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AQUINAS
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



JULY 2026

De Lisle College

Parent / Carer Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our sixth and final newsletter of this academic year. Thank you for all of your support this academic year.

We welcomed our delightful new Year 7 students to De Lisle last week for their induction days. They learnt about our Catholic Life and Mission, behaviour routines and got to know their form tutors. It was nice to meet all the new parents at the Year 7 Welcome evening.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students recently celebrated their leavers mass and proms. These were wonderful occasions and for our year 11 students we are looking forward to welcoming so many of them back into the sixth form. For Year 13 we wish them well as they leave De Lisle College. However, we are looking forward to seeing them again for A Level results day on **Thursday 13 August 2026** and GCSE results day on **Thursday 20 August 2026**.

Our students have attended some reward trips this week to Alton Towers, Drayton Manor, Escape Rooms and the cinema. Their behaviour and conduct were excellent on these reward trips. Year 12 have been out of school on work experience. We have also had students in China and on the Duke of Edinburgh award.

We do have a few staff leaving us at the end of this academic year. We would like to wish them well in the future.

- Mrs Smith – Finance Admin.
- Mrs Richardson – Head of Geography.
- Mr Dellaca – Music teacher.
- Mrs Payne – Performing Arts and Computing/ Media Teacher.
- Mr McDowell – Maths Teacher.
- Miss Guliyeva – Pastoral Admin.
- Mrs Arakal – Learning Support Assistant.

I would like to wish you a lovely summer break and we look forward to welcoming our Year 7, 12 and 13 students back on **Wednesday 26 August 2026** and the rest of the school on **Thursday 27 August 2026 (except for Year 12 who start on Friday 28 August 2026)**.

Finally, please could we remind everyone about open water safety this summer, hopefully we will have a summer of lovely weather, however please do speak to your child about the dangers of entering open water.

Mr Maher
Headteacher

NEWSLETTER
JULY 2026



Newsletter Highlights

Headteacher Message
Mr C Maher

Library News

Festivals Chemistry
Discovery Day

Year 12 Workplace Visit
to Haskoning

Celebrating Our Leavers
in Faith

Year 7 RE Artwork

Water Safety Poster
Competition

Spirited Arts 2026

The National Food
Conversation

Mount St Bernard
Abbey Visit

Performing Art in De Lisle

Sports Achievement

Transport 26/27



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LIBRARY NEWS



During May, our annual Manga Mania was back again for another exciting week of fun activities in the library.

Manga is a style of book & graphic novel which originated in Japan and now has fans across the globe.

The roots of Manga can be traced back as far as 1200AD with the popularity of Manga developing throughout the 20th century including animation, art, fashion, graffiti, as well as digital multimedia.

Students had the opportunity to take part in craft activities, watch an anime film and enter the drawing competition.

Here are some of the winners with their drawings:



YEAR 7 WINNERS: Kaycee and Yusif



YEAR 8 WINNER: Sophia



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YEAR 9 WINNERS: Hayden and Hannah



YEAR 10 WINNER: Oliver



YEAR 11 WINNER: Scarlet
(for the fifth year running)



YEAR 12 WINNER: Johanna

Great news! Borrowing figures have shot up again this year . Here are some of our top readers.

TOP READERS

Year 7: Yusif
Year 8: Lacey
Year 9: Meerab
Year 10: Charles
Year 11 Calum
Year 12: Alex
Year 13: Jack

TOP FORMS

7S1 - 8C1 - 9F1
10F1 - 11F2
12JFR - 13MVA

TOP COLLEGE READER

Calum



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SALTERS' INSTITUTE: FESTIVALS CHEMISTRY DISCOVERY DAY

On Wednesday 17 June, Year 10 Triple Science students visited University of Nottingham for a Salters' Institute Festivals of Chemistry Discovery Day.

The Salters' Institute say "Discovery Days allow students to visit a university and discover what it would be like to pursue chemistry after they finish school.

Students get hands-on in a university chemistry laboratory, carrying out practical lab work involving chemical synthesis and analysis. They also get to learn about chemistry research being conducted at the university and hear from a diverse careers panel, where they can ask questions and envisage their future career in chemistry."

Students took part in lab-based workshops to synthesise aspirin, which was a fantastic opportunity to gain an experience of university teaching labs and apply their skills from school in a new environment. Students also heard first-hand from those working in Chemistry, including in medical and pharmacology-related research and the wider scientific sector. There was also an opportunity to tour the university and see facilities on offer.



We are very grateful to the Salters' Institute for organising such an engaging and inspiring day, as well as to the University of Nottingham who hosted the event.

You can read more about the [Salters' Institute](https://www.saltersinstitute.org.uk/) online.



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YEAR 12 WORKPLACE VISIT TO HASKONING

On Tuesday 30 June, a group of Year 12 students visited the UK head office of Haskoning, located at the impressive Westpoint Business Park in Peterborough. Haskoning is an international consultancy and engineering firm which designs and manages infrastructure projects, including those related to climate resilience and the energy, water technology, and maritime sectors.



During the visit, students learned about the company, found out about employer expectations, and reflected on their own skills. They took part in a group task to design and pitch a sustainable construction project to a client, with a winning group being selected. They also heard from the HR team at Haskoning and gained an insight into CV writing, job hunting and gained tips for interviews and professionalism in the workplace.

We are grateful to Sandra for organising our visit, and to both Sandra and Griff for their insights into the world of work.



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CELEBRATING OUR LEAVERS IN FAITH

As the academic year drew to a close, we came together as a school community to celebrate our Year 11 Leavers' Mass on Friday 26th June and our Year 13 Leavers' Mass on Monday 29th June.

These joyful celebrations gave us the opportunity to give thanks to God for the gifts, talents and achievements of our students, and for the many ways they have enriched life at De Lisle. Centred on Scripture and the Eucharist – the source and summit of our Catholic faith – we entrusted each of our leavers to God's loving care, praying that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them as they begin the next chapter of their journey.

Our Leavers' Masses beautifully reflected the heart of life at De Lisle and our commitment to LOVE: to Love, Offer Opportunities, Value every person, Encounter Christ, and Serve others. These values shape every aspect of our Outstanding Catholic education, encouraging our young people to leave not only with academic success, but also with compassionate hearts, a strong sense of purpose, and a desire to make a positive difference in the world.

We thank our Year 11 and Year 13 students for the unique gifts they have shared with our community. As they move forward with faith, hope and love, they remain in our prayers, and we wish them every blessing for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.





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PENTECOST BAKE OFF WINNERS

Congratulations to all who took part in our Pentecost Bake Off. We were delighted by the creativity, effort, and wonderful bakes inspired by the theme of Pentecost.

Winners:

- **Shyla**
- **Kyle**
- **Michelle**

Highly Commended:

- **Finnola**
- **Pollyanna**
- **Caleb**
- **Aiden**



Thank you to everyone who entered and helped make the competition such a fantastic celebration of Pentecost.



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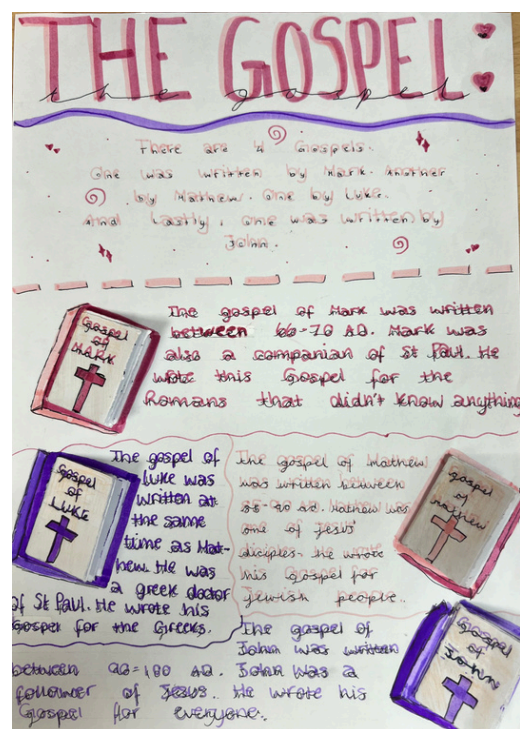
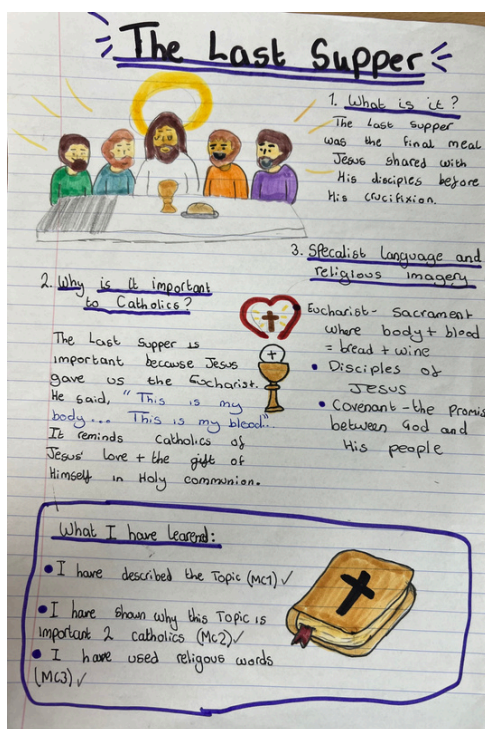
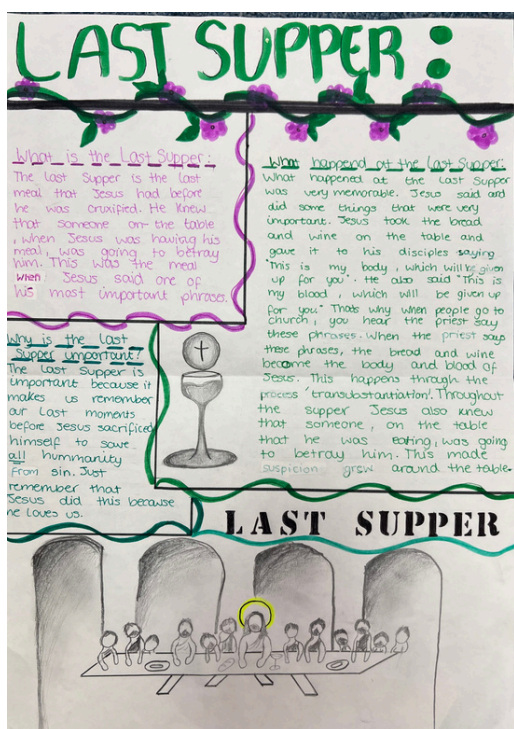
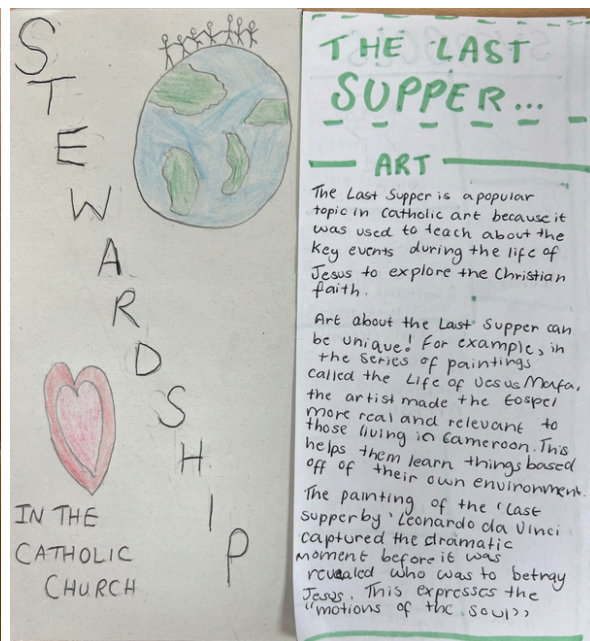
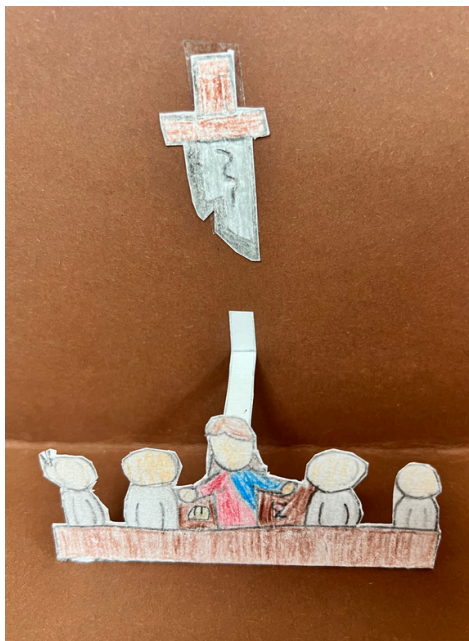
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YEAR 7 RE ARTWORK

