



**THE CITY OF
LEICESTER
COLLEGE**

NEWSLETTER

MAY - JUNE 2024



HEAD TEACHER UPDATE

Welcome to the latest instalment of our updated newsletter! In the last few weeks our students in Year 11 and 13 have been focussing on their exams but as you will see, that does not mean that the rest of the school hasn't also been busy. We have had trips to theatres, the Etihad Stadium and taken our first expeditions of the year for the Duke of Edinburgh awards. All the signs are positive that we will get another bumper set of results with the huge majority of our students getting into their first choice College or University with the rest gaining employment. This happens because of the hard work of our whole community but also because our students continue to demonstrate great character and I hope you get a flavour of this from the articles below.

TCOLC CALENDAR (MAY - JUNE)

May 7 - June 28	Summer Exam Season
May 13 - 17	Mental Health Awareness Week
May 27 - May 31	School Closed for Half Term
June	TCOLC Pride Month
June 11	Junior Maths Challenge
June 13	Y7 Parents' Evening
June 17-21	TCOLC Careers Week
June 21	TCOLC Culture Day
June 24	TCOLC Numeracy Day
June 27 - 28	TCOLC Talent Show Performances

PLANNED TRIPS (MAY - JUNE)

May 1	Y8/9 Student Council Leaders Visit to the Houses of Parliament, London
May 8	Y12/13 Alton Towers, Staffordshire
May 22	Y10 Oxford University NextGen, Oxford
June 6	Y12 UCAS HE Fair at the University of Lincoln, Lincoln
June 5	Y7 'Speak Up' Project at Curve Theatre, Leicester
June 19	Y10 Sports Studies visit to the Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Leicester
June 26	Y8 Big Bang Science Show at the NEC, Birmingham
June 26	LGBT+ Youth Summit, Manchester
June 27-28	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition 1
TBC	Y7/8/9 End of Year Trips

LEGO League Team Bring Home a Trophy

On Saturday 2nd March, our amazing LEGO League team travelled to Corby to compete in the regional heat of the First LEGO League tournament.

The team were awarded the 'Judges' Choice Award!' for overall excellence!



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Students Start Expedition Training



TCOLC Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award students have started their expedition training in preparation of their two day camping expedition in June/July. The 45 students have been learning map reading skills, first aid, route planning, countryside code and how to cook safely with a camping stove.

Amazing TCOLC STEAM Month

TCOLC celebrated British science week with a month of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths) related activities. This saw over 300 students take part in Q&A sessions with UK scientist, 26 Girls visited the DMU women in STEM event and 15 different workshops which saw hundreds of students take part.



World Book Day

TCOLC celebrated World Book Day with lots of themed activities throughout the day. Staff got thoroughly involved with a fancy dress competition, with the science department winning dressed as the characters from Harry Potter.

Year 7 Futsal Tournament Success

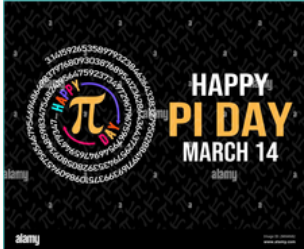
On Thursday 7th March, a group of talented Year 7 footballers played in the East Leicester Futsal tournament.

The team played exceptionally well throughout the competition, coming 3rd out of 6 teams, showing their talent and were a credit to TCOLC.



Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students undertook a weeks Work experience across Leicestershire. It gave them a valuable insight into the world of work and motivation for their future career pathways.



International Pi Day

On Thursday 14th March (3.14), TCOLC celebrated International Pi day with Pi themed activities across the school to celebrate the importance of numeracy and the fundamental constant that is π .

Year 12 Physics Masterclass at the National Space Centre

On Tuesday 12th March, a group of Year 12 visited the National Space Centre to take part in a Physics Masterclass. The session focused on the physics behind satellites and orbits, human survival in space and careers in the space industry. They also built heat shields and used blow torches to simulate the atmospheric re-entry conditions.



TCOLC Oracy Day 2

In March, Year 8 had an assembly with Flight Lieutenant Whitehead from 2502 Hamilton RAF Air Cadets Squadron.

He explained all the activities available to students who joined, and how Cadet life is all about challenge, excitement and adventure. The focus of the ATC is always on enjoying yourself while improving your skills. .

One Nepal Grand Iftar

Over 90 people attended a 'One Nepal Grand Iftar Event' at TCOLC. It was a fabulous interfaith event that brought together people of different faiths and communities. Student volunteers showed nothing but passion and dedication raising £916. The money raised will contribute towards the education fees, food, shelter, medical aid and vital necessities for our children at 'The Blessed Home Orphanage' in Nepal.



Stephen Laurence Day

W/c 22nd April students investigated events around the tragic death of Stephen Laurence 32 years ago. This gave students the opportunity to discuss how communities, and organisations can come together to stand up against discrimination.



Manchester City Stadium Visit

On Wednesday 24th April, 40 Active and Ambitious Year 9 students, visited the Manchester City Etihad Stadium for a tour and business and journalism workshops.

Leicestershire Lord Lieutenant's Awards

Congratulations to Ben in 11JWB, who won the Young Leader Award at the prestigious Leicestershire Lord Lieutenant's Awards last week. This recognises Ben's contribution to TCOLC in his time, the barriers he has overcome, his establishment of our SEND ambassador group and his overall impact to the school.



Congratulations also go to Lina in 12HAD for winning The Young Artist Award. Lina has become a very confident artist and is an absolute treasure of a student, who has created and moulded her own passion into a talent. We feel she is an artist in the making.



Westminster on Wednesday

On Thursday 2nd May, 29 TCOLC student leaders travelled to London and experienced a fantastic tour and workshop at the Palace of Westminster. Our superbly behaved students voted to reduce the school week to four days....

ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS ABOUT TOWNSHIP

Potentially addictive online games are nothing new, but the specifics of this kind of media can vary enormously – and, as a consequence, the risks in each individual game are just as diverse. The city-builder Township is no exception: providing its legions of devotees with accessible, satisfying fun, but exposing them to potential hazards at the same time.

However, any safeguarding issues that the game might have can (with a little knowhow) be neutralised – allowing young players to have some engrossing fun without adults needing to worry about children’s data, their money or their mental wellbeing. Our guide outlines how to help young gamers enjoy Township safely and responsibly.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOWNSHIP

Despite launching in 2011, Township remains popular with children and adults alike. A city-building game with farming elements, it tasks players with developing their settlement and unlocking new features along the way. Aimed at the more casual gamer, it's mostly child friendly – but there are still some related risks to be mindful of.

AGE RESTRICTION
4+
(on the App Store; 'Everyone' on Google Play)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISLEADING PUBLICITY

Township's developers have previously faced criticism for advertising the game on social media by using clips of gameplay which can't actually be found in the final product. This may well lead to a child or young person downloading the game with severely misplaced expectations of what they'll be playing.

IN-GAME ADVERTS

While it's common for mobile games to feature in-game advertisements for other products and services, Township employs a particularly egregious strategy seen in several similar products. It offers users in-game currency in exchange for watching such adverts, which can obviously encourage young people to willingly expose themselves to marketing material.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game's core concept of building up a settlement to increase its population and income can feel slow paced at first – and players are incentivised to spend real-world money to move things along more quickly. That can mean handing over anything from £1.99 to £19.99 for these in-game boosts: amounts that can rapidly add up to a considerable sum if left unchecked.

TIME-CONSUMING GAMEPLAY

Township's gameplay loop of acquiring resources and reinvesting them into your little community is a fun one – but this rewarding sense of making progress can lead to players spending far more hours staring at the screen than they realise. There are also special in-game events which run for a limited time, designed to entice players into even longer gaming sessions.

ONLINE MULTIPLAYER MODE

After reaching level 19, players in Township can form a 'co-op' and unlock the option to exchange goods with up to 30 other users. Online multiplayer modes are nothing new, of course – but neither are the potential risks they pose to children and young people. Chances are, youngsters will be interacting with complete (and possibly much older) strangers within the game environment.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS THE GAME IN ADVANCE

While elder children may notice and understand that Township might be marketed in a potentially misleading way, it could be worth explaining to prospective younger players how and why the game differs from what's been advertised. This will help them to manage their expectations and avoid any possible disappointment if they do decide to download and play it.

MONITOR SPENDING AND SCREEN TIME

More modestly priced in-app bundles can be a welcome treat for a child wanting to speed up their progress in Township, but it's wise not to leave a linked payment method active in case a youngster gets carried away. Likewise, to prevent Township from causing an increase in screen time, parental controls on most devices allow limits to be placed on how long a game can be played each day.

BE WARY OF EXTERNAL SITES

Township's makers state that all in-game ads are age-appropriate: children won't be shown adverts recommending more violent titles, for instance. Even so, clicking on these adverts can take players out of the game and onto external sites that have nothing to do with Township or its developers: this raises the risk of children encountering inappropriate content or being tempted by online purchases.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE STRANGERS

Township's online multiplayer mode (as with any game which includes that functionality), is an avenue through which a child could be contacted by people who they don't actually know. It's worth reminding young Township fans, therefore, not to give out any personal information to strangers online – whether that's within the game itself or in the social networks associated with it.

WE NEED YOU!

PARENTS / CARERS



The first AGM for our Parent Teacher Friend Association, 'Friends of TCOLC', will be held in June and everyone is welcome. If you would like more information about our aims or if you are interested in helping on our committee, please get in touch.

STUDENTS

A colorful poster for a talent show. At the top left is a green sun with rays. At the top right is a pink ice cream cone. At the bottom left is a pair of blue and red sunglasses. The background is yellow with a subtle pattern. At the top center is the logo for 'THE CITY OF LEICESTER COLLEGE'. Below the logo is a white rounded rectangle with a black border containing the text 'TALENT SHOW'. Below that is another white rounded rectangle with a black border containing the text 'What's your talent?'. Below that is the text 'AUDITIONS NEXT MONTH! W/c 17th June 2024'. Below that is the text 'Showtime Thursday 27th June 2024'. Below that is a graphic showing a gold trophy with the number '1' on it, followed by an equals sign, and then a pink rectangular box with gold stars and the text '£50'. At the bottom is the text 'Sign up now! Contact Mrs Wright or any member of Expressive Arts.'

IMPORTANT LINKS



Parents' Evening Bookings

Appointments can be made via the booking system - [School Cloud Link](#).

Parent Pay System

We are a cashless school and therefore all payments must be made via ParentPay - [Parent Pay Link](#).

Extra-Curriculum Timetable

Whether a student has a particular skill or interest, or wants to develop new skills, there is a wealth of opportunities waiting to be explored - [Extra-Curriculum Timetable Link](#).

Catering Information

Lunch time menus provided by Academy Catering run on a three week rolling programme. These can be found via this link - [3 Week Menu Link](#).

Absence Information

To report an absence to the school, parents should contact the school by 8:30am on 0116 2413984 (option 1). Please remember to state your child's full name, tutor group and reason for absence. If they are unwell, please can you give a brief description of the symptoms.

For our students to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and your child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable - [Attendance Link](#).

THE HIVE

The Hive is a one stop information Hub for students that includes a wealth of resources, advice and support around a range of topics, including mental health and wellbeing, sex and relationships, online safety and bullying.

The Hive has been created for TCOLC students and is there for them to access through their school Teams account, whether it is some advice they need around healthy eating or how to cope with exam stress, **The Hive** will have the answer for them.

They can also email **The Hive**, if they would like to speak to one of the team about a specific problem they are having at: hive@tcolc.aspirelp.uk.

The Hive works in association with the following Signposting organisations:

