



De La Salle School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 6

There are many highs and lows being headteacher and last night was definitely one of the biggest highs I can recall at our Open Evening. It was by far the busiest I and others can recall, which is great for the school. More important than that though, and where my deep feeling of pride came from, was the comments of the visiting parents and children about how warm and welcoming the staff were and, even more powerfully, how kind, passionate, polite and lovely the students were. A big thank you to all who supported it, and especially existing parents who came along.

Whole School Focus: Reports and Information

I thought it might be useful to clarify for all parents what information they should expect to receive from the school and when this will be (see attached table for dates).

- **Information Evening:** these were trialed this year for all year groups to set out what the year looks like for each year group, where to access curriculum information and sharing year-specific information.
- **Monitoring Report:** these are a brief data summary of where your child is up to in each subject (Years 7-10 will receive 2 of these each year, and Year 11 1 of these)
- **Full Report:** These are the detailed reports with written comments from your child's teacher (all years will receive 1 of these each year)
- **Pastoral Parents' Meeting:** these are relatively short meetings between parents and their form teacher (these are for Yrs 7-10). These are online.
- **Full Parents' Evening:** these are longer events where parents can meet with each of their child's subject teachers. We are looking at which of these will be in person and which will be online – tbc.

College and 6th Form Open Evenings

For Parents of students in Years 10 and 11 I have attached a copy of all the college and 6th form open evenings for the local area. Most of the colleges do come in and speak to the students, but you may want to visit them yourself to help decide your child's next steps.

Mobile Phones

Our strict approach to mobile phones remains very effective, with incidents now in single figures, which is great. Can I remind parents, however, that **any child who is caught with a phone twice in the week, or doesn't initially hand it over, will need to have it collected by their parent after school, up to 4:00pm.**

Trainee Teachers

As a school, we work closely with Liverpool Hope University to support the training and development of new teachers. This week, we met our new teachers who will be with us on their first placement through to February. Our trainees are:

- Miss Kavanagh - PGCE Secondary Art and Design

- Miss Taylor - PGCE Secondary Geography
- Miss Alvarado-Rodriguez - PGCE Secondary MFL (Spanish)
- Mr Hoyte - PGCE Secondary RE
- Mr Taylor - PGCE Secondary History

We wish them well as they start their journey into teaching.

Building Work

Another week with only limited visible progress, though I am assured all is still on track. The weather hasn't helped, but I understand work on the roof is now well underway and the steel frame is due to arrive towards the end of next week. On the plus side, no power tools are being used so no impact upon lessons, and my headaches have stopped!

Forthcoming Events (dates in **bold** indicate a change to normal finish times)

I have tried to list all the key events running up to the start of December. Some are additions to the document I sent at the start of the year as more events are added.

W/B 10th Oct: Year 11 Mock exams

Tue 11th: Year 9 ski trip lessons (group 3) 1.30 – 7pm

Wed 12th: Governors Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development Committee (5pm)

Wed 12th: Year 9 ski trip lessons (group 3) 1.30 – 7pm

Thu 13th: BBC 'Tell Your Story' Roadshow (Years 7-10)

Sun 16th – Wed 19th: 1719 Society Visit to Rome

Tue 18th: Year 9 ski trip lessons (group 4) 1.30 – 7pm

Wed 19th: Year 9 ski trip lessons (group 4) 1.30 – 7pm

Wed 19th: Governors Personnel Committee (5pm)

Thu 20th: Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 pastoral meetings 2 to 4.30pm (online) students finish at 1.30pm

Fri 21st: school closes for half term (3pm)

Half Term

Mon 31st: School Re-Opens

Mon 31st: Football Beyond Borders (Year 8)

Tues 1st Nov: Scholars Programme is launched (Year 10)

W/B 7th: Year 10 Assessment window opens (closes Fri 18th)

Wed 9th: Governors Finance and Premises Committee (5pm)

Wed 9th: Ski Trip Meeting (Year 9s) 5.30pm

Thu 