



THE CITY OF  
LEICESTER  
COLLEGE

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Hello all,

Just like that, 2025 is at an end and as a school we once again reflect on all the successes that this year has brought. From another incredibly successful set of GCSE results that put us well above local, city and national averages and the best set of results that we have ever had at A-Level, through to the wonderful character our students showed throughout another really positive Challenge Partners review, the TCOLC community remains in a wonderful place.

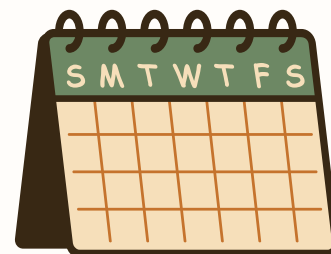
The big successes though are built on the day to day work that happens here, and you will see on the following pages just a small snapshot of the things that have gone on this term. It takes a huge amount of work from our staff and a massive amount of commitment from our students to provide these opportunities, so I want to thank everyone who has contributed. I also want to thank every parent and carer for supporting what we do here because we couldn't do it without you. Here's to an even more successful 2026 but in the meantime whether you celebrate or not, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with your loved ones!

Kind regards,  
Mr Vernon



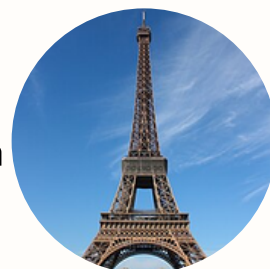
## TCOLC CALENDAR (JANUARY - MARCH)

5 January 26	Start of Spring Term
8 January 26	Year 13 Parents' Evening
13 January 26	Year 11 Mock Results Morning
22 January 26	Numeracy Day 3 - Graphs and Charts
26 January 26	Start of Year 10 Mocks
28 January 26	Intermediate Maths Challenge
5 February 26	Year 11 Parents' Evening
2 February 26	Year 12 Work Experience
9 February 26	Start of Year 13 Mocks
12 February 26	Year 9 Parents' Evening
26 February 26	Year 9 Options Evening
2 March 26	Start of Year 11 Core Mocks
2 March 26	National Careers Week
2 March 26	STEAM Month
9 March 26	Year 9 Options Interviews
9 March 26	Year 10 Work Experience Week
<b>20 March 26</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
26 March 26	Year 8 Parents' Evening



## PLANNED TRIPS (JANUARY - JULY)

January 26	Year 13 Oxford University
26 January 26	Year 9 Holocaust Centre - History
2 February 26	Year 11 Poetry Live Nottingham - English
19 June 26	Year 9 Etihad Stadium - English
18-25 June	Year 10 Hunstanton - Geography
22 June 26	Paris Residential - MFL
22 June 26	Black Country Museum - History
26 June 26	Year 10 Lincoln Castle - History
6 July 26	Bronze DofE Expeditions
6 July 26	Year 9 & Year 10 Drayton Manor
8 July 26	Year 11 Alton Towers





# TCOLC NEWS

## Etihad Stadium Visit

On Friday 12th September, 40 Year 10 students had the amazing opportunity to visit Etihad Stadium in Manchester to explore journalism in football. The students were incredible on the day and have made TCOLC proud. The tour guides and ambassadors at Manchester City were incredibly impressed.

## European Day of Languages

Our students celebrated European Day of Languages with enthusiasm, taking part in a lively quiz that tested their knowledge of cultures and languages. They showcased their creativity through a friendly competition, adding a fun and engaging twist to the day. Students also practised greetings in multiple European languages, building confidence and cultural awareness. The event highlighted the importance of language learning and global connections across the school community.



## STEAM and LEGO Clubs

Students have been diving into amazing STEAM and LEGO Robot League activities, from building thrilling rollercoasters, ground breaking earthquakes to exploring flame tests, DNA from strawberries and firework science. They've tackled exciting coding challenges, blending creativity with problem-solving skills. These hands-on experiences are sparking curiosity and innovation.



## Park Run

The Social Science department and its students raised money for our school and international charity, One Nepal by taking part in a group 5K Park Run on a bitterly cold October morning. They were also paying respect to Fatima, our dearest friend and colleague.



## Leicester's First Poet Laureate visits TCOLC



A poet laureate is an honorary position appointed by the government. This year Leicester has their first Poet Laureate – Mr Shay! Mr Shay is a Leicester-based poet, musician, beatboxer, rapper and loop pedal artist, widely recognised for his dedication to youth engagement and community creativity. Over the past decade, he has delivered workshops, projects and commissions across Leicester, reaching participants of all ages and backgrounds through schools, community centres and arts organisations.

In October, Year 9 students had an inspiring opportunity to unleash their creativity and explore the power of words during an interactive poetry workshop with Mr Shay to celebrate National Poetry Day.

## New Horrible Histories Club

TCOLC has launched an exciting new Horrible Histories Club for Years 7, 8, and 9, where students dive into gruesome murder mysteries and uncover the secrets of the Rotten Romans. With a unique Leicester twist, the club brings history to life in fun and interactive ways. It's a brilliant chance for young historians to explore the past like never before!





## Navratri Night



TCOLC came alive with colour and culture during our amazing annual Navratri Night celebrations, filled with music, dance, and celebration. Students and staff joined together to embrace tradition and enjoy a truly unforgettable evening.

## World Mental Health Day

On World Mental Health Day, TCOLC students explored the idea of 'mental health superpowers'—skills and strategies to boost resilience and wellbeing. The activities encouraged positive thinking and practical ways to support emotional strength every day.



## College Elections

After an exciting campaign period, TCOLC students cast their votes to elect the new College Captains—our top student leaders. This year the College Captain went to the joint candidate pairing of Madeenah & Maryam. This process not only celebrates student voice but also strengthens democracy within the school.

The elected captains will play a key role in supporting the Student Council and shaping school life.



## Black History Month Activities

TCOLC students marked Black History Month with a range of inspiring activities. They joined over 308,000 young people nationwide for the Great Big Live Assembly—a powerful moment of unity and hope. Tutor time sessions focused on celebrating diversity and British values, reinforcing our commitment to inclusion. Year 8 BAME female students attended STEM workshops at the Phoenix Digital Arts Centre, exploring future careers in technology and science. Year 7 enjoyed creative workshops and an assembly led by local poet Ty'rone Haughton, bringing history and culture to life through spoken word.



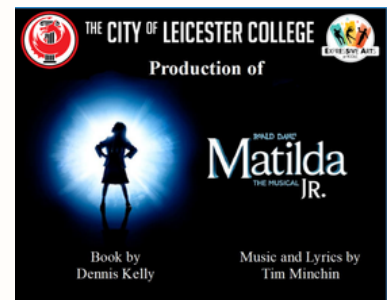


## Royal Institute Youth Summit

In October, A Level Science students visited the National Space Centre to attend the RI Youth Summit. The Youth Summit is designed to support students with enrichment, careers awareness and UCAS statements, and included talks from STEM speakers, a planetarium session and group discussion. Students learnt about the future of space exploration, careers related to space and had the opportunity to contribute to television shows! They also held a piece of the moon and a rock which was 4 billion years old!

## Matilda Jr Performances Bring the House Down

TCOLC wowed audiences with an incredible in-house production of Matilda Jr, showcasing outstanding talent and creativity. Students brought the beloved story to life with powerful performances, stunning sets, and unforgettable music. It was a true celebration of teamwork and the arts within our school community.



## Twycross Geography Zoo Visit

Groups of Year 7 geography students engaged with workers from Twycross Zoo investigating human impact on the planet and the need for biodiversity. This is part of a developing relationship with the zoo to give geography students wider opportunities to learn about current global issues.

## Knife Crime Awareness Mock Court Trials

In November, Year 9 students were fortunate enough to have the magistrates court coming into school to deliver a mock trial and presentation around knife crime awareness. Combined with work in students' Life Skills lessons, they were able to play roles within a mock trial along with the professionals that visited school.

## Odd Socks Day at TCOLC

TCOLC proudly took part in Anti-Bullying Week, starting with Odd Socks Day to celebrate individuality and kindness. Tutor time sessions and assemblies focused on building a community of tolerance, respect, and inclusion. Together, students embraced the message that everyone belongs and differences should be celebrated.



## Remembrance Service

TCOLC's college captain proudly represented the school at the Evington Village Remembrance Service, laying a wreath and gave a reading to honour those who served. Back at school, students observed a two-minute silence during tutor time, reflecting on the importance of remembrance. These acts of respect reinforce our community values.



## VR Headsets to Investigate the Holocaust

In November, 45 Year 9 History students took part in an incredible workshop with the Holocaust Educational Trust, using cutting-edge Virtual Reality to deepen their understanding of historical events. Students virtually met a Holocaust survivor, heard his powerful testimony, and explored significant sites through immersive tours. This unique experience enriched their classroom learning and sparked thoughtful reflections on history and moral responsibility.



## Pumpkin Carving for Halloween

Students from Year 7, 8, and 9 got creative in an after-school enrichment session, carving spooky pumpkins for Halloween. The activity was a fantastic way to showcase imagination and teamwork, bringing plenty of seasonal fun to TCOLC!





