



DE LA SALLE SCHOOL

Mill Brow, Eccleston, St.Helens, Merseyside. WA10 4QH

Telephone: 01744 20511 Fax: 01744 20543

Email: delasalle@sthelens.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr. J. Toal BA (Hons) MEd

4th October 2016

Dear Parent

As promised in my letter to you last month I want to keep you updated on the latest developments within our school.

External Reviews/Inspections

On the 27th September a team from the local authority visited our school and conducted a monitoring visit. We enjoyed a successful visit and the review team commented on improvements within school leadership, a calm and orderly school environment and teaching that promoted good progress. They also challenged the school to evidence greater consistency of good teaching and offered practical recommendations for improvement. In addition the local authority are engaging in weekly monitoring visits meeting the heads of learning areas to ensure that they are being effective in their leadership of progress in their respective areas.

The school was also visited by the Archdiocese today who conducted a section 48 monitoring visit on standards of religious education and quality of religious life in the school. Again this resulted in a positive outcome with the school retaining the previously achieved “good” judgement. The school welcomes the scrutiny involved in these visits and believes it will assist in accelerating the positive changes we are making as we prepare for our anticipated section 5 full Ofsted inspection this term.

Website

Finally we have a new website. We hope you find this to be a more user friendly experience and that you are provided with the information you require. We are in the early stages at the moment and we are populating the site as we go along. Please do feel free to email the school with any feedback you should wish to offer.

Rewards and Sanctions

We have instigated the promised changes to the school behaviour system. Star points are awarded for good behaviour but withdrawn for poor behaviour, attitude and application. We have resigned when detentions take place and we are able to more effectively communicate detentions to parents via parent mail. There has been an initial spike in the number of detentions being set but we anticipate this number to settle down once the pupils understand the schools’ refocus on higher standards of behaviour and participation AND understand the consistency of the new process.

Tuesday Whole school 15:00-16:00	Wednesday Whole school 15:00-16:00	Friday Deputy Head Detention 15:00-16:30	Saturday Headmasters’ Detention 08:30-10:30
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Parents’ Evenings

Please refer to the dates below. Mindful of concerns from previous years the school will operate a 5 lesson day during these events. We can still plan an early finish to accommodate an early start to

facilitate appropriate progress conversations between staff and parents. There will be two sessions that will run from 14:00-16:00 and 16:30-18:30. School will finish at 13:30 on these days.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
2 nd February	23 rd February	16 th March	20 th April	17 th November

Staffing

The focus of staff professional development during this half term has been on developing lessons which can maximise pupil engagement and therefore pupil progress. The Monday evening training session for staff has been extended by 30 minutes.

Currently we have 3 members of staff absent from school for an extended period of time. This absence, due to illness, is being monitored and the school will support colleagues as they prepare to return to work. We are trying to put appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that lessons are covered by staff internally who have a more informed understanding of our pupils.

In terms of staff in-service training days the Governors have approved the final insets days for this academic year. These are Tuesday 3rd January 2017, Friday 31st March 2017 and Friday 30th June 2017. School will not be open for pupils on these days.

Lunchtime arrangements

The school is currently reviewing its arrangements for lunch. The school has noted some concerns parents have raised over pupils queuing and over the variety and quality of food served in the canteen. We are actively looking at ways of improving systems at lunchtime including the consideration of a split lunch. We will canvass the views of all stakeholders on this issue but let me assure you there will be no lost learning time as a result of any amendments we would consider. Before half term the school will meet with the canteen management team and will discuss menus and nutrition. An update will be communicated to parents.

Sponsored Walk

The school remains committed to a sponsored walk but will facilitate this later in the academic year. I could not countenance taking away a day of academic learning despite it being for the best intentions; especially when we are anticipating the final Ofsted inspection. More details on days and arrangements will follow.

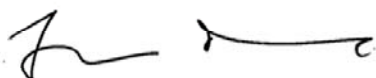
Homework

The school is currently reviewing the use of the show my homework facility. Mr.Fletcher, Assistant Headteacher, is looking into ways and means of improving the system and he will contact you before half term with an update on his progress to date.

I will continue to update you on our progress on a regular basis. Please continue to keep our school in your prayers as we await the time and date for the Ofsted visit. A visit which we welcome as an opportunity to celebrate the successes of our pupils who will always remain THE most important feature of our community.

Given that today is the feast of St Francis of Assisi I am reminded of one of his reflections on our faith responsibilities: "Spread the gospel and use words if necessary".

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.



Mr John Toal
Headteacher