

De La Salle St. Helens

Summer Newsletter

Christ, Teacher and Lord, bless all in our community of De la Salle as we seek to end our year with the grace you so generously provide.

We give thanks for our pupils and their families. We exist as a school to serve their needs and to foster their ambition. We give thanks for our staff. It is their witness and tutelage which forms and transforms lives.

To you Christ we affirm all the positive moments, of insight, of the excitement of learning, of accomplishment, of creativity, of laughter, of a sense of community. We recognise the times of struggle, of difficult work, of misunderstanding, even of failure. We give these to you for transformation so they can become seeds that will find fertile soil.

As we leave for the summer may we take with us the knowledge that you will keep us all in your embrace so we may rest and be restored, so that we can continue in the ongoing discovery of your Love in our school and for our school. With the intercession of your faithful servant John Baptise De la Salle.



Message for the Head Teacher :

And so another school year ends. This has been a difficult year for our school community; one in which we have faced many challenges and learned many lessons. Yet we continue to grow in a better understanding of what all of us must do to improve. This has been manifest this year in a range of monitoring visits from Ofsted. These visits allowed for the regulator to witness at first hand THE most important feature of our school: our people. Ofsted complimented the school on the progress it has made but also challenged the school to go further in its plan to accelerate progress. They have given constructive feedback on the areas the school must focus on in order to improve; in particular around the areas of teaching and learning and behaviour management.

Also this year the school has engaged with parents through the parental forums and the school welcomes and appreciates the candour of parental feedback. The school accepts humbly that there remains scope for improvement. The priority of the school action plan in the next academic year is to focus on the twin areas of teaching and learning and behaviour management. In short to ensure that teaching motivates learning in order to accelerate pupil progress and that consistent expectations about behaviour and participation are established and monitored. The school has increased leadership capacity in both these areas in preparation for our anticipated Section 5 Ofsted inspection which is due in the autumn term.

The school is confident that with a positive set of outcomes achieved in the summer examination results and with a school community focussed on teaching in order to develop learning along with improved behaviour for learning, the school is confident that it will come out of special measures.

Farewells

The school will have say goodbye this year to a very competent and capable year 11 co-hort. They have been a credit to their families and their school but most of all to themselves. School will also say farewell to a number of staff this summer who leave De la Salle for a variety of reasons such as: retirement, promotion, change of career and the end of fixed term contracts. The school is grateful for the efforts and witness of these pupils and colleagues and wishes them well in their new ventures.

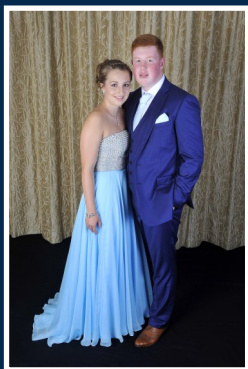
New Arrivals

The school is delighted to welcome the class of 2016 with our new year 7 in take. From the recent taster day in school they appear to be a very enthusiastic group who will certainly add character and quality to the student body. In addition the school is also delighted to welcome new staff for the coming academic year. We are certain that our new colleagues will contribute to our family community as well as contributing to improving standards within our school.

Communication

The school is putting the final touches together for the new school website which will launch at the start of the new academic year. The new website is simpler in format and we believe easier to navigate. In addition the school has introduced Parent Mail as a means through which parents can engage with school life. Parent Mail is a well-established resource which we believe will improve communication between school and parents

Leavers Prom 2016



Our Year 11 pupils celebrated their time at De La Salle with a glitzy event at Aintree racecourse on Thursday 3rd June.

The young ladies were unrecognisable in their beautiful gowns and the young gentleman stood tall in their smart suits.

We all received mocktails on arrival and after Mr Toal lead us in grace we sat to enjoy a 2 course meal followed by a chocolate fountain that could be devoured all evening.

Professional photographs were taken for individuals and groups and many enjoyed the evening sunshine and shared laughter with their school friends of 5 years out on the terraces overlooking the racecourse.

Mrs Croft and Miss Swaby announced the winners to the 'Passport to the Prom' competition who received Nando's vouchers to share another evening with friends.



The resident D.J encouraged many to dance the night away, including some dodgy moves from staff. The evening flew by and as it was time to leave and head back to school many thanked staff for the experience which they will remember for life.