Our Year 7 students have produced these creative pieces of RE homework to showcase what they have learned throughout the year. This page celebrates a selection of their fantastic work.



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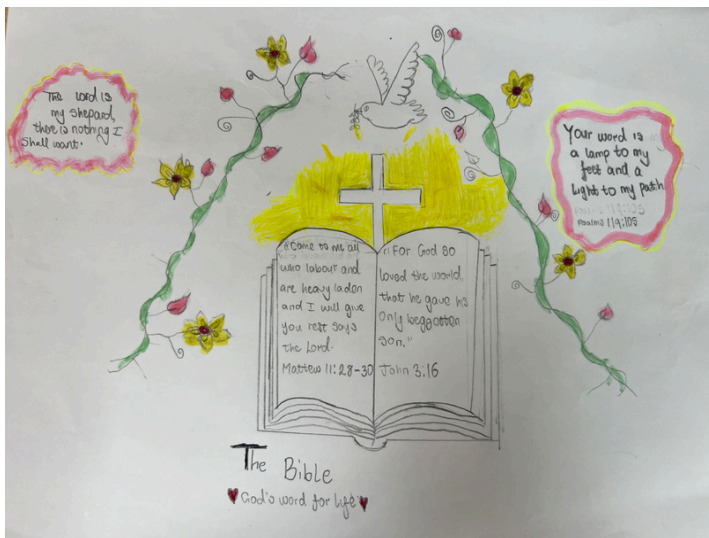
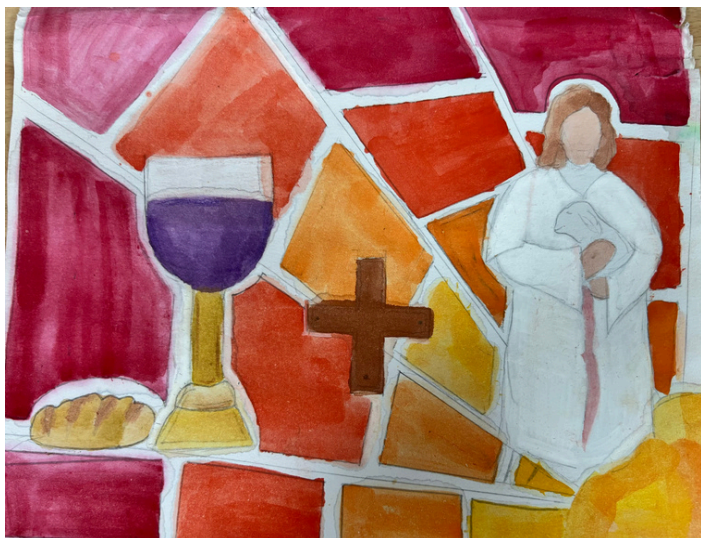