## BeScience Workshop

In November, 100 Year 10 students spent the morning tackling real-world sustainability challenges in an exciting workshop led by BeScience, a STEM not-for-profit organisation. Working in teams, students researched issues, developed innovative solutions, and delivered impressive presentations to an engaged audience. This hands-on experience not only boosted their STEM skills but also highlighted the importance of collaboration and creativity in solving global problems.



## Careers Week

TCOLC launched Careers Week with assemblies for every year group, exploring pathways from Post-16 options to careers in finance and property development. Departments linked subjects to real-world careers, helping students see how their learning connects to future opportunities. Students were also encouraged to use Unifrog to discover careers suited to their interests.



## Year 7 Church Trips

In December, over the course of 3 days all students in Year 7 braved the blustery winds to seize the opportunity to visit the local Parish Church as part of their Religious Studies curriculum. They are currently studying Christianity that will form the basis of our latter lessons at GCSE. Whilst there the Reverend shared the fascinating history of St Deny's and the importance that the building holds in Christian Practice. Students then had the opportunity to explore the church on a mini treasure hunt.



## Birmingham Geography Study

Sixth Form students visited Digbeth to explore urban regeneration in action. They investigated how redevelopment projects are transforming the area, linking their classroom learning to real-world examples. This hands-on experience gave students valuable insights into geography, planning, and future career opportunities.





## Christmas Cards for Local Care Home

Part of TCOLC protected characteristics, this month has focused on Age. College Captains and Student Council members delivered Christmas cards to local care home residents, promoting kindness and conversation. This initiative supports wellbeing and community spirit, while encouraging students to reflect on inclusion and respect for all ages.



## FRIENDS OF TCOLC (PTFA)

### Get Involved in your School Charity



Thank you to everyone who has participated in any of our events over the last term. We had an excellent educational evening in September with the Workers' Education Association and the Central Coop with sessions on everything from revision skills to healthy eating and we have been steadily raising money through our tuck shop, uniform sales and donations. In our recent meeting, supported by Dr Tas our Chair of Governors, we've agreed on funding for exciting projects, including performing arts equipment, the Y11 prom, our TCOLC newspaper The City Herald and community events.

To keep these initiatives going, we need your help! You can make a difference by donating through our JustGiving or EasyFundraising pages (QR codes below) or by getting in touch with me directly to volunteer. Every contribution, big or small, helps us create amazing opportunities for our students and community.

Let's make this year unforgettable!

Regards,

Mrs Hurdley-Lees

Chairperson, Friends of TCOLC

**JustGiving**



**easyfundraising**



## **PHS DIRECT - PROVIDING FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS**

All girls at TCOLC are able to access free period products if they need them. This may include, for example, where individuals:

- have forgotten their products
- cannot afford products
- have come on unexpectedly



Packs of sanitary towels, boxes of tampons or period pants can be obtained at anytime during the school day from the following locations:

- Main office (Y7 - Y13)
- Head of Year office (Y7 - Y11)
- Sixth Form LRC (Y12 - Y13)
- Attendance office (Y7 - Y13)



### **SCHOOL SERVICE ROAD**



Please note that parking on the service road, on the right of the school, is not permitted. This road is for emergency vehicles and deliveries only.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## **PENALTY NOTICES - FINES FOR SCHOOL ABSENCE**



Please be aware that parents may be issued with a Penalty Notice if their child has unauthorised absence from school. Parents also face prosecution in the Magistrates' Court; a fine of up to £2,500 or a community penalty could be imposed together with a Parenting Order. A criminal record will then exist for the parent.

You can download the Penalty Notice Code of Conduct, and the council's Enforcement Policy which are available on the [LCC website](#).

# FREE SCHOOL MEAL CHECKER

If you think that your child may be eligible for free school meals, you can use this checker:

[Free School Meal Checker Link](#)



## NUT-FREE SCHOOL

A reminder that we are a **NUT-FREE** school. We have students who have severe nut allergies. If your child brings snacks or a packed lunch from home, we please ask you to check they are completely nut-free.

## E-SCOOTERS

Please be reminded that e-scooters are not permitted on site here at TCOLC, and it is against the law to ride an e-scooter on a public road or pavement.



## LOCAL BUS INFORMATION

### Centrebus S1005 Victoria Road East to TCOLC

Scan the QR code below to view live services, timetables and fares.



### Arriva

Scan the QR code opposite for Arriva's Student Saver Tickets.

For travel Information including local maps and timetables please visit: [www.arrivabus.co.uk](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk)





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

### DEEPPAKE ABUSE CONTENT

Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or AI-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.

### BLURRED REALITY

Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.

### USED FOR BULLYING

Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely. AI-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.

### EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

AI-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.

### DISINFORMATION

AI-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. False clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. AI is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.

### IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS

With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation – and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of video, in particular, on social media.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.

### TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.

### STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.

### Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College®



# 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](#).

## 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:

