

De La Salle St. Helens

Parental Newsletter - May 2017



It was delightful to meet many parents at the recent evenings where the Local Authority and school's Senior Leadership Team spoke about the developments since January 2017 to remove the **school** from our Ofsted category. Your attendance was appreciated and for those unable to attend, the presentations are available on the website.

As a newcomer to the school, I have been impressed by the talents of our young people. This newsletter hopes to share the good news of many activities which are happening— the Italy Trip, the Spanish Exchange, sporting successes, spiritual retreats etc. Our aim as a Lasallian School is to educate the whole person and develop their potential. The newsletter shows that De La Salle is fulfilling that aim.

As we approach the GCSE examination period, we pray for our Year 11, that they may achieve the results that they deserve. We want them to work as hard as they are able to gain top marks in their classes and examinations.

We thank you for your continued support as we move towards becoming an excellent school.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever. Mr B. Wall (Executive Headteacher)

Key Dates:

1 May – 8 May: Spanish Exchange Away Leg
 2 May: Year 9 and Year 11 Vaccinations 'Mop Up'
 4 May – 7 May: Year 10 Retreat
5 May: GCSE Drama External Moderation
 10 May – 11 May: Year 8 & 9 Girls HPV Vaccinations
 10 May: GCSE Art Exhibition
13 May: GCSE RE Revision Day
 15 May – 26 May: Year 7 and 8 Exams
 19 May – 21 May: Year 9 Retreat
20 May: GCSE Maths Revision Day
 26 May: School Closes for Half Term
 29 May – 2 June: HALF TERM
 5 June: School Reopens
 22 June: Year 10 St Helens College Taster Morning
 22 June: Community Mass
 23 June – 25 June: Year 8 Retreat
 27 June: Transition Day for New Intake
 29 June: Sponsored Walk
 30 June: Staff Training Day (School Closed to Pupils)

Going for Gold:

The pupils below have achieved 'gold'. They are working well above expected progress on their flightpath and this is down to their hard work.

Year 7:

Alexandra Barr	Brennan Hamilton
Chloe Barrett	Riya Joseph
Emma Burrows	Sophie Quinn
Leah Cooke	Jacob Wilding
Aerielle Cruz	Marnie Yates
Andrew Haddock	

Year 8:

Billy Barrow	Lily Jones
Jessica Berry	Lexine Palo
Joshua Cunliffe	Gabriella Rigby
Elise Howard-Rigby	Liam Sharples
	Joshua Wilson
Elliott Johnson	

Year 9:

Kian Clarke	Joseph Kilgannon
Rebecca Cliffe	Connor Lynch
Sarah Davies	Emily Maloney
Lizzie Duffy	May McMahon
Libby Finn	Dylan Percival
Eleanor Gill	Ellie Reece
Jessica Harrison	Niamh Snee
Amelia Humphreys	Daisy Swift

Year 10:

Sarah Cottington	Lauren Slater
Zara Fitzgerald	Ella Speakman
Tom Harlow	Eliza West
Anna Hendey	
Elsa Josey	
Beth Mimmagh	
Ben Picton	

LENTERN FUNDRAISING:

During Lent, each year group chose a charity to fund raise for. Lots of different events took place for these worthwhile causes, we would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in these ventures which have allowed those involved to grow and develop their skills while showing Gospel compassion for those in need.

Year 8 : Cancer Research

A fantastic effort was put into this and a total of **£614** has been raised. A huge thank you to all pupils and staff who helped with the fundraising.

Thank you Mr Leggett, Mr Middlehurst, Mr Tucker and our caretaker Mr Hamilton. Our fundraising events finished on Friday 21st April with a Mini-thon. Edward Hodgson acted as compere throughout the evening where Year 8 pupils Evie Roberts and Elle-May Keenan sang and Year 11 band One Kidney Down played. The evening finished with DJs Jack Kilgannon and Eric McKenna playing their sets. This event, organised by Eric McKenna and James Dunleavy, raised £270. Thank you to those staff who stayed in school until 11pm to supervise. Especially Mr Stan Millea for his expert technical support.

Thank you also to the pupils of 8L who, together with their form teacher Miss Fair, have raised £61.50 for Willowbrook Hospice.

Year 9: Help for Heroes

Year 9 have raised £562.31 for the charity Help for Heroes. This was raised through lunch ICT clubs, selling promotional Help for Heroes' merchandise, guess the name of the Help for Heroes' teddy auction, cake sales and Easter egg sales amongst other challenges.

Year 7: Zoe's Place

So far Year 7 have been very busy and raised £408.24 for Zoe's Place. This was done through a wide range of creative fund raising ideas and selling promotional Zoe's Place merchandise. We are looking forward to our disco!

Year 10: Isabelle Rose Foundation

Year 10 have so far raised over £300 for the charity 'Isabelle Rose Foundation. This is a charity that is close to the school and wider communities' hearts and although still relatively new and small, has had a positive impact on lots of St Helens' families. Our fundraising isn't complete yet with a few more events taking place and we hope to hit a target of £500. Thank you to everyone who importantly helped raise awareness of why such a charity was started up in the first place. 'Together we are stronger.'

Archdiocesan Section 48 Monitoring Visit (Winter Term):



The inspection focussed on The Catholic Life of the school, the effectiveness of RE as a rigorous academic subject, how pupils are developed morally, spiritually and culturally and how far the school contributes to the community.

The Monitoring inspection was very successful and the outcome was that 'De La Salle has further strengthened areas identified as successful in the last Section 48 Inspection,' a judgement that we are delighted with.

Some of the other key findings within the report to celebrate are 'Students are confident that their talents are being nurtured. In their words, 'They feel loved and cared for.'

We are extremely proud of the findings in the report and the whole RE learning area works tirelessly to support the achievement of all of our students. We are particularly delighted that the report highlights that observed teaching and learning was very strong in the learning area, and that there has been a continued higher performance in the subject since the last inspection. Being a Lasallian Catholic school underpins everything we do here, and we are overjoyed that the inspection highlights this.

Italy Trip 2017

During the Easter break thirty three Year 10 students accompanied by Mrs Mulhall, Mr Hollins, Mrs De'Ath and Mrs Kenneally travelled to Italy to explore the settings of some of William Shakespeare's most famous plays.

In Rome we visited the Colosseum and considered Shakespeare's inspirations for Julius Caesar; in Venice we discovered the Jewish Ghetto, an area which really helped us understand the themes explored in The Merchant of Venice; then we travelled to Verona, visiting the house of Juliet and witnessing the balcony that symbolises the love in the most famous play of all, Romeo and Juliet.

Here are the recollections of the trip from two of our students:

We arrived at school and embarked on our trip to Birmingham airport for our flight to Rome. We arrived in good time, checked in and had time to get some food and look around the shops. Soon it was time to head for security and get on the plane.

We landed safely in Rome and a coach was waiting to take us to our hotel. The hotel rooms were nice and had balconies with excellent views. Best of all we stayed with our friends!

The next morning we got up at 8am to begin our action packed tour of Rome. We walked to the Vatican where we spent the morning before walking to the Pantheon and Spanish Steps. Here we had time to go shopping at the Via Condotti. Next stop was the Trevi fountain before we made our way to the Colosseum. The following morning we made our way to the Vatican again for the Pope's address to the crowds gathered. Later that day we took a first class train to Venice. Upon arrival we just had time to take our luggage to our rooms before we visited the Jewish Ghetto. That evening we had our meal on the banks of the Grand Canal which was really special.

On our final day we took another train, but this time to Verona. Here we saw Juliet's house and the numerous padlocks on the gates as symbols of love. We also had some time to shop before returning to Venice. Once back in Venice we travelled by water bus to St Mark's Square, finally experienced a gondola ride and had time to shop and eat before we had to catch the bus to the airport.

We had such a brilliant experience and would definitely recommend the trip to pupils in lower year groups.

Written by Daniel Carberry 10L and Kieran O'Donoghue 10B

NYC Trip 2017

In the last Half-Term, forty four of our Year 11 students travelled to New York City along with six staff. The trip was linked to their RE Curriculum in so much as there was a visit to the UN Headquarters, a visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral, and some time of thought and prayer spent at Ground Zero. However, the trip was also an opportunity to develop general life skills, and to gain an understanding of another culture, separate from here in St Helens. All students behaved impeccably and we are very proud.

Some other highlights were:

Dinner at Hardrock, Bubba Gump Shrimp, and Planet Hollywood

Time spent at the Statue of Liberty

An open top bus tour

Viewing decks of The Empire State Building and Top of the Rock

Time at Central Park

Shopping at Macy's and Times Square



Spanish Exchange:

Another successful trip and fun packed week for our Spanish exchange students. They truly had a flavour of our history and culture, they met with our Mayor in his Parlour; experienced a glass blowing demonstration; sampled our lessons; visited Old Trafford; visited the Maritime Slave Museum and also popped into The Cavern to see where it all began for The Beatles.

Parents, teachers and pupils also enjoyed letting their hair down at the end of week disco.

English Writing Competition:

Year 8 and 9 students entered a short story writing competition linked to the BBC Young Writers of the Year competition. Pupils were asked to complete a 1000 word short story.

The Year 8 winner was Riley Spence. His prize was an Easter Egg. Well done Riley.

The Year 9 winner was Elizabeth Thompson. Again well done to her, she will also receive a well-deserved Easter Egg.

Edge Hill University Maths Tuition:

On Monday 6th March, over 100 Year 11 pupils had a unique opportunity to receive personalised tuition from a maths specialist teacher from Edge Hill University. As part of their preparations for the new GCSE in mathematics, our pupils each spent one hour revising the critical topic of 'ratio and proportion' one-to-one with their own teacher! This helped to identify misconceptions and accelerate progress in this key area.

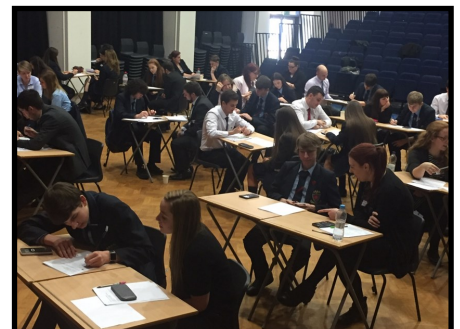
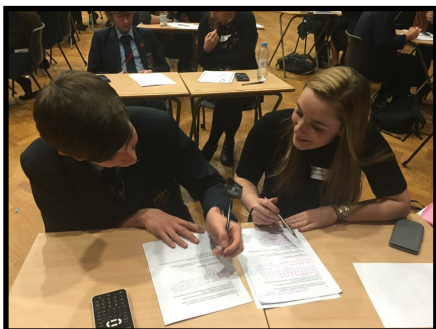
The response from the Year 11 pupils was overwhelmingly positive, with comments including, "I loved it", "it was so helpful!" and "can we do this every week?" Pupils are already reaping the rewards of this day, demonstrating a better understanding of these types of questions in their practice GCSE papers!

Our visitors from Edge Hill University were equally impressed with the attitude of all of our pupils, with Martin Pickett (Mathematics PGCE Course Leader) commenting positively on the effort and engagement of all Year 11s.

Another part of the day involved a group of Year 9 pupils taking part in a demonstration maths lesson with Mrs Bahan in the school hall.

Again, the Year 9 pupils involved showed outstanding effort and attitude and they represented everything that we are proud of in our Lasallian pupils.

Mrs Bahan.



