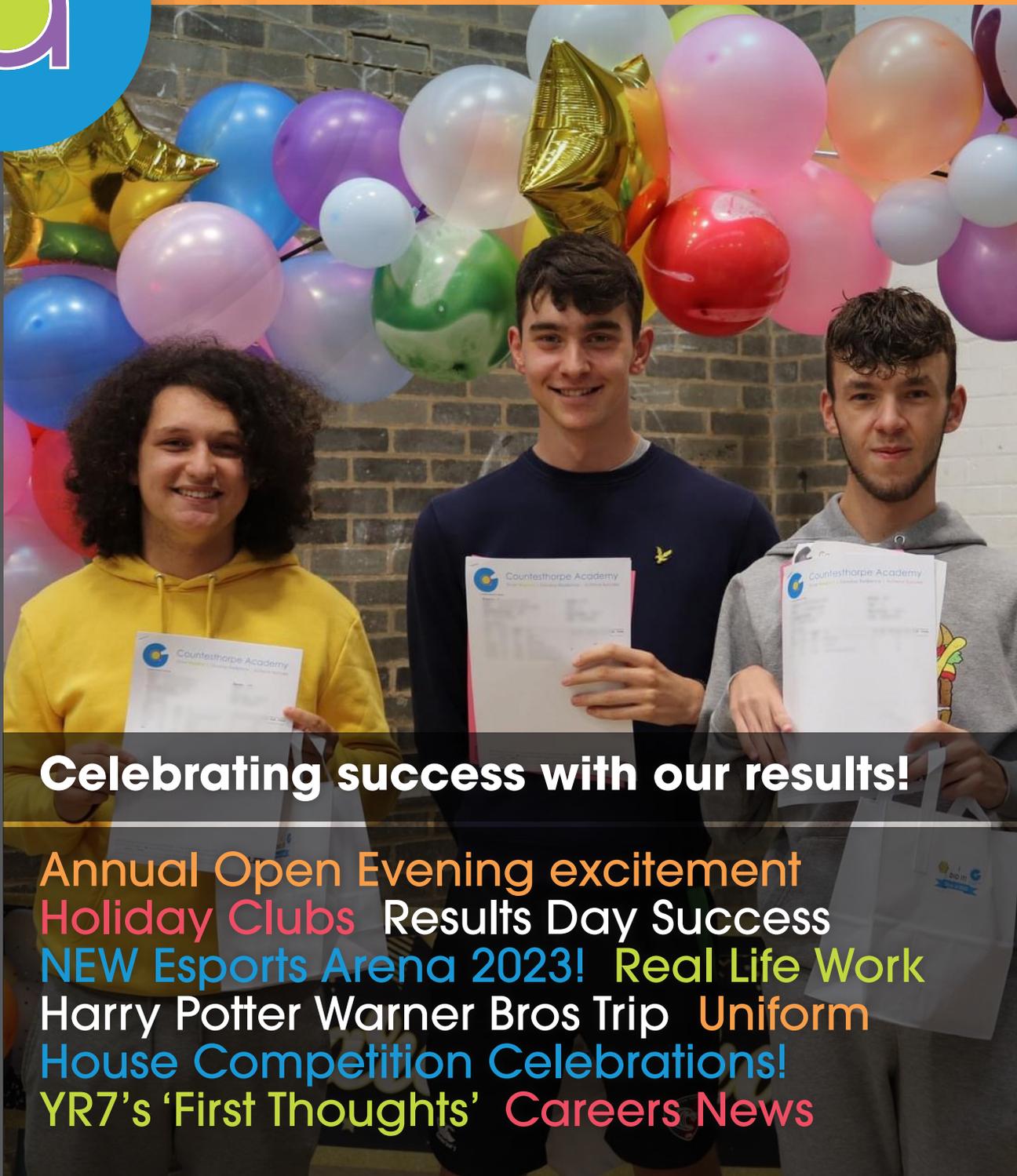


Countesthorpe Academy Newsletter



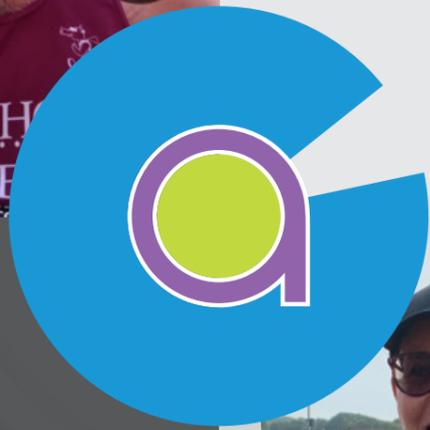
Celebrating success with our results!

Annual Open Evening excitement
Holiday Clubs Results Day Success
NEW Esports Arena 2023! Real Life Work
Harry Potter Warner Bros Trip Uniform
House Competition Celebrations!
YR7's 'First Thoughts' Careers News

On Sunday 2nd October, Mr Bullivant ran the London Marathon. He achieved great success by completing the race in 3 hours 47 minutes, beating his target time!

He ran a well-paced race, slowing down over the last 6 miles, but showed excellent resilience to reach the finish line.

He was raising money for the Leicester Hospitals Charity.



Countesthorpe Academy

Show Respect

Develop Resilience

Achieve Success

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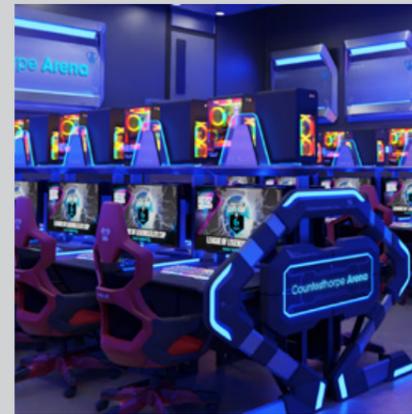


Ms Howell, our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, ran her first marathon at the start of September to raise money for the Blaby 'Drop-in' Centre.

She showed excellent resilience in her training schedule which allowed her to cross the finish line in just over 5 hours. She had a lot of support on the day and spent the evening after the run eating cake!

The Blaby and Glen Parva 'Drop-In' Centre supports elderly residents in our community by offering hot meals, social events and friendship.

Thank you to everyone who donated, and wished her good luck, she raised a total of £1400 - what a great success!!



A Boot Route 'Through Time'

During September, Mrs Miller and our students designed and created our entry for the Countesthorpe Boot Route, which involves local residents creating masterpieces in their car boot! All money raised is donated to local charities.

The theme this year was 'through time'. Our students created a Ford Kuga Camper Van, with a special tribute to Her Majesty The Queen.

Mrs Hunt and Mrs Miller had a great day meeting everyone who took part and visited!



Chintsa, in South Africa



Duke of Edinburgh expedition



Welcome!



Charity Afternoon

On Friday 14th October 2022, the Academy will be coming together to raise money for two charities we believe in.

Countesthorpe Academy have supported Volunteer Africa since 2010. All money we have raised over the years has gone towards funding projects in Chintsa, a small township in South Africa, which have transformed so many lives. We have helped provide internet to the local community of Chintsa, built a nursery, developed a soup kitchen and so much more!

We also want to support our local community during this difficult economic time, by donating to Lutterworth Foodbank. They provide three days nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. They are working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

In 2019 the Academy raised a grand total of £3200 during the charity afternoon, we are hoping to beat that this year!!

Each tutor group will host an event or sale for the final period of the day. Students will get the chance to visit each tutor groups stall, which include cake sales, tombola, face painting and quizzes.

Keep an eye on our social media pages, as we will be posting photos of the day!!



The Duke of Edinburgh students took part in an overnight camp at Beaumanor Hall. They spent two days walking a total of 25 miles!

Students learnt how to be self-sufficient and cooked on Trangias!

It was a brilliant weekend for all involved!



Expedition camp

Welcome to the Autumn issue of our Academy Magazine. We have had a great start to the new school year which began by celebrating our GCSE and A Level successes. We are extremely proud of the achievements of students and hope you enjoy reading about the fantastic and well-earned results our students received.

At the start of the year, we welcomed in our new Year 7 and Year 12 students who have settled in really quickly and are already making brilliant contributions to Academy life. Year 7 students are all following our Real Life Curriculum and have been provided with iPads from the Academy to support their learning. It has been a real pleasure to see how this is helping to develop their ability to work independently and plan, research and design in new ways, preparing them for life beyond Countesthorpe.

Our recent Open Evening showcased all the amazing work across the Academy, and it was lovely to welcome so many visitors and prospective students into our school.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our Academy Magazine which gives you an insight into just some of great work our students are involved in.

C.E. Aitcheson
Mrs Aitcheson Headteacher



countesthorpeleysland



countesleys



clcc.college



Indoor arts and crafts



Games outdoors in the sunshine



English lessons in The HIVE on Saturday mornings

Summer Holiday Club fun!

During the summer holidays Mrs Miller, Ms Denston and Mrs Ward ran a holiday club at the Academy for children and students within the local community.

The holiday club offered free places to any child eligible for free school meals, this also included snacks, drinks, lunch and activities each day. Paid places were also available.

This gave our staff the opportunity to support children from Ukraine with their English, allowing them to make new friends while having lots of fun.

Mrs Miller was able to offer two of our current HIVE Sixth Form students a paid job, supporting the activities during the holiday club. This was a brilliant opportunity for Lucy and Jemima, who were a great support and an asset to the team - thanks for your help girls!

The holiday club had a healthy approach, freshly made lunches were available each day, giving the students the opportunity to try food and fruits that they had never had before.

We even got to make our very own pizzas with freshly made pizza dough – safe to say that pineapple doesn't belong on pizza!

Students did a variety of activities including football, dodgeball, rounders, cheerleading, tennis, games, face painting, baking, arts and crafts, as well as t-shirt designing.

We even had some water fun and enjoyed the summer sunshine with an ice cream or two.

If anyone would like more information about the upcoming Easter holiday club, then please contact Mrs Miller at smiller@clcc.college

UKRAINE

English Lessons

We are delighted and overwhelmed with how committed staff at Countesthorpe Academy are in supporting the Ukraine crisis.

For the last five weeks Mrs Wakeling, Ms Denston, Mrs Verwaerde and Mrs Miller have given up their Saturday mornings to hold English classes and coffee mornings in The Hive for Ukraine families.

These classes are free of charge and families can come along, make friends, get some support and practice and improve their English speaking and writing skills. Classes are suitable for adults and secondary aged children. Younger children can take part in colouring, drawing and playing games.

The Hive doors open every Saturday morning at 9.30am, for tea, coffee and cake, lessons start at 10am -12.00pm.

This has been a huge success and it wouldn't have been possible without the help of our HIVE Sixth Form students, who have volunteered to help with setting up and occupying the younger children, as well as helping to tidy away.

Having extra friendly faces make it a welcoming experience for the Ukraine families, so a big thank you to everyone who has helped, it is really appreciated.

Seeing everyone's confidence grow each week definitely makes it all worthwhile.

If anyone knows of anyone from Ukraine who would like to have some English lessons, then please contact Mrs Miller at smiller@clcc.college or Mrs Verwaerde at lverwaerde@clcc.college.





Celebrating success!..

...on results day!



We are delighted to announce outstanding achievements by our Year 11 students in their GCSE results.

Through significant challenges caused by the pandemic and learning to work in new and creative ways, our Year 11 students have shown great resilience in achieving these fantastic sets of results. Our top 5 high achieving students have gained thirty-seven Grade 9s between them!

Across the year group 399 grades have been achieved at Grade 7, 8 and 9. An amazing achievement! We're delighted that so many have chosen to stay on in our Sixth Form too.

One of our students has achieved an incredible eleven GCSEs at Grade 9! An outstanding achievement.

Mrs Aitcheson said:

"We are exceptionally proud of our students and their achievements. Our students have been brilliant and have worked relentlessly to get the best possible grades. This has been a period of such uncertainty and it has been a real pleasure to see our students flourish in some of the most challenging circumstances ever. Congratulations to our amazing students on their results!"

Mr Williams, our Executive Headteacher said:

"Our students should be so proud. They have achieved fantastic results - and done so despite this most turbulent period. These results show not only what they have learned but also that they can overcome challenges. And now they are ready to take their next step. Many of them will continue their learning at Countesthorpe, where they will be joined by students from other schools across the County. We look forward to welcoming them all."

Our HIVE Sixth Form students achieved great success during their A levels and Level 3 qualifications this summer.

Many of our students have overcome significant adversity which adds to their success. However, resilience is one of our core values as is success and our students have shown both of these in abundance. Four of our students have achieved a full suite of top A* grades.

Our two top achieving students, who between them, achieved 8 A* grades have both secured places at Cambridge studying Medicine and Natural Sciences. Students at Countesthorpe are following a wide variety of course including Law at LSE, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence at Loughborough and Bath, Children's Nursing at Sheffield Hallam, and Business at Portsmouth. We are really proud of the diverse range of courses and apprenticeships our students are able to access with their great results.

Mrs Aitcheson said:

"We are extremely proud of our students and all they have achieved. Our students have overcome significant challenges. Their determination and resilience has been commendable! Congratulations go to all our students who have worked exceptionally hard and thoroughly deserve the grades they have achieved today. We wish them all the very best as they take the next step to university, apprenticeships, and employment!"



The future is exciting at Countesthorpe Academy



“ Our school exists to help children in our community become independent, capable, resilient young people ready for life and for work. With everything we do, we aim for everyone in our school to be the best they can be. ”

On Thursday 22nd September, we welcomed prospective students and their families to the Academy for our annual open evening.

This was an opportunity to meet with tutors, staff and students from every faculty and department, participate in activities and fun games and view examples of beautiful work produced by our current pupils. Visitors got to explore our brand new purpose built school building, including our amazing activity studio, art and design rooms, HIVE Sixth Form area and plans for our new Esports Arena! It was fantastic to see so many visitors from the local community and a pleasure to share how our students are being the best they can be.

Parents and potential students had the opportunity to sample exciting activities at Countesthorpe.



esports

Countesthorpe Academy



Countesthorpe esports is located in the heart of the Academy campus.

We are capable of hosting large-scale events, esports tournaments, and variety streams, as well as provide a safe environment with expert professional support and guidance.

SCAN ME



OR **CLICK HERE**
to see our
all new 26 station
esports arena!

Esports is a multi-player digital game played competitively in teams and enjoyed by spectators.

The esports and gaming sectors are amongst the fastest growing global industries, in both financial and participation terms they already exceed the worldwide Film and TV sectors.

With the opening of the Countesthorpe Arena in 2023, students at Countesthorpe Academy will be able to participate in esports and achieve academic success via BTEC Level 2 & 3 qualifications.

The challenging BTEC qualification will encompass many of the attributes associated with the more traditional physical and sports education qualifications.

BTEC Qualifications

Strategy & Analysis

Psychology & Coaching

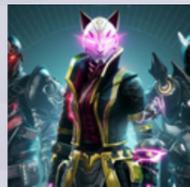
Team Building & Leadership

Games Design & Production

Enterprise & Marketing

Event Management

Ethics & Legal Aspects



OPENING 2023!

RealLife Curriculum



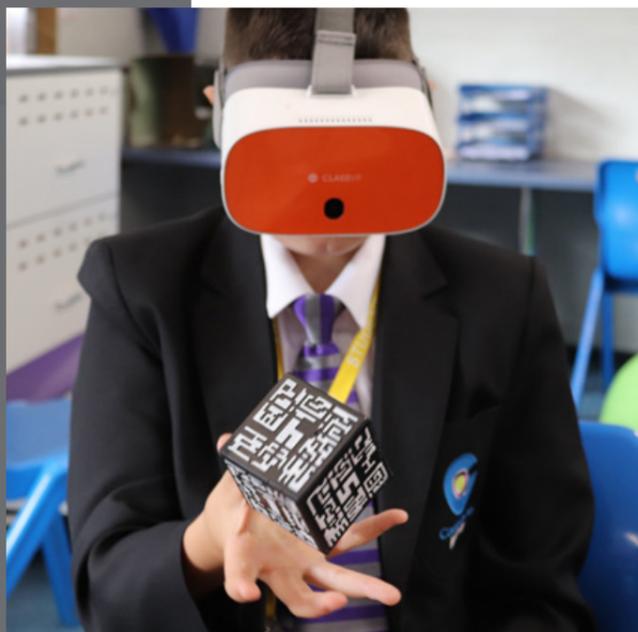
Students receiving their own iPad to support learning

Students Learn in VR

At the start of October, our New Year 7 REAL Life Curriculum students took part in their first Virtual Reality Lesson!

With a focus on historical figures, our Year 7 students took part in a virtual reality lesson designed to inspire and inform. Using our VR Headsets the students were able to explore ancient ruins, and using Augmented Reality, view statues of historical figures such as Julius Caesar!

This lesson, which was exciting, fun and inspiring, also helped our Year 7 students in their first mission topic 'All About Me'.



Year 7 Students Power Up with iPads

During September, our new Year 7s received their REAL LIFE iPads!

All students in Year 7 received their very own iPad to support their learning while studying the REAL LIFE Curriculum.

During CREW time the students had a briefing with Mr Knott and Mr Patel who helped to explain key features of their amazing new iPad. During the handover students each received their iPad in what can only be described as fantastical celebration experience, with students and staff clapping and cheering as excitement for these fantastic new learning tools reached fever pitch!

Every student entering Year 7 at Countesthorpe Academy studies our innovative REAL LIFE Curriculum, carefully designed to unlock the potential of every child, preparing them for an exciting and bright future.

Key to the demonstrated success of the REAL LIFE curriculum is the use of personalised, individual iPads, that enable our students to learn like never before. Loaded with a selection of educational apps, these iPads truly support our students to be the best they can be!

Students in Year 8, currently following the REAL LIFE curriculum, took a trip to the New Walk Museum's exhibition: Rebuilding Lives: 50 years of Ugandan Asians in Leicester.

They were given a guided tour of the Exhibition and had the opportunity to browse, focusing on areas of interest.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the students and relates directly to the mission for this term 'Everyone Matters'.

The big questions for this mission are:

- Why should we care about migration?
- What truths/myths exist about migrants?
- Why do individuals feel the need to leave their countries in the first place?
- What challenges do they face?
- How can we help both individually and collectively?

This visit also provided them with invaluable insight and understanding into the experience of migrants both in this country and across the world.

Personal Development

at the Heart of the Curriculum



Well-being Awards

We started this academic year celebrating the achievements of our students in various elements of personal development over the summer. One of the most exciting was the Well-being Ambassadors attending the South Leicestershire School Sport and Well-being Awards in July and being awarded runners up in the 'Improving health and well-being award'.

To crown the evening, Ellie in Year 13 and Maya in Year 8 both won 'Inspirational Young Person of the Year' awards for their work in promoting well-being through a positive body image campaign, setting up a well-being room, and expanding the Let's Talk peer mentoring service.

All awards were presented by Paralympic gold medallist Laura Sugar.

This is a real achievement for our amazing student leaders!



Youth Conference

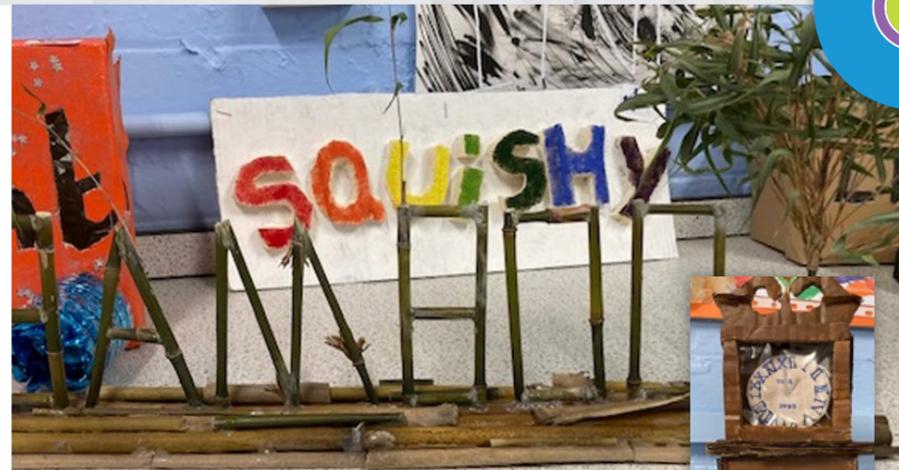
Another excellent summer event was the Blaby District Youth Conference, attended by our Community Action Ambassadors in June.

This was an opportunity for schools across the county to get together at Blaby District Council to debate issues important to young people with local councillors. The debates included vaping, safe streets at night, bullying and crime. Our students exhibited confidence and engagement, taking a leading role in the debates.

Their resilience is truly impressive, with the huge audience in the council chamber not causing any noticeable stress or inhibiting their contributions.



'Observing World' Comp



Our Year 7 students took part in a competition called 'observing world', in which they were tasked to create a piece of art that was a visual representation of a word of their choosing.

Voting took place during our open evening, allowing parents, students and teachers to pick their favourite piece.

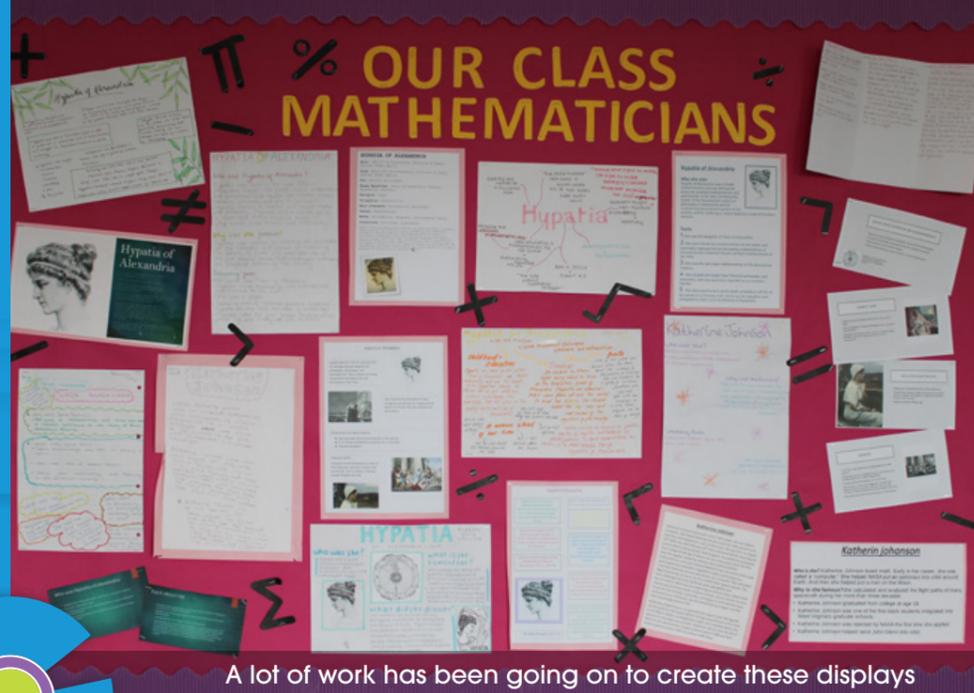
Well done to everyone who entered, all submissions were excellent and to a high standard.

- 5th place - Jasmine
- 4th place - Emma
- 3rd place - Lillie
- 2nd place - Alexander
- 1st place - Nina



Sciences

Maths



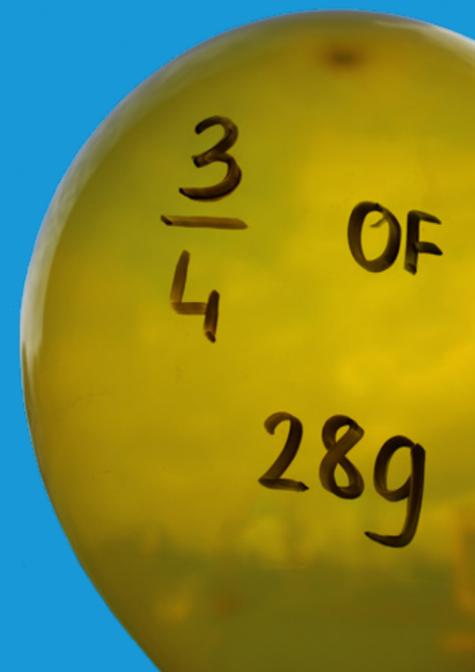
A lot of work has been going on to create these displays



Our heartfelt thanks go out to the students who helped the Maths Department during open evening.

The evening was very active with a lot of participation from our prospective students. We had lots of different activities taking place such as beat the teacher, win a balloon, Mathematician trail and a game of Countdown, in which the adults were very competitive!

A big thank you to Aamareya, Yasmine, Hazell and Ryan, who helped us out!

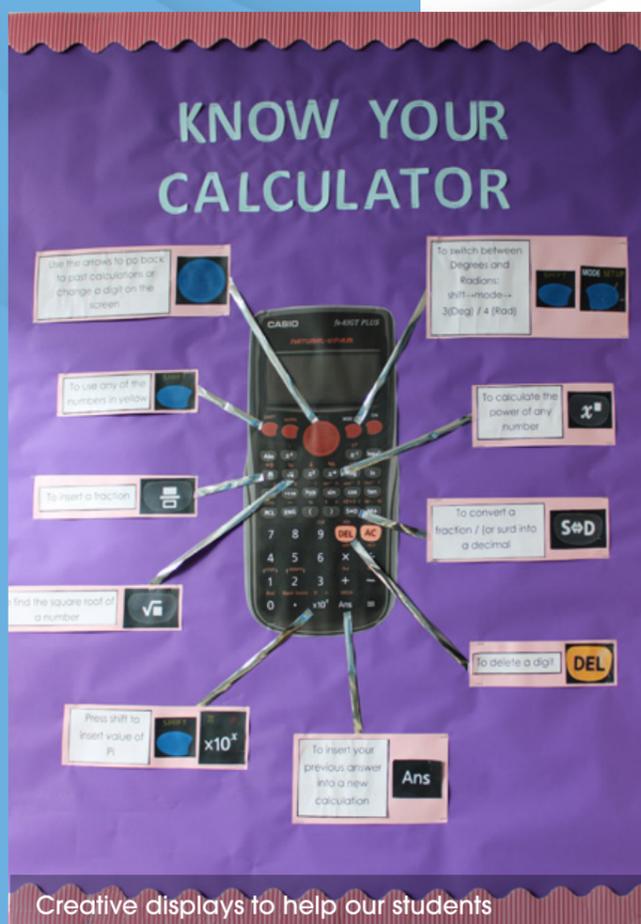


Diversity

The Maths and Enterprise Faculty is continuing to highlight diversity by naming our KS4 Maths sets after famous Mathematicians who have an incredibly interesting life story.

These Mathematicians are:

- Carl Friedrich Gauss**
- Andrew Wiles**
- Leonardo Fibonacci**
- Hypatia of Alexandria**
- John Nash**
- Leonhard Euler**
- Henri Poincaré**
- David Hilbert**
- Pierre de Fermat**
- Pythagoras of Samos**
- Pierre-Simon Laplace**
- John Von Neumann**
- Alan Turing**
- Euclid of Alexandria**
- Albert Frank Cox**
- Sofya Kovalevskaya**
- Archimedes of Syracuse**
- Annie J. Easley**



Creative displays to help our students

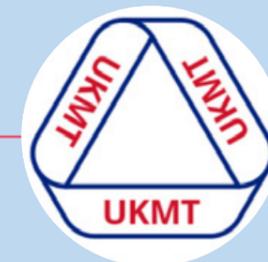


Promoting the enjoyment of learning

Across our faculty, we have been exploring the use of mini whiteboards as a different facet of learning.

One of the much-loved activities is a game of shoot-out, in which students are required to flash up their answer the quickest; beating their peers scores them extra points.

As classroom teachers, we also enjoy watching the love of learning taking place.



UKMT SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

On Tuesday 4th October, 26 of our A Level students will be taking part in the Senior Maths Challenge. This is something that the Maths department do every year with all year groups.

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

The Senior Challenge is a 90-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 the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Challenge. This is a 60-minute challenge which consists of 20 problems to solve.

Each participant receives a Certificate of Qualification or Participation, depending on their entry route, and the top-scoring 25% of participants each receive a Certificate of Merit. We look forward to hearing the great results.



Psychology



Psychological investigations!

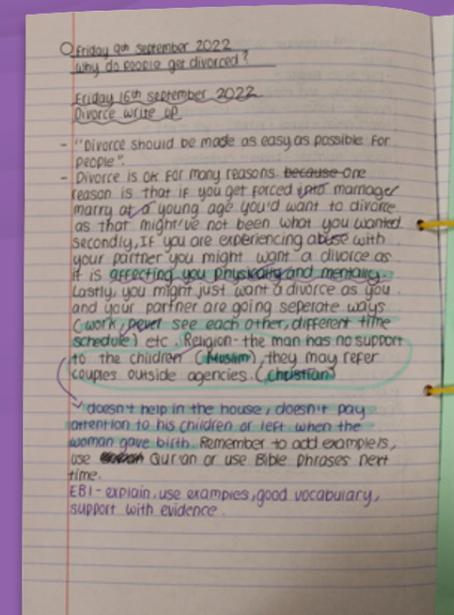
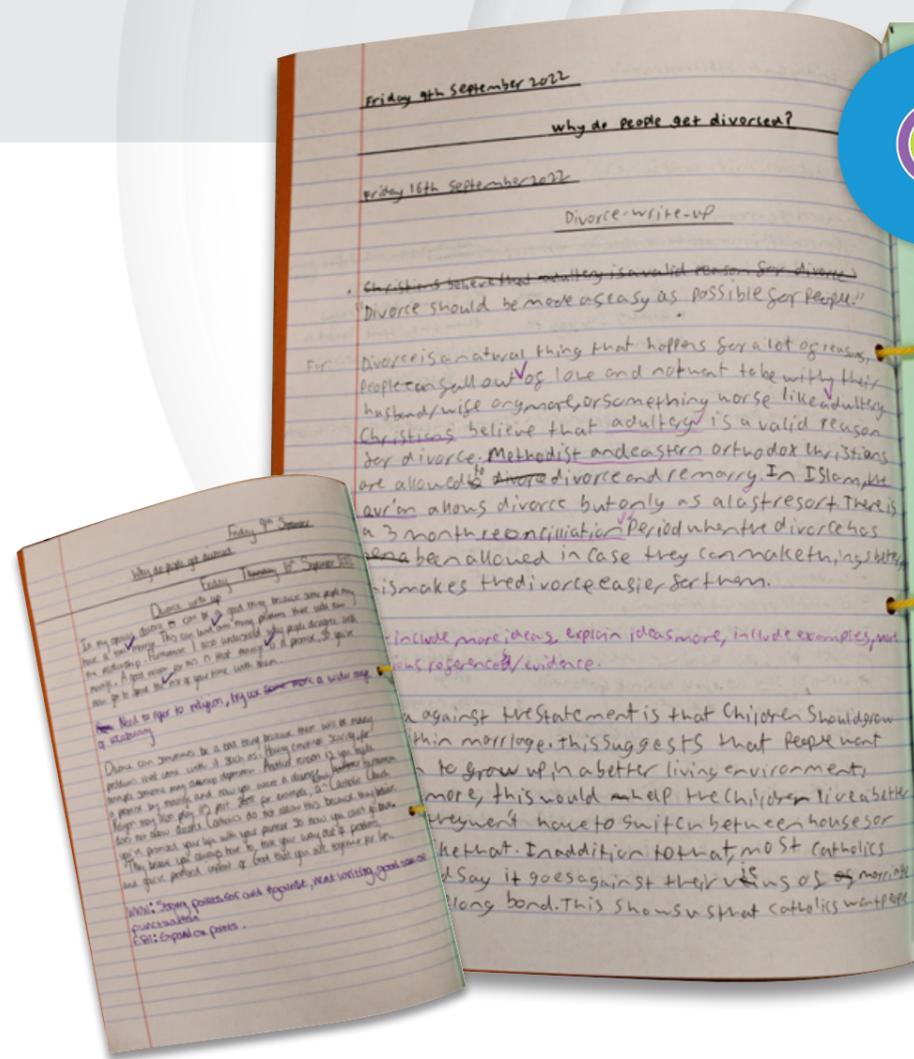
Psychology students became researchers and conducted their own studies! Year 13 psychologists have been working extremely hard planning a piece of research, conducting this as a controlled study, analysing the results using complicated inferential statistics and finally writing up their results in a scientific report.

Students researched a variety of areas, including gender differences in aggression levels, romantic attraction scores, the perception of branded food products and celebrity obsessions.

At the end of September, groups of students presented their work and findings to the rest of the cohort, in the form of a scientific peer review. They did exceptionally well and the audience agreed that all studies were of a high standard and passed this peer review quality assurance process.

The Year 13 classes will now be transferring this knowledge to exam paper questions and will be assessed in October. We wish them the best of luck for their internal assessment and know that they will continue to be the best that they can be.

Writing Skills in REP



Year 10 students have returned to Countesthorpe Academy to rejoin their journey to success in their GCSE RE courses.

We have been continuing to work from Relationships and Family unit, with a particular emphasis on developing their examination skills for extended writing answers. Students are learning to add detail, without compromising on quality. These skills are transferable and will support them in other areas of the curriculum and beyond.

Keep working hard Year 10!

REP



Coursework progress

A short movie by year 11 media student Lucas.
You can watch here:
<https://youtu.be/VploPx-35oE>



OR SCAN HERE



We've had a busy start to Autumn term with new students starting their media journey with us at **KS4 and 5**, beginning introductory units, trips and completion of **key GCSE, A Level and BTEC** coursework.

New Year 10 and 12 students have risen to the challenge of developing their critical analysis skills and learning lots of new Media terminology. We can't wait to see how they continue to progress throughout their time on the course.

As part of their understanding of sound and how it creates meaning, students will shortly become foley artists where they create sound from everyday house hold items. Here's great link to look at should you want to know more:
https://youtu.be/U_tqB4IzvMk

Year 10 BTEC students have completed their introductory unit and begun their first unit 'Being Organised' an important skill within Media and life itself.

Year 11 BTEC students have been working hard to complete their Interactive Presentations about a media topic or product they are passionate about and have been using various IT skills to create this.



INTO FILM

A Level Media Students have been invited by **Into Film** to participate in a film screening of the film 'Nope' on **Thursday 17th November**. Take a look at the trailer **NOPE | Final Trailer - YouTube**
Don't forget to sign up Year 12 and 13!

We hope to be able to offer an invitation to the film festival for Year 10 students also shortly.

"What's a bad miracle? They got a word for that!"

NOPE by Jordan Peel

Year 11 and 13 GCSE students have been working hard to complete their coursework that consists on magazines, website, TV or music briefs. We guide and help students to select the brief they feel most confident with and are passionate about. It's a substantial unit that's worth a whopping 30% of their final grade.

We have been so impressed with the creativity shown whether that be in the use of and some of the first drafts have been excellent and many looking very professional already. It was so hard to select a few but here are some of the fabulous drafts we received by Charlotte, Izzy, Mia, Izabelle, Alexia and Francesca.

We can't wait to see what their final products looks like!

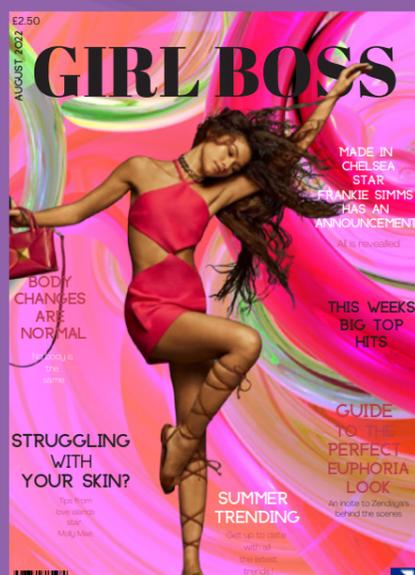
DON'T FORGET The after school coursework support sessions are available on Monday's in 13IT, you have class time until 7th October and the **final deadline is 1st November** for all production pieces including Statement of Intent.

Film Club

A new film club has started on **Friday lunch times** in **Room 14** for **KS3 & KS4** students.

They are currently watching the Disney Pixar film 'Home', undertaking various activities using film as a way to understand the key theme of 'immigration' which is also being studied in the Real Life curriculum.

For more information please speak to Mr Lissaman.



Harry Potter Warner Bros Trip



On Monday 12th September we had the pleasure of taking 50 Year 11 and 13 students to Warner Brother's Harry Potter Studios for a tour and workshop with industry professionals.

Before they'd even started their tour and workshop, students were able to get a behind the scenes view of a sound stage that was recently used for filming the newest instalment in the Fast and the Furious franchise and learn that Robert Pattinson was on-site filming his new film, Mickey Seven! We kept our eye peeled in case we saw him but unfortunately, he evaded us this time. What a fantastic start to the day!

Our day continued with a characterization workshop where students learnt that film studios really do think about every minute detail in their pursuit to create meaning for their audiences. For example, did you know that Voldemort's costume is actually green and not black? It's the lighting that makes it black and that the green represents his Slytherin house colour! Did you also know that his costume was dyed seven different shades of green to show the seen horcruxes he had created and that his costume gets lighter for weakness when every horcrux is destroyed?

Students got a close-up view of the real costumes that were used in the film and develop an understanding as to why they were designed the way they were. They had to guess which materials had been used for what character's costume and got to see Hagrid's prosthetic and animatronic head.



Warner Bros Studios - Harry Potter

At the end of the workshop, students were given the challenge to create a costume for their own characters (in or out of the Harry Potter franchise) using swatches from Warner Brother's costume and prop department with guidance from the experts.

It was great fun and time seemed to go by so quickly.

After lunch we visited all areas of the studio tour. We saw dragons, Gringotts's bank, Professor Sprout's greenhouse, Privet Drive, Forbidden Forest, Hogwarts Express, common rooms, Dumbledore's office and the Great Hall to name but a few!

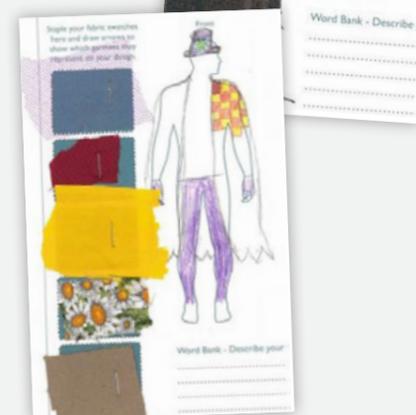
Students were invited to create their own 'howler' letter near the Hogwarts Express, take part in various interactive activities such as green screen photography and motion capture helping them to understand the technology and variety of skills involved in different parts of film production.

Many of us indulged in some butter beer or ice cream which tasted very much like butterscotch.

We had a great day and enjoy being able to give students to the opportunity to see media in action, develop a deeper appreciation of the art, creating lifelong memories with school friends as well as informing students about the different and very varied career paths available to those wishing to pursue Media as a career.



COSTUME CHARACTERISATION





Spotlight...

“What a difference a day makes.” sang Dinah Washington.
As I reflect on the last 265 days, I realise that Countesthorpe Academy has come a long way...

It seems a long time since we welcomed the new Year 7 students into the Academy and it already feels like they have always been part of our school community. They have been into the library and are enjoying the vast array of resources that they have access to over the next five years.

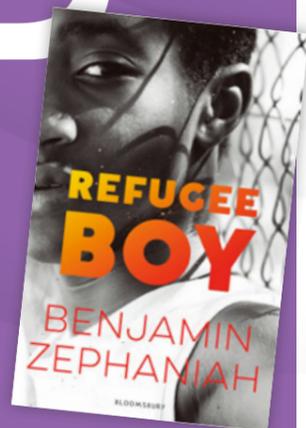
To introduce them to the world of language, our new crew members have been studying poetry and looking at the literary techniques that poets use to create images with words. Part of the curriculum is to create a poetry anthology that demonstrates their ability to use imagery to describe the world around them.

We have also taken delivery of the new iPads and this will enable our students to learn using digital technology and the internet. These have been used to aid research into rhyming schemes and famous poets.

Year 8 Have begun the year by reading **Refugee Boy** by Benjamin Zephaniah. The central character of the book, Alem Kelo is a 14 year old refugee from Ethiopia and introduces our students to the diverse curriculum at Countesthorpe Academy. The students will learn about Alem and showcase their understanding of the text with writing and analysis skills. Jack said “**The book is quite good at explaining what it is like to be a refugee. The way it is written, you actually feel like you are experiencing what it is like.**” “**It makes me feel sad for Alem’s situation but happy because the refugee council are treating him well and I believe that his life will get better. I want to finish the book because I don’t know what it is like to be a refugee and you don’t get to learn about it much.**”

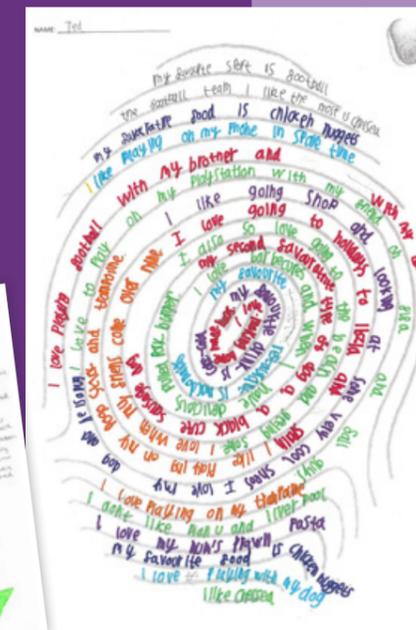
Year 9 A new text for Year 9 is Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman. The story echoes that of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet and it a bittersweet love story set within a society where social injustice in society is woven within a thought-provoking play. Caitlin says that “**I am enjoying it, but I need to get into it a little more, as we have not long begun to read it**”. Blessing agreed, saying “**It is a good book, but I need time to discover what might happen and see if there are any cliff hangers.**” We are certainly enjoying reading it aloud in class and discussing many ‘big’ questions of the society that we live in.

Year 10 Building on their dramatic knowledge from Blood Brothers, Year 10 is studying An Inspector Calls. The play is set in 1912, yet it was written in 1945. Similarly, to Russell, Priestley wanted to highlight the inequality of the class divide, whilst asking the audience to consider our effect upon others and the implications for our actions.



“Don’t stop until you’re proud.”
Anonymous

In English, Year 7 students have been working hard on their beautiful Fingerprint Poems, as part of their My World, Our World unit. They have evaluated aspects of their personalities, philosophies, likes and dislikes, and incorporated them into a powerful poem about identity. A fabulous start to their time at the Academy!



The students are really enjoying observing how the characters develop throughout the play and have particular views on Gerald – Oli has been particularly passionate when discussing Gerald’s behaviour: “**He is a sly character, yet Sheila can be irritating, even though she changes at the end**”.

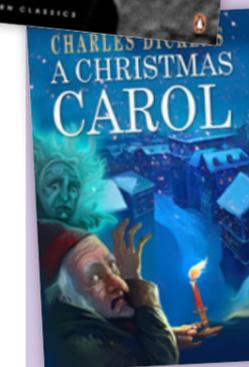
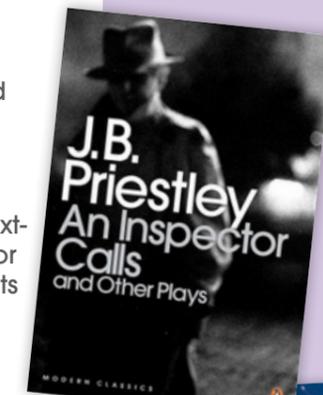
Year 10 have begun their GCSE work in earnest. This year is very text-based and we have begun to read JB Priestley’s play; An Inspector Calls. One of the central characters is found dead and the students must analyse the interaction, speech and sub-text within the play and decide who is responsible. There are many twists and turns as the students progress through the play and again, this creates opportunities to discuss people’s actions and consequences. Circumstances are not always as they seem. I always find it fascinating to watch the students understanding and develop the full picture of each character and their levels of guilt.

Year 11 A key focus is for our GCSE students in Year 11 is revisiting the set texts from last year (A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls and Macbeth), consolidating their knowledge of the plot, characters and themes. They will also look to showcase their analytical skills when studying fiction and non-fiction from the texts set in the 19th and 21st centuries – synthesising the author’s meaning, by critically evaluating their intention.

Work has begun apace, as we look towards the beginning of the PPE (Pre-Public Exam) season next year. In November, the students will have mock exams for language and literature, which will go a long way to consolidating their knowledge and skills and identifying opportunities for development.

Write-On Fridays are now well established as we progress into the new term. Topics for creative writing have included scenarios such as 30,000 foxes descending upon a ranch, a (possibly) haunted castle and sharks swimming in a forest. I can already see how students are building their creative writing skills and their concentration skills are becoming much more sustainable each week.

Oli, a Year 11 student, feels that he and his classmates are improving, “**We are all really focused, as our English examination is approaching fast. I am working on revision already and finding the strategies that work for me.**” Kyla said “**I am finding it challenging. There is a lot more work than in other years. But I am finding that using the revision guides and going to the interventions, I feel more prepared and confident for the upcoming examinations.**”





On September 26th, we celebrated European Day of Languages with a number of fun events throughout the Academy.

The day began with tutor groups completing a multiple-choice Languages Quiz which stimulated much interesting discussion about Languages around the world and how they originated.

At lunchtime students enjoyed an array of delicious dishes from around the world prepared by our fantastic kitchen staff, these included delicacies such as Swedish meatballs, Chinese noodles, Spanish paella and Ukrainian Khrustyky. Students perused the menus in French and Spanish.

In the library they took part in a pictorial competition on Language-based themes.

It was a fun and informative day!



Teamwork & Resilience

This half term has been very busy in PE, with lots of students attending the extra-curricular clubs that are ran by both our staff and post 16 students.

Our KS3 and KS4 boys competed in their first football fixture of the year against Thomas Estley, as well as our Year 8 and 9 girls who also competed in the Netball. Results didn't go our way, but all students demonstrated excellent teamwork and resilience and are preparing for our next upcoming matches.

Additionally, the girls have also been training for the ESFA Girls Under 13 PlayStation 9-a-Side Schools' Cup. The PE department would like to say a special thank you to Evie and Neve in Year 11 for their fantastic commitment to coaching the girls each week - the girls football club would not be able to run without them and we are very proud!

This year, we have seen fantastic attendance at our after school dance club with over 40 students attending each week! Students have been working hard to prepare choreography for an upcoming show called 'Let's Face the Music and Dance'. The show is a primary school dance festival in which local primary schools come together with the support of our Countesthorpe Academy students to put on a fantastic show. Our students are performing 'A Modern Twist' that focuses on traditional styles with a modern music twist. We have lots of hard-work and rehearsals planned and are excited to showcase all of their amazing talents!

Our post 16 students have also been running basketball and badminton clubs' after school with lots of students attending. The clubs have an increased in numbers every single week and we look forward to more students joining us ready for our future fixtures. There are also some upcoming house competitions planned in these clubs, with staff also keen to get involved!

Mini marathon success

Finally, we would like to wish our Year 9 student, Josh Adkin, good luck in his mini marathon!!

Joshua ran in the qualification race for the London mini marathon and has qualified for a place on the six strong team to represent the East Midlands!



Good luck to Josh!

Textiles



Year 7 students were asked to create mood boards as part of their Textiles homework. This was to give them design ideas for their sewing project, in which they are making a cushion cover!

Students will get 4 pieces of plain, square fabric which they can decorate however they choose, using various techniques such as tie dye, batik and appliqué.



Societies Fayre

We are proud of HIVE Sixth Form in so many ways. We don't just support our students to achieve great success but we place huge value on providing additional experiences to enrich a students' experience.

During our annual Societies Fayre our Sixth Form students spent time reviewing the Societies on offer and chose one or more to be involved in.

We are proud to offer 24 different Societies for students to opt into in HIVE Sixth Form. These range from Be Proud (student led LGBTQA+ group), to Sports Ambassador, Reading Intervention and Film Club. These are in addition to the award winning 'Let's Talk' peer mentoring programme that our Sixth Form leaders run to support younger students.

We are looking forward to seeing how the Societies continue to grow over time.



'Let's Talk' peer mentoring programme

KS4/5 IT & COMPUTER SCIENCE INTERVENTION

TUESDAY ROOM 93 3-4PM

AFTER SCHOOL MATHS 3-4 PM

MON	TUES	WED
INTERVENTION Further Maths - 82	INTERVENTION KS3 - 80	INTERVENTION KS4 - 88
CLUBS Homework Club - 83	KS4 - 85	KS5 - 82
Maths Challenge - 80	KS5 - 81	

Student Ambassadors

Some of our amazing HIVE Sixth Form subject ambassadors have volunteered to support our younger students by offering two different after-school sessions on a Monday.

The first is a homework club, offering a non-threatening peer-to-peer support for any student wishing to complete their homework at school.

The second offers keen, young mathematicians the chance to take part in exciting and fun activities that demonstrate their problem-solving skills using the UKMT Mathematical Challenge resources.