We wish our Yr 11 pupils all the very best in their future lives and hope they achieve the results they deserve in the summer .

Mrs. Wellens.



Summer Awards

The successes of our young people from Years 7 to 10, were celebrated on Weds 6th July with our Annual Rewards Evening.

Mrs Teresa Sims, our chair of governors, opened the evening with a short address followed by Mr Holland (Subject Leader for R.E from Sept'16) who lead us in prayer.

Mr Toal spoke about how proud we all are of the young people receiving awards on the evening, this was followed by some excerpts from the School production of Grease to entertain all present.

Awards on the evening were: Subject Awards, Year Awards and the Brightest Star Award.

Congratulations to all the prize winners in 2016:

BRIGHTEST STARs:

Year 7 - Adam Murphy

Year 8 - Joseph Dennett

Year 9 - Daniel Carberry

Year 10—Liberty Malone

The above students were those students with the most STAR points this year.

YEAR AWARDs:

Year 7 - Adam Murphy and Samantha Moore

Year 8 - Alice Wolahan and Jamie Carter

Year 9 - Niall O'Connell and Ciara Dowling

Year 10 - Joel Lalu and Betsy Babyson

The above students were recognised for their hard work and dedication throughout the whole academic year.

Big Bang Science Fair



12 of our aspiring doctors, nurses, engineers, chemists, astrophysicists, paramedics and forensic scientists in Year 9 went Liverpool Exhibition Centre on 5th July to the Big Bang STEM fair. The event aimed to bring science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) alive for our young people by connecting them with the professional and dynamic world of STEM, through careers-related activities, workshops and experiments.

The job roles and routes into STEM careers were demonstrated by inspirational ambassadors for many STEM organisations such as AstraZeneca, NHS Northwest, Sellafield, Jaguar and Liverpool University to name but a few. Students were treated to sessions where they were able to extract their own DNA, test blood for signs of diabetes, investigate the effects of alcohol and handle robots typically used in industry.

The Big Bang was aimed at inspiring young people from all backgrounds to study science, technology, engineering and maths to become world class talents.

Mr Graney

On the 5th June myself and a group of 10 other DLS students from Year9 attended the 'Big Bang Science Fair' in Liverpool. There were hundreds of stalls from dozens of companies, with each stall having a unique aspect of Science on display. There was a central stage which hosted several different chemistry experiments, including the sublimation of carbon dioxide (Dry Ice). Many interesting prizes were offered, including a goody bag for people that had a rare, 1 in 100, fingerprint known as a 'Tented Arch'. Other stalls included: Heat detecting cameras, Virtual Reality, Retro Video-games, sampling DNA, mixing chemicals an even milking a cow! It was a very interesting day which helped to encourage our interests in Science, and show us some of the most cutting-edge technology available.

Niall O'Connell 9T



Chemistry Camp

Our year 10 students were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to take part in the prestigious Salters' Institute Chemistry Camp. Samantha McQuiggan and Emma Robinson are two of our students who were selected from hundreds of applicants to take part in this valuable and enriching opportunity. The students will be living life as a Chemistry University student using the brand new halls of residence and laboratories of the University of Salford in July.

'I was told about the Manchester-Salford Chemistry Camp by my Physics teacher, Mrs Small. I had to fill in a long form detailing my interests and why I wanted to attend the camp among other things. I said that it seems like a great opportunity to expand my knowledge and learn about other aspects of further education and university life. I'm considering studying medicine in the future, so going to Chemistry Camp will look brilliant on my CV! I was surprised and relieved to find my application had been accepted; unfortunately, not everyone who applied was offered a place so I'm really lucky. I'm looking forward to experiencing university life - we get to stay at the university for the duration of the camp - and doing the sort of thing that I'd do at degree level in a lab. Thanks to Mrs Small and Manchester-Salford University for this wonderful opportunity!' *Samantha McQuiggan.*



Such an exciting opportunity, we wish them both the best of luck!

Mrs Small

Carmel College Visit

Our day at Carmel started with rather a lot of rain. Once we got to Carmel, we were quickly ushered into the hall though, so we didn't get wet, and then taken to our assigned subjects for that day. I had been given English and Media.

Our first lesson was English Language where we looked at accents and stereotyping. We had to look at four sections of dialogue and then describe what we thought the person was like. Then we had to create our own character using the items in the middle of the table. After that we had a short break before being taken on to our second lesson, Media Studies.

In Media Studies we looked at films and how genres are used in them. We were told what a genre was and how different films with different genres follow certain guidelines.

Lunch was good (consisting of pizza and chips) and we had enough time to catch up with one another.

Once we had finished lunch we were taken to our final lesson, Film Studies. In this lesson we looked at film posters and the tactics companies use. We were taken back into the hall for a final talk and then got on the coach and came back to school.

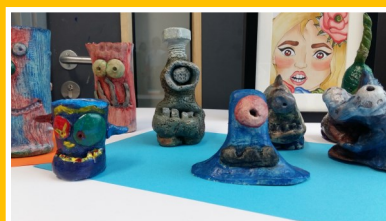
Thomas Dodd 9A

Art Exhibition



Many thanks to all those who attended the annual art exhibition, which showcased work from all year groups. This was a brilliant celebration of the many varied talents that we see at De La Salle and the art department would like to thank all students for their hard work and commitment this year – well done and we look forward to the next academic year

Mrs. Millea



St. Julie's Sunflowers

The art department welcomed Year 5 and 6 students from St Julie's RC Primary School to take part in a ceramics workshop to create sunflowers for their 50th anniversary celebration in September. Miss Winder led a fantastic workshop and commented on how wonderful all of the students were. Happy 50th anniversary St Julie's!



Year 7 fundraising —Zoe's Place



Year 7 presented a cheque to Zoe's Place. The money will be spent on building a new wing to extend help and care to more babies and families.

Congratulations to everyone in Year 7 for all your hard work and fundraising.

Blackpool reward; trip —Year 9

On the 11th July, the top 25% of pupils from years 9 and 10 went to Blackpool Pleasure beach as a reward for their hard work and achievements throughout the year.

Although the weather was looking bleak leaving school in the morning as the coaches arrived, the weather soon cleared up as we entered Blackpool and many of the rides were open, however the main one (The Big One) was supposedly shut for the entirety of the day which disappointed many of us as we were really looking forward to going on it. We tried to not let this get us too down and instead went on the many other exciting rides which were open. Later on in the day, it started to drizzle with rain and become very windy however, everyone's spirits were still high. Towards the end of the day, the rain went off and The Big One was finally opened which I was really happy about because I think it is the best ride in Blackpool and many people only travel to Blackpool to go on The Big One. I had just managed to get on the ride before we had to be back to get on the coaches to go home, but I was so glad I managed to get on it, as it was a truly breath-taking experience.

Altogether, the rewards trip this year was very good and I'd like to thank Mr Fletcher and all the other teachers who helped organise the event, even with the weather at times being very bleak and some of us losing our voices because of the continuous screaming on the rides!

Thomas Westworth—Year 9



Thomas recently raced in the European Open. Thomas competed against an older, more experienced and very talented field and finally after some magnificent driving finished 10th. Although this wasn't what Thomas had hoped for, we all believe that with the same commitment and determination levels Thomas will eventually fulfil his dreams of becoming a professional racing driver.

Congratulations and well done Thomas.



Year 7 - Paris and Reims trip: Easter 2016

It was my great pleasure and privilege to not only, once again, accompany the trip to Paris & Reims this year but also to have co-ordinated it. It was a tricky trip to organise, not least with the atrocities which took place in Paris in the winter of 2015. However, the trip did go ahead, with 62 Year 7 pupils and 8 staff leaving school at 10pm on the Sunday evening, arriving 13 hours later at none other than the world famous Eiffel Tower!

Pupils and staff enjoyed taking in the sights of the Eiffel Tower and the village of Montmartre on our first afternoon along with an impromptu coach tour of other famous Parisian landmarks from our, quite frankly, outstanding coach drivers.

Our accommodation, was the Kyriad Disney Hotel, about an hour out of Paris, our rooms were comfortable, clean and welcoming after a long journey. This is the second year we have used this hotel, not least for its proximity to our final destination Disneyland Paris, but their outstanding level of service, quality food, and much to the delight of our Year 7's... free WiFi!

Tuesday took us back into Paris, where we began our walking tour at Notre Dame Cathedral and the surrounding plaza and shops. Disappointingly, Quasimodo was nowhere to be seen! The picturesque boulevards and side streets kept our ever curious eyes occupied whilst parading down alongside the Seine towards the Louvre museum. Our year 7's were even treated to what I presume, many consider a stereotype of Paris vulture and life, a glamour model shoot directly on our path towards the Louvre.

From the Louvre we journeyed by coach to the shopping district of La Defense for a late dinner and a few hours shopping. Miss Dance was particularly impressed with the number of 'Foot Lockers' where she could indulge in her favourite past time, trainer shopping! Tuesday concluded with a twilight cruise along the River Seine, taking in the architecture, the sounds, and the sights of Parisians picnicking along the river banks.

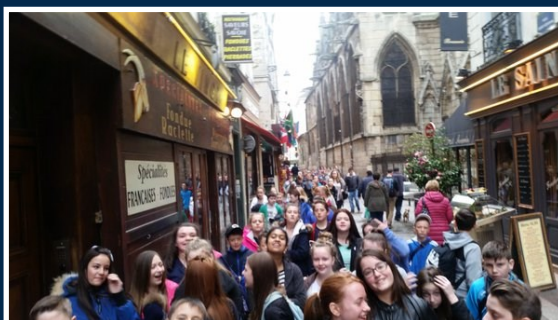
As a Lasallian school, our Wednesday was spent in the birthplace of our founder and Patron Saint of Teachers, Jean Baptiste De La Salle, Reims. Here pupils participated in a treasure hunt, taking in the major landmarks which influenced De La Salle and began the Lasallian movement which is thriving today. An extra couple of hours and lunch ensued before travelling back to the hotel for entertainment from our French animateurs.

Thursday was the big day! The day everyone, staff and pupil alike, were anticipating most, DISNEY! We were lucky to be packed and loaded onto the coaches so quickly as we were arrived just as the gates were opening. Space Mountain, Indiana Jones, Buzz Lightyear, all enjoyed the rides, shows, and magic that is Disney. People may have been slightly disappointed at the closure of the Pirates of the Caribbean, I can only assure you that it had absolutely, positively, nothing to do with Miss Ratcliffe, Miss Aldred, Miss Egan and Ms Wheatley BREAKING the ride and having to be escorted off it through the animatronic set with other guests!

After the final parade, it was time to re-board the coaches and begin our long journey home. We arrived safely back at school on Friday morning, tired, blurry eyed, but glad to be back home to our families with a lot of great memories!

My Thanks, to the staff who volunteered their holiday to support and accompany the trip, and of course to our Year 7s (and few 8s) who without a doubt, demonstrated themselves an amazing, enjoyable, polite, respectful group of young people to take abroad.

Mr Leggett.



Year 10 ASDAN climbing trip



Friday 8th-Sunday 10th July 2016, the 5th Annual Lasallian Camp took place in Kintbury, West Berkshire.

Every year, Lasallian school from across England and Malta gather at St Cassian's Youth Retreat Centre in Kintbury for a weekend of outdoor pursuits, camping and celebration. The motto of the centre and the camp is 'Faith, Fun and Friendship' a message and apt description of the experiences of all the young people who participate in the camp.

This year seven Year 7's and two Year 10's represented De La Salle school St Helens at the camp, leaving school at 10am on the Friday for the 100 mile journey down south. For the first year ever, we arrived first and had our pick of the camping field, we would later

regret pitching tents in a corner of field which looked picturesque but had a lot of sheep (who loved to be vocal in the small hours of the morning).

Friday night pupils were welcomed by centre staff at BBQ and campfire with mandatory sing along. Saturday began early with breakfast at 8 before morning prayer and a day full of activities including rock climbing, archery, human foosball and arts & crafts ran by our very own Mrs Millea. Lasallian camp is a great place to grow your skill base, but more importantly, your confidence.

A pattern of behaviour is apparent every year: Young people are split into groups consisting of representatives from every school, and many young people feel apprehensive even scared at the thought of mixing with peers they have never met before. No matter how much your teachers encourage you to mix and be confident, only you can be brave enough to begin or join into a conversation. Yet again, despite their reservations, each and every pupil from DLS St Helens began to enjoy working with their group and forming new friendships, by the end of the day school groups only exist on the campsite, people have moved and can be found mixing with their new found friends.

Evening mass was followed by the traditional disco, where all the young people and embarrassingly the staff could be found cutting a rug to the Macarena, Gangnam Style and a bit of ABBA! We left on Sunday morning all smiling, but all a bit sorry that the weekend had ended so quickly, and being traditionally waved off by the retreat team on the wall as we drove out of the groups was equivocal to leaving your favourite holiday destination, a reunion with long lost friends and family, or if you are in year 9, your best mate who is leaving you for a lesson next door and you won't see them for a whole hour!

I am lucky, I get to go back to Kintbury next year, to meet and catch up with the friends I have made there, I hope those who attended camp this year will join me, and equally I hope you can join us too, because no one, and I mean no one who attends Lasallian camp leaves disappointed.

Mr Leggett

University trip to Hope Academy

On Thursday 7th of July I was lucky enough to be selected to go on this trip. I had a great time, I got great advice about the future, all the different colleges/university's, the different courses and plenty of information to help me decide my future. I thought it was a really good trip. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is uncertain about where they want to go and also for the people who do know, but don't know how to get into it. Alongside courses there are fun activities and lots of recreation, such as the 20 minute challenge (where you got a text and had to be at that specific place within 20 minutes), nice accommodation if you need to live from home. I have applied for a prospectus from a couple of colleges and universities. I felt safe and I know that I could make new friends very easily.

So if the chance arrives for you next year, it's a must do!

Joseph Nugent Y9

Congratulations



Sam Royle

Sam has been training with St. Helens R.L.F.C. since year 10 and following his hard work, excellent rugby skills & commitment to training he has been rewarded with a two year contract. Good luck Sam for your future career from the P.E. Department.



Millie Costello

Millie recently represented Great Britain whilst competing against Europe's best synchronised swimmers in the Hungarian Open. Millie performed exceptionally well and eventually finished 15th out of 126 competitors, and ranking 2nd out of the GB girls in the technical figures, beating some athletes that are 18 months older than her. Millie also competed alongside her GB teammates in the team routine, with GB placed 2nd after all events – this was a brilliant achievement and saw the girls come home with a silver medal. Following her success, Millie's will next compete in the Beacon Games. **Congratulations and well done.**

Year 8 Girls' Cricket



This group of girls (Lizzy Duffy, Charlotte Parkinson, Sarah Vater, Niamh Snee, Alice Kenny, Emily Woods, Lizzie Tracey, Izzy Gent & Blythe Carter-Jones) had qualified for the North West Finals in Preston on 16th June. Despite the storm clouds surrounding us, they managed to play & win their first two matches against Heysham & Ormskirk. In the semi-final, following some dubious scoring, they were beaten by Clitheroe 55 – 49. Some excellent cricketing skills were displayed, with a special mention to Lizzie Duffy for putting her body on the line to stop more runs being scored on numerous occasions. I hope the Girls continue to train with Chris Chambers next year when they will no doubt be very strong contenders against Y9 & Y10 teams. Thanks Girls & Good Luck. **Mrs Royle**

U13s Merseyside touch Rugby

Congratulations to the U13s girls' team for winning the Merseyside youth games, to be crowned the **best school in the whole of Merseyside!**

The girls battled through the rounds scoring 15 tries in 4 games in the group stages. They qualified for the Quarter finals and played a tough game against Haydock High. They won the game in extra time in an exciting golden goal finish. They went on to beat 2 strong Sefton teams and won the final confidently 5 - 1. The girls have trained hard and been extremely committed to enable them to achieve this amazing title. Well done girls!!

Mrs Hart



Olympian and England Football superstar Rachel Brown-Finnis



Olympian and England Football superstar Rachel Brown-Finnis visited the school to work with over 40 pupils. She delivered a practical and theory session in which pupils were asked to explore a number of skills. Such as teamwork, respect, determination, resilience and confidence. She shared her inspirational story of a journey from school football, to playing in the Premier League, for England and Team GB in the London 2012 Olympics. It was a fantastic experience and well done to all the pupils involved in the project!

Mrs Hart