Year 11 Performing Arts:



Our Year 11 Performing Arts students recently performed their Showcase to the external moderator. They worked collaboratively to produce a fantastic performance based on Alice In Wonderland. The pupils were responsible for the whole production

from its initial planning stages to the final performance. They developed their skills as performers, directors, choreographers, designers and technicians. The course enables pupils to work in a professional way, developing vital skills for the workplace and life.

We would like to thank our Year 11 students for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment. The standard of work was excellent. A special thanks to Stan Millea and Eric McKenna who assisted pupils with lighting and sound.



Year 11 Art Exhibition:



The art department are incredibly proud of the efforts, talent, creativity and determination of our Year 11s and feel delighted to host a specific GCSE exhibition this year to celebrate all of their hard work. Please join us Thursday **11th May between 6-8pm** to view a sample of work from every GCSE art student and enjoy a relaxed evening listening to some of our talented musicians with light refreshments available.

There will be an opportunity to vote for your favourite piece (The People's Choice) on the evening and we will present the results, and prizes, on the following school day. We sincerely hope that you and your family can make the event to celebrate their fantastic achievements.

Gymnastic Success:



Huge congratulations to the following pupils who took part in the St Helens Schools Gymnastics competition last Friday and won an amazing 10 medals in total. The competition was the first of its kind and for some of our pupils was the first competition they had entered.

Year 7: Madison Haddock, Paisley Kerswell, Francesca Collins, Jasmine Cliffe, Sophie Styles and Amy Connolly

Year 8: Niamh Murphy and Darcey Murphy

Year 9: Lizzy Tracey, Emily Woods, Izzy Gent and Lauren Haddock

Art Award Winners:

We are very proud to announce that Mia Butterworth Year 11 has received a prize for outstanding work in the annual St Helens Youth Open Art Awards. Mia won her award in the Key Stage 4 category for a beautiful, textured and sculptured dress she designed for her art exam in Year 10. The award was given at a ceremony held at The World of Glass where Mia's work was displayed alongside all the other entries on exhibition.

We offer art students the opportunity to increase their creative challenge by sitting their art GCSE over eight months in Year 10, leaving Year 11 clear to complete photography GCSE, again over a shorter, more challenging time scale. Mia is currently completing her photography qualification, which means she will leave school with two creative GCSEs, giving her an advantage in college admissions with her more advanced skills and knowledge.

Any Year 9 students interested in signing up for photography GCSE, which starts in after-school sessions in September, should pay attention to briefing notes for further announcements which will be released in June. You do not need to have taken art as one of your GCSE options to study photography after school. This is an extra-curricular route in addition to your option subjects. Places are limited and applications are always high so be pro-active!

Tom Westworth Year 10F: Motor Racing :

Technical faults cost Tom!

Tom Westworth once again took to the track to complete another competitive and pulsating finals weekend. Unfortunately for Tom though, the weekend almost instantly took a turn for the worse when, in qualifying, he developed a mechanical fault which caused the engine to fail and drain the battery! The team rushed to install a new battery but the hold-up meant Tom only had three laps to warm up his tyres and put in a good lap. For all Tom's resilience and driving skills the three laps weren't enough and he could only qualify in 36th place from a field of 45.

In the first heat Tom started in 23rd place but was caught up on the first corner putting him way down the field with a lot of catching up to do; a very respectable 21st was his finish position.

The second heat saw Tom again in 23rd position and an eventual 17th place finish saw him placed in the B final. A sixth place finish in this event saw Tom gain a place in the main final.

Tom's car yet again developed mechanical problems and a power fault saw Tom facing an uphill battle. He used all his skills and experience to make six places on his rivals and start the main final in 17th position.

The final straw was yet another power fault which, along with the standard of driving displayed by his rivals on the day, saw Tom's car, battered and bruised, pass the chequered flag in 35th place. Despite the disappointment, Tom had shown real grit and determination to finish the race.

Damage report:

Bent front and back bumpers, damage to rear wheels and a dislodged steering column.

Future:

In three weeks Tom goes to Northampton for round three. With a bit more luck, a few less technical faults and Tom's resilience, determination and skill we should see a positive outcome.

Mr Fletcher

Prefects:

Time to Lead: Just before Easter, our Year 10 pupils were invited to apply to be prefects, and take over the role being left by our soon to be departing Year 11's. The Year team printed off 50 application forms, this surely would be enough?!

How wrong were we, an astonishing 87 pupils took up the opportunity to become prefects, build up their leadership skills and boost their CV's. Although the applications varied in quality, everyone will be given an opportunity to now show their worth over the final four weeks of this term.

Good luck to everyone.

Liverpool Archdiocese Secondary Schools' Partnership Photography Competition:



De La Salle have successfully entered work into the annual Archdiocese photography competition which has been held for two years in Liverpool. This year's selected work will be exhibited in St George's Hall, Liverpool until 28th May for public viewing, and free admission has previously helped to gain a high attendance of visitors.

The theme students were invited to answer through visual photography was 'We are valued, we are unique, we have faith, we are a family and we are the future'. De La Salle students took this challenge and created two beautiful pieces of work. Katherine Cheshire in Year 11, and a group of girls in Year 9 made up of Gabrielle Pounceby, Maisie Dalton and Rachel Burke produced mature, in depth and thoughtful work reflecting the arguably difficult theme. We are very proud of the girls and are awaiting news of their submissions.

Miss Winder

"We are valued, we are unique, we have faith, we are family, and we are the future."

At De La Salle all students are valued and appreciated as their own person, and are encouraged to embrace their individuality. The colours in the picture represent this: individuality, and the inner beauty of everyone. In the picture we tried to include different types of people from different backgrounds, with different beliefs and values to show each person's separate identity. The overlapping of the faces signifies that we are all one in our community, and as a school, we are stronger together. We are all facing different directions to show that we all have our own views and in the future, we will all go our different ways, but we would still be a family. Everyone in our community has a voice to be heard and opinions to be respected. We tried to echo this through our piece, and hope that it is spread throughout the world.

Gabrielle Pounceby, Maisie Dalton and Rachel Burke.

My piece is about being represented. It is the feeling of being valued, finding someone who you identify with, and learning how to have faith in ourselves.

Having your voice heard.

But even today people are ignored. Left feeling broken and wrong because they are what they are. Whether that's because of the colour of their skin. Or their mental health. Or their sexuality.

The list goes on and they are silenced.

It doesn't have to be this way.

But without the media portraying them, they're in constant danger of damaging themselves by feeling at a loss for who they are.

We have the power to change this attitude by tearing down the barriers that we've been trapped in. By accepting each other and accepting ourselves.

We are valued. We are unique. We are the change.

Most importantly, we are ourselves.

'Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.' – Oscar Wilde.

Katherine Cheshire

Katie Bennett Year 10I: Football:

Star performance : I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend the Girls' U15 final and witness first hand one of our own, Katie Bennett, not only represent her family and De La Salle, but also Wigan Athletic in a fabulous match.



The recent poor weather hadn't helped playing conditions and a cold night ensured that the players of both Wigan Athletic and Preston North End would be tested to the limit. Despite the conditions, the game began with a really nice tempo and the good football on display was testament to the ability of players on both teams.

Preston edged an otherwise quite even first half with a finely worked goal which saw them enter the interval 1-0 up. This gave them the swagger and impetus to go out in the second half and see out the win. For the first twenty minutes of the second half it seemed this is

how the match would play out. Preston put Wigan under some tremendous pressure in the early part of the second half but credit to the Wigan girls, they stuck to their game plan, never gave up and counter-attacked at every opportunity with pace and increasing conviction. Suddenly Wigan were gaining a foot-hold in the game, their belief increased and gaps started to appear in the Preston defence. This was their chance; with Katie starting the move on the half way line, Wigan knocked the ball forward to the feet of their number 10, who confidently beat two defenders before coolly firing the ball into the bottom corner of the net for the equaliser.