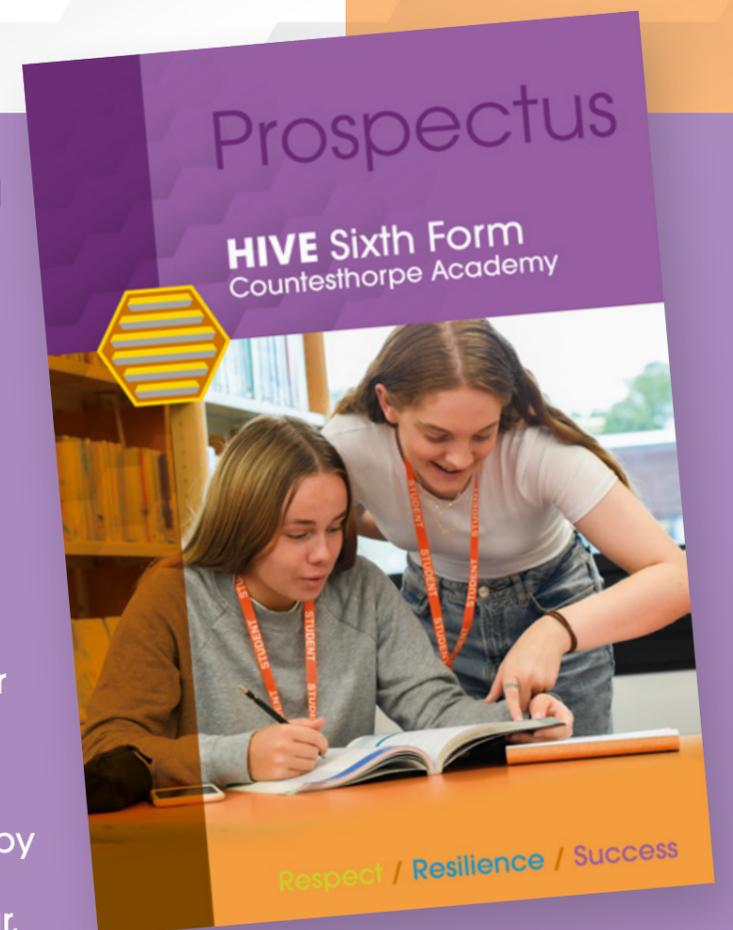
In addition to this, the Maths and Enterprise Faculty team also offer a lot of support sessions after-school.

HIVE Sixth Form

Our Open Evening is a great way to explore what HIVE Sixth Form has to offer.

Open Evening for students wishing to start in September 2023 is Thursday 3rd November 2022.

However, if you would like to explore our HIVE Sixth Form and find out more about how we can help you achieve your potential please get in touch with Mrs K. Challinor, Head of HIVE Sixth Form kchallinor@clcc.college who will be happy to answer your questions and provide you with a guided tour.



House Winners Day 2022



Most team-based educational competitions require students to take on challenging tasks that require good communication, collaboration, and teamwork. The fact that they are striving to achieve such a challenging task together, makes them work harder at understanding their specific skills, and how to work well with one another. The fact that they know other teams are aiming to achieve the same goals, goes a long way in motivating the teams to become more cohesive, and better collaborators.

Competitions set a framework for practicing and facilitating a growth mindset for our students. They give benchmarks upon which we can base our improvements and put value on the challenge of improving. Persistence, resiliency, and grit are all components of Mental Toughness. These valuable real-world skills come in handy across every area of our careers and lives. We must know how to bend and not break under pressure. We must learn how to handle stressful, competitive situations. Educational competitions in a safe setting provide students with safe scenarios in which they can practice these skills.

At Countesthorpe Academy we pride ourselves in our house system, it is a great way to help students feel a sense of belonging within the wider school community. The house competitions provide many opportunities for students to develop various skills, such as social, physical and intellectual. This year many students have made a positive contribution to the house system and a sense of pride in all they have achieved.

Congratulations to Hawkins house, who at the end of term were our reigning champions! Students in Hawkins celebrated their achievements with a day of non-uniform fun. They were rewarded with an inflatable fun park, sports on the field, films in the theatre, and ice cream.

The day was a great success which we can't wait to do again in 2023!!



Students throughout the Academy took part in a house competition to commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Students were asked to create a piece of art or compose a short poem.

We received numerous amazing submissions, which were compiled into a book, including messages from the students, and hand delivered to Buckingham Palace.

The most impressive pieces of work were awarded house points.



LIMBO!

During their assembly, each year group took part in a live house competition to compete for points. Form groups selected a competitor to represent them in a game of limbo!

There were 160 house points available for the winners of each year group, with points also given to runners up.

It was a fantastic way to start the day!



News from the Library



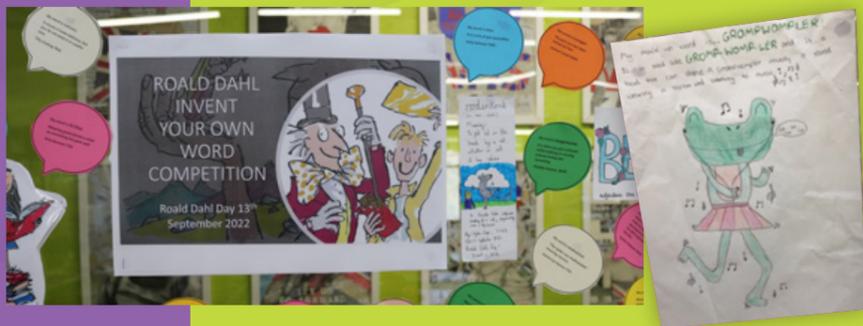
We have had a busy start to the academic year with Year 7,8 and 9 taking their reading assessments.

Year 7 have had a library induction and will be based there every 2 weeks to support their accelerated reading.

Year 8 will be there every 2 weeks for their bedrock lesson and will have the chance to change their books.

We also have a new young adult section and Year 10 and 11 have a reward scheme - when they have read 6 books, they get a free £2.50 lunch from the canteen!

We have also had lots of exciting new books in the library.



Roald Dahl Day

To celebrate Roald Dahl day on September 13th, the library held an 'invent your own word' competition.

We had lots of entries with the top 6 gaining house points. The winner being Grompwoomler - a dancing toad!



European day of Languages

September 26th was European Day of languages. The library had a selection of duo lingo books and travel books. Several competitions took place during lunch time with many students taking part.

Check out the new sections in the library

Extra Curricular Sessions 3-4pm

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MATHS KS4 Further Maths - 82 KS3/4 homework club - 83 KS3/4 Maths challenge - 80	MATHS KS3 - 80 KS4 - 85 KS5 - 81	MATHS KS4 - 88 KS5 - 82	PE Badminton - Sports Hall	SCIENCE KS3 Science club - 47
DRAMA KS3 - Theatre	IT/COMPUTING KS4/5 - 93	DRAMA KS3 - Drama Studio		GAMES CLUB Week 1 only - 73
PE Basketball - Sports Hall Girls football - MUGA Dance - Activity Studio	DRAMA KS3 - Theatre	PE Running club - Sports Hall PE and Dance support - 13		FILM CLUB Lunchtime - 14
MEDIA KS4/5 - 13	SCIENCE KS5/BTEC - 43	SCIENCE Year 11 - 43 & 45		
KS3 - Year 7, 8 & 9 KS4 - Year 10 & 11 KS5 - Year 12, 13 & 14 PE - All Years	ENGLISH Year 7 (last Wednesday of the Month) -58 KS4 Language - 53			
	ART & DESIGN Year 11 Art - 97 KS3 Textiles - 29			
	MFL Year 11 French - 62 Year 11 Spanish - 61			

Late bus available on Tuesday and Wednesday - leaving CA at 4:15pm

MAKING EVERY LESSON COUNT
 COUNTESTHORPE ACADEMY

CHALLENGE
 We plan our lessons to ensure there is challenge for all students to be the best that they can be

EXPLANATION
 We explain new learning and tasks to our students so that they can all achieve

MODELLING
 We model the learning so that all students have a clear understanding of how to apply their knowledge and skills

PRACTICE
 We allow students time to practice their learning. We start lessons with students retrieving learning from previous lessons

FEEDBACK
 We provide feedback to students so that they know how successful they are and how to improve

QUESTIONING
 Lots of questioning is used in class to enable all students to think hard

KS3 Drama Clubs YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

After School Clubs!

MONDAYS: PLAY OF THE DAY WHERE? THEATRE
 STARTING MONDAY 26TH WITH 'WIND IN THE WILLOWS'!

TUESDAYS: TECH CLUB
 WHERE? THEATRE
 TAKE PART IN CREATING LIGHTING AND SOUND IN THEATRE!

WEDNESDAYS: DRAMA CLUB
 WHERE? DRAMA STUDIO
 PLAY DRAMA GAMES AND PUT ON SHOWCASES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

arashleigh@clcc.college



Career News



Careers Day

The annual careers day at Countesthorpe Academy will be back on Friday 11th November 2022. There are lots of exciting activities planned for to help students make the right careers choices.

- **Year 7/8 – Ducks/Foxes activity.** This activity is an enterprise activity and gives students an idea how a business idea goes through the production process all the way from design, to manufacture and sales.
- **Year 9 Employer Talk.** These talks are designed to give students an idea of what life is like in industry with a first hand view from our inspirational guest speakers. Students will be given the opportunity to select the talks that most appeal to them.
- **Year 10- Transferable Skills.** These workshops are designed to get students to think about the importance of how skills they currently have can be applied to different roles.
- **Year 11 – Introduction to PS 16.** This activity encourages our year 11 students to plan for next year.
- **Year 12 – Trip to De Montfort University.** This aims to give students a taste of university life as well as getting them to think about possible courses they may study.
- **Year 13 – Lions Lair.** This 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. We have 4 'Lions' joining us for the day.



Work Experience

Year 10 and Year 12 work experience will be held 3rd - 7th July 2023.

These work experience placements give students the opportunity to experience the workplace and help them to develop their transferable skills and explore possible career options.

Business Studies

Just before the summer break, a team of Year 12 A Level Business students took part in the annual CIPFA 6th Form Management Games at De Montfort University.

The students undertook a challenge which saw them roll playing the Senior Management Team of a fictitious local authority 'Midbourne Council'. They were given the task of making recommendations relating to the management of local services and associated budgets for the coming year. They presented their strategic proposal and budget plans to Directors of Finance from local government.

The Countesthorpe Academy team were judged joint second place overall - a fantastic achievement in the face of very tough competition indeed!

A huge congratulations to Matthew, Oliver, Harry, Daniel, Evie, Emily and Keira - you are a credit to Countesthorpe Academy!



Introductions from the careers department

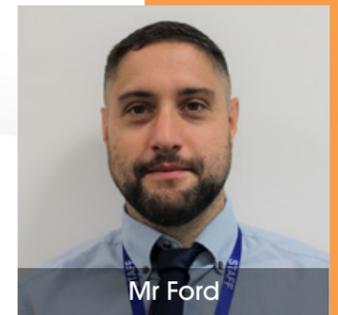
“ My name is Mrs Keeling and I am the Careers Admin Assistant. I am based in the Careers Office on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning, and work alongside the Careers Lead and Careers Co-ordinator. One of my main duties is to administer the Work Experience Programme. All Year 10 and 12 students spend one week doing work experience which is self-sourced and will commence next year on 3 July. Work experience is a fantastic opportunity to develop communication and social skills and will help prepare students for future working life.

I also assist in the organisation of careers trips, visits to the Academy and events such as mock interviews and the annual careers day in November.”



Mrs Keeling

“ My name is Mr Ford, as well as being a Teacher of IT and Computer Science I am also the Careers Lead at Countesthorpe Academy. I am responsible for arranging lots of the careers events such as careers day at the Academy. I can also help with general careers advice, so if you have any questions please come and see me!”



Mr Ford

“ My name is Mrs Welham, since the start of the academic year, I have joined as the new Careers Co-ordinator at Countesthorpe Academy. My focus is to provide one to one careers appointments to discuss your career ideas and plans for the future.

Whether you are just beginning to think about your future or have some clear ideas, I can help you to explore your options. I can support you to identify further study and opportunities, ensuring that you feel equipped to research relevant options. My aim is to help you understand your interests and strengths, grow in career confidence, and feel ready to take the next step.

To book a careers advice meeting please speak to your form tutor or drop into the careers office at break-time or lunchtime.”



Mrs Welham

7LVE - thoughts on our first weeks...



“The first month at Countesthorpe has been amazing. I’ve made lots of new friends. The worst thing is the homework, I HATE homework. It’s too much!” **By Leighton Skeemer**

“Starting year 7 was a big challenge for me, mainly because I was the only pupil from my primary school to come to Countesthorpe Academy. I have enjoyed making new friends and learning new things. During Crew Time I have learnt sentences in other languages. I love my new iPad!” **By Miles Berrill**

“My favourite lessons so far are Maths and Food. We have learnt about triangle numbers and in food we’ve made a fruit salad. I am finding French hard as I’ve never been good at languages but I will keep trying.” **By Corey**

“In Crew Time we’re learning about friendships and being respectful. What I found challenging in week one was trying not to get lost, but by week two I was more confident. By week four I wasn’t scared of anything anymore!” **By Leah Halliday-Frost**

“I really like French because it’s so much fun learning a new language. I also like the food here! The most difficult thing was Science because I didn’t really understand it at first, but the teacher, Dr Francis, was really nice and now it’s easier.” **By Khushi Bajwa**

“My first couple of weeks have been good. I like Crew time because Mrs V is an amazing teaching. I love Textiles because we make lots of things and I love to be creative. I have made lots of friends and everyone is kind.” **By Emmie-Jade Johnson**

“Week one I was really nervous and anxious but by week 4 it was amazing. We are meeting challenges and getting value points. Homework is fun and I really love Crew Time as our teacher is really funny and nice. I’ve made a lot of new friends this week and I am slowly overcoming my fears!” **By Karanveer Singh**

“My first few weeks at Countesthorpe Academy I grew in confidence. I enjoy Recognition Friday, Music and finger-print poetry in English. In Humanities we have learnt about chronology time-lines. I am looking forward to using my new iPad.” **By Lilly Byrne**

“My first every friend here was Luther. We met by walking to the gate and he asked me where to go. Even though I miss my primary friends, I am still making lots of friends here. I really like this school, it’s amazing and I like learning new things.” **By Alastair**

“When I was in Primary I was nervous: What if people don’t like me? What if I can’t do the work? As soon as I stepped into Countesthorpe Academy I felt welcomed and excited for high school. We were given a tour and I loved the school. The new build is my favourite because we had Resistant Materials in there and that’s the best lesson! I want to get better at Maths, because my confidence isn’t there yet. I hope I do. For the next 5 years, I will LOVE this school!” **By Shay Carroll**



At Countesthorpe Academy we want our students to be ‘the best they can be’ and look and feel smart.

We want them to be proud of the community to which they belong. It is expected that students will dress smartly and take pride in how they look. In coming to the Academy, parents and carers agree to support our policy in ensuring your child is correctly dressed. Uniform must be worn at all times, including the journey to and from school.

In response to parental feedback, we have moved supplier to SchoolWear Solutions for the Academic Year 2022–2023. In line with government guidance, we have also reviewed items of our uniform with logos and have limited our items with logos to allow for increased parental choice and provide support given the current economic situation.

Please find visit our website for information about our uniform for September 2022. Please read the uniform information carefully.

www.clcc.college/uniform-information

Ordering your uniform

Uniform can be purchased from the school uniform provider:

www.schoolwearsolutions.com

Please contact the supplier directly for any questions or queries about uniform.

**Schoolwear
Solutions**

Uniform

September 2022

Countesthorpe Academy in Action Tours are your opportunity to see our wonderful school as it really is.

The tour will last for approximately 45 mins. You will be shown around by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. During the tour you will go into lessons and meet and speak with students as we go about our daily business of making a positive difference to lives of our young people.

Action Tours

Book your place here:
<https://bit.ly/3TqzdNn>

We can't wait to meet you!



Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Teacher Days	Thurs 25th & Fri 26th Aug 2022
August Bank Holiday	Mon 29th Aug 2022
Students Start	Tues 30th Aug 2022
Mid-Term Break	Mon 17th Oct to Fri 21st Oct 2022
Disaggregated Day (school closed)	Fri 25th Nov 2022
School closes for students	Fri 16th Dec 2022

SPRING TERM 2023

Bank Holiday	Mon 2nd Jan 2023
Students Start	Tues 3rd Jan 2023
Mid-Term Break	Mon 20th to Fri 24th Feb 2023
School Closes for Students	Fri Evening 31st Mar 2023

SUMMER TERM 2023

Students Start	Mon 17th Apr 2023
May Day Bank Holiday	Mon 1st May 2023
Mid-Term Break	Mon 29th May to Fri 2nd June 2023
School Closes for Students	Thurs Evening 13th July 2023

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



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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.