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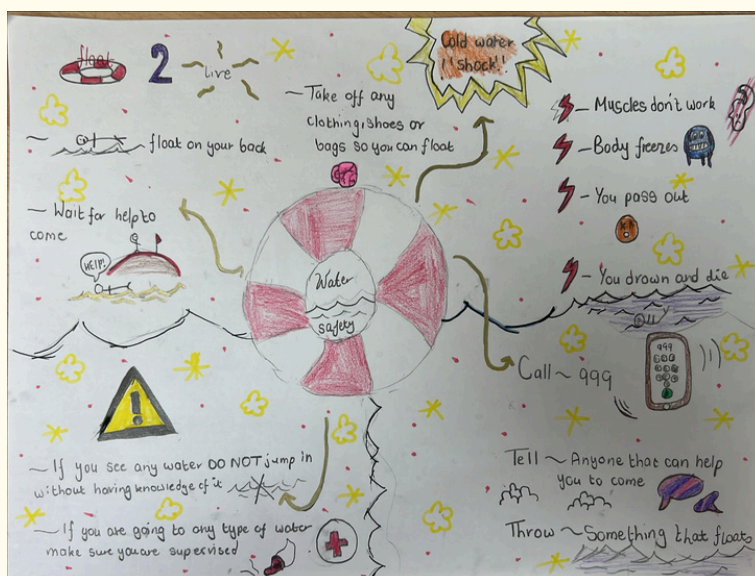
JULY 2026



WATER SAFETY POSTER COMPETITION

As part of their PD lessons this half term, pupils have been learning about the dangers of entering open water and how to stay safe around water.

Congratulations to Karmiah, whose excellent design was chosen as the winner of our Water Safety Poster Competition.



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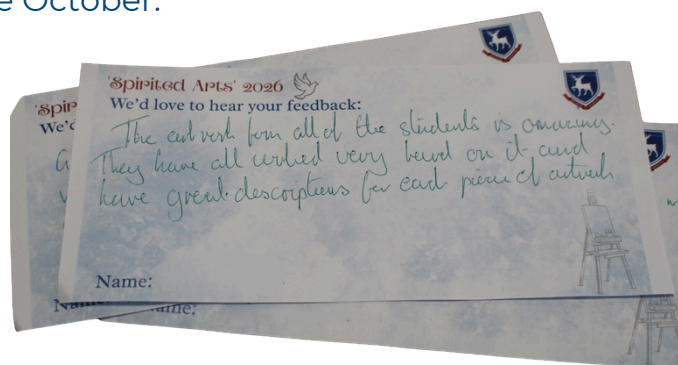
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SPIRITED ARTS 2026

Students in Year 7 and 8 have been working hard on their entries for a national competition called Spirited Arts. Students have to learn about the different religious themes and then create a piece of artwork in response. We were delighted to be able to invite parents into school to view the artwork in an exhibition format, giving students valuable experience in talking about what they have created and receiving some wonderful feedback. Results will be announced in late October.



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THE NATIONAL FOOD CONVERSATION



During prep, 21 students in year 12 volunteered to join our school food conversation. The Food Conversation is a much-needed opportunity to ask citizens what they really want from food. Year 12 were active participants in a citizen conversation, which reflects the school's Catholic Social Teaching. Part of Catholic Social Teaching is promoting subsidiarity (where decisions are made by the people who are affected directly which promotes human dignity) and participation (where people share the responsibility to make sure society functions properly which also promotes human dignity). The involvement of students in the food conversation is one way that De Lisle College shows Catholic Social Teaching in action.

The Food Conversation is part of a national conversation. Food is at the centre of some of the biggest challenges we face. Headlines about food security, diet-related ill health, the impact on nature and climate of food production, food bank usage (and more) dominate the media and are part of our daily discourse. The Food Conversation aims to change this and demonstrate what citizens really think about food – exploring how we as citizens understand the complexities of the issue and the necessity for change. This is one of a number of conversations happening around Leicestershire. Feedback will be used as part of the Council's application for a Gold Good Food award. Other suggestions might be things the council can advocate for at a national level in government or encourage other organisations to implement.

It was wonderful to see so many of our young people engage thoughtfully and with interest to such an important citizen project.

Mrs Mason
RE Teacher





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MOUNT ST BERNARD ABBEY VISIT



On Friday 3rd July, the Faith in Action group visited the Cistercian Monastery Mount St. Bernard's Abbey just outside Whitwick. The Abbey was built on the land donated by Ambrose De Lisle, the same person who donated the land for De Lisle School to be built on. The students enjoyed a spiritually enriching day, having a talk with the Abbot, attending one of the daily prayer services, walking up the Calvary walk, having a picnic on the grounds and visiting the beautiful gift shop. The students had time to learn and reflect on the different ways the Catholic faith is lived out, as well as a time to reflect on their own faith and how to live it out in their lives.





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DRAMA STUDENTS EXPLORE THE MAGIC OF THE HARRY POTTER STUDIO TOUR



Drama students enjoyed an inspiring educational visit to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour – The Making of Harry Potter, where they explored the incredible world of professional theatre and film production.

Throughout the day, students discovered how costumes, props and set design help bring stories to life. From walking through the iconic Great Hall and Diagon Alley to examining the intricate details of original costumes and handcrafted props, students gained a fascinating insight into the creative processes behind one of the world's most successful film franchises.

The visit complemented students' studies by highlighting the importance of visual storytelling, design and technical theatre. They were able to appreciate how costume designers, set builders, scenic artists and other creative professionals work together to create immersive worlds that captivate audiences.

The trip was both educational and inspiring, encouraging students to think creatively about the many careers available within the performing arts and entertainment industries. It was a memorable experience that brought classroom learning to life and gave students a greater appreciation of the artistry that happens behind the scenes.



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SUMMER SOIREE

Our school's summer soiree was a wonderful celebration of music, showcasing the talent and hard work of students across a variety of performances. The evening began with the lively sounds of the Steel Pans, followed by impressive performances from the Prep Instrumental Ensemble and the Tuesday Instrumental Ensemble, who entertained the audience with confidence and skill. The Musicals Choir brought energy and excitement to the stage with a memorable song from Sister Act, while the soloists captivated everyone with their outstanding individual performances. There were also two world premiere performances with students performing their GCSE music compositions. The concert highlighted the dedication of all the performers and provided a fantastic end to the school year, leaving the audience inspired and proud of the achievements of our talented students.



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THEATRE VISIT – THE WOMAN IN BLACK

To celebrate the end of their examinations, our Year 11 and Year 13 Performing Arts students enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Theatre Royal in Nottingham to see the acclaimed stage production of *The Woman in Black*.

The performance provided a brilliant opportunity for students to experience professional theatre and observe how atmosphere, lighting, sound and performance techniques combine to create suspense and engage an audience. Many students were fascinated by the minimalist staging and the actors' exceptional storytelling skills.

The trip was a wonderful way to round off their time studying Performing Arts at De Lisle College, and we hope it has inspired many of them to continue enjoying live theatre in the future.



INTERESTED IN INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS?

We are now taking expressions of interest for instrumental music lessons starting in September. If your child would like to learn an instrument or have singing lessons, please let me know. We offer a wide range of instruments, and lessons are suitable for beginners as well as more experienced musicians. We are also looking for anyone interested in joining the Steel Pan group which takes place after school on a Thursday. We offer subsidised lesson costs for all pupils receiving Pupil Premium funding. Please drop me an email: Hfisher@delisle.leics.sch.uk





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FAREWELL TO OUR YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 STUDENTS

As another academic year draws to a close, we would like to wish our Year 11 and Year 13 Performing Arts students every success as they move on to the next exciting chapter of their journey.

It has been a privilege to watch you grow in confidence, creativity and resilience through your involvement in Drama, Dance and Music. Whether performing on stage, rehearsing after school, supporting productions behind the scenes or embracing every opportunity that came your way, you have made a lasting contribution to the Performing Arts Department.

We hope you leave De Lisle College with wonderful memories, lasting friendships and the confidence to continue pursuing your passions. Whatever your future holds, we wish you every success and happiness.

Good luck, and remember—you will always be part of the De Lisle Performing Arts family.



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A YEAR IN PERFORMING ARTS

It has been another exciting and successful year for the Performing Arts Department, filled with creativity, collaboration and memorable experiences.

Our students have enjoyed a wide range of enrichment opportunities across Drama, Dance and Music. Dance students participated in an inspiring workshop where they collaborated to choreograph original pieces before performing together as an ensemble. Drama students visited Curve Theatre for a fascinating behind-the-scenes careers day, gaining valuable insight into the many professional opportunities available within the theatre industry. Our musicians also benefited from workshops led by visiting professionals, developing their performance skills and musical understanding.

Our extensive programme of extracurricular activities has continued to flourish, with Dance and Drama Clubs, Choir, Ensemble and Steel Pan groups providing students with regular opportunities to rehearse, perform and develop their talents beyond the classroom.

Throughout the year, students attended three live theatre visits, performed in two outstanding concerts and showcased their talents in our spectacular whole-school production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The commitment, enthusiasm and creativity demonstrated by everyone involved made each event a tremendous success.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and grateful to the staff, parents and wider school community who continue to support the Performing Arts. We look forward to another exciting year ahead as we begin preparations for *Annie: The Musical*!



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SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2027 – ANNIE

We are delighted to announce that our whole-school production for 2027 will be **Annie: The Musical!**

Auditions begin next week, and we encourage students from all year groups to get involved. Whether your interests lie in acting, singing, dancing or working backstage, there is a place for everyone in our production team.

Audition information has already been shared with students during Prep and is also available to view on Satchel. We are looking forward to welcoming new and returning performers as we begin what promises to be another exciting production.

We can't wait to see the incredible talent our students will bring to the stage!



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Athletics County Championships

16 students represented De Lisle at the Athletics County Championships on Thursday 11th June. Well done to all involved!

NAME(S)	YEAR	EVENT	POSITION
Isaac	9	800m	1st
Naomi	7	Javelin	1st
Caleb	8	100m	3rd
Neve	9	High Jump	3rd
Finley	9	1500m	3rd
Isla	9	Javelin	4th
Martha	12	High Jump	4th
Sebastian	7	800m	5th
Ephraim, Rufus, Noah, Piers	10	4 x 100m Relay	5th
Lucy	8	100m Heats	5th
Naia	7	Long Jump	5th
Rufus	10	100m	6th
David	9	200m	6th
Archie	12	High Jump	7th



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SPORTS DAY 2026

Despite the heatwave postponing Sports Day at Loughborough University, students rose to the challenge as events took place across two days, on 29th and 30th June, on the school's front field. The event was a tremendous success, with students demonstrating outstanding determination, sportsmanship and house spirit throughout.

The atmosphere across both days was fantastic, with students enthusiastically supporting one another and creating a memorable occasion for everyone involved. Their encouragement and positive energy helped make Sports Day a true celebration of participation and achievement.

A huge thank you must go to all the staff who organised and ran the events, as well as those who supported students throughout the competition. Their hard work and commitment ensured the event ran smoothly despite the challenging weather conditions.

There were also some exceptional individual performances, with two school records being broken, both in year 9:

Boys' 800m – Isaac H

Boys' 1500m – Finley M

Congratulations to both students on their outstanding achievements.

After discus, high jump, javelin, long jump, shot, 1500m, 800m, 300m, 200m, 100m, 4x100m relay, congratulations go to Fisher House on becoming Sports Day champions 2026 (adding to their triumph last year), and well done to every student who took part and contributed to such a successful event. The effort, resilience and team spirit shown across both days made Sports Day 2026 one to remember.

Final Result For Sports Day



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