



## HEAD TEACHER UPDATE

Hello and welcome to the final newsletter of the 2023-2024 academic year!

It has been another extremely action packed and successful year with far more than we could ever cram into a newsletter but I hope the coming pages give you a flavour of what the TCOLC community have been up to. I have many personal highlights this year from results days to the awards evening, the catwalk during culture day and visiting our Duke of Edinburgh students at camp and I am sure your child will have their own.

We have had students visit the Curve and Globe theatres, local places of worship, Drayton Manor and Alton Towers theme parks, the Etihad Stadium, the Houses of Parliament and much more. We have also set up the Friends of The City of Leicester College PTFA to further strengthen the links between school and home. This we think is a real positive step and will hopefully allow more of you to feel an active part of the TCOLC community.

It is though, the day to day work of learning and building character that will provide the best future for our students and our students have again done wonderfully. I want to thank all of you for the support you have given to your child and the school this year, but an extra special thank you for those of you who will be leaving the TCOLC community at the end of term because your children have set off for pastures new. The students in Year 11 and 13 this year were absolutely fantastic all the way through the exam season and I have no doubt it will be another sea of smiles in August.

For those staying with us for next year, we have had our transition events for both the new Year 7 and the new Year 12 students and both groups of students showed that they will be an absolute credit to the school and can't wait to get started on the next phase of their journey. We will reopen to students on Tuesday 27th August and will make sure we send reminders towards the end of the holidays about which year groups should be where, but in the meantime I hope that you and your family have a great summer.

Kind regards,  
Mr Vernon



# TCOLC CALENDAR

## (AUGUST - SEPTEMBER )

27 August School Opens  
6 September International Literacy Day  
12 September Y6 Open Evening  
18 September TCOLC Awards Night  
23 September TCOLC Numeracy Day  
26 September Friends of TCOLC PTFA meeting.



## PLANNED TRIPS (AUGUST - SEPTEMBER)

29-31 August National School Games at Loughborough University  
11 September Y11 Kayaking at Leicester's Outdoor Pursuits Centre  
9-10 September Y11 Geography Urban Field Trip to Leicester City Centre  
19 September Y11 Geography Field Trip to Hunstanton

## SUMMER WORK

During the summer holidays there are lots of fantastic events, festivals and exhibitions taking part in and around Leicester. We also know that many of our students enjoy keeping on top of their studies during the 6 week break, so that they don't see a dip in their progress during this time.

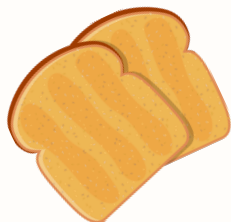
Please go to our website where you will see a link to 'What's on in Leicester' plus academic work for your child -

<https://www.cityleicester.co.uk/home/parents-and-students/summer-work/>



## TCOLC BREAKFAST CLUB

TCOLC runs a **free Breakfast Club** Monday - Friday for all students.  
The Main Entrance doors open at 7.45am - 8.00am.



Once students are in for Breakfast Club they are not permitted to leave the building.





## CALLING ALL PARENTS

In June TCOLC saw the first AGM for our Parent Teacher Friend Association, 'Friends of TCOLC'.

You are all warmly invited to the first Friends of TCOLC meeting on the 26th September where we will talk about our progress so far, plans for fundraising and where you can communicate with us.

If you would like more information about our aims or if you are interested in helping on our committee, please get in touch.

There will be parental workshops on 10 October for study skills and one on 28 November on online safety.

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 are changing



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

## Y7/Y8 Houses of Parliament Visit

Early in May, 28 Y7 and Y8 student council leaders visited the Houses of Parliament in London to investigate British democracy.



## TCOLC Sixth Form STEAM Society Talk

On Monday 20th May the TCOLC Sixth Form STEAM Society held an engineering careers talk. The group heard from industry specialist about the possible career pathways and what is required for a career in the area.

## School Sports Success

79 students represented TCOLC at Saffron Lane county games in May, with 7 students qualifying to represent the school at the finals in June. At the final it was an incredibly tough day, in very warm conditions, and the students were exceptional throughout. Despite being pipped to medal places the team showed outstanding determination and support for each other.



## TCOLC Pride Month

June allowed the school to celebrate TCOLC Pride Month.

Pride Month is a vibrant and inclusive celebration for the LGBTQ+ community. The TCOLC Pride Club held tutor time sessions, a bake sale, movie night (The Greatest Showman) and raised £136.70 for the Terrance Higgins Trust.

## TCOLC Numeracy Day

On Monday 22nd June, TCOLC celebrated Numeracy day. It gave students an opportunity to enhance how they understand and work with numbers in day to day life. There were events throughout the day all dedicated to better understanding and using Percentages.



## TCOLC Culture day

On Friday 21st June, One Nepal and the Sixth Form Student Council hosted the annual TCOLC Culture day! Students were invited to wear clothes that showed their cultural and social heritage. Students celebrated the diversity within our school community through catwalks, dancing, musical performances and shared stories.



## Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Success

41 Y9 students all showed great resilience, teamwork and problems solving to complete their Bronze DofE expedition section. The students carried their own camping equipment and walked over 8 hours to a Leicestershire campsite before sleeping under canvas before repeating a return journey.

## Wear it Yellow Day

On June 28th, TCOLC wore it yellow to raise awareness for the life-limiting and genetic condition cystic fibrosis. This cure-less condition dominates thousands of lives every day. Through a bake sale, tutor time activity and a Wear Yellow Day the school raised over £200 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.



## Health & Social Care Course Events

At the end of June Y12 H&SC students had a fantastic day at DMU, experiencing university life and raising carer aspirations. Students enjoyed a tour of the campus, speaking to university students, took part in a health and well-being lecture and completed a challenging budgeting activity.

The students also had a CPR training session alongside guest speakers promoting careers in the H&SC sector.

## Stephen Lawrence Day Symposium Y8 Students Councils



On June 22nd, 11 Y8 student council leaders attended the first Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors Symposium at DMU. The Students listened to inspirational talks from student ambassadors from across the midlands who were working to end racism and discriminatory behaviours in our communities.

## Kayaking at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre

In June, 49 Y10 GCSE Sports students spent a day developing their Kayaking skills. The students developed risk assessments and were able to review their performance in an outdoor adventurous activity for their mandatory units.



## Y9 Visit New Walk Museum

30 Y9 students visited Leicester's New Walk Museum to see the Subway Art Expedition and the touring Renoir's painting 'The Umbrellas'.

## End of Year Trips

The end of the summer term saw all Active and Ambitious students given the opportunity to attend a school trip with their peers. Y7 students visited the Ninja Warrior in Leicester, Y8 and Y9 investigated the science of the Drayton Manor Theme Park and Y10 visited Alton Towers Theme Park.





## TCOLC's Got Talent

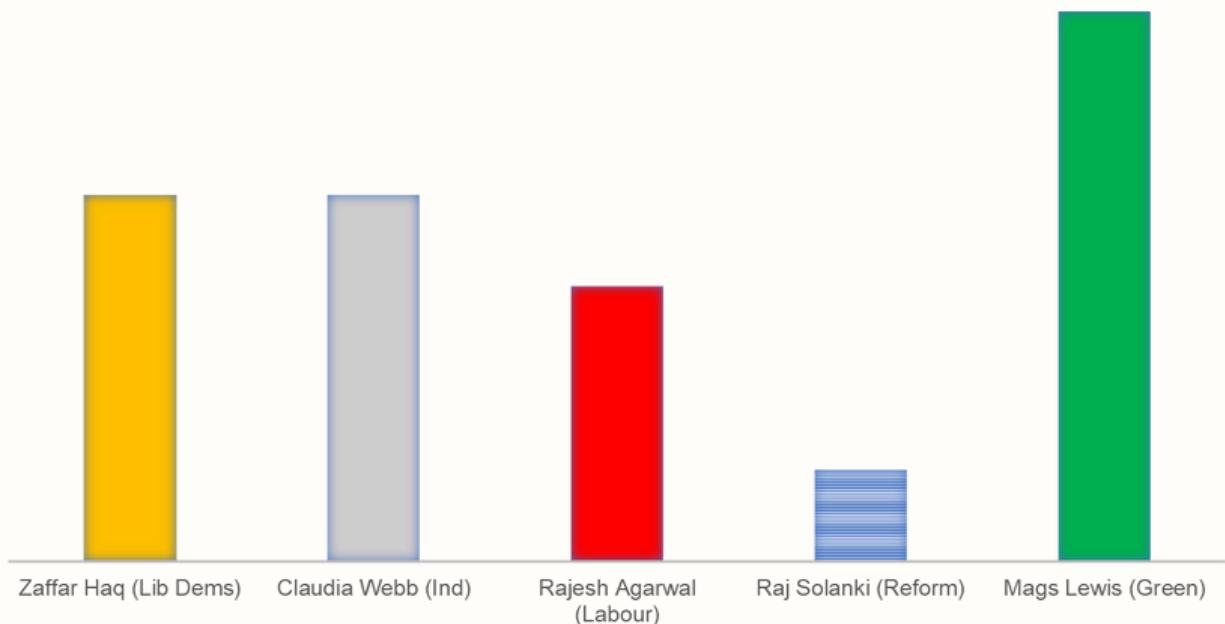
TCOLC's Got Talent took place in June. This showcase allowed our creative, confident and skilful students to display their talent to a live audience and a panel of judges. The judges found it really difficult to choose just one winner, but the lucky performer was Kowshik who performed a keyboard solo, and received a £50 Highcross voucher. Well done to all who took part!



## TCOLC Election Results

During the national general election taking place across the country, TCOLC students made their way to the polls. Their responsibility was to elect a leader based primarily on the education pledges outlined in the party manifestos. Students voted the Green party as winner.

### GREEN PARTY WINS THE TCOLC ELECTION





## Y11 Prom

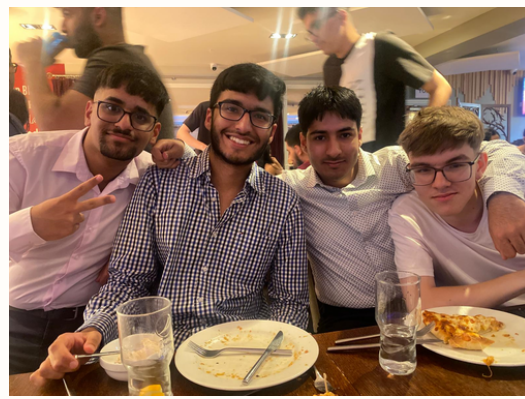
What an amazing way to end 5 years at TCOLC. Y11 had an amazing prom at King Power Stadium on Friday 28th June with a special performance from one of our own. Some say Miss Pratt even started dancing!

We wish them all the success they deserve, and look forward to seeing their smiles on Thursday 22nd August for GCSE Results Day.



## Y13 Leavers

Our Y13 students and their teachers celebrated the end of the academic year with the annual Leavers' meal at Chef and Spice. It was an enjoyable, uplifting and sometimes emotional evening that marked the end of up to seven years of association with the school. We wish the Y13s all the best for the future!



## EXAM RESULTS DAY

### A Level - Thursday 15th August 2024

The college will be open from 8:30am-10:00am for you to collect your results.

### GCSE - Thursday 22nd August 2024

The college will be open from 09:00am-10:00am for you to collect your results.

If students are unable to attend in person, but would like somebody else to collect their results on their behalf then that person must arrive with a letter of authority, signed by the student whose results they are, and a form of ID.

# 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

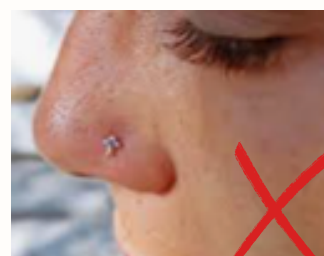
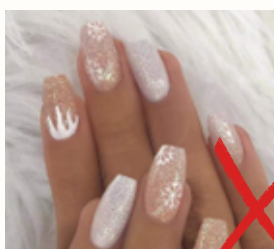
Here is a link to Uniform Direct where you can buy college blazers and ties, and plain black pleated skirts: [Uniform Direct Link](#).

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





# WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SCREEN ADDICTION

It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. In this guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as damage to health and wellbeing, app addiction and a lack of sleep.



It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?

**47%** of parents said they thought their children spent too much time in front of screens

## What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION



### HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

### LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



### CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes', explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

### LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

### APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.



**National Online Safety**



## Top Tips for Parents



### LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

### LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

### MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

### REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focused the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

### ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.



### STATISTICS

**52%** of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly 9hrs a week

**82%** of children aged 5-7 go online for nearly 9.5hrs a week

**93%** of children aged 8-11 go online for nearly 13.5hrs a week

**99%** of children aged 12-15 go online for nearly 20.5hrs a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018

# INTRODUCING *Innovate* CATERING

Providing a safe and stimulating environment is absolutely key for student success, but without healthy nutrition and sleep students will never reach their potential. This is why we are excited to introduce Innovate caterers as our new catering suppliers. We have been part of a wide reaching tender to find the best company for our students and Innovate were the clear winners. More information will be with you in the new academic year but we wanted you to know about the change before the summer.

Balances will be topped up in the exact same way and existing balances will be rolled over so as parents you won't have to change anything. However, we are confident that the range and quality of food on offer will be much better for our students.

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. It is an opportunity for them to raise their voices, share their concerns and engage with our community.

Students work incredibly hard to get the papers completed each term. Please have a read of our fourth and final edition of 2023/2024 and let us know what you think. [The City Herald 2.4](#)





# 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:

