such as phones being kept on charge outside of bedrooms to prevent use through the night
 - Considering 'hand in' times for smart phones; 7.00pm for year 7, 8.00pm for year 8, 9.00pm for year 9, 10 and 11, and 10.00pm for post-16.
- Useful websites/resources regarding smart phones:
 - www.barnardos.org.uk
 - www.uswitch.com/mobiles/guides/mobile-phone-safety
 - www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages/
 - www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/mobile-phone-safety/
 - Bark - Parental Controls on the App Store



MAY HALF TERM 2025

As May half term 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, one child can eat free with the purchase of an adult main meal.

See more restaurants, cafes and pub offers by clicking on the pizza!



Things to do

Click below to see low cost family friendly activities around Leicester and Leicestershire. Events include Archeological Finds Day, Crafts at the Cathedral, Dinosaur MAYhem and Dragonfly Safari.



More things to do

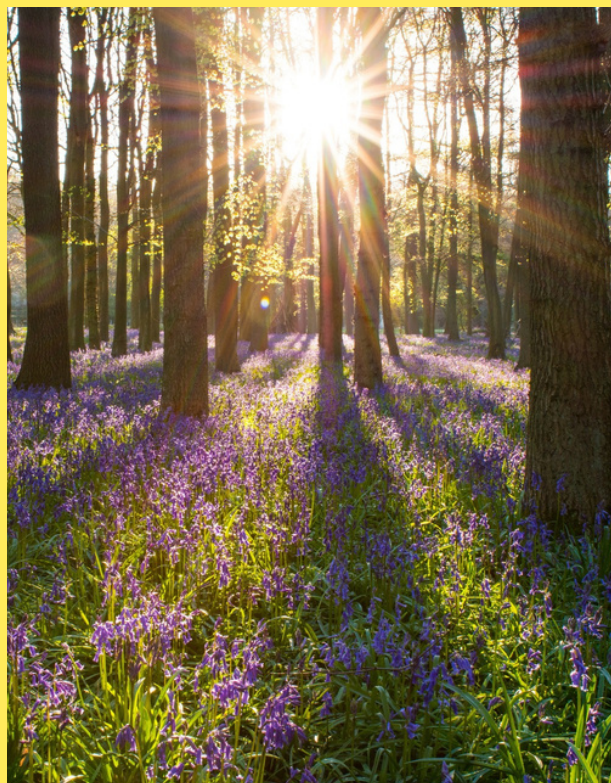
Rutland may be small but there are a host of activities on offer across the county. Click below to see a range of things to do this half term!



Half term nature photo competition!

In celebration of the numerous forest schools we have across our Trust we would love to see our pupils get outside into nature this half term. Have a parent, carer or friend take a photo of you in your favourite place in nature. A forest, a meadow, by the sea, the choice is yours!

There is a prize for the winning primary pupil and one for secondary! Photos of the pupil 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 2nd June 2025 at 9am.**



Trip to London?

As well as great deals on children eating free at a variety of hotel chains and U11s travelling for free on tubes, buses and some national rail services, there is a great guide here of all the free things you can see across the city! Click on London to see the guide and the Underground for details of travel.

