

De La Salle St. Helens

Parental Newsletter - July 2017



Dear Parents/Guardians,

At the end of this school year we give thanks to God:

For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school, both in and out of the classrooms;

For the gifts and talents that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced;

For the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have been healed;

For the respect and care that has been given.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and those that have grown.

For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles.

For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days.

And for the love that has kept us going.

We give thanks for the community that we are, and we ask you Lord

Bless our students, our staff and their families as they take their holidays together, may their time together leave them with memories to cherish.

Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed to continue our journey together.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

May I take this opportunity to thank all of our students and parents for their hard work, respect and commitment to working as a team over the past year. I hope that you all have a wonderful break over the summer and I look forward to working with you again in September.

Ms. C. Flaherty (Acting Headteacher)

Key Dates:

Thursday 24th August

GCSE Results

School opens at 9.00am

Wednesday 6th September

School re-opens for all years.

Tuesday 12th September

PTFA meeting 6.30pm.

Thursday 5th October

Open Evening from 4.30pm.

Wednesday 11th October

Post 16 choices evening Years 10 & 11.

Half Term

Friday 20th October

Going for Gold:

A huge well done to the students named below who have worked incredibly hard this year to prove that they are "Going for Gold" on the journey along their flight path in a range of subjects. The self-motivation, resilience and enthusiasm shown by these students is an inspiration to their peers. Well done!

Year 7:

BARR Alexandra	JOHNSON Chloe
BLOORE Ruby	MCQUIGGAN Jason
CRUZ Aerielle	PENNINGTON Rose
GAFFNEY Jessica	QUINN Sophie
GARSDIE Rohan	TULLY Leah
HADDOCK Andrew	YATES Marnie

Year 8:

APPLETON Ella	MOORE Samantha
CUNLIFFE Joshua	PALO Lexie
JOHNSON Elliott	QUIRK Connor
KIRKHAM Ciara	RIGBY Gabriella
MCCAHEY Rose	

Year 9:

	KALLUMKAL Aleeta
ANDERTON Harvey	LYNCH Connor
BARR Nicola	MCKEON Joe
CAMILLERI Anya	MCMAHON May
CARLISLE Harry	PENNINGTON David
CHAPARRO DARWIN Robert	PERCIVAL Dylan
	SNEE Niamh
DALTON Maisy	SWIFT Daisy
DENNETT Joseph	WEST Grace
HUMPHREYS Amelia	

Year 10:

	MIMNAGH Beth
COTTINGTON Sarah	PENNINGTON Jack
FITZGERALD Zara	SLATER Lauren
HARLOW Luke	SMITH Owen
HITCHEN Patrick	WEST Eliza
HUNTER Lewis	
JOSY Elsa	
MANNING Emily	

Founder's Day:

This was held on 13th July to celebrate our Lasallian heritage and our unique Catholic identity. Activities for our students included:

Y7/8

- Mass opened by the De La Salle Brothers.
- Work in Forms around Social Justice.
- Testimonies and information talks from CAFOD.

Y9/10

- Mass opened by the De La Salle Brothers.
- Work on Racial Harmony.
- We were honoured to welcome a visit/testimony from Gee Walker (Mother of Anthony Walker).



Community Mass:

De La Salle organised a Community Mass for all of our Year 5 and 6 pupils from our Feeder Schools at Lowe House. It was a huge celebration filled with hymns, dances, prayers and a video of our current students at De La Salle, welcoming our new ones.

Well done to all involved.

SRE Days:

On Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July our Year 9 students had their 'relationships day.'

The day was opened with a reflection reminding us that we are all a creation of God, and that we all deserve absolute respect. We set out our aims of the day and discussed different types of relationships.

Students then had workshops delivered by DLS staff and visitors from an organisation called 'Life.' Students reflected on how to manage 'situations of pressure,' their 'perfect partner,' and how to deal with 'risky behaviour.'

Lasallian Camp 2017:

Every year, St Cassian's youth retreat centre in Kintbury, Berkshire hosts 'LASALLIAN CAMP', this camp brings together young people from De La Salle schools across Europe for a weekend of 'Fun, Faith and Friendship'.

This is the 7th camp to take place, and the 5th to take place at St Cassian's. The delegation from DLS St Helens this were year Mikayla Clague & Daisy Cruz (Y7), Sarah Davies (Y9), Joe Cottam, Tarveen Kaur, Emily Manning, Kyle Moffitt, Joel Pickett and Ben Picton (Y10). The delegation were accompanied by myself, Mrs Clague, Mr & Mrs. Millea.

Friday included a 6 hour drive down from St Helens to Kintbury where we were greeted by the team (a group of 18/19 year old volunteers who work a full year as retreat staff at St Cassian's) who gave us our camp T-shirts and helped us set up our tents.

For those returning to Kintbury, and to camp, it was great to meet up with friends we have made in previous years. For the camp newbies, they wasted no time in introducing themselves and mixing with delegates from the other schools.

We enjoyed a welcome BBQ and campfire on the Friday evening before bedding down for the night in preparation for the activities on Saturday. After breakfast, we broke into our small groups, which were made up of a couple of delegates from each school. We played icebreaker games before engaging with the array of activities the day had in store. The most popular activities were definitely the climbing wall, art, archery and human foosball!

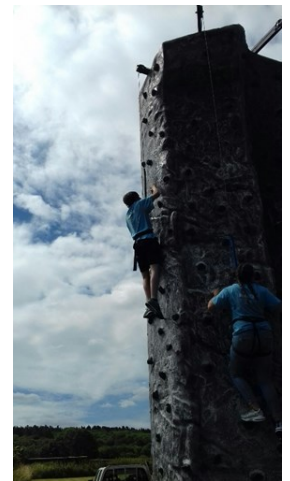
As the camp celebrates being a Lasallian, Mass was held on Saturday evening, presided over by the wonderful Father Peter from Oxford. Each school contributed a small part to the running of Mass and DLS St Helens offered some bidding prayers for those in need. Mass was followed by a disco in the marquee.

As always, it was my privilege to organise our delegation this year, the pupils we took were a credit to their families and our school. They achieved so much in such a short period of time and was definitely worth feeling sleep deprived on Monday morning when I got up for work.

Kintbury is a special place to me, I have watched many groups of young people over the years come alive and gain in confidence, engage with pupils from other schools and feel aggrieved to leave. This year was no different, thank you for coming, thank you for contributing and well done on all you achieved.

My special thanks go to Emma Biggins from St Cassian's and her team, and the staff and pupils from the other Lasallian schools who came to camp (St Augustine's, St Simon Stock, St Peter's, St John's, DLS Liverpool and DLS Malta).

Mr Leggett



Prefect Training – Lowe House – Tarveen Kaur:

I am very glad that my school has chosen me to represent school as a prefect. We all needed some training to be the best prefects for 2017. I am very thankful for the staff who organised a Prefect training day for all the prefects on Monday 11th July at Lowe house church.

In the training, we played games to build our confidence, teamwork, leadership, how to handle responsibilities and behaviour, rules and regulations of the school. This training helped me a lot and I made new friends from the other side of the year whom I never get chance to talk to. At the end of the training we said a prayer, lit candles and we wrote down some goals that we all wanted to work on next academic year.

This training helped every prefect in our school understand the responsibilities that are involved in being the perfect role.

Thank you so much for all the staff who helped us there and gave us a chance to explore our inner selves.



Prefects who helped during the Art Exhibition:

A big thank you to all the students who volunteered their time to help during the art exhibition. They all represented De La Salle School through their exemplary behaviour, smart uniform and positive attitudes. Events like this cannot run without this support.

We had pupils setting up, cleaning up, meeting and greeting guests, singing, playing instruments and face painters. It was a truly wonderful event across two evenings where everyone felt proud to be part of this school community.

Lucy Barker, Sarah Cottington, Roisin Cook, Ethan Greenall, Beth Mimmagh, Niall O'Connell, Grace Steen, Heather Ward, Francesca Ellis, Tarveen Kaur, Ciara Tinney, Tegan Brown, Zara Fitzgerald, Liam Wilson, Aaron Groves, Tom Whitney, Adam O'Rourke, Eric McKenna, Macy Cummings, Niambh Wilson.

Olivia Edwards 10F – Dance Shows:



I recently took part in a dance show for Beinashow dance school in St Helens.

It was an amazing experience for me as a dancer and as a person. Learning and performing six completely different dances was so much fun and I loved every minute. It took a lot of commitment. I gave up my Saturdays to help out with the younger classes and have my own two-hour rehearsals.

I progressed as a choreographer so much so that I was able to choreograph and perform my own solo dance to perform in assembly. This is an amazing opportunity for me! I also got the chance to progress my skills when I helped the younger boys and girls' classes. It was great to be a role model to them too.

A picture of my younger sister, Daisy who took part in the show.

Michael McGillicuddy 10I – Darts:

I first started to play darts at the age of ten when I watched my dad playing with his friends. From then on I was hooked. I bought my first set of darts a few days later and then I just couldn't stop practicing. Then my dad noticed that I was advancing in the game and treated me with a set of quite expensive darts. I still play with those now.

I think I hit my first 180 at the age of 11-12 and I was really delighted and couldn't stop talking about it for days after. At the age of 12 I then started to participate in a darts academy at Sidac on a Monday night.

My game then grew stronger and stronger until I got picked to play in Manchester at a youth competition where I got to the semi-finals. In that competition there were around 70 entries. In May this year, I played in a youth competition where I came runner up and won £200.

Due to practicing every night for at least 2 hours, I am hoping to pursue a successful career in the sport.



Shaun Hill 10I – Emergency service support 'Good Samaritan':

I was with my friend on our way to the shop, when suddenly a lady that I had never met before came running out of her house yelling "HELP, I think my husband is dying, someone please help me". I ran over to see if I could assist, whilst my friend dialled for an ambulance.

The lady on the other side of the phone kept us calm and sent me for a defibrillator at Thatto Heath Club. When I arrived back, I tried to help the poor man lying on the floor as best as I could, before the paramedics came and took over. It was only later that I was informed by the paramedics that due to the quick thinking of my friend and me, we had given the man enough time for the paramedics to save his life.



Daniel Abel 10T – Boxing:

Hi, I'm Daniel Abel and I do boxing for JC's boxing gym. I have been there since December, however, I have boxed since I was 10 years old. This year I have had five competitive bouts in Liverpool and in Wolverhampton.

Despite doing boxing for a long time, this is my first year competing and I feel as if I can go on and do well in the sport. When I start having bouts again around September I hope to do well, and next March, when I compete in the junior ABAs, which is a competition in Merseyside and Cheshire, I hope to win and qualify for the national championships.

I train 3-4 times a week as well as keeping a healthy diet and running, I miss out on a lot of free time but I believe it is worth it. The gym I go to has very good coaches and plenty of boxers who can do well, I feel I am experienced in what I do and would love to coach one day as I enjoy helping other people learn. In the future, I hope to represent Merseyside & Cheshire against other counties and one day my country.



Spanish Exchange 2017 to La Salle – Valladolid:

Another exciting culture experience for our pupils whilst visiting our exchange school in Valladolid. They experienced a full programme of events: visiting the Town Hall and experiencing sitting in the Chamber where a lot of important decisions are taken. A full guided tour was given of the city, visiting the many landmarks, churches and the university.

A day in school gave them a flavour of the lessons with an added bonus of visiting the nursery pupils who are 3 and 4 years old. Our pupils read stories and sang typical English nursery rhymes to this very young audience, Mrs Ballout and myself (Mrs Sixsmith) spotted the potential in some pupils as being future teachers.

We also visited the nostalgic and beautiful town of Segovia, viewing those Roman aqueducts and learning about the different cultures throughout the history of the town. We visited the breath-taking cathedral and Alcazar where it is believed that Walt Disney originally got his idea for how he wanted the Disney Magic Kingdom to look. A three day period of fiestas started while we were there our pupils helped with some crafting and sampled the traditional paella dish. On our journey home we visited the Bernabeu stadium the home of Rael Madrid and we also had a whistle stop tour of Madrid city centre.



Y11 Prom:

This year's prom was held at the Totally Wicked Stadium, St Helens and was enjoyed by all. Pupils looked amazing as they arrived in the many different forms of transport and greeted on arrival with a "mocktail" along the red carpet and welcomed by all staff.

Speeches from Mr Leighton and from Head boy Edward Hodgson and Head girl Chloe McGrath preceded a two course meal, some fun and games with stand up bingo and dancing and photographs throughout the rest of the night.

A special thanks goes to the Prom Committee of Sadie O'Hanlon, Julie-Ann Carrera, Emma Austin, Antonia McKenna and Rebecca Pepper who helped with the organisation of the event and the little touches which made it so special.

Good luck to Mr Fletcher and his prom committee for Prom 2018!!!



U15's Rounder's Champs!!!

Congratulations to the Year 9/10 rounders team who lifted the St. Helens schools trophy remaining undefeated throughout the tournament. After winning all their group games the girls beat Haydock in the semi-final before overcoming Rainhill in the final. Well done to everyone (especially Year 7 star Hollie Brussels).



Big Bang North West:

On 4th July, 42 Year 8 pupils went on an exciting educational visit to The Big Bang North West event at The Exhibition Centre, Liverpool. This STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) celebration enabled pupils to enjoy fire shows, dry ice, gadgets, robots, coding, forensics, animals, creatures, slime, medical magic and so much more...

Pupils met face-to-face with inspiring engineers and scientists, from all walks of industry and academia, to discover information about careers, employers and further study. Perhaps today was the day that inspired an exciting future in this industry for many of our De La Salle pupils!



Ms Shepherd was first to achieve the United Utilities certificate, Mrs Clague was ready to show her science-girl power, Mr Jackson found himself top of the cycling leader board and Mrs Bahan was determined to uncover the mathematics behind the robotic arm!

Celebrating success - Daniel Lee former pupil of De La Salle St. Helens:

We are extremely proud to announce that Daniel has just gained 1st class honours in Spanish from Magdalene college Cambridge. We send Daniel all our very best lasallian wishes and wish him well for a very promising future.



Town Sports 2017:

In what was a challenging, rainy, July day the PE Department had the task this year of running, coordinating, scoring and announcing the event, held at Wigan Robin Park Arena.

In the juniors section Hollie Brussels led the way almost immediately in the 1500m finals through to the finish line in a time of 5.59. A spirited 2nd place from Michael Parr in the 1500m also ensured some good points for our "first timers" at the event. In the field, a 3rd place in Javelin from Dalton Sant and a 2nd in the Shot Putt were also helpful to our overall juniors placing of 4th.

In the intermediates there were massive performances from school record holder Emma Eccles in the 100m finals (13.69) backed up by Lizzie Tracey coming in 3rd. Both girls were involved again later in the 4x100m relay team who managed to hold off a spirited charge from the Rainford girls to win in a time of 57.87. In the field, Mia Connolly/ Emma Eccles managed a height of 1.3m and held off competition to achieve 3rd place. Javelin and Long Jump were also profitable for the girls with Lizzie Tracey achieving first place with a distance of 18.5m in the Javelin and Izzy Gent jumping a sizeable 3.88m to snatch 2nd place points. For the boys, a 2nd place for Connor Devlin in a time of 2.29 in the 800m showed promise but in arguably the strongest intermediate section to date.

The senior team was a little more threadbare in personnel but the heart and courage shown by students to "step up" to compete against other students in a category above them was admirable.

Bidding farewell to the event was Emma Austin who managed a sprint finish in the 1500m finals to win in a time of 6.02. The 400m Girls finals also provided some excellent results with intermediate athlete Lizzie Tracey stepping up and providing an exciting finish to win in a time of 1.11. Y10 High Jump champion Taylor Weeder finished her day jumping 1.28m and achieving 3rd place.

For the boys, returning senior athlete Kieron O'Donoghue came 2nd in the 1500m finals in a time of 5.11 whilst there were good supporting performances from Joe Houghton in the 800m finals, Joe Pilkington in the discus and departing DLS multi eventer Peter Davies in the 400m Finals.

The PE team want to thank all students for their involvement and effort - we are already looking forward to Town Sports 2018 which will be hosted by Haydock. We would also like to say a special thank you to Mr Hussey, Mr Jackson, Mr Millea and former pupils Emma Austin, Antonia McKenna, Pip Birchall, Danielle McGifford, Patrick Royle and Thomas Canning.

De La Salle Y7 Rugby Treble:

At the newly rebranded Totally Wicked stadium the Y7 Rugby team completed a treble cup triumph.

After winning the St. Helens Festival back in September and the St. Helens 9-a-side Tournament the boys backed that up with a win over Hope Academy to become St. Helens Schools Champions lifting the Paul Wellens Trophy.

In an extremely tight contest between two very well matched teams DLS held off in a nail-biting finish to win 18-16 pts. Joe Johnson was chosen as man of the match but it was a 17 man effort that produced a fitting end to a very successful season.

An interesting footnote was that former De La Salle pupil and Saints legend Paul Wellens watched the game and presented the trophy named after him. He also presented the medals including one to his own son, Harry, who is named after Paul's dad (Harry's grandad) who sadly passed away a few weeks ago, he would have been proud after many years watching junior rugby.



Sports Day 2017:

This year's event spanned a whole week, with the reorganisation of teams into representative continents; signified by the colours of the Olympic flag.

The week started with our field events, with excellent performances from Lizzy Duffy (y9) in the Discus, Ahmed Al-Sabbagh (y7) in the Shot Putt and Taylor Weeder (y10) in the High Jump.

The next day included the longer distance events of the 800m, 1000m (girls) and the always challenging 1500m. All pupils who put themselves forward for this are to be congratulated for their commitment and courage.

After a two day break the week finished with our main events, the shorter distance races and the sprints. We saw some fantastic team performances. Those pupils not participating in events were invited out to the finals in the afternoon to support their respective continent. There were three records broken this year, Jordan Benson (y10) who broke the schools 21 year old 200m school record, Callum Lynch broke the standing long jump record and emerging talent and multi sports representative Emma Eccles (y9) who won the Y9 Girls 100m Final.

As the weather turned against us, Oceania were announced as the overall winners, winning by a resounding margin of 151 points overall.

We would like to congratulate all students for their involvement and hope that they are inspired to continue to participate in sport running up to our next "DLS Games" in 2018.



Primary Festival 2017:

In July we welcomed Y5 pupils from our feeder primary schools in an event that included giant bench ball and a battery of fitness tests which looked at developing hand and eye coordination, speed, agility and quickness.

There were many excellent performances from our next batch of DLS sportsmen and women and pupils were given certificates for their achievements.

Once again, the PE Department would like to thank pupils, staff and parents from our primary partners, as well as the Y9, 10 and 11 pupils who gave up so much of their time to make the event memorable.

British Gymnastics Tumbling Competition:

Michael Gaffney competed in the National NDP Finals and did fantastic, he came first and won another Gold medal. He is now a National Champion for his age.

Y8s Narrowly pushed out after an amazing season!

Disappointment in the result but excited for next year as the Y8 boys were narrowly beaten by an admittedly lucky Cansfield RL side. Conditions were slippery as the rain came down in the first half with Cansfields' heavy pack carrying the ball well downhill against our "wall of blue" defence, going in just 8-0 up at half time. The boys rallied after half time, the slope allowing Dave Price, Paddy Smith and Rob Hunter to make some hard yards through the middle allowing Joe Leyland and Theo Sumner plenty of space out wide.

Tries came from the good work from Paddy Smith and Matty Roberts, with great efforts from Tom Johnson and Paul Valentine; after a deftly delivered kick from Jac Mcloughlin was ruled out dubiously. After a flurry of high shots on Paddy Smith by one of the Cansfield forwards which was penalised only and no card shown; DLS grew frustrated and gave away several penalties allowing Cansfield to get over in the dying minutes to score. DLS centre Theo Sumner was presented with a match ball for Man of the Match. This result was not a fair showing of how far these young men have come in 1 year, their heart and desire to improve shows no sign of stopping and I look forward to continuing as their coach next year.

Thanks to all pupils and parents. Mr Leighton

GCSE PE Bubble Football:

As a reward for their hard work over 2 years all pupils from the GCSE PE cohort were invited to participate in a "Bubble Football" event. The event saw many spills and big hits and not that much football! Highlights were some of Mr Leightons' GCSE boys hitting him so hard he went upside down and also Jamie Littles hit on Jordan Pilkington which nearly put her into orbit!

Well done to all and a big thanks to the boys from Bubble Football for their help organising a first class event!



Goodbye or G'Day?

As we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Toole and her family as they start a new life "down under" in Melbourne; staff came out in force to play the first match in the inaugural Vicky Toole Pro-Am Invitational Rounders competition. Our "PE Pros" led the way with some great batting from Mr Foy and Mr Leighton who doubled up as a backstop and 1st base "1-2 punch" whilst our "Ams" also made some sterling contributions including Miss Brunt's "Odell Beckham like" fielding at first base and some well-timed catches from Mr Jackson and Mr Lane.

The "catch of the day", however, came from DLS stalwart Mrs Sixsmith who caught Mr Tucker out way back by the languages department!

The final match ended in a draw, meaning that the VT Pro-Am was shared between English sensation Miss Blenkinship and Y10 Progress Leader Mr Fletcher.

Maybe the Pro-Am will extend to further sports next year?

