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CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



OCTOBER 2025

De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. We have had a wonderful first half term with a lot taking place, as I'm sure you can see from the newsletter. We have had a history visit to Belgium, a sports visit to Loughborough university, an RE visit to Nottingham university, a Year 7 Briars retreat, New York and our annual visit to China which took place at the end of last term.

We celebrated excellent GCSE and A Level results in the summer of 2025, and our sixth form has continued to grow. Our year 12 now has 135 students; they have settled in well and they have really come together as a year group. **We have our Post 16 information evening on Thursday 30 October 2025 at 6pm to 8pm for our current Year 11 students and their families.**

Year 7 have settled into school well; we enjoyed a wonderful **Year 7 Welcome Mass** which was a joyful beginning to their time at De Lisle. A big thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend this occasion.

This term we also celebrate Saint Carlo Acutis who was canonized on Sunday 7 September 2025. Saint Carlo Acutis is known and loved as he is a witness to a Gospel lived profoundly, but with absolute normality, in life and in death, so that everyone, and especially the young, may learn with him to experience Jesus as the meaning and joy of life.

St. Carlo Acutis,

You loved the Eucharist deeply: help us receive Jesus often and with joy. You found peace in Adoration: teach us to treasure time with Him.

You embraced Confession as a gift: lead us to God's mercy without worry. You loved Mary and the saints: inspire us to walk with them in faith.

You saw Christ in others: help us to live with kindness and compassion.

Pray for us, that we may live with love like you.

Amen



Mr C Maher
Headteacher

NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2025



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Mr Chris Maher

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welcome

TO THE LIBRARY

It was lovely to welcome the Year 7's to the library for their library induction lessons, and it's been fantastic to see them continue to visit the library regularly at break and lunchtimes, to borrow books, research and study.



Many of the students have already completed the Bronze Reading Award and with three awards available, they can now move on to the Silver and Gold Awards and receive their reading owl badges which can be worn on their blazer lapel with pride.

Students will soon be receiving a free book as a welcome to De Lisle. We give each year 7 student the opportunity to choose a Bookbuzz book from a choice of sixteen titles.



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Research studies show the impact that reading by choice has on driving students' language and literacy development, progress across the curriculum and mental wellbeing.

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GCSE History Belgium Trip



Our GCSE History students recently took part in an unforgettable trip to Belgium, exploring key First World War sites linked to their GCSE module Medicine on the Western Front.

The visit began at Langemark German Cemetery, where students reflected on the human cost of war, before visiting Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world. Here, students and staff laid a wreath and held a moment of silence in remembrance of those who fell. The day concluded at Essex Farm Cemetery, where the famous poem In Flanders Fields was written — a powerful reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of those who served.

On the second day, the group visited Lochnagar Crater, Thiepval Memorial, Newfoundland Memorial Park, and Vimy Ridge, deepening their understanding of trench warfare and the scale of the conflict. The evening ended with the moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.

The trip concluded with a visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum and Hill 62 (Sanctuary Wood), where students explored preserved trenches. Throughout, they showed great respect and curiosity, making the experience both educational and deeply memorable.

A huge thank you to the staff who supported this inspiring visit.



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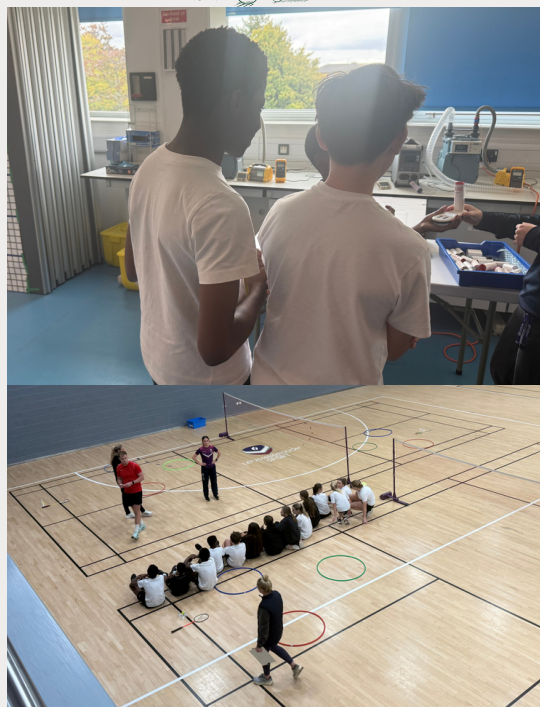
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Sport Trip to Loughborough University

On Friday 26th September, 16 Year 8 students visited Loughborough University. They experienced some high-quality teaching in a range of different sporting activities (badminton, football and OAA). Students were then given full access to one of the sports science laboratories from the English Institute of Sport, where they investigated the relationship between height and lung volumes. As part of this experiment students were required to measure their height and then blow into a spirometer (a medical device that measures the volume of air a person can forcibly breathe in and out). All students represented the college exceptionally well and had an excellent day visiting Loughborough University.



Religion, Philosophy and Ethics University trip

Students with an interest in philosophy in Years 11-13 went to the University of Nottingham. They were able to sample three different university lectures on a variety of interesting topics such as the ethics of artificial intelligence and how we might use error theory when discussing moral terms. They were also given a solid introduction to the wide and varied philosophy curriculum, with many students feeling incredibly passionate about what they heard. There was even time for a campus tour. Students represented De Lisle exceptionally by getting involved in all the discussions and asking lots of really interesting questions.



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Year 7 Briars



Our Year 7 students have had a fantastic start to the year with their retreat at The Briars, a time filled with reflection, friendship, and faith. The theme of the retreat, Identity and Belonging, encouraged students to think about who they are, what makes them unique, and how they are called to belong—to their families, friends, and to God.

The retreat began with team-building activities and group reflections, helping students get to know one another and build new friendships. They enjoyed fun challenges such as The Wall game, which encouraged teamwork and laughter, alongside moments of quiet prayer and thoughtful discussion about how God sees each of us as “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

There was also time for relaxation and community, including shared meals, games, and a lively evening disco. One of the most meaningful moments was gathering in the chapel for Eucharistic Adoration, where students reflected on how everyone has a special place in God’s love.

By the end of the retreat, students had grown in confidence, friendship, and faith. They represented De Lisle beautifully throughout and were a real credit to the school. We are so proud of them all! 🌟



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China Trip 2025

In July, 20 members of De Lisle's year 9 Mandarin class took part in the school's second trip to Chengdu, in central China's Sichuan province, accompanied by Mr Mowles, Mrs Jinks and Mrs Aird. The trip was organised and subsidised by the Mandarin Excellence Programme team at University College London, in collaboration with the British Council and the Department for Education. We were again hosted by the wonderful staff and students at the Sichuan Normal University.



As with last year, students spent a large part of each day in Mandarin lessons, where they worked alongside Chinese peers who had been specially recruited to help them practise their spoken Mandarin. The British students were interested to learn about the daily school life of their Chinese counterparts, and were particularly shocked to hear about the sheer volume of homework that Chinese secondary school students are expected to complete every day, not to mention the number of additional tuition sessions they attend to help boost their scores in maths, English, Chinese, chemistry, etc. in the evenings and on Saturdays. Mrs Aird made a mental note to remind our students of this fact the next time the Mandarin class complain of the amount of homework they are set!

In the afternoons, students were again treated to a huge range of cultural activities such as fan painting, paper cutting, traditional paper making, taiqi, stone rubbing, Chinese cookery and games. De Lisle's year 9 students particularly enjoyed learning how to perform the traditional dragon dance: they were tutored by the Sichuan Normal University's dragon dance squad, who have gained international renown travelling all over the world to perform, including yearly trips to Trafalgar Square to perform for the Chinese New Year celebrations held there every year. It was wonderful to watch our students working together to produce a very impressive performance in a short amount of time! Students were also suitably shocked by the physical strength and energy required in the performance.



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On a number of afternoons, students went on excursions in the surrounding area, including a boat trip to see the 71-meter tall Leshan Buddha, built during the Tang dynasty between 713 and 803. They attended a performance of traditional Sichuanese opera, which included the mysterious art of face-changing and some spectacular acrobatic feats. It goes without saying that a highlight of the trip for many students was the visit to the iconic panda breeding centre. We particularly enjoyed watching the animal keepers trying in vain to coax a very sleepy panda out of the top of a tree using a super-soaker water pistol!

Both students and staff were once more overwhelmed by the hospitality and generosity shown to them by their Chinese hosts: we were welcomed like long-lost friends by the staff at the Sichuan Normal University and students again returned to the UK with suitcases overflowing with gifts.

Our thanks go to Mr Mowles and Mrs Jinks, who kept parents abreast of our movements with her fascinating daily blog, for accompanying the trip, as well as to the parents without whose support the trip could not have happened. It has been wonderful to witness the renewed enthusiasm and engagement with which students who went on the trip have launched into their GCSE Mandarin studies following their Chinese adventure. We hope that the sights, sounds and friendships which characterised the students' travels in China will stay with them always and will inspire them on to greater achievements in their Chinese studies.



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Sixth Form New York Tour



Our Sixth Form Business and Economics students have recently returned from an unforgettable educational tour of New York City — the financial, cultural, and business capital of the world.

