



# De La Salle School

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20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Parental Update 28

The first full week of GCSEs is now done, our students have been excellent and we hope this positive start continues. The week also saw more sporting success (see later), along with a training day for our new 1719 Society, two STEM careers days for our Year 9 students and the start of our primary school visits to meet our new intake.

The school report train continues to chug along with Year 7 reports hopefully going out later today, the Year 10 report have been checked with amendments being made ahead of them going out, the Year 9 reports are currently being checked and the Year 8 report finish being written today ahead of checking.

### Weekly School Focus: Technical Support

These are the real behind the scenes staff who help make things happen in our practical subjects. Mr Heyes is our Engineering Technician, prepping and supporting delivery of design technology classes and Mrs Martin does the same role for food technology. In art Ms Winder combines teaching photography with being the art technician and in performing arts, Mr Millea splits his time between being their technician and his Chaplaincy work. Our final subject technician is Mrs Leith in science who has the job of setting up and tidying away the 100s of experiments that take place across the school each year.

Most of these staff work unnoticed behind the scenes and you are unlikely to have contact with them, but we also have our IT support staff, Mr Greenhalgh and Mr Fairbrother who are employed by Agilisys, but we think of them as part of our family. Certainly, during lockdown, many families did have contact with one or both of the IT team. They are the team that work hard to ensure our new IT equipment is set up correctly and, more often than not, trying to make our old IT equipment last a little longer!

### Sporting Success 1

Huge congratulations to our Year 7 & 8 girls who won a nail biting final against Hope Academy yesterday afternoon. The girls came from behind, scoring a try with one minute left on the clock and needed a conversion to win the game.....which they successfully scored. The girls were an absolute credit to themselves, families and DLS, giving their all until the final whistle. Thank you to everyone who came to support, we all really appreciated it.

#### Players

Year 8 - Chloe Pennington (Player of Match), Pearl O'Toole, Tilly Holloway, Gabrielle Whiteside, Eloise Emmett, Olivia Foy, Emily Topping, Phoebe Weldon & Isabelle Nichols.

Year 7 - Halle Segar, Elspeth O'Connor, Annie Meredith, Ellen Evans (from Mrs H Moran).

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

## Sporting Success 2

Meanwhile our Year 9 boys football had a great victory: DLS 3 - 2 Rainford  
All three goals in the first half scored by Adam Palfrey. DLS went into the second half 3-0 up but conceded twice in the last 5 minutes of the 2nd half, making it a very nervy last few minutes.

Special mentions to Adam P for the hattrick and Reece P who were outstanding both going forward and defending. All in all, really well round team performance. With all the team shining throughout the match (from Mr Singh)

## Holidays

We are seeing an increase in requests for students to be taken out of school for holidays. In many cases, there are genuinely good reasons and we have great sympathy for families in this position, but sadly these have to be recorded as unauthorised absences.

## Toilets

Two items to update you on regarding the exciting world of student toilets. Firstly, the trial of using the shutters has been effective and the demands on the main toilets have not been excessive when the shutters were down.

Secondly, however, there has been a growing trend of students sharing toilet cubicles sometimes having 4, 5 or 6 students in one cubicle. Obviously, this is a safeguarding concern for us and all the students have been spoken to about this being unacceptable, persistent offenders will face internal or external suspension depending upon the circumstances.

## Mobile Phones (reminder)

Just a reminder of the message from last week that from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June we will be applying much tighter rules around mobile phones and the consequences of using them, namely:

- Phones are not to be seen, used or heard between 8.30am and 3.00pm
- This includes students wearing airpods/earphones who it will be assumed are using their phone (or why else have them in?)
- Breach of these rules will always result in the phone being confiscated until the end of the day (with no exceptions)
- Persistent breaches of the rules or refusal to hand over a phone may result in internal or external exclusion; a student being required to hand in the phone before school or being banned from having a phone on school premises.

We are giving a few weeks lead time for students to get used to this and would really appreciate your support, including not trying to contact students on their mobiles during the school day. This can be done via the switchboard who will happily pass on any important notices.

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

24th & 26th May	Year 7 Careers drop down days
Friday 27th May	School closes for half term
Half term	
Monday 6th June	School Re-opens
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	GCSE Art Exhibition (5pm onwards)
6th – 17th June	Year 7-9 Assessment weeks/Year 10 Mock Exams
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 9 World of Glass Trip
<b>Thursday 23rd June</b>	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening (students finish at 1.30pm)</b>
27th – 29th June	Year 8 Maths Trip
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (tbc)

Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 11 Prom
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Founders Day</b> (early finish tbc)
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Transition Week
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Lasallian District Camp
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School Rewards trip to Blackpool
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>School closes (Students finish at 12.10pm)</b>

**And finally....**

Next Wednesday sees the final round of Year 8 students completing their in-school work experience, shadowing one of the school staff or teams. The purpose of these placements was to add an additional experience for the Year 8 students ahead of fuller work experience that we hope to be able to start to re-introduce in Year 10 next year. Each week I have had a different student shadow my work and, though they seem to have enjoyed the experience, I am not sure any are desperate to be a headteacher!

Enjoy the weekend,

**Andrew Rannard**  
Headteacher