

Countesthorpe Academy Newsletter



iPads & Chromebooks now rolled out!

Environment Society & Forest Schools
Safeguarding & Well-being Fundraising
Navaratri & Diwali Celebrations Nurture
Careers in Space! UKMT Maths success
University visits LGBTQIA+ Book Club
Kew Gardens Trip Girls football highlight



We have 14 year 9 and 10 students taking part this year in the bronze award.

They are busy planning their walks for the practice expedition at Beaumanor Hall.

Duke of Edinburgh project
By Rupert Bradley
[CLICK HERE](#)



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Countesthorpe Academy

Show **Respect**
Develop **Resilience**
Achieve **Success**



Christmas Wreath Workshop for staff run by Fiona Burton as part of the Staff wellbeing. Great turnout and thoroughly enjoyed by all.





Food Collection



Coat Bank



Mrs Aitcheson Headteacher

C.E. Aitcheson

Welcome!



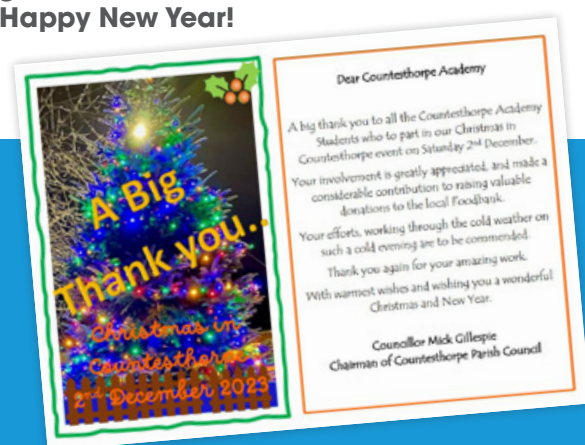
On Saturday 2nd December some of our festive student house leaders were joined by Mrs Frain, Mrs Miller and Mr Kilsby to take part in collecting food donations from the residents of Countesthorpe Village.

We were one of six teams who supported the Parish Council, walking a specific route, singing Christmas songs along the way, so that residents could hear us and give us their donations.

We set off at 6pm from the Academy and made our way down Lindan Avenue, onto Cosby Road, around Maurice close and not forgetting Waterloo Road and Bassett Avenue, before arriving at St Andrews Church at 7.15pm to hand in the generous donations we had collected. We were then invited into the church for some hot chocolate, cookies, and a mince pie – the perfect way to warm ourselves up! It was a fantastic community event with Christmas carols sung by the church choir whilst the Church Christmas tree lights were switched on.

Our students were a credit to the Academy, and we really appreciate their dedication to their rolls as student house leaders, we are very proud of you all. A big thank you to Countesthorpe Parish Council and to St Andrew's Church for inviting us to take part in such a great event.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



As temperatures plunge this winter, life gets harder for people living below the poverty line who are pushed into the position of choosing whether to heat or eat – that's where a coat donation can help.

The cost-of-living crisis is hitting household incomes and is likely to push more people into poverty while the surging energy bills behind the issue may make it harder than ever to keep warm this winter.

While there are many ways you can help, perhaps the simplest is donating a winter coat. If you have a big bulky coat just taking up space in the back of your wardrobe, stuffed in a cupboard or under the bed, it could make a potentially life-saving difference to someone in need.

Countesthorpe Academy welcomed donations from students and the community for those in need. These will go to many different groups of people including the Academy, local primary school, local groups, and charities.

"It's for anyone who feels they need a coat; they can come and get one and this isn't about judging. It's about cutting out that middleman."

Thank you to all those that donated. Someone will be much warmer tonight because of you.



Welcome to the December issue of our Academy Magazine. Our students and staff have been extremely busy this term 'being the best we can be'.

This term has seen the introduction of CREW (Years 7-11) and PREP (6th Form) across the Academy. The aim of this is to ensure our students develop student agency, are equipped with skills for the future and allow them the opportunity to research and investigate topics they are particularly interested in. To support this we have issued all our student with 1:1 devices. Our students love the increased ability this gives them to be independent and maximize their learning opportunities.

Our Open Evenings for both incoming Year 7 and Year 12 students earlier on in the term gave the Academy the opportunity to invite all potential new students into school. All areas of the school were opened up with staff and students on hand to talk about their experiences and to demonstrate how our core values are embedded into all we do.

Over the course of the term we have also had some great Charity events hosting a Ukrainian Christmas Party, a Coat Bank and Macmillan Coffee Morning as well as an afternoon of Charity events. I hope you enjoy reading about all these events in this edition of the Academy Magazine.

As we move to the end of the term, on behalf of all the students and staff at Countesthorpe Academy, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New year and thank you for your continued support.



Countesthorpe Academy



countesleys



clcc.college



Tree planting

The sixth form environment society ordered 200 trees from the Woodland Trusts Tree planting in school's scheme, which we have planted on the school field along with help from our keen KS3 environment club.

After 3 mornings of hard work and some muddy conditions we are proud of what we have created. Big thanks to everyone who got involved and we hope to continue to support the Academy's environment.



Forest School

Countesthorpe Academy is excited to be working towards becoming a Forest School with the support of LCFC.

Last Friday saw us host our first Forest Foxes session, teaming up with Leicester City Football Clubs Community engagement team. A selection of our Year 7 and 8 students participated in some outdoor learning which included a scavenger hunt, shelter building, personal survival skills, and clearing our open spaces.

Everyone had an amazing time, with our students being hugely enthusiastic about learning new skills and taking part in this innovative venture with LCFC.

We can't wait for more exciting outdoor challenges connecting with nature!





Remembrance Day

On Friday 10th December we held a 2 minute silence to commemorate remembrance. As always, the level of respect shown by all of our students was exemplary. Around 150 Students were also invited to take part in a more formal ceremony around our 'Poppy Field'. This display was created by Student House Leaders with support from Mrs Miller and Mr Bee. The display gets more impressive each year, and acts as a really fitting backdrop for our ceremony, whilst also acting as a visual reminder in the days either side of Remembrance Weekend. This year were also fortunate to be joined by a military veteran who played the bagpipes for us following our period of silence. This was a fitting finale, to a thought provoking event.

Alongside our ceremony we have been raising funds for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies. Students and staff have been sharing the stories of family members who have served in the armed forces, with these stories providing a rich piece of cultural heritage to go alongside our Poppy Display. Students also took part in a House Competition entitled **'What Does Remembrance Mean To Me?'**. This yielded an array of beautiful work in the form of pictures, poetry and stories.

We would like to thank everyone involved in any element of our commemorations this year. Events like this make us proud to be a part of Countesthorpe Academy.



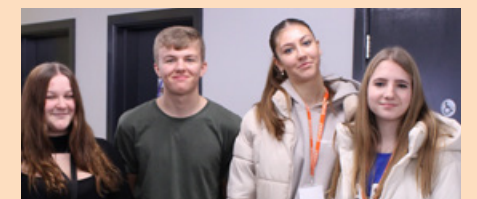
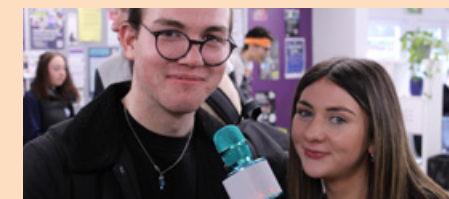
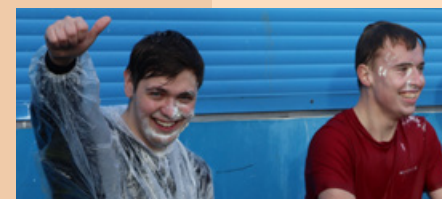
Children in Need

On Friday 17th December all students at the Academy took part in a charity fundraising afternoon in aid of Children in need.

Each CREW and PREP group laid on a selection of activities for other students and staff to take part in. The effort put in by so many of our students made it a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all, and more importantly we raised a fabulous total of **£912.25** for Children In Need.

Well done everyone!

£912.25





Staff and students celebrating Navaratri

Navaratri & Diwali

Staff and students celebrated Navaratri with an afternoon filled with garba, non-stop dancing, arti plate decorations, and we even got to taste some freshly cooked samosas and tried some traditional Indian tea.

Here are some words from one of our year 10 students, Aryan, of his thoughts about the Navaratri event:



As a minority in this school, getting my culture across to the predominantly white majority is quite difficult but this year, it was different!

The Navaratri event that was held at school this year (although being the first) seemed like it had been going for years!

The decorations were beautifully arranged, and the Gujarati culture of Navaratri wasn't APPROPRIATED, it was APPRECIATED, and that is all I can ask for. To see everyone from different year groups coming together to celebrate felt great, the laughter and the joy this brought was infectious to everyone who attended.

The inclusivity that my school is trying to make possible keeps growing and growing. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Miller and Mrs Jagjivan for making this event possible and amazing!"

Aryan Babhanian 10YSP 2023



During November we celebrated Diwali and our student house leaders had a mind to be kind and chose to make staff members some Diwali cards.

Student house leaders had the privilege of delivering a small chocolate gift with a card to some of their teachers to celebrate Diwali.

Celebrations



UKRAINE

Festive Celebrations

On Saturday 25th November Mrs Frain, Mrs Miller and Ms Denston held our annual Christmas party for our amazing Ukrainian community.

We had a special visit from the naughty elf who played lots of games and handed out gifts to the children.

It was a fantastic morning with lots of food and laughter and the pictures speak for themselves!



Our Ukrainian community enjoying our annual Christmas Party

Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors

The Autumn term has been a busy one for our Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors and the Teaching to Transform Programme.

For Black History Month in October, the students created and presented an impressive assembly entitled 'Saluting our Sisters', celebrating Black women and their positive impact on British society. The assembly looked at the importance of public celebration and tribute to the people who make up our history, from the portrait of Baroness Doreen Lawrence unveiled in the National Portrait Gallery earlier this year, to the statue of pioneering headteacher Betty Campbell MBE, Wales's first black headteacher, and a champion of equality and diversity. The statue of Betty, unveiled in Cardiff in 2021, is the first statue of a woman erected in Wales.

Our student ambassadors are currently working with other Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors across the LIFE MAT on the campaign by Leicester Citizens to provide racial justice in education. At present, they are carrying out a Listening Campaign which will inform the actions we take forward to the wider campaign. So far, the ambassadors are looking at the experience of black and racially minoritized students in terms of the curriculum delivered, and the experience of micro-aggressions in the school environment. It is wonderful to see our young people pioneering the approach to race equity in education, which we hope will have a national impact as well as a local one.

Baroness Doreen Lawrence



Betty Campbell MBE



Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors



RealLife Curriculum

The exciting curriculum pathway for students at Life MAT schools



As we move towards the end of a very busy term for our new Year 7 students, we wanted to take the opportunity to express how pleased we have been and how well the children have settled in. There have been so many changes for our new students and the majority have adapted well to the REAL LIFE way of learning, and have all made good progress developing their skills using their iPads and taking an active part in CREW time every day.

As well as regular Goal Setting/ Review and getting to grips with Personalised Learning, Year 7 students have also undertaken their first Mission 'This is Me!'. During this Mission, they have been investigating how the different topics and subjects they are studying can be related to them.

Year 8 students have been working on their fourth Mission 'Everyone Matters'. Here, students have been investigating Migration in both CREW and through milestone assignments in their subjects. In this work, we have been encouraging students to look beyond the headlines to gain a balanced view about this very topical issue.

Students in both year groups are now busy getting ready for their Showcase exhibition which takes place on Thursday 14th December between 3.30 and

5.30pm. During the evening students will have the opportunity to show their guests the Mission work they have been doing in their different subjects, showing not only what they have done, but also talking about how they have gone about producing their final showcase pieces.

Students in our year 9 pioneer group have recently spent the day working with engineering staff from Leicester college to help with the design of the wind turbines. They used the idea that Dyson use by making a mock up out of recycled cardboard. The photographs show the students in action and a successful day was had by all.

Shane Payne from Leicester College said,

"I would like to thank you for allowing me to come over to the school and see the class working on their turbine ideas. It was fascinating to watch them trying to solve the problem of getting the turbine blades to turn. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and Mr Hayes has certainly got the students to understand about the wider discussions around why wind power is becoming important. I look forwards to working with the class again and bringing them to our facilities when they open."

Our Year 10 and 11 students have continued to follow their CREW programme and their weekly goals. Students have been supported by their CREW leader to reflect on their progress this term and set personalised learning goals. Our students have also taken part in their first mini mission 'Mission Joy' that allows students to explore how our learning spaces impact on our 'joy' and how creating positive environmental aesthetics can help learning, develop school morals and values and improve mental health. Winning students from each CREW group will be delivering their pitches to the real life team. We look forward to hearing their ideas!



Countesthorpe Academy Empowers Students with Personalised Tech: iPads and Chromebooks Rolled Out

Countesthorpe Academy has taken a significant stride forward by enhancing the learning experience of its students, with the introduction of personalised one-to-one devices in Years 7 to 11. This strategic initiative aims to empower students with tailored technology, fostering a dynamic educational environment.

The Academy has carefully curated a tech-driven approach by deploying iPads for Years 7 to 9 and Chromebooks for Years 10 and 11, aligning the devices with specific educational objectives for each age group.

iPads Enriching the REAL LIFE Curriculum

Years 7 to 9 students are now equipped with iPads and tough keyboard track pad cases, enhancing their access to resources and interactive tools tailored to the REAL LIFE curriculum. These versatile devices serve as invaluable companions, seamlessly integrating into various subjects and enabling engaging, hands-on learning experiences. From science experiments to immersive history simulations, these iPads are revolutionising how students engage with their studies.

Mr Jon Hayes, Head of the REAL LIFE Curriculum at Countesthorpe Academy, highlighted the transformative impact, stating, **"The integration of iPads into our REAL LIFE curriculum has ignited a new wave of enthusiasm among our students. They're not just learning about subjects; they're experiencing them first-hand. Using the range of apps provided, our students are able to learn and work in a way that is new, but also familiar, ensuring they are able to achieve and succeed."**

Chromebooks Catering to CREW Time and Advanced ICT

For Years 10 and 11, the introduction of Chromebooks has been strategic, providing a dedicated tool for CREW (Collaboration, Reflection, Enrichment, and Wonderful Work) time. Additionally, these devices serve to supplement the specialised ICT curriculum, empowering students with the necessary tools and resources to delve deeper into advanced concepts and practical applications.

Mrs Aitcheson, Headteacher, emphasised the significance of Chromebooks, stating, **"Our aim is to equip our Year 10 and 11 students with the right tools to excel not just academically but also in their personal growth. Chromebooks provide our students studying GCSE courses with devices that serve as a gateway to our CREW initiatives but also allow us to invest and enhance our specialised ICT provision. This combination of CREW focused devices with a commitment to delivering the tools needed to succeed at GCSE level ensure that our students are given the best chances of success."**

Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders

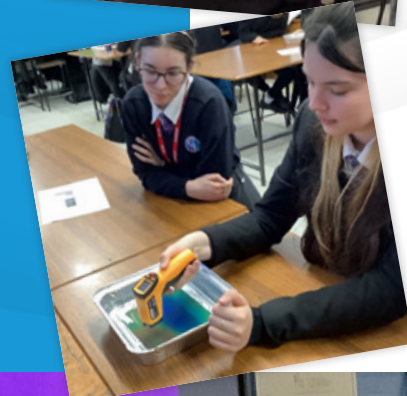
The roll-out of personalised devices marks a significant milestone in Countesthorpe Academy's commitment to providing a holistic education that prepares students for the challenges of tomorrow. By tailoring the devices to the specific needs of each year group, the Academy continues to foster an environment that nurtures innovation, collaboration, and individualised learning.

This strategic investment in technology aligns with the Academy's vision to empower students to become adaptive, critical thinkers, ready to embrace the rapidly evolving digital landscape and excel in their future endeavours. With this technological leap, Countesthorpe Academy cements its position as a trailblazer in modern education.





Careers in Space



Engaging our students with learning about possible career opportunities in science is important and with our Triple science students beginning their units in Waves and Space, it was an ideal time to invite in Mrs Coulson who works as a Space Advocate for the National Space Centre in Leicester. Her outreach project called 'Space to Learn' means we can enjoy some of the work of the Space Centre in school.

This session was all about looking out into space and how we use waves to communicate and learn about space. We made our own refracting telescope to magnify objects and a gravitational well to model astronomical bodies motion when in a gravitational field. We used the thermal imaging camera to see invisible footprints and thermal reactive paper to show changes in temperature. Mrs Coulson also brought in some space rock from the Moon, a meteorite.

We are very grateful for the National Space Centre providing this free workshop for us.



SCIENCE CLUB

During this term our KS3 Science club have been busy having lots of fun completing our witchcraft and wizardry activities, which included potion making, levitation, invisibility cloaks and making 3D holograms. We also managed to squeeze in an eyeball dissection for Halloween, exploring how different metal salts create different coloured flames for bonfire night and a catapult building competition. Just enough time left for a few Christmas themed activities before the end of term!

Thank you to our year 10 Science ambassadors, Amy, Eva and Jayden for helping out our younger students. New students are always welcome.

Science club takes place after school on a Friday, 3-4pm, in 47Sc for KS3 students - contact Dr Francis for more information cfrancis@clcc.college.



Chemistry Marathon

Over the past half term, Triple science students have been completing a marathon of Chemistry practical experiments with Mrs Fox.

We have completed our investigation into factors affecting the rate of a chemical reaction, how catalysts work, chromatography, testing for gases, flame test for metal ions, identifying metal hydroxide precipitates formed with sodium hydroxide, testing for anions that include metal carbonates, metal halides and metal sulphates. All students have shown maturity and dedication to the practical experiments, often having to be resilient when the results are not clear and work collaboratively when there is much to do during the practical.

It is truly inspiring to see these students stepping confidently into their future. Well done everyone!



Top of the Bench Competition

During the Royal Society for Chemistry's Chemistry week, from the 5th-11th November, a group of students in year 9-11 took part in the first round of the Top of the Bench competition.

Students had to complete an online quiz in pairs to demonstrate their Chemistry knowledge. All of our students showed great resilience and teamwork. Our highest scoring pair of year 9s and pair containing one year 10 and one year 11 had their scores added together to give an overall school score. This score gave us joint second place in the Leicestershire region so the winning group will go through to the next round of the competition based at the University of Derby, where they will compete against other regional winners. Well done to all of the students that took part. Particular congratulations to Filip, Nathan, Jayden and Aspen who were our high scoring team, good luck to them in the next round!

Kew Gardens



At the end of September, while the weather was still warm, Year 9 and year 13 Biology Students travelled to the iconic Kew Gardens in London.



If you've never been, Kew Gardens houses the 'largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world'.

Founded in 1840, from the exotic garden at Kew Park in Middlesex, England, its living collections include more than 30,000 different kinds of plants, while the herbarium, which is one of the largest in the world, has over seven million preserved plant specimens. The library contains more than 750,000 volumes, and the illustrations collection contains more than 175,000 prints and drawings of plants.



We set off to investigate the 330 acre site with our spot the picture quiz to help us cover the park. Our visit was enhanced by the Garden's staff who delivered a fascinating insight in to plant adaptations as we took measurements of humidity, leaf dimensions, temperature and light intensity. We learnt about adaptations of plants in different environments and experienced the difference climates that are created in these wonderful glasshouses.

Towards the end of the day we met back at the children's play area and let off some steam in the climbing section and the sand pit slides. Thanks to all the staff that came with us and made the day so enjoyable.

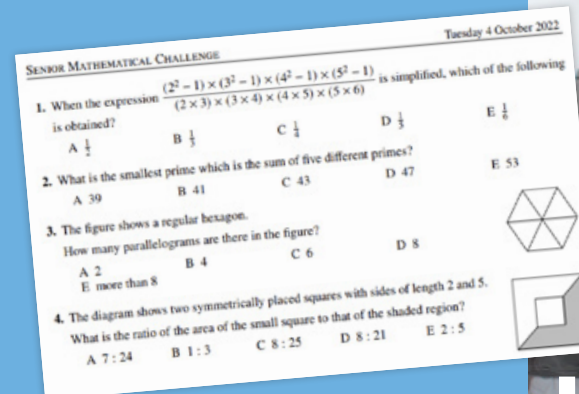


Science





Student success



UKMT SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

18 of our keen A level Maths Students signed up to take part in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge competition. All candidates were given 25 questions and start with 25 marks. They are then awarded 0 marks for each question left unanswered; 4 marks are awarded for each correct answer but 1 mark is deducted for each incorrect answer (to discourage guessing). The grade boundaries were:

BRONZE 49+ SILVER 64+ GOLD 80+
...which is quite a challenge!

However, they still managed to produce some fantastic results:

Year 13

Michael was awarded Best in School, missing out to Gold by only 1 mark! - well done Michael!

Year 12

Isobel was awarded Best in Year being the only Year 12 with a Silver award - well done Isobel!

SILVER

Amelie Birch
Josh Pick
Michael Dean

BRONZE

Aryan Bhath
Jake Gregory
Maisy Smith

SILVER

Isobel Hayes



BRONZE

Alfie Bradley
Dylan Chandler
Harrison Davis
Jolyon Wennington

Following on from our student success during the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge in October, participants were awarded with a certificate as well as a faculty branded ruler and pen!

Up next will be the Intermediate Maths Challenge, which will take place at the start of February and will allow students in Year 9-11 to take part.

The UKMT has been running competitions since 2003 and it is an excellent extracurricular activity which aims to advance students education in Mathematics.

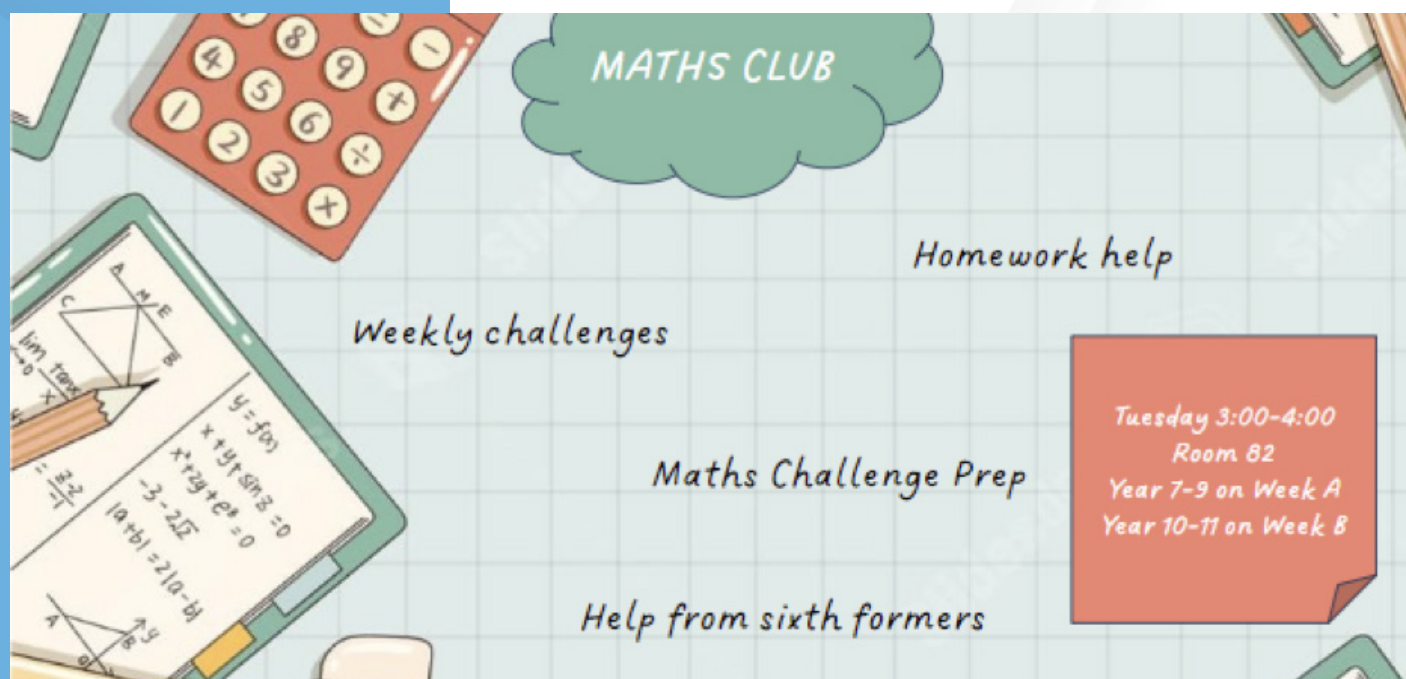
The Intermediate Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple choice test which involves mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

If students excel in the competition, they qualify to participate in additional challenges!

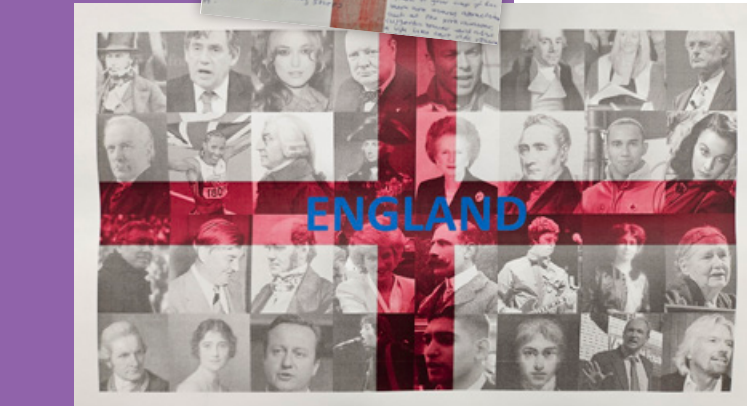
Six of our amazing HIVE Sixth Form Ambassadors have volunteered to support students in all year groups during lessons from Year 7 to Year 12. They have been actively involved in providing invaluable support when students need help. Our thanks go to Hollie, Chloe, Amelie, Jack Matthew and Michael

Also, our awesome Maths Ambassadors have been developing resources to create an exciting offer, after-school, every Monday, 3-4pm to develop the love of Mathematics with a competitive theme as well as providing an opportunity to support students with their Maths.

This is in addition to our normal after-school support sessions.



GCSE



Year 7 have been researching poetry and presenting in their own way.

There has been some fantastic homework from KS3.

Y7 are creating their own 'New World', thinking about what their own New World would consist of and how they would make it sustainable.

Y8 have been reading Refugee Boy as a class. Homework was to design a movie poster and information leaflets about what it would be like for a refugee to come to England and what they could expect to experience.



Calling all Year 7 & 8!
Did you know there is an app that will help you improve your literacy and vocabulary skills?

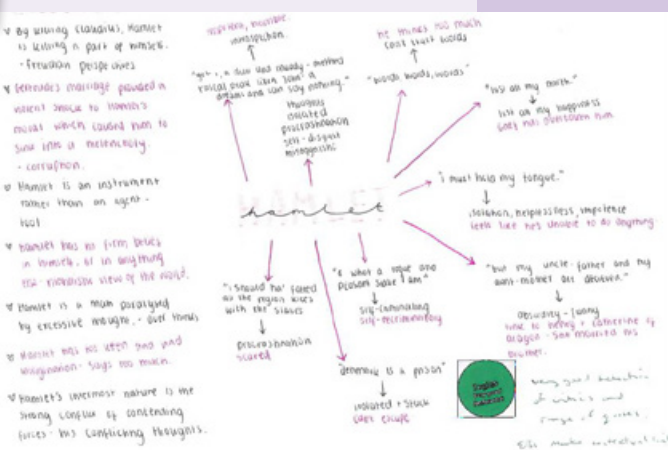
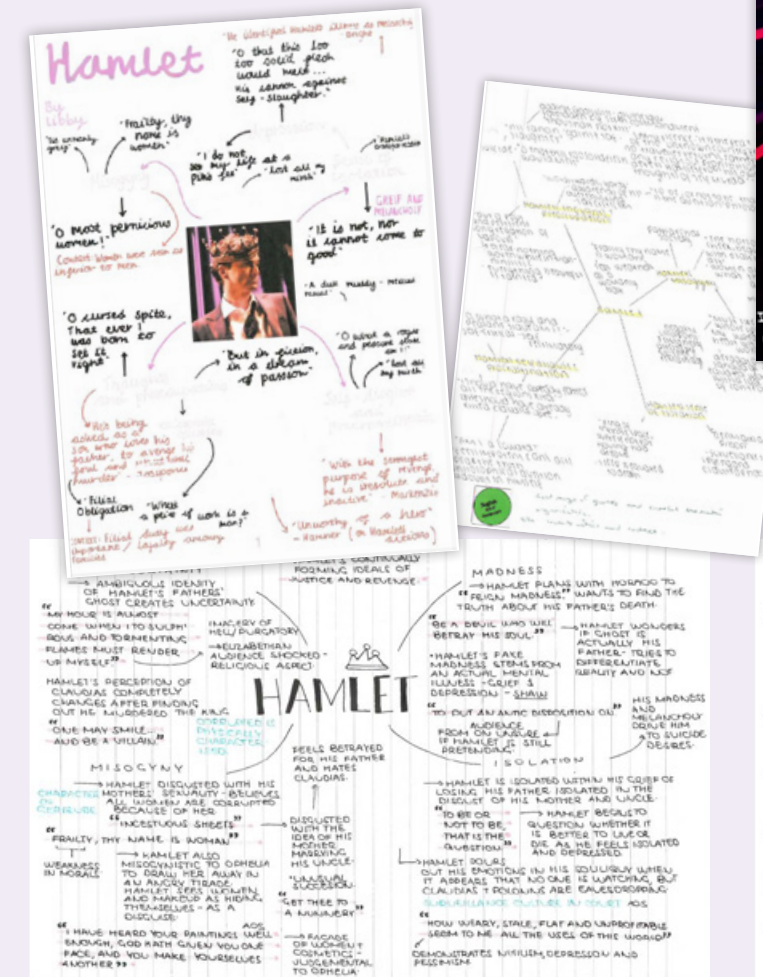
On all devices, there is an app called Bedrock. The work blocks are tailored to each individual user. Bedrock can be used as part of the literacy goal in Crew time. There is a word of the week and certificates that can be printed. House points will be award to the highest Crew and individual user!



Movie Poster by Ava H (Yr9)



Year 13 English Literature students have been studying Hamlet and creating mind-maps containing critical perspectives, thematically linked quotations, and contextual links.





University of Leicester

This has been a busy but exciting half term for our year 7 French students. They have been putting together their Showcase display which brings together all the fantastic work they have been doing on the theme of Tout sur moi (Everything about me). The students have used their i-Pads to independently research new ideas, key phrases and vocabulary relating to their hobbies and interests, family, and personality. They have all produced some beautiful displays which show off how much French they have learnt this term. We are proud of their achievements.

Our year 8 students have been learning about life in other French-speaking countries and regions. They have learnt about the culture, gastronomy, climate, and economy of the Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. This work has enabled them to prepare a Showcase display about a French speaking country of their choice. The students have enjoyed carrying out research into the way of life and culture of Francophone countries and regions such as Burundi, Québec, Togo, and Nouvelle Calédonie. We have been impressed by their resilience and hard work in lessons.

On 21st November, we took a group of year 9 and 11 students to the School of Modern Languages at the University of Leicester. During the day the students went on a guided tour of the campus and attended talks about university life and study choices after GCSE such as A-levels, T-levels, BTECs and apprenticeships. They also participated in a question/answer session in Spanish whereby they interviewed one another about their name, age, where they live and their hobbies. The students enjoyed the experience as they learnt a lot about career paths and the decisions they need to make regarding their next steps. The students behaved impeccably and were excellent ambassadors for the Academy.



Montserrat Volcano

As part of their Tectonics Unit in Geography, Year 8 students made models of volcanoes to help them understand the internal structure of Volcanoes and the hazards associated with them.

They have linked their work to their current Mission 'Everyone Matters!'. Having studied the Chances Peak eruption on the island of Montserrat, students investigated the issue of forced migration and wrote a newspaper report about the issue in readiness for their Showcase on 14th December.





De Montfort University visit

This term our Year 12 & 13 A level Media students enjoyed a fantastic day experiencing life as media undergraduates at De Montfort University.

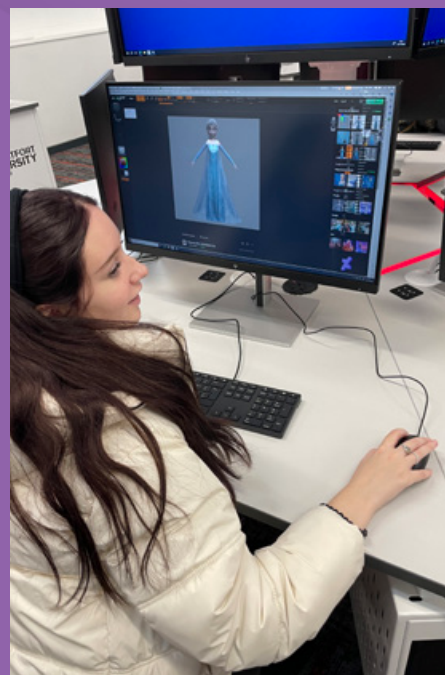
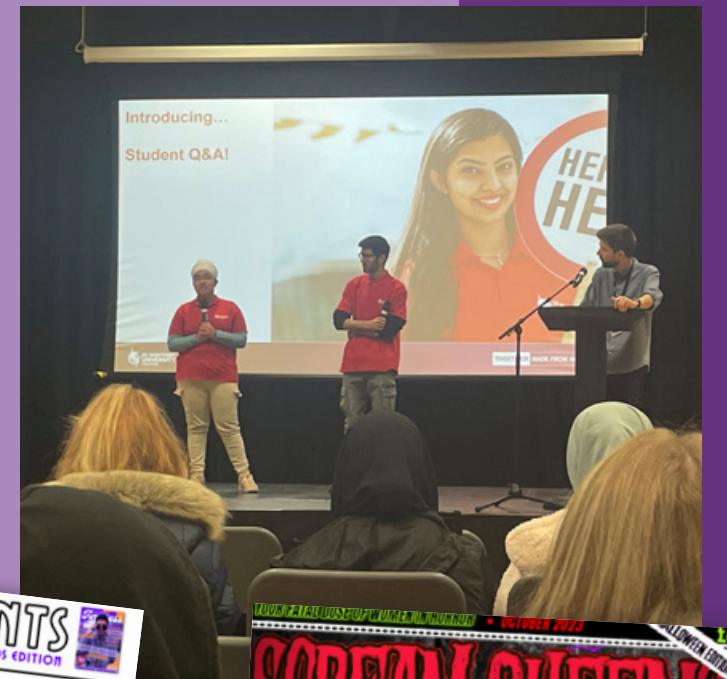
The day commenced with an insightful overview about life at university, after which they had a fascinating experience at the futures fair exploring the various aspects of the media and design courses available. This was followed by practical sessions, firstly applying chromakey green screen technology for weather presentations and simulations before delving into 3D graphic design; digitally modelling and sculpting animals using the high-tech university facilities. Our student's produced some interesting models and developed their skills in this complex and challenging design process.

This diverse and hands-on opportunity has played a crucial role in shaping our students understanding and skills in the field of media and design and giving a valuable insight into higher education.

An altogether captivating and enriching day.



Leah Coopers
SCREAM QUEENS
CLICK HERE



'Polite Society' reviews

Film title: **Polite Society**

Rate this film out of five: ★★★★★

My review (no more than 300 words):

At my experience in watching 'Polite Society' I found it enjoyable, comedic and meaningful. This is because while I was watching it, I realised the true meaning of this film was bonded sisterhood and empowerment of women from South Asian backgrounds. Ria was clearly worried of losing her older sister Lena due to her engagement, so she tries to find reasons to break the engagement by finding awful things about Salim. Even though the plot twist in the film completely flabbergasted me, when we find out that Salim's mother wants to clone herself in Lena's body as a vessel as Lena has a high fertility percentage. Ria uses her martial arts skills as an advantage to fight of Salim's mother and her evil plans put towards her sister. By the end of the film, the sisters rebonded and this significantly highlights the importance of sisterhood. This comedic action film certainly interested and intrigued me and i would definitely watch this film again.

Film title: **Polite Society**

Rate this film out of five: ★★★★★

My review (no more than 300 words):

Polite Society is a thought-provoking movie about female empowerment and our ability to be as violent and powerful as any man. It features Priya Kansara as the lead role Ria. She is a 16-year-old Pakistani British girl clone. This action-comedy film immediately grasped me after the first speech. The repetition of swear words is enough to gain the attention of any teenager; summing up the movie as a whole. The chaos and rude humor featured in the movie is an exaggerated representation of a 16-year-olds life. This message of sisterhood and the distorted traditional Asian life is important for every young person to experience.

I enjoyed this movie. From the fighting to the comedy, I enjoyed every minute of it! However, the confusing plot was hard to keep track of and I increasingly struggled to understand the genre of the movie. But despite these flaws, as a whole I enjoyed it. I have taken away the message female empowerment and I now want to learn martial arts!

I recommend this movie to anyone wanting to be educated on periods, weddings and martial arts! The costumes are all gorgeous, and the addition of comedy really makes the movie a must watch.

INTO FILM FESTIVAL
7-24 NOV 2023

INTO FILM

Textiles

Inspired blankets



Year 8 blanket designs



Our Year 8's had to design 9 squares based on the RSPCA as their inspiration. They were required to implement a variety of techniques using all recycled fabric.

Drama



Year 11 GCSE Drama students performed their examination piece 'Seeing Red' to an appreciative audience of friends and family.



Seeing Red

The piece was a modernised version of Little Red Riding Hood.

Students created the piece and, whilst some students performed for their assessment, others designed costume, hair and make-up and music.



Year 11 GCSE Drama students



Girls Football



Wednesday 25th October 2023, Savannah represented England U16s at St. George's Park against Republic of Ireland!!

Savannah has been attending an International Fixture Camp with the England U16s, which is an outstanding achievement, and we are extremely proud of her. The game was wonderful to watch, and Savannah displayed a brilliant performance with England securing a 7-0 win!

We wish Savannah the best of luck with her football journey this season and we look forward to watching her again soon.

Savannah for England!

Earlier in the season the year 7 girls football team travelled to Northampton School for Girls to play in the first round of the National Cup. This was the girls first game together and they did not disappoint.

Imogen starting off the scoring as the girls played some great football, which lead to another 6 goals before half time.

The second half the girls showed some great football, and scored another 3 goals. The girls are now through to the next round of the National Cup.

Goal scorers: Imogen (1) India (2) Daisy (4) Matilda (1) Tallulah (1)

In the second round the girls went to Robert Smyth and even in hard conditions the girls played some really good football. With a tight game ending in 3-3 it went to penalties. The girls really composed themselves and Phoebe in goal stepped up to the mark saving two! Seeing us through to round 4.

The girls travelled to Nottingham in the third round to The Beckett School, where they played again some fantastic football. Going into half time with a 4-1 lead the girls were ready to attack again. The final score was 8-1, and we are awaiting to see who we meet in the next round.



We are very pleased to give the following update on how the girls have performed so far in the EFL LCFC tournament.

We took 2 teams and both teams played 7 games each. Team 1 lost 1, drew 2 and won 4. Team 2 lost 4, drew 2 and won 1.

All the girls played some great football and showed respect to each other and the opposing teams. Lola W won the golden boot, scoring the most goals during the tournament. She was one of 4 who won this award.

Team 1 came 2nd out of the 8 teams and team 2 came 5th. All the girls received a medal for their participation and team 1 won tickets to the LCWFC WSL game on Sunday against Tottenham.

In addition, the same team won last week too in the National Cup Round 3 vs West Bridgeford School 1-0. It was a very tight game going to extra time, with Lola W scoring to take us through to the next round. We have Thomas Estley in the next round at home.



Dance

Our dance students have also been working extremely hard to prepare for the Performance Faculty showcase taking place on Tuesday 6th December.

Students have continued to dedicate themselves to rehearsing both in lessons and at our after-school dance club, where over 30 students attend every single week! Our showcase demonstrates the talents of students from Year 7 to Year 13 and showcases a range of different dance styles.

A handful of dance students took part in our National Dance Competition auditions and both Mrs Hunt and Mrs Howden were really impressed. Students will now be preparing for 'The Big Dance Off' national competition in February where we will be entering 2 dance teams. We wish them the best of luck!

This year our examination dance groups have been focusing on the work of Kate Prince following a fantastic trip to London see her work earlier on in the year. Her interpretation of 'A Message in a Bottle' really helps to capture the choreographer's intention of raising awareness on the refugee crisis.

Running & Fitness Club's Litter-pick Run!

On Wednesday 22nd November newly named Running and Fitness Club did their annual litter-pick-run.

Concentrated around the Academy we collected three bags of rubbish, including cans, bottles, crisp packets and lots of bottle tops. We even gave the pond a clean out and put back the mammal walk way, so that frogs, hedgehogs and any other insect or mammal that falls in can walk out easily.

Our newly named club aims to keep as many students mentally and physically fit through activities like badminton, 5 a side football, cross country running, yoga, pilates, basketball and just good old fashioned chatting (mobiles are banned!). Staff and students are welcome and you don't have to be fit to take part. The club is run by Mrs Weston, Mr Rushton and some fun-loving 6th formers.



HIVE Sixth Form

Taster evening



Tuesday 14th November saw the 2023 Hive Sixth Form taster lessons evening. This is an annual event that gives year 11 students from both Countesthorpe Academy and schools from the surrounding areas the opportunity to learn what to expect from the various qualifications on offer at Hive Sixth Form.

There were a wide variety of activities available that students could get involved in, including practical experiments, demonstrations and further information from the specialist teachers of the different subjects. Current Hive Sixth Form students were on hand to ensure the smooth running of the evening and to help guide students to the relevant subject locations. They were also available to answer any questions and chat about life at Hive Sixth Form. The evening proved to be a great success and is an excellent way for prospective students to understand and get a feel of what to expect from the subjects that they're interested in. The Hive Ambassadors really enjoyed meeting next years Year 12 students!

Written by Hive Ambassadors.



Sixth Form applications now open

Taking the next step
Apply online today

Please speak to Mrs Challinor if you would like more information or help applying.



HIVE Sixth Form
Countesthorpe Academy

www.clcc.college/6th-form



HIVE Sixth Form ASPIRE!

All Hive Sixth Form students are encouraged to be aspirational when looking toward their future choices, but our most able students are invited to join ASPIRE, a peer supported aspirational programme.

Alongside Mrs Challinor, Director of Sixth Form, the programme is peer supported by Joe and Katy in Yr13, both of whom are currently applying to top universities and took part in the programme last year. Each year around 80% of our students apply to universities and around 20% of these are to top third universities. We aim to encourage more of our students to make the most aspirational applications. A top university can offer world class research opportunities and all our Sixth Form students are supported in making the right choices for them, whatever their needs and next steps are! This week's ASPIRE session focused on an introduction to different types of universities and next week we will look at MOOCs. A MOOC is a Massive Open Online Course that you can complete (usually free of charge) to learn about a specific academic area such as 'Artificial Intelligence Ethics' or 'An introduction to Medical Science' and thousands more. Why not take a look at a MOOC for yourself??

FutureLearn: [Online Courses & Degrees from Top Universities](#)

CAREER CHAMPIONS

The Careers Champions programme is an exciting new enrichment activity which provides students with support and information about the path to their future.

It will introduce students to new careers and help with the decision as to what option is for them. The project will aid students in the journey to employment and making informed decisions about their future.

We have recently created a questionnaire to be sent out to Hive Sixth Form students to help discover the most popular career ambitions of our students. This information will be used to set up communities of people who have similar career aspirations. This exciting project gives the young people a chance to liaise, help, and meet others with similar ambitions and hopefully take the next training and career steps. We hope to invite guest speakers, organise trips and have a career fair to help the younger students with their transition into their future career.

Look out for more from us in the next newsletter!

Academic Mentoring

Hive Sixth Form student leaders have begun a programme offering individual academic mentoring sessions to students. They want to share their experiences with younger students and feel that they are perfectly placed to offer advice as they have recently faced the challenges of exams. They aim to create an opportunity for younger students to receive extra academic support. Their goal is to increase students' confidence in navigating course content and preparing for final examinations.

Sixth Form students have been asked to volunteer as academic mentors, allowing them to choose the subjects in which they could assist students in Years 7-11 with their academic struggles. They have now organised a list of mentors and their subject preferences. An email has been sent to students, inviting them to sign up for a mentor who aligns with their subject, target grade, and any other preferences they may have. The mentoring sessions will occur during an agreed CREW time/day, and CREW Leaders will be informed of these arrangements.

The Academic Mentors intend that this will not only positively impact students academically but also serve as a valuable support system for them during challenging times and hope to motivate students who may be struggling or feeling behind, providing them with the encouragement to approach lessons and exams with confidence in their understanding of the material.

Countesthorpe Academy Students - Take a look through your emails if you are interested in having an academic mentor!

Recognition events in December have been about earning more Value Points than Behaviour Points in the window of 9th-29th November. Students have therefore been invited to one of the following trips:

Y9 - Hollywood Bowl on Thursday 14th December

Y10/11 and 6th form - Ninja Warrior on Monday 18th December

Y8 - BOOST trampoline park on Thursday 21st December

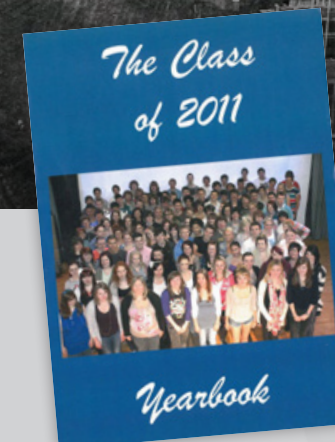
Y8 TRIP IS SOLD OUT! And there are a few spaces left on the other trips!

Students who collect nudge vouchers are also being rewarded with either lunch-time sessions in our popular e-sports arena or selection boxes!

So far this year students have earned 98,261 value points in total, and there have been 1,695 learner of the week nominations.

Recognition & Rewards

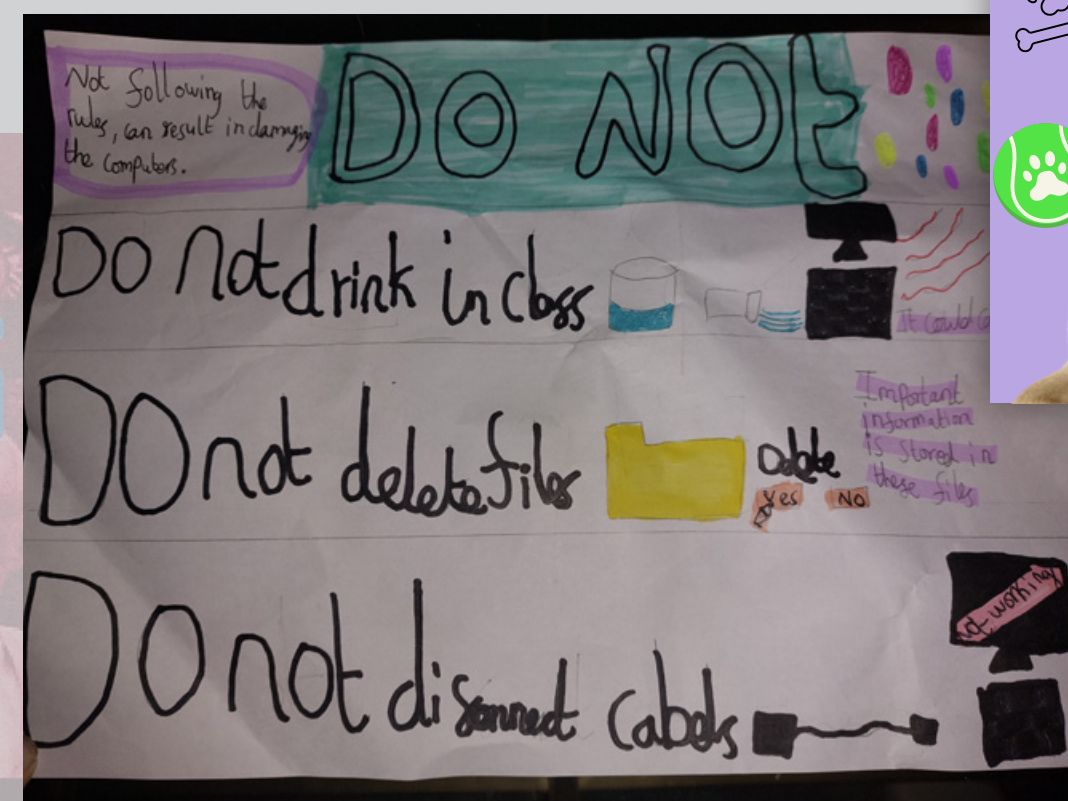
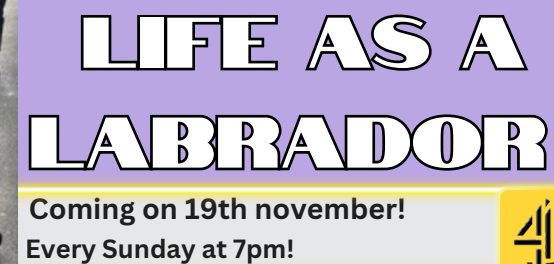
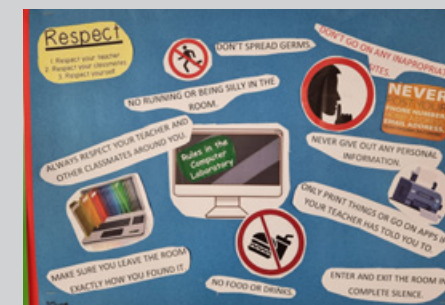
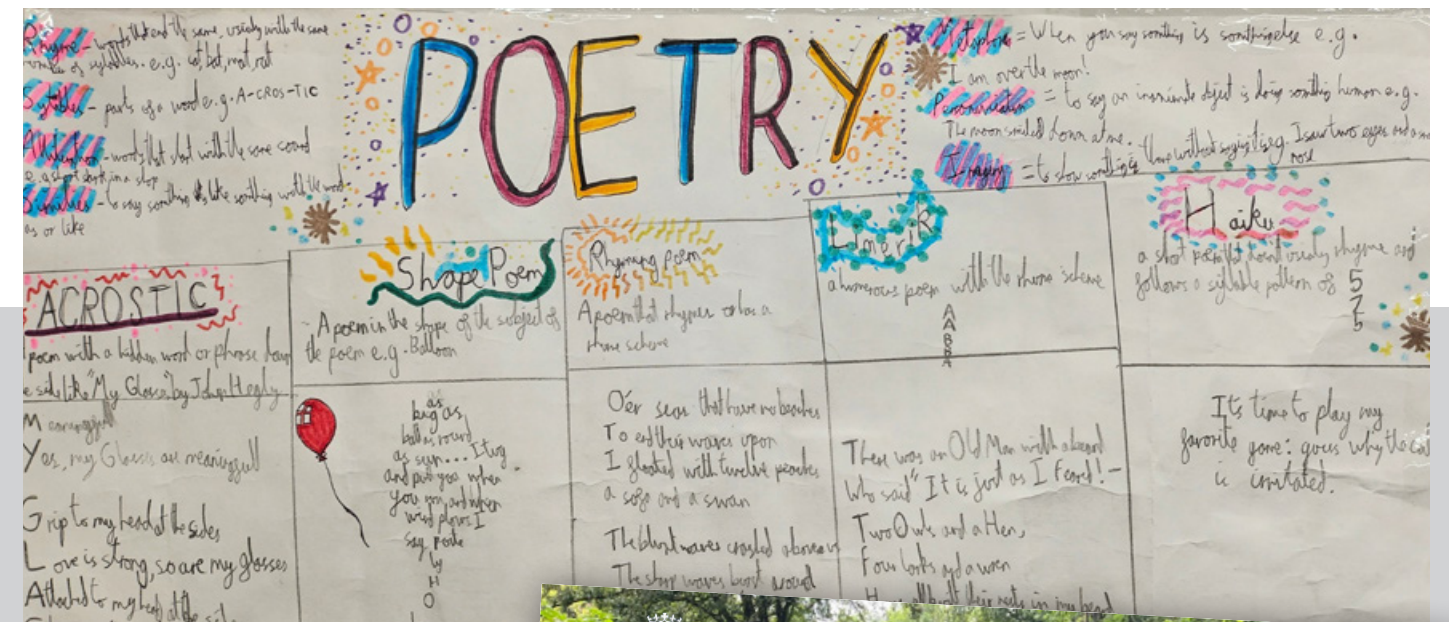
FLASHBACK



Beautiful work



Our students continue to create beautiful work across all year groups and subjects. Here's a small sample of that beautiful work.





Student House Leaders

House Championships

'Winter Warmer' coat donations

This year's House Championship is really beginning to take shape. Brunei House remain dominant, with Wilberforce hot on their heels. This is on the back of a whole host of challenges that have taken place since this year's competition began back in July.

The quality of some the entries for our various House Competitions has been outstanding.

Brunei have been victorious in our Roald Dahl Character competition with 8STK's Lilia creating 'The Vegetarian Vampire'. Brooke (6thLCA) carved a competition winning pumpkin inspired by 'Stranger Things' to help them to maintain top spot.

Defending champions, Hawkins House regularly place well in many competitions. Winners of Careers Day Quiz, and runners-up in many other areas, including the fabulous Black History Month entry from Yasmine in 8TKI. Hawkins will not let their title slip easily.

Lawrence House have had their fair shares of victories too, with 7MLE's Ariana being declared best baker for our MacMillan Coffee Morning fundraising. Alesha (8KRC) spent a huge amount of time to create a digital masterpiece for our Migration Artwork competition, boosted by 1,000 House Points for Lawrence for being the House with the least behaviour points in term 1.

Spencer House have achieved success in our Google Classrooms Banner Competition, to design an advert for our 'Let's Talk' mentoring scheme. The points were awarded to Austin in 7PCH for his effort. Lily-Rose (also in 7PCH) won our Black History Month Poetry competition.

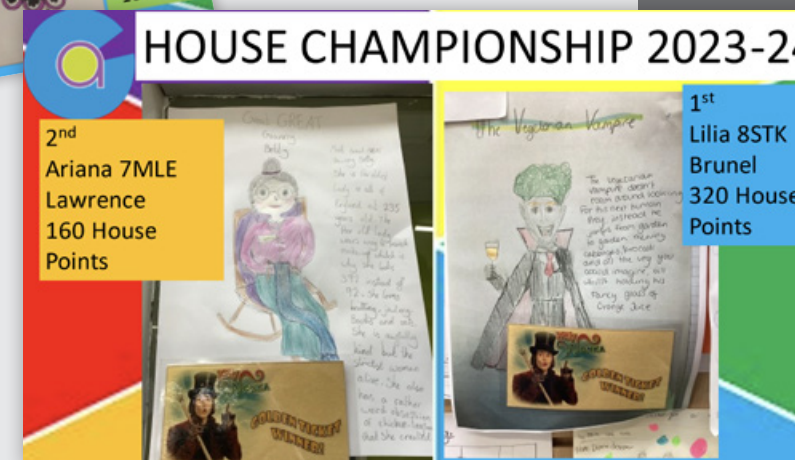
Turing continue to be the House that support our Crisp Packet Recycling competition, wrapping another 320 House Points, mostly due to 8SDE. Despite being currently bottom in the standings, the large number of House Points being collected from 'Value Point' and 'Learner of the Week' nominations breeds encouragement for the former champions to mount a charge for the title once again.

Wilberforce took 1,000 House Points for the best attendance in Term 1, with Alice in 7KFR taking first place in our Rangoli competition. Wilberforces efforts in our Remembrance competition, and Black History Month Quiz winners have added more points to the in-form House.

Aside from the competitive nature of the House Championship, Student House Leaders have been busy organising and supporting other initiatives and events, some of which have been documented in other parts of this magazine. Navaratri celebrations, Halloween Displays, Diwali displays, 'Winter Warmer' coat donations, food-bank collections and our Remembrance Poppy Field are all attributed to the work our House Leaders do. They deserve huge amount of credit for their selfless service to the school.

Our House System continues to grow and develop. You can now access updates on all-things House through our school website www.clcc.college/houses

TOTAL...	Brunei	Hawkins	Lawrence	Spencer	Turing	Wilberforce
	7125	5535	5345	4585	4340	6220
Term 6 2022-2023						
Recognition in Term 6	400	500	175	325	400	175
Teddy Bears Picnic Quiz	80	320	20	40	160	10
Citizenship Competition	40	160	40	80	40	320
Accelerated Reader	20	320	40	10	80	160
Seaside Quiz	320	80	160	80	20	10
Bottle Art	0	320	0	0	160	80
Sports Day	340	140	190	220	185	260
Term 6 Behaviour	800	100	1000	600	200	400
Crisp Packets	40	80	20	160	320	10
Term 1 2023-24						
Play your cards right	500	145	260	330	280	410
Recognition in Term 1	475	800	550	675	675	800
Roald Dahl Book Covers Quiz	320	80	40	20	160	10
My House	320	40	80	0	0	160
Roald Dahl Characters	320	40	160	20	10	80
MacMillan Bakers and Fakers	80	160	160	80	80	80
BHM Inspirational Women Quiz	160	80	40	20	10	320
Term 1 behaviour	800	600	1000	200	100	400
Term 1 attendance	800	100	200	600	400	1000
Lets talk banners	40	80	20	320	0	160
Crisp Packets- Term 1	10	40	160	20	320	80
Term 2 2023-24						
Term 2 Recognition	600	450	450	325	600	525
BHM Poems	80	160	20	320	0	40
Remembrance	160	160	40	0	40	320
Careers Day Quiz	80	320	160	20	40	10
Pumpkin Carving	320	20	160	40	10	80
Accelerated reader prize draw	0	0	0	0	50	0
Migration Art	0	80	160	0	0	0
Rangoli Art	20	160	40	80	0	320



News from the Library



January 2024 Examination Timetable

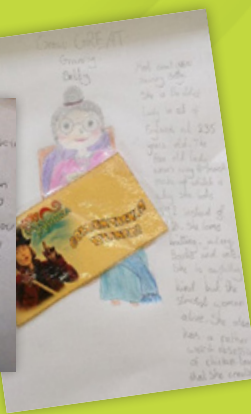
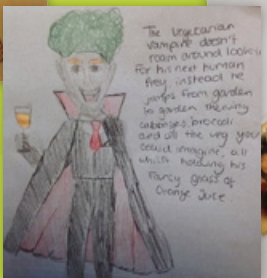
Day	Date	Time	End Time	Exam	Year	Room	Length in Mins
Tues	9th January	09:00	09:40	Applied Science - U1 Chemistry	12	5	40
Tues	9th January	13:30	14:10	Applied Science -U1 Physics	12	5	40
Wed	10th January	13:30	14:10	Applied Science - U1 Biology	12	5	40
Thurs	11th January	09:00	10:30	PE Unit 1 Body systems	13	meeting room	90
Fri	12th January	09:00	10:30	Health & Social Care - Unit 1	13	meeting room	90
Fri	12th January	13:00	14:30	IT Unit 2 Global Information	13	5	90
Mon	15th January	09:00	10:30	Health & Social Care - Unit 2	13	8	90
Fri	19th January	09:00	11:15	Applied Science Unit 3	13	8	135



Roald Dahl Character Comp

To celebrate Roald Dahl Day the library had a design your own Roald Dahl Character.

There were so many entries and 7 lucky winners were given a golden ticket to exchange for a bar of chocolate in the library. The English department was also given 8 golden tickets to give out on the day to students and they could exchange them for a Marvellous Creation Chocolate Bar in the library.



LGBTQIA+ Book Club

As part of the work by the LGBTQIA+ community meetings I am pleased to invite you to the first LGBTQIA+ book club.

This will be a dedicated time and space for members of the LIFE MAT LGBTQIA+ community and their allies to meet informally and discuss a range of books with LGBTQIA+ themes. The first book club will be at **Braunstone Frith Primary Academy on Thursday 14th December 4pm - 5pm**. While an online meeting would remove the barrier of travelling, I am sure you will agree that the purpose of creating a safe space based on connections between people would be lost behind a screen. We can also share Christmas sweet treats if we meet in person!

The first of the books chosen is Glitter Boy, a heartwarming and inclusive story about a boy who struggles to assert his identity and sexuality in the face of opposition from school bullies and his own father.

It would be wonderful to make the book club a success. If you would like to talk further before deciding if you would like to attend or would just like more information then please feel free to contact me at Braunstone Frith or via email ebooth@braunstonefrith.org.uk

Happy reading!

CLICK HERE



Book Buzz Reading Programme

Our year 8 students have been given the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 16 titles as part of the Bookbuzz reading programme during their library lesson.

Bookbuzz is a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13-year-olds. The books are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.



Check out the new sections in the library



Our reading interventions are well up and running. We have 38 sixth formers who read with a student in key stage three once a week. This really makes a difference to our students and we are enormously grateful for our sixth formers who give up their time to do this each week.

Most students have finished this term's texts which are 'Race to the Frozen North' and 'The Cell'. Our sixth formers have handed out lots of postcards this term for excellent reading.

The LIFE MAT have been working alongside literacy consultant Jo Puffick. Jo has been working with us to develop innovative reading strategies here at Countesthorpe. Here we have 7MLE with Mrs Lowe using visualisation to show their understanding of a text through drawing.

Nurture Sessions

Students in the den have been looking at how to develop organisation skills this half term. This has included how to use the iPads to use email, calendar and how to organise our homework in the most efficient way. Students have created some lovely pieces of art during bonfire night to support our work on how art can make us feel calmer and to help us self-regulate.



We have also set up our 'Christmas Card Tree' in the library. We have decorated gift tags for students to purchase, write a message and hang on the tree (suggested donation £1 - all student donations to go to Mind).

Selection of tags created by students in the den.



Our premises



I'm really pleased how the team have responded to the changes I have brought in. They've been excellent in adapting and additional training has been put in place and will continue.

It's been a little hectic these few months but were looking forward to the New Year after a refurb to the Premises Office next week to give us a more organized space and are the implementation of MAT-wide Compliance software which will help us with the administration of lots of the things we have to do.

Mr Pennington Premises Manager



Are you looking for facilities to hire?



CLICK HERE

We welcome enquiries about private use of our facilities.

Please head over to our SchoolHire portal (see QR code) to see a full list of our facilities and charges.

Please use the messaging feature to speak to one of our team who will be happy to help!

<https://schoolhire.co.uk/leicester/countesthorpe-academy>





Careers Day

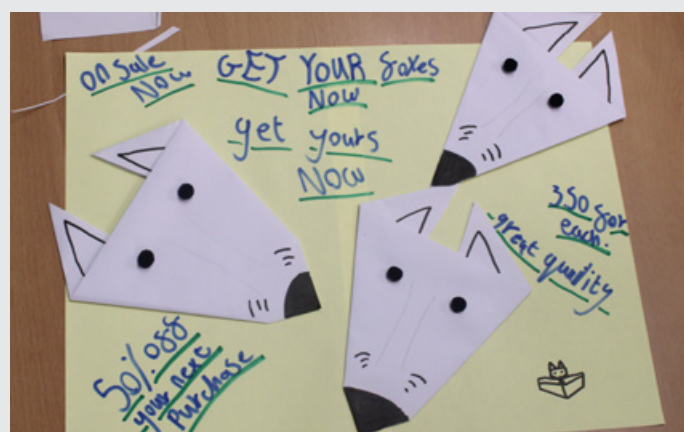
On 3rd November 2023 Countesthorpe Academy held its annual careers day, this is an amazing event where students get to practice a variety of skills whilst focusing on their future.

Our year 7 students took part in an enterprise activity where they designed and produced paper foxes, then pitched their idea to the rest of their tutor group. This activity provided students with an idea of how a business idea goes through the production process all the way from design, to manufacture and sales.

Year 8 students took part in a food challenge activity learning about the production processes of food and the various job roles involved throughout the process, whilst year 9 completed an employment skills workshop.

Work experience was launched to year 10, and year 11 students completed their PS16 applications, so a real future's focus for key stage 4 students.

Over in HIVE Sixth Form year 12 students attended a trip to De Monfort University which provided a taste of university life. Year 13 participated in Lions Lair which is an enterprise activity with a goal of getting students to be creative and test their transferable skills by pitching a business idea to external visitors. On the judging panel were Carl Miffin Financial Partner and Mrs Barford a local entrepreneur and Nathan Smith who works for Under Armour and kindly donated the prizes of either a pair of Under Armour Trainers or £100 towards Under Armour Clothing, to the winning team!



Employer Opportunity

Would you like to help inspire our students?

On Wednesday 7th February 2024, the Year 11 cohort of approximately 220 students will individually have a short mock interview with a real-life employer to prepare them for future interviews.

We are inviting a variety of local employers to join us on the day. Timings of the day are to be confirmed but will be around 09:30-12:30.

If this is something that you would like to be involved with, please email: careers@clcc.college



Apprenticeships



Further Education



University



+ Lots more!

Work Experience Reminder

All students in Year 10 and Year 12 will take part in work experience from Monday 24th June to Wednesday 26th June 2024.

Students will develop their communication skills by sourcing their own work experience placement and adding the information onto the Unifrog Placement Tool. Students should find a placement and have the employer agree in principle by **Friday 12th January 2024**. The four stage Unifrog process which includes: Student Initial Form, Employer Initial Form, Parent/Guardian Agreement and School Permission needs to be completed by **Monday 26th February 2024**.

For more information, please refer to the work experience programme letter and self-placement form.

Safeguarding & Well-being

As Christmas approaches, the adverts on the television show an idealised version of the festive period; lots of food, family together, all getting along and lots of presents. We know that for most of us that is not always the case. Christmas can be a wonderful, magical time for families. It can also be a time of stress, worry and arguments. At the Academy we would like to offer some advice and highlight areas of support to help you all have a safe and merry Christmas.



**INTERNET
MATTERS
Pre-teens
11-13
HERE**



**INTERNET
MATTERS
Teens 14+
HERE**



**NHS - Five
Ways to
Well-Being
HERE**



**MIND
Supporting
young
people
HERE**



**KOOTH
Online
counselling
HERE**



**WINSTONS
WISH for
grieving
children
HERE**

Mobile Phones Online Gaming and Social Media

Many young people will get new devices this Christmas. Please remember that as parents, we pay for the 'phone and the contract – we can and should be checking 'phones regularly.

Many people enjoy scrolling through videos, playing games or watching programmes on their mobile 'phones. Young people in particular have difficulty in regulating their use. Please ensure that 'phones are downstairs when it is time for bed. We know from experience that the temptation to carry on using the 'phone is too great for many and do not get a good night's sleep. It is also the time when their usage is not monitored, putting children at greater risk of online abuse.

The age for having a social media account is 13 years old. It is important that their activity is monitored. This academic year, we have already dealt with online bullying, but also the potential online grooming of young children – on this occasion, fortunately we were able to intervene before it was too late, next time we may not be so lucky! Please speak to your children about who they 'add' as friends and talk to, whether it is via social media or via online gaming.

I wish you all a safe, merry and peaceful Christmas.
Best wishes, Damian Thurston (Deputy Headteacher/DSL)

The following websites may be of help:

Internet advice for parents of children aged 11-13:
Pre-teens (11-13) online safety advice | Internet Matters

Internet advice for parents of children aged 14+:
Teens 14+ online safety advice | Internet Matters

Mental Health

We all need to look after our mental health. Since the COVID pandemic we have seen a marked rise in the number of children with increased levels of anxiety as well as other mental health issues. We are aware that Child and Adult Mental Health Services are completely overwhelmed and it now appears that there is a waiting list of approximately 18 months in the majority of cases. If you or your child needs support with mental health over the Christmas period, please consider using one of the following:

NHS guide to living well:
FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

Supporting Young People with their mental health: **MIND**

Online Counselling: **KOOTH**

Bereavement: Winston's Wish - giving hope to grieving children
WINSTONSWISH.ORG

Self-Referral

If you feel that you, or a member of your family requires help from Social Care Services, you are able to request support or to make a self-referral. Depending on your address, will depend in who you will need to contact:

Leicester City: 0116 454 1004

Leicestershire: 0116 305 0005

Contacting the Academy

Please note that the Academy is closed from 3pm on 22nd December 2023 and will reopen on Monday 8th January 2024. If you feel that there is a safeguarding issue that the Academy needs to be aware of you can email dsl@clcc.college. Please note that this email will be checked every two days. Please do not expect a reply to any emails sent to this address until term has resumed. For any emergency help, please use the telephone numbers above.

The information above is by no means an exhaustive list. It is designed to help parents and carers, giving them advice and support during the festive period. The websites in the document are correct at the time of writing, other websites are available and may contain more appropriate advice and guidance to individual cases.

Teen Health



Teen Health is the service which has replaced the School Nurse service. This service predominantly looks to support young people with the following:

- **Feelings**
- **Growing Up**
- **Health**
- **Lifestyle**
- **Relationships**
- **Sexual Health**

At Countesthorpe we work closely with this service and with parents' support make referrals to one of the practitioners. This work may be individual or in groups. Students are also able to self-refer to the service or attend a 'drop-in' session.

Drop-in sessions are very similar to a visit to the doctor's surgery in that whatever is discussed is between the student and the independent practitioner. The only time that the school may be informed of these discussions would be if there was a safeguarding concern.

For further information please visit the following website:

www.teenhealth.org.uk

**TEEN
HEALTH
HERE**





To view past issues of our newsletters:
www.clcc.college/news-events/clcc-magazines/

Social media

Search for Countesthorpe Academy



Learn more about our amazing Academy and how to apply for a place in our **new prospectus**

Download here:
www.clcc.college/parents/prospectuses

SCAN ME



Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Teacher Days Thurs 24th & Fri 25th Aug 2023
 (School closed to students)

August Bank Holiday Mon 28th August 2023

Students Start Tues 29th August 2023

Mid-Term Break Mon 16th Oct to Fri 20th Oct 2023

Disaggregated Day Fri 1st December 2023
 (school closed to staff and students)

School Closes for Students Fri 22nd Dec 2023

SPRING TERM 2024

Students Start 8th January 2024

Mid-Term Break Mon 19th to Fri 23rd Feb 2024

School Closes for Students Fri Evening 22nd Mar 2024

SUMMER 2023

Students Start Mon 8h April 2024

May Day Bank Holiday Mon 6th May 2024

Mid-Term Break Mon 27th May to Fri 31st May 2024

School closes for students Wed 10th July 2024



Countesthorpe Academy

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 Countesthorpe,
 Leicestershire, LE8 5PR

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admin@clcc.college

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LIFE inspiration
 innovation
 integrity

We have a compelling desire to provide high quality, personalised and rounded education for everyone, right in the heart of our local community.