The week-long visit provided students with a unique opportunity to connect their classroom learning to real-world global contexts. During the trip, students explored Wall Street, home to the New York Stock Exchange, and gained valuable insight into the workings of international finance and trade. They also visited the United Nations Headquarters, where they toured the famous Assembly Hall and discussed global cooperation, sustainability, and peacekeeping — a true highlight for many.

The itinerary was packed with experiences that blended learning with culture. The group visited Grand Central Terminal, Rockefeller Center, and took in panoramic views of the city from the Top of the Rock observation deck. A guided walking tour of Lower Manhattan offered a deeper appreciation of New York's rich history, from the early days of New Amsterdam to the modern Financial District. Students also spent reflective moments at the 9/11 Memorial, honouring the lives lost in one of the most significant events of the 21st century.



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Cultural exploration played an equally important role throughout the trip. Students strolled through Central Park, walked across the Brooklyn Bridge, explored Times Square, and even attended a spectacular Broadway performance of *Romeo & Juliet*. There was also plenty of time to enjoy local cuisine — from classic New York pizza and bagels to American favourites at the Hard Rock Café and Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.

The group's enthusiasm, curiosity, and teamwork were evident throughout the visit, whether navigating the busy subway system, engaging with tour guides, or reflecting on the global lessons learned. The trip not only deepened their understanding of economics and business but also developed their independence, confidence, and appreciation of life beyond the classroom.

A special thank you goes to the staff who organised and accompanied the trip, ensuring everything ran smoothly and safely. It was truly an inspiring and memorable experience that our students will carry with them for years to come.



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Catholic Young Writers Award

Last year, every student in year 9 entered a national competition called 'The Catholic Young Writers Award' held by the Catholic Union. They had to write an essay explaining why Catholics believe that Jesus is the son of God. We are absolutely delighted to say that one of our students was awarded joint first place, alongside a large number of students who received smaller 'highly commended' recognition prizes.



Incredible Triple Challenge for LOROS

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that Jack in our school has successfully completed his Triple Challenge for LOROS alongside his sister and dad. As part of the challenge, Jack recently completed the swim section, finishing within the dedicated lane swim time of one hour—and even with time to spare! This is a brilliant accomplishment and a great example of determination and commitment.

Congratulations and well done, Jack!  



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Year 7 Netball tournament



On Thursday 2nd October, a team of Year 7 students travelled to Rawlins to compete in their first ever Netball tournament against neighbouring Loughborough schools. The team got off to a fabulous start with a 1-0 win over Rawlins A. They quickly followed this up with a 3-0 win over Rawlins B. They continued in this good form with wins over Woodbrook and Charnwood to make it 4 wins out of 4 with 1 game to go. The final game against Castle Donnington finished 0-0. Considering as a team they had only trained together twice, and Mrs Morris has only seen them train once, to come away unbeaten and without conceding a single goal was incredible. A special mention to Bella and Francesca for their fantastic defending. Player of the tournament was Tilly for her wonderful shooting. Well done to Bella, Annie, Neve, Gabriella, Bryony, Francesca, May, Mia, Tilly, Alys and Naia.

British Triathlon Championships



On Saturday 13th September at Mallory Park, Emma achieved an incredible first place in the Grand Final of the British Triathlon Championships for her age group.

Emma also became the overall winner of the Super Series, earning the highest total points across a series of national triathlon events in 2025 — an exceptional accomplishment showcasing her dedication and talent.

Congratulations also to Laura, who finished an impressive 7th place in the Grand Final for her age group.

A huge well done to both Emma and Laura on their fantastic achievements! 🏆👏



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Year 10 GCSE Food



Our Year 10 GCSE Food students are off to a strong start this year. To develop their high-level skills, they have successfully filleted fresh fish, deboned whole chickens, and mastered the delicate art of making the perfect rough puff pastry. Their efforts with the latter culminated in the creation of delicious, caramelised onion, cheese and thyme tartlets — a true testament to their growing skills and creativity in the kitchen.



De Lisle Star Chef

This term, the De Lisle Star Chef is Aiden. His enthusiasm for filleting and deboning, combined with excellent attention to detail, has really stood out. A well-deserved recognition of his hard work in the kitchen!

Macmillan cake sale



On Wednesday 1st October year 12 and 13 held their own cake sale in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. The students raised around £130 for such an important cause and we were delighted to sample some of their very fine baking skills. We were blessed with so many cakes including a vegan spiced apple cake, chocolate brownies and homemade cookies as well as some lovely lemon and blueberry loaf cakes- we have some very talented bakers in our 6th form. We would like to thank all the students who supported this important fundraising for MacMillan.



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