



THE CITY OF  
LEICESTER  
COLLEGE

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2024



## HEAD TEACHER UPDATE

Hello,

Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter for this academic year. You will see on the following pages how busy we have been in the last half term and see how much great stuff has already happened in this academic year. Our new Year 7 and 12 cohorts have settled in brilliantly and are a credit to our community and our other year groups have all matured and stepped up again.

As a Head Teacher, the first half term is when I review last year and make sure the plans we put in place for this year are working. Our results last year were well above the national average again which is testament to all of the hard work put in by everyone involved and our new behaviour systems have made lessons even more calm and purposeful. The TCOLC Community continues to do fantastic things, which includes now running our very own "Friends of TCOLC" PTFA who have been raising money really successfully over the summer and this wouldn't be possible without parental support!

There is a long way to go this academic year and you will see evidence of these plans in future editions of our newsletter, but I will close my welcome by again thanking you as parents for supporting us in providing the best possible education that we can for your children.

Kind regards,  
Mr Vernon



# TCOLC CALENDAR (NOVEMBER - DECEMBER)

- 7 November TCOLC Oracy day
- 10-17 November Interfaith week
- 11 November Remembrance Day
- 11- 15 November Anti-bullying week with Odd Sock day
- 14 November Sixth Form Open Evening
- 18-24 November UK Parliament week
- 2-6 December TCOLC Careers week 1
- 10 December UN Human Rights Day
- 20 December School closes



## PLANNED TRIPS (NOVEMBER - DECEMBER)

- 12 November Y11/Y12 National School & College Leaver Show, Birmingham
- 14 November Y8-Y10 The Shakespeare School Festival at Curve Theatre
- 9 December Sixth Form ICT Trip to Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes
- 13 December Y11 History Trip to Lincoln Castle, Lincoln.
- 16 December Y7/Y8 Pantomime at MMC Venue, Mountsorrel.
- 16 December Y10 Snowsports Centre, Swadlincote
- 17 December Y11 Snowsports Centre, Swadlincote
- 18 December Y9 Snowsports Centre, Swadlincote

## DIGITAL LIBRARY

Students can access a huge range of books on our digital library free of charge. Go to <https://tolclibrary.eplatform.co> or download the eplatform app, search for The City of Leicester College on 'Find Your Library', and then sign in with your student's school username and the password Library1. Click, borrow and read your loaned book!



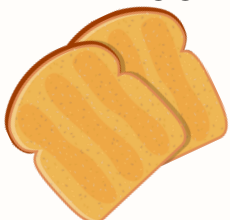
You can borrow up to 2 books at a time for 14 days. They are automatically returned so you do not need to worry about forgetting them!

## BREAKFAST SERVICE

TCOLC runs a **free** Breakfast Service, Monday - Friday, for all students.

The Main Entrance doors open at 7:45am - 8:00am.

Once students come in for breakfast they are not permitted to leave the building.





## FRIENDS OF TCOLC (PTFA)

Friends of TCOLC has been up and running for 5 months now and in that time we have raised £500, opened a bank account, applied for charity status, held a parental forum and ran a parental study skills session. Thank you for all your contributions, suggestions and support so far.

If you would like more information about our aims or if you are interested in helping on our committee, please get in touch with Mrs Hurdley-Lees, Chair of the committee, at [hhurdley-lees@tcolc.aspirelp.uk](mailto:hhurdley-lees@tcolc.aspirelp.uk)

For further information click [here](#)

## STUDENT PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is a crucial life skill that extends beyond the school environment. By consistently arriving on time for school, students develop the character and habits that will benefit them in their future endeavours, such as college, work, and social engagements. From the new academic year, we will be raising our expectations for student punctuality, and we ask for your support in discussing the importance of this with your child.

Summary of changes:

- All students will be expected to in school, ready to learn in their designed areas at **8.30am** promptly.
- The Community Gate, Main Entrance and Post 16 Entrance will open at **8.20am** providing students with ample time to get to their designated area ready for **8.30am**.

### Entrance and Line Up Area

Year 7 Community Gate Purple Hub

Year 8 Main Entrance Green Hub

Year 9 Community Gate Blue Hub

Year 10 Main Entrance Amphitheatre

Year 11 Post 16 Entrance Outside Tutor Room



- Students who arrive to their area after **8.30am** will be marked late and will be issued with a break time detention.
- There no longer will be an allocated 5-minute grace period between 8.30am-8.35am for students to arrive at their designated area.

# PENALTY NOTICE



## FINES FOR SCHOOL ABSENCE

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice fines issued for unauthorised absence that occurs after 19 August 2024

### **Per Parent, Per Child**

Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave will result in **each** parent receiving 3 **separate** fines.

### **5 Consecutive Days of Term Time Leave**

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, and for fewer days where this has happened before.

### **10 Sessions of Unauthorised Absence in a 10-week Period**

Penalty Notice fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of **absence in a 10-week period**.

### **First Offence**

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.  
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

### **Second Offence (within 3 years)**

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.  
(No option to pay at £80 level)

### **Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)**

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will proceed to the Magistrates' court. Magistrate's fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate and may impact on job applications and travel abroad.

**Court prosecutions:** Penalty Notices will not automatically be issued. Parents are advised that where the LA considers that a Penalty Notice is not appropriate due to the level of concern about a child's absence, prosecution action may be taken.

By law, all Penalty Notice payments go to the local authority and not to schools.



# TCOLC NEWS

## Students at the National School Games

In late August, 4 student Sports Leaders attended the National School Games (basically the UK school Olympics) as volunteer helpers to support the organisation of the games. They spent the **4 days living** on the University of Loughborough campus.

Throughout their time they supported **1600 talented sports people from across the UK.**



## TCOLC Numeracy Day 1

The first TCOLC Numeracy day of the year took place on 23 September with students across the school investigating and developing the numeracy skills across the curriculum and beyond their normal Mathematics lessons. The theme for all lesson and activities was Measurement.



## A STEAM Murder Mystery with the Army

In mid-September, the Army engagement team visited TCOLC. Year 10 students saw a high energy presentation on careers in the army, then students got involved in solving a murder mystery. They used their power of deduction, DNA analysis and other forensic techniques to determine the identity of a murderer.



## European Day of Languages

Thursday 26 September was the European Day of Languages. Students had the opportunity to share and practice saying 'Hello' in as many languages as they could.



## Park Run Completed

Sixth Form Health & Social Care students and teachers all took part in the Park Run which took place on Saturday 23 September, raising money for our international charity One Nepal. Everyone completed the 5K run around Leicester Victoria Park, some even set personal bests.



## National Poetry Day

On Thursday 3 October, TCOLC students had the fantastic opportunity to explore, celebrate and share in the pleasure of poetry. From engaging with familiar poems, to the creative fulfilment of crafting new works. The day offered everyone the chance to find their own way to enjoy poetry.



## Friends of TCOLC (PTFA) Parent Workshop Success

On Thursday 10 October, the PTFA hosted its first parent study support skills workshop. This was a very well attended event with parents from all year groups. The workshop was full of tips and advice to better support their child's learning journey.

## Navratri

On Thursday 10 October, TCOLC held its annual Navratri party. Over 80 students and staff helped to celebrate this Hindu festival with two-hours of non-stop music and dancing. The event raised funds for our international charity One Nepal.

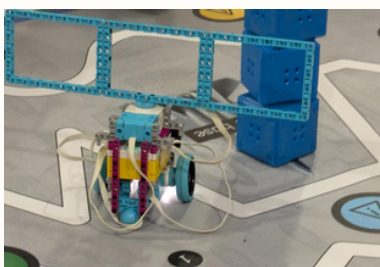


## World Mental Health Day

For World Mental Health Day students were asked to complete various brain teasers and puzzles. Evidence suggested that regularly attempting mental challenges can contribute to a positive mental health.

## The Diana Centre Training

Year 7 Council members all recently completed the Diana Centre Anti-Bullying training specifically looking at homophobia and transphobia.



## Robotic Workshop

Students in Year 8 and Year 9 recently participated in a robotic, problem-solving workshop. They designed and built robots and programmed them to detect colour and objects.

## TCOLC Black History Month

Throughout October TCOLC celebrated Black History Month and recognised the invaluable contributions of black people to British society. Through assemblies, tutor time workshops, all students investigated the unheard stories of black people who had contributed and changed UK communities.

The month ended with the traditional TCOLC Black History Day for Year 7 students who had lessons themed around relevant topics and stories. The year group all had an assembly and keynote presentation from local poet T'rone Haughton, who investigated the use of poetry as a tool protest and its power to challenge discrimination and injustice within society.



### Netball Success

Our Year 7 girls had their very first Netball tournament on Friday 15th October at Soar Valley College. For all 5 games our girls maintained possession and were able to keep the ball in their attacking third for the majority of each game. They managed to win 3, draw 1 and lose 1 match.

### Pumpkin Carving

As part of an after school STEAM workshop student carved ghoulish pumpkins ready for Halloween.



### Students Headed to the Curve Theatre

Before half-term over 60 students in Year 9 and Year 10 visited the Curve Theatre to see the production of the plays 'Mountaintop' and 'Rebel Rebel'.



# UNIFORM

Below is a reminder of the college uniform, that every student is expected to wear:

- Plain black footwear – shoes or trainers must not have any coloured or white soles, or any coloured or white logos
- Plain black skirt of an appropriate length and fit (pleated or loose-fitting style with skirt hem closer to the knee)
- Plain black trousers (no leggings, jeans, joggers or skinny fit styles)
- Plain white collared shirt
- College tie
- College blazer

Here is a link to Uniform Direct where you can buy college blazers and ties, and plain black pleated skirts: [Uniform Direct Link](#).

Below are additional items that students may choose to wear:

- Overcoat
- Plain black cardigan or v neck jumper under blazer
- Plain black or white religious headwear
- Plain black or white abaya or jubba – college uniform must be worn underneath with college blazer on top of abaya or jubba

Please be reminded that students are not allowed to wear:

- False nails
- Dangly earrings or hoops – earrings must be studs only
- Nose-rings – nose adornments must be studs only
- Hoodies or sports tops





# Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying – so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

## 1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.



## 2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings – perhaps from your own experiences – that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.



## 3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING



Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice – and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling – be it anger, sadness, fear or something else – as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "enraged" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.

## 4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY



Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences – so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.

## 5. CALL A TIME OUT



A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.

## 6. STAY INFORMED



Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers to help your child, depending on the specific situation.

## 7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE



Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.

## 8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE



When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.

## 9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL



Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken – and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.

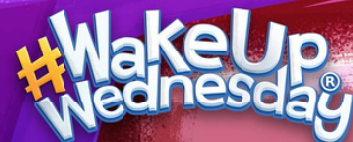
## 10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY



Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.

## Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.



# Innovate CATERING

We are delighted to partner with the students and staff within the Aspire Learning Partnership. Our aim, along with the schools' is to provide all students with an exceptional catering experience. Our very talented Executive Chefs and our fantastic catering teams will be serving exciting menus packed with healthy ingredients, that are full of variety, and with loads of interesting new things to try. It's important that the food tastes as good as it looks, and we're sure you won't be disappointed. For more information on our menus visit the [School Meals](#) tab on the TCOLC website.

Free school meals will also work in the same way. If you think that your child may be eligible for free school meals, you can use this checker:

[Free School Meal Checker Link](#)



## THE CITY HERALD

The City Herald is our students very own newspaper, and Podcast. It is an opportunity for them to raise their voices, share their concerns and engage with our community.

**JOIN THE SCHOOL BROADCAST TEAM. BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION.  
RUN BY THE STUDENTS, FOR THE STUDENTS.**

**SCHOOL NEWSPAPER**

**THE CITY HERALD**  
G17 3:20-4:00  
**RECRUITING NOW**

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE:**

- REPORTERS
- JOURNALISTS
- COPY EDITORS
- COLUMNISTS
- NEWS EDITOR
- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**G17 | WEDNESDAY  
3:20-4:00**

**We want you**

**WE'RE HIRING**

**THE CITY HERALD**

**PODCAST**

**THE HERALD**  
LIVE

**IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, GET IN CONTACT**

**RECRUITING NOW**

**WEDNESDAY | G17**

MISS MIRZA | HERALD@TCOLC.ASPIRELP.UK

**GET IN CONTACT WITH MISS MIRZA OR SIGN UP ON PARENT PAY.**

# 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

We will share the new Innovate menus in the new academic year.

## 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](mailto:hive@tcolc.aspirelp.uk).

**The Hive** works in association with the following Signposting organisations:

