



De La Salle
School

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12th September 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 2

So, the end of our first full week and what an interesting week it has been! The ongoing building work has meant that it wasn't just the new Year 7 students who were struggling to find their way around the building. We think we now have the daily arrangements for break/lunch etc right, even if we are on Plan E. As for the students, they have been really good at getting used to the changes and new rules.

I am sorry to pack so much into this week's update, but as I am sure you will appreciate, at the start of the year there is a fair bit of information to share with you.

One of the messages you fed back to us last year was that you sometimes felt you were not as well informed about school and your child's education, especially in subjects. To help address this, firstly, I have also attached a Parental Information Sheet which has key information you may need in the year ahead and secondly, we are introducing Parental Information Evenings later this month (details below).

Whole School Focus: Who deals with what? Who is who in our school structure?
(see attached information sheet for names of staff)

For subject issues, the **class teacher** will support students helped by their **Head of Department (HOD)**. However, for pastoral issues, we have a tiered structure of staff to support students. This structure is different to those in most primary schools as we have far more students. The structure is:

- **Form tutor:** this is your child's daily contact for most low-level things in school.
- **Pastoral Support Manager (PSM):** the PSMs deal with the mid-level issues that a student might face and support their Head of Year with the Year Group.
- **Head of Year (HOY):** the HOYs oversee the whole year group, pick up the more serious issues and direct the work of the PSMs and Form Tutors.
- **Assistant Headteacher (AHT):** each Year group is also overseen by an Assistant Headteacher from the Senior Leadership Team. They deal with the serious issues that arise and oversee the work of the HOY.
- **Deputy Headteacher (DHT):** each Key Stage (KS3 is yrs 7, 8 and 9 and KS4 is yrs 10 and 11) is overseen by one of the Deputy Headteachers who oversee standards across the Key Stage and pick up the most serious of issues to support the AHT.
- **Headteacher:** this is me. Oversees standards across the whole school and all aspects of school life. I generally deal with the high level, whole-school strategic issues rather than individual issues, or at least try to!
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** this person has ultimate responsibility for the safeguarding of staff and students across the school.

Sad News

We were deeply saddened to hear that one of our governors, Cath Morris, passed away this week. Cath had been with us for many years and was one of our most active and supportive governors as well as being a wonderfully kind, funny and caring person. Some of you may remember her from her time as Headteacher at St Julies, before she moved to Holy Rosary in Aintree. I am sure you will join us in keeping her, her husband and their two sons in our prayers, as well as the school communities affected by the news.

Parking (again)

Once again, we have had near grid lock because a few selfish parents don't want their child to walk a few hundred yards to be picked up. Can I once again ask that parents do not park near the Alder Hey entrance, ideally don't park on Alder Hey Road at all, arrange a meeting location further away. Parking on the road increases the risks and dangers to other students.

Parental Information Evenings

As I mentioned earlier, these are short year-based meetings with parents (no need for students to attend, except for the Year 11 meeting), to outline the year ahead, share key information and answer any questions you may have. The dates/times are below:

- Year 7: Tue 20th Sep (6.00pm)
- Year 8: Wed 21st Sep (6.00pm)
- Year 9: Thu 22nd Sep (6.00pm)
- Year 10: Wed 28th Sep (6.00pm)
- Year 11: Thu 29th Sep (6.30pm)

Piercings

We have had a number of students return with various piercings. Can I remind all parents that students are not, and never have been, allowed to wear any piercings in school, this includes plastic ear retainers.

Buses

To help address the ongoing issues some students are having in accessing the buses, we have moved the end of the day forward to 2.58pm. I know this might seem a small issue but the 2 minutes will make a big difference for some students.

Collecting Students during the Day

Could we ask that parents who are collecting any students during the school day, come into reception to collect them, as we have moved the waiting area and they will not be able to see you or your car.

Contact with the school

We always welcome parental contact regarding their child and any issues that may come up. Hopefully the information below will guide you and help manage expectations regarding any contact.

- **Contact by phone (01744 20511) or general email (delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk):** the admin team will do their best to guide you to the right person, though staff are often teaching, in meetings or dealing with students. Your message will be emailed by reception and the member of staff will respond to you. Please note our response times are, for most things, **within 48 hours**, or for more urgent matters, 24 hours.
- **Coming into school (no appointment):** as part of our [Parent Charter](#) you might not always be able to speak to a specific individual but we will always have a trained person to see you and note down any issues and then arrange for the right person to contact you within our time frames (for most things, **within 48 hours**, or for more urgent matters, 24 hours).

Homework

I will write out separately about our planned changes to homework arrangements as we look to move from Satchel One (formerly Show My homework) to Edulink One. For Year 7 parents and students, the Edulink login details are in the process of being sent out.

Building Work

I have mentioned a few times the building work that is taking place. This involved extending our dining room provision, to increase the capacity for students to sit in the dining room. The new plans look to add an extra 50% of seating allowing students to spend longer in the dining room and have a more relaxed experience. Progress so far has been good and the foundations are being put in place over the next week or two. The main element of the construction is the huge glass and steel wall which is due to be delivered mid-October.

School Police Officer

We are delighted that we have now been allocated a school police officer, Lisa. This is something most of the other secondary schools in the borough already have, but had previously not been affordable. We share PC Lisa with Sutton Academy and Rainhill Academy, and she will be based in school every Wednesday.

No Parking On Site

We still have some parents coming on site to collect students at the end of the day. Please do not do this unless you are one of the very few whose child has specific mobility/SEND needs and this has been agreed. Even then, please ensure you wait in a parking bay, not in the layby near the gates.

And finally...

As the noise of the 14th breeze block of the morning being cut to size, by what sounds like an amplified and very unhappy petrol whizzer below my office window, combines with the aching feet and blisters from the extra few thousand steps required to follow the on-site diversions, it is easy to question whether all this building disruption is worth it. However, since the school was re-built 10 - 12 years ago it has been very apparent that the dining area was far too small. The new facility, we hope, will make the student's dining experience enjoyable and, combined with the mobile phone ban, we may actually have some conversations!

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher