



De La Salle School

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10th September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Weekly Update 10th September 2021

Firstly, can I start by saying a huge thank you to all of you for the way you have prepared your children for their return to school. The students have been immaculate in their uniform (despite the ridiculous heat), their attitude has been so positive and their behaviour around the school has been exemplary. This has been, by far, the most positive start to a school year I can recall – so thank you for helping us achieve that.

As always, the rest of this update is in sections, for ease of reference and, if you are like me, you can skip the bits you don't fancy!

Bringing the Magic Back

One of my key messages to staff upon our return, was the importance of making school magical again for our young people. After 18 months of lockdown, restrictions and cancellations, we are keen to give the students those wonderful opportunities and activities: from sports clubs, competitions, lunchtime clubs, school trips and many more.

One of the first events to get underway is planning and rehearsing for our Christmas show – We Will Rock You. This offers opportunities for all students: onstage singing / dancing / acting / playing instruments, or backstage supporting lighting, ticketing, scenery etc. Any students interested should see one of the performing arts staff.

This week and next, we are also launching our new House System. All years will be split into 4 Houses, based upon our 4 founding schools (and represented by the 4 stars on our school badge, Mrs Wellens reliable informs me – no I hadn't noticed them before either):

- Mount Carmel
- Champion
- West Park
- Notre Dame

Staff have also been allocated to houses, and each house will compete in a variety of activities, competitions and tournaments for the House Cup which will be awarded at the end of the year.

The Big Ask

Another thank you for the many parents who have already completed the Big Ask, over 230 so far. I assure you, we do listen to your views and comments and act upon them. If you haven't completed it yet, you can access it here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/AFdXYNLApk>

Vaccinations

There is much speculation in the media regarding vaccinations at the moment. Can I make clear that the school is neutral on this matter. Of course, we will share all relevant information with families, but decisions on whether to be vaccinated or not sit firmly with families. Students will not be treated differently within school based upon their vaccine status.

Flu Sprays

On the note of immunisation, parents were sent information regarding the nasal flu spray that is being delivered to young people. I would encourage all parents to use the link provided to provide or decline their consent for this. The date for the nasal sprays for those students whose parents provide consent is 8th October.

Lost Property / Unclaimed Items

As the school was deep cleaned over the summer we have unearthed a wealth of lost property, jewellery, clothing and phones. If you believe your child has lost, left or not reclaimed an item, then please contact the school before they form part of Mrs R's Christmas presents. (I am of course joking, she still has the Nokia 3310 I bought her last Christmas).

Remote Learning

If your child is absent from school but feels well enough to complete work, they should check on each of their individual class TEAMS pages. Staff are uploading resources from lessons here on a regular basis. If this work is not accessible they should go to their BLENDED LEARNING page. Work will be available here which supplements the work which is being completed in class but requires less teacher input and therefore is more accessible, allowing students to complete it independently.

Punctuality and late detentions

As I mentioned at the start, the students have started back so well, on time and ready to learn. We hope it will stay this way but it is worth reminding everyone that all students should be in their form class by 8.30am.

There have been no late detentions in the first week back to allow students to get into a routine; from Monday 13th September late detentions will start again. The Alder Hey Road entrance will close at 8.30am. If a child arrives at school after 8.30am they can only access via Mill Brow through the entrance into the Main Hall, here they will be met by a member of the Pastoral Team, their name will be entered in the register and they will receive a 10 minute detention at breaktime, if they fail to attend this detention, they will receive a 30 minute detention at lunchtime.

Students arriving after 8.50am must sign in at the main reception and will receive the same detention.

Students arriving after 9.30am will receive an unauthorised absence, unless attending a medical appointment. Repeated unauthorised absences may trigger involvement of the Education Welfare Service who may look at taking further action.

Parking

Thanks to those who do park considerately or, even better, encourage their child to walk, cycle or take public transport. However, Mr Hale has been coordinating students departing on Alder Hey Road and asked if I could remind parents about the parking. I did mention

that I have written more on that subject than any other, but he asked me to share this message:

Can parents please be mindful when picking students up from school, that there are 1200 students leaving school and we need to ensure their safety, blocking the roads and parking too close to the school not only causes gridlock, but may cause safety implications when children are crossing. Whilst there are 4 bus bays on Alder Road, there are 7 buses which need to use the road, when their access to parking is prohibited, this too causes traffic to stop moving.

Buses

We are aware that some of the buses have been very full recently. We have no control over the buses at all, but have passed on the concerns. If you feel it is an issue for your child, we would encourage you to also mention it to Merseytravel directly.

Finally, we were all delighted to see one of our feeder primary students, Jude Riordan, pick up the best newcomer award at the National Television Awards. It was nice to see someone other than Ant and Dec pick up an award.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher