



De La Salle School

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 25

A busy week in school has seen a variety of events and activities taking place. Last night we held the handover service for our 1719 Society, as the baton was passed from the outgoing Year 11 students to our incoming Year 10s, this was a really enjoyable celebration of the work of our young people. Meanwhile, as I arrived this morning, a coach full of our Year 8 students were heading off on the English trip to Stratford and later today we have our final set of workshops being run by the excellent Anthony Walker Foundation.

Elsewhere our students have been continuing their sports fixtures and practices, performing arts are moving on to their next projects and Year 11 are in the home straight of preparation for GCSEs. Even as I type, some of our students are in the final of the Mock Magistrates Competition (I am assuming it is mock as in pretend rather than teams of schools making fun of magistrates, but who knows!).

Facebook Assault Images

Thank you to those parents and students who contacted us regarding a recent series of Facebook posts regarding a young man who was assaulted at De La Salle. This was actually De La Salle Croxteth in Liverpool. I understand that the school are aware of the issue and dealing with it.

Weekly School Focus: Middle Leaders

Over the next couple of weeks, I wanted to give you an insight into the various groups of people that make a school community work, starting with middle leaders. As headteacher I often get the credit (or the blame) for many aspects of school life. The blame is usually fair enough, but the credit should often be directed towards others: senior leaders, support staff and teaching staff. One group in particular, the middle leaders, play a particularly key role in driving success and improvement across the school.

These are our Heads of Department or Heads of Year. We are very lucky to have a very strong group of middle leaders who understand and confidently lead their areas of responsibility. They occupy that challenging role in any organisation – the middle.

Governors, headteachers and senior leaders set the direction and make some of the big decisions but it is the middle leaders who have to make those plans a reality for their staff and the students. Ours are particularly strong, not just leading their areas but working collaboratively to learn and develop with each other.

Big Ask

Last week I shared the parental responses for Leadership and Management, this week we move to the Quality of Education questions and once again, your feedback is extremely positive:

You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.

Big Ask – Quality of Education Questions

Question	Grade out of 5
I am confident that the work my child does in lesson times prepares them for assessments	3.9
My child is able to read confidently	4.5
My child is supported by teachers and other adults in school if they need help with reading	4.2
I am given clear information about why my child is learning what they are learning and what they should be able to show they know and can do at the end of a unit of work.	3.5
My child knows what they need to do to make progress following assessments	3.9
I know who to contact if I need help or support with my child	4.3

Shutters on Toilets

Last week I explained the rationale for these and, from Tuesday, we will start to use them. As I mentioned, the main toilets will always be open and all toilets will be open at break and lunchtime. None of this will change students being allowed to use the toilet in school.

Forthcoming Events (items in bold indicate a change to normal day)

Friday 29th April	School Closed for Queen's Jubilee
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday (School closed)
9th – 12th May	Year 9 Retreat to Kintbury
Monday 16th May	Year 11 GCSEs begin
24th & 25th May	Year 7 Careers drop down day
Friday 27th May	School closes for half term
Monday 6th June	School Re-opens
6th – 17th June	Year 7-9 Assessment weeks/Year 10 Mock Exams
Thursday 23rd June	Year 7 Parents' Evening (students finish at 1.30pm)
27th – 29th June	Year 8 Maths Trip
4th – 8th July	Year 6 Transition Week
Wednesday 20th July	School closes (Students finish at 12.10pm)

And finally....

Tomorrow and Saturday, the SLT have agreed to use the Jubilee Bank Holiday to meet and work on our leadership of the school. An exciting day and a half is planned, focussing upon what it means to be a Lasallian leader, our own individual strengths and weaknesses, how we can work more effectively as a team and the key next steps for our school improvement journey. Well at least I think it is exciting.

Enjoy the weekend,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher