



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2026

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 for our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have started their GCSE and A Level examinations. It has also been extremely busy for staff at De Lisle College.

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, conduct and work ethic. Year 13 students have been working hard in their lessons leading up to their exams.

We had an Ofsted inspection as I am sure you are aware of on 6 and 7 May 2026. The young people were incredible during the inspection as they always are. We are looking forward to sharing with you all the wonderful things inspectors said about our school when we receive the report. I would particularly like to thank you for all the wonderful comments you wrote in the Ofsted survey about the school.

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

We also have some exciting news to share with you regarding the De Lisle rebuild project. We have started meetings with the Department for Education, we are currently in the 'feasibility' phase of the project where surveys are planned to review the school buildings conditions. We will keep you informed about the project when we have more information, however we already know that this will be a lengthy process.

I would like to wish you a lovely half-term and I look forward to welcoming our children back on Monday 1 June 2026.

Mr Maher
Headteacher

NEWSLETTER
MAY 2026



Newsletter Highlights

Headteacher Message
Mr Chris Maher

De Lisle Bibliophiles

Lord Lieutenant Awards

Sports Achievement

Grassroots Award 2026

Football Success at Derby
County Academy

Success in Triathlon
Competitions

Swimming Success

Criminology and Sociology
Trip to Nottingham

UCAS Discovery Day

Students Visit the
University of Leicester

Religious Life in De Lisle



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2026



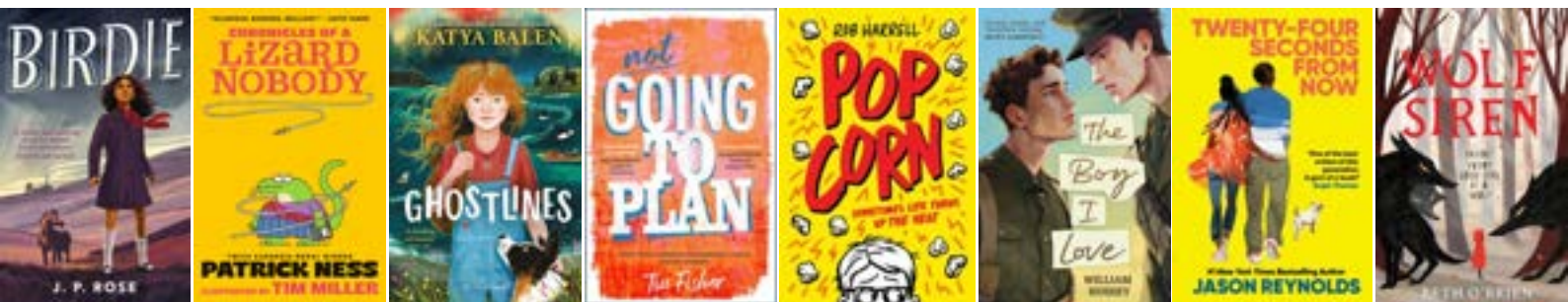
The De Lisle Bibliophiles

Our keen group of book lovers meet in the library after college on Wednesday every week to shadow the Carnegie Medal.

Every spring, **CILIP** invites reading groups from schools to join the exciting process of shadowing the **Carnegie Medals** – a unique opportunity for children and young people to engage with outstanding books and experience a national book award from the inside.

There are 8 books on the shortlist and in June we will vote for our favourite book.

<https://carnegies.co.uk>



Currently our favourite books are:

Popcorn by Rob Harrell - This book has themes of anxiety, panic attacks, friendships and bullying, all written with an element of humour. A great and important read for all ages.

Wolf Siren by Beth O'Brien – A book based on the fairytale, Little Red Riding Hood but with a modern twist with themes of disability, injustice and sexism. Fantasy at its best with a great ending.

Ghostlines by Tia Fisher – Set on an isolated island in a beautiful location with themes of nature, friendships and community. A classic adventure with plenty of intrigue.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2026

Lord Lieutenant Awards



We were delighted to welcome Deputy Lieutenant Mr Michael Pearson to our sixth form Celebration of the Word on 22 April to award Year 13 students Miriam and Charlotte certificates of commendation in celebration of their nomination to the Lord Lieutenant's Award for art. Many congratulations to them for this incredible achievement.

We were also thrilled to hear that Isobel in year 12 was also nominated for and was a finalist for the Lord Lieutenant's Young Volunteers Award for her work with the cadets. We are so thrilled for Isobel on such an accolade!



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



MAY 2026

Shortlisted for County FA Grassroots Award



Year 12 student, Jack, was recently shortlisted by the Leicestershire and Rutland FA for the 2026 Grassroots Awards.

Jack has been shortlisted, as one of three nominees, for the “Match Official of the Year” award.

Recently involved in the Leicestershire FA County Cup finals (refereeing the U12 Youth Cup final at Holmes Park), this deserved nomination has come from a combination of in and out of school refereeing.

Jack is regularly involved with supporting FA fixtures at the weekends, refereeing for local clubs Loughborough Emmanuel and Loughborough Lions. Without his sacrifice of time, many De Lisle students would not be able to participate at fixtures outside of school.



Alongside this, Jack has been instrumental in the expansion of De Lisle football this year. With the school entering double the number of tournaments than previous years (local county and nationwide tournaments), there has been more officiating required. Combined with the increased friendlies, the school has been involved in a tremendous number of away fixtures (including John Fernley Community College, East Leake Academy, and the Madani Schools Federation).

Jack has been involved in the majority of these, and supported teams from all the year groups. As a result, this nomination and shortlisting is well deserved.

This is an incredible achievement, with the Leicestershire FA having received a record 450 different nominations for awards this year.

We wish Jack all the best with this nomination, and look forward to the results of the ceremony on the 3rd July.



— ST THOMAS —
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2026

Football Success at Derby County Academy



Congratulations to Zane, who has enjoyed a fantastic season playing with the Derby County Academy Under-15s team.

On 26th April, the Young Rams lifted the Valley Cup after defeating Charlton Athletic in the final of the two-day tournament. Zane and his teammates also celebrated further success on 12th May, winning the U15s Blues Cup after beating West Bromwich Albion in a penalty shoot-out following a 1-1 draw at The Hawthorns.

A brilliant achievement — well done, Zane!



Outstanding Success in Triathlon Competitions



Congratulations to Emma, who achieved an outstanding 4th place in the European Junior Championships in Quarteira, Portugal on 29th March 2026 — an incredible achievement in her first European race.

Emma also went on to finish 1st in the British Triathlon Super Series held in Llanelli on Saturday 9th May. Her sister, Laura, also competed brilliantly in her first Super Series event, finishing 13th overall.

We are incredibly proud of both students and their fantastic achievements.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2026

Outstanding Swimming Success

This half term, Mason competed in the East Midlands Regional Championships, taking part in 12 events and winning an incredible 12 gold medals. He also qualified for two events in the 16-and-under age category.

One particularly impressive achievement came in the 200m butterfly, where Mason was ranked as the 15th fastest ever 13-year-old in Great Britain. As a result of his outstanding performances, Mason has now qualified for eight British national events and three English national events taking place in July.

We are incredibly proud of Mason's dedication and achievements, and we wish him the very best in the upcoming competitions.



Celebrating Student Success – We Want to Hear from You!



Do you have news to share about your child's achievements? We would love to hear from you.

We warmly invite parents and carers to share any successes, both in and beyond school, by emailing slee@delisle.leics.sch.uk. Your child may have a great achievement you would like us to celebrate and share with our school community.

We are always delighted and honoured to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students together with families.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2026

Year 12 Criminology and Sociology Trip to Nottingham

On 26th April, Year 12 Criminology and Sociology students spent the day in Nottingham. They watched the award-winning play *Punch*, which highlights the power of Restorative Justice through a real-life local story.

Students also visited the National Justice Museum, where they took part in a legal workshop and participated in a mock trial in the historic courtroom setting.

It was a highly engaging and educational experience, bringing classroom learning to life in a meaningful way.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

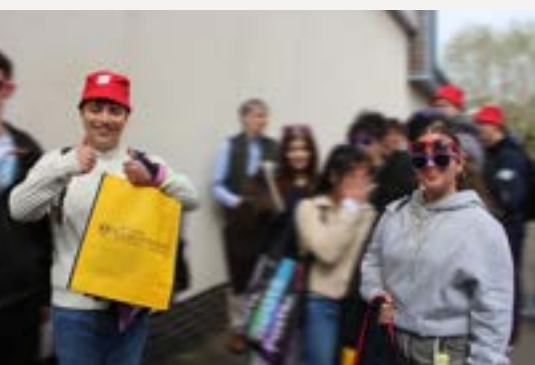


MAY 2026

UCAS Discovery Day UCAS

Year 12 students visited De Montfort University in Leicester for a UCAS Discovery Day, a large-scale event where students had the opportunity to meet representatives from a wide range of universities and employers.

The visit provided students with a valuable opportunity to research future pathways, explore higher education and career options, and begin considering their next steps after Sixth Form.



Students Visit the University of Leicester



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

In April, two groups of students visited the University of Leicester for a range of inspiring and educational experiences.

A group of Year 9 students attended a CSI-themed university experience day, where they explored law, criminology, and forensics by taking part in a mock crime scene investigation throughout the day.



Year 12 students with an interest in medicine and healthcare also visited the Medical School. They participated in workshops including dissection, A&E scenarios, and guidance on preparing for admissions assessments such as the UCAT. Students also had the opportunity to meet professionals from a variety of healthcare fields, including medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, and radiography.

Both visits provided students with valuable insight into future study and career pathways, while giving them the opportunity to experience university life first-hand.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2026

Religious Life in De Lisle



Our Y8 Faith in Action Team have truly been putting their faith into action this Eastertide through a number of charitable and community-focused activities.

As part of our Easter celebrations, students organised and ran an Easter Egg Tombola to raise money for Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission. Missio supports missionaries and church communities across the world, helping to provide education, healthcare, and spiritual support to some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities. Through their fundraising efforts, our students have helped to support the global mission of the Church and share God's love with others.



Faith in Action have also been living out our De Lisle Loves Mission values by caring for creation and taking responsibility for our shared environment.



Students have been helping to keep our school grounds clean and welcoming by picking up litter around the site. Their actions remind us that caring for God's creation is an important part of our Catholic mission and helps to make our school a safe, enjoyable, and respectful place for everyone in our community.

We are incredibly proud of the kindness, service, and sense of responsibility shown by our Year 8 students as they continue to live out the Gospel through faith in action.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

MAY 2026



The De Lisle community came together to celebrate Pentecost through a joyful and creative Pentecost Bake Off.

Pentecost, often known as the “birthday of the Church,” celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples after Jesus’ Ascension. Filled with courage and guided by the Holy Spirit, the disciples went out to share the Good News with the world. Throughout the Bake Off, students and staff reflected on symbols of Pentecost including flames, doves, wind, and the colours red and orange, representing the fire and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Students and staff created a fantastic range of homemade bakes inspired by the theme of Pentecost, with many imaginative designs reflecting the Holy Spirit and the celebration of the Church.



The entries were judged on Friday morning before being sold at lunchtime, giving the whole school community the opportunity to enjoy and support the event together.

The Pentecost Bake Off was a wonderful way for our school community to come together in celebration, creativity, and faith as we reflected on the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk



— ST THOMAS —
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



MAY 2026

During this time in the Church's liturgical year, we are preparing to celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. Pentecost is often called the "birthday of the Church" because the disciples were filled with courage, wisdom, and faith to go out and share the Good News of Jesus with the world.

As a school community, we are focusing on the gifts and guidance of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. This prayer invites you to reflect on how the Holy Spirit strengthens us with peace, patience, kindness, and love within our homes and relationships.

By praying together during this season of Eastertide and Pentecost, we remember that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and support us today, helping us to grow in faith and live as followers of Christ in our families and communities.

Dear God,

*Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit,
who guides us with wisdom, peace, and love.*

*Help us, as a community rooted and grounded in love, to reflect Your love
in our homes each day.*

*Give us patience when life is difficult,
wisdom when we make decisions,
and kindness in the words we speak.*

May the Holy Spirit guide our families to grow in faith, hope, and love.

*Help us to encourage our children to use their gifts,
to care for others,
and to follow the example of Jesus.*

*Fill our homes with peace, joy, and understanding,
and help us to work together as a loving community.*

*Come, Holy Spirit,
guide us always.*

Amen.



01509 268739



delisle.org.uk

MAY HALF TERM 2026

Half term is nearly upon us and we wanted to send our usual information sheet out to you with some ideas to keep costs down.

Discounted meals

At Dunelm's Pausa Cafe, children can enjoy a free meal including a main, drink, and two snacks with every £4 spent by an adult in the café. Spend £8 and two children eat free. Available all day, every day, all year round, the offer makes Pausa Café a great value choice for families. The kids' menu includes sandwiches, pasta, snacks, simple hot meals, and drinks, with plenty of options for younger diners. Click on the sandwich to learn more



Things to do

Leicester's museums and libraries are offering plenty of free and low-cost family activities this half term, including craft sessions, trails, exhibitions, and museum entry. With lots of budget-friendly events across the city, there are plenty of ways to keep children entertained without spending a fortune. Click on the ticket to learn more.



More things to do

Families can enjoy some outdoor half-term fun at Bradgate Park with the Wildflower Trail running from 23–31 May. Children can explore the park, follow the trail, and learn more about local wildlife and wildflowers while enjoying a low-cost day out in nature. Click on the flower for more!



Rutland

From outdoor adventures and nature trails to family attractions, play areas, and watersports, Discover Rutland has plenty of ideas for affordable family fun this half term. Whether you're planning a picnic, bike ride, or simple day out, there are lots of budget-friendly ways to keep children entertained across Rutland. Click on the horseshoe to learn more!



Fun at home

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust has plenty of free nature-inspired activities for families to try at home, including crafts, wildlife spotting, gardening ideas, and outdoor games. These simple, screen-free ideas are a great way to keep children entertained during half term while encouraging time outdoors and creativity. Many of the activities use everyday household items, making them easy and affordable for families to enjoy together. Click on the frog to learn more.

