



## DE LA SALLE SCHOOL

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Acting Headteacher: Ms. C. Flaherty

29<sup>th</sup> March, '17

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well and looking forward to the Easter break.

St.Simon Stock Catholic School has agreed with the Provincial of the De La Salle Order to appoint me to St.Helens as Executive Head of both my present School in Kent and De La Salle. As a Principal/Headteacher of two successful schools in Wiltshire and Kent, I hope to support Ms.Flaherty and the school community from today until the end of July 2017.

### Expectations and Standards

Yesterday was my first day at De La Salle in the new role. I was impressed by the vast majority of students who spent the day enjoying their learning, obeying the school rules and showed a positive attitude to learning. They are great ambassadors of the School. It made me proud to observe them.

In order to work in partnership with you and gain your further support in reaching the high standards expected, my focus for improvements in the coming weeks are standards of uniform and discipline within the School as well as viewing the marking policy and practice. As a School we have not always made clear our expectations regarding the School rules for you to support us. I hope the following list clarifies the standards expected of students.

- **Uniform** - we expect students to wear their uniform correctly and with pride as a member of the De La Salle community. Ties should be worn correctly and not in a shortened manner. Shirts should be tucked into trousers/skirts. Blazers must be worn around the school. Coats should not be worn inside the building. Hoodies are not allowed to be worn in school.
- **Make up** - a light sheen of foundation can be worn to cover teenage facial problems. The criteria for what constitutes heavy make up will be decided by staff and is not allowed. No nail varnish, no lipstick, no false tan, no highlighter is allowed in school.
- **Shoes** - we do appreciate shoes can be an expensive item for parents to buy and the website clearly shows which type of shoes are allowed. Trainer type shoes are not permitted, nor are flat pumps, canvas footwear, trainers or mules. There should not be any 'bling' in the form of glittery stones and studs, neither should there be logos or coloured laces. Shoes should be sensible, plain style, with a minimal heel and black clean/polished.
- **Equipment** - please ensure your child arrives at school every day with the correct equipment. This includes a pencil case, black pens, pencils, ruler, colouring pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, a calculator and a good A4 sized waterproof bag in which to place these items.
- **Hairstyles** - extreme styles of haircut will not be allowed.
- **Attendance and Punctuality** - excellent attendance is essential to your son/daughter's success. We aim for an overall attendance rate of 96% at least and attendance levels below 90% give us serious concern. I would be grateful for your support in ensuring your

son/daughter only misses school where it is absolutely unavoidable. Routine medical appointments should be made outside school hours wherever possible.

- Punctuality to school and to lessons is important as it is indicative of a student's general motivation and commitment towards school. If your son/daughter has a long journey to school, please make sure that they leave in sufficient time to allow for traffic conditions or delays to buses/trains [particularly if they have an examination].  
Addressing uniform infringements in/out of class wastes valuable learning time and I ask for your support in making sure that your son/daughter is properly dressed for school. The Senior Leadership Team and myself will welcome the students each morning and check uniform standards. **We have the authority to send students home who arrive at school without the correct uniform. This is a consequence we would rather avoid where possible but will enact from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

- **Discipline**

Discipline amongst the vast majority of students is very good but a significant minority are challenging the authority of staff and disrupting classes at a low level. There are many excellent students who are polite, well mannered and obey the school rules. In my short time here, I have met some marvellous young people.

Staff have been told to ensure that they control the classes and disruptive students should be challenged. However, there are certain individuals who are unwilling to do as they are told and we will be addressing their behaviour in the coming weeks. Please inform your son/daughter that they will be given an opportunity for their side of the story but that the Staff member is contracted to keep the rules of the school and therefore will not get into a negotiating situation. If the student refuses to fulfil their request, the student's disobedience needs to be corrected through the sanctions system. More positively the rewards system should encourage our young people to develop their gifts and potential. Respect for the young person is a La Sallian ideal ['Treat each child as if they were the son/daughter of a King'], but answering back to a teacher is not a right and will be poorly received by staff.

This School has the potential to be good if not excellent but we are not there yet although improving in many areas. I can only apologise for past mistakes but now our aim is to lay the foundations to be good and remove the School from the category with which it has been labelled. You don't go from League Two to Premier League quickly and we will do all that we can to move the School forwards with your support. Communication with Parents and Carers is one area in which we wish to improve and the Senior Team would like to invite you to meet with us on:

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

**YEAR 7 - Meet in the Hall at 6.00pm**

**YEAR 8 - Meet in the Hall at 7.00pm**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

**YEAR 9 - Meet in the Hall at 6.00pm**

**YEAR 10 - Meet in the Hall at 7.00pm**

We will not meet with Year 11 parents and carers for this meeting about the future direction of De La Salle since your son/daughter will be going onto post-16 education.

I look forward to working with you in the coming months to try and improve De La Salle School. I want to help Ms. Flaherty and the staff lay the foundations for the School to become a good school and remove the label of Special Measures given to us by OFSTED.

Yours sincerely,

**Brendan J. Wall (Executive Headteacher)**