Game on!

Wigan, confidence growing with every pass, began to create chances to take the lead. It seemed only a matter of time for goal number two to be created before lady luck deserted them; their star striker went down injured and was unable to continue. Nevertheless, true to the girls' spirit, they pushed on and finally got the breakthrough their resilience deserved with a winning goal right at the death that left the Wigan girls and the Wigan crowd understandably elated!

Final score Wigan 2 – Preston North End 1 - Wigan Athletic U15s are the champions

Mr Fletcher

Football:

Year 10 Football:

Not easy playing football as a team when so many things go against you: injuries to key players, time slots available, weather conditions.....

But once again, our Year 10 students pulled together and made the semi-finals of the St Helens Cup. Sadly, despite their best efforts, they fell short, going out on penalties to Rainhill High who were a well drilled team with many qualities. Despite their obvious strength, our lads matched them pass for pass and tackle for tackle and will most definitely be better for the experience when they compete again next year.

Well done gents!

Mr Fletcher

Football Opportunities:

Interested in joining a well organised and established football team?

Why not join Blackbrook Under 14's football team. (Under 15's next season).

They play at Roper Street, Merton Bank.

Training is 5-6pm Wednesday and 10-30-12.00pm Saturdays.

Contact John Fairhurst 07899 090722 / 0151 4267486 for further details.

Sporting Achievements:

NETBALL SUCCESS: Huge congratulations to the following girls who took part in the St. Helens' School Games Netball Tournament on the 29th March at Rainhill High School.

Year 8 : Eve Clayton, Louise Halliwell, Elysa Worrall, Lauren Park, Rose McCahey, Gabby Rigby, Lucy Richardson, Hollie Bennison

Year 7 : Libby Pearson, Mary Roberts, Olivia Hague, Poppy Harrison, Georgia Heyes, Alex Barr, Rachel Bleakley, Sophie Quinn.

Both teams remained undefeated throughout their group games and qualified for the finals. Despite playing some of the best netball they have this year, year 7 were narrowly defeated by Rainford 2 - 3. A fantastic achievement for Year 7 to reach the final in their first competition, looking good for next year girls, keep training!!

After displaying some fantastic passing and shooting skills throughout the final, our year 8 girls went on to beat Rainford 5-3 to become St Helens champions.

Thank you and well done to all girls who have attended training and represented the school this year. You have all done us proud.



RUGBY SUCCESS: Year 9 Girl's Rugby Union were excellent in finishing joint first at the recent North West Champions schools' event held at Tyldesley on Friday 21st April - Many thanks to Miss Moran for her time and effort alongside our visiting England RU coaches in preparation and the girls themselves who were amazing all day! They played with heart and enthusiasm against girls their own age and older. Some of our girls even played for an opposing team at one point due to injuries- a fantastic show of sportsmanship.

Joint players of the day were Imogen Harwood-Moss, Emma Eccles and Lizzie Duffy.

Friday 21st April also saw our Year 8 Boy's Rugby League Team win, to go through to the NW Counties Plate Final (venue TBC) beating a well drilled Standish High School 32-18. The boys have been hardworking and dedicated all year and really deserve their place in the finals.

Man of the Match on the day was Paul Valentine, who has worked every session to improve his overall game - ending up one of the players with most metres gained.



GCSE MODERATION: Well done to all of our Year 11 GCSE PE students on a successful moderation. Students worked tirelessly throughout their practical moderation, which took place on Wednesday 22nd March and Thursday 23rd March. Pupils excelled on both days with some improving their scores/grades on the day. The external moderator was extremely impressed with our students' attitude, behaviour and standard of practical performance stating they were a credit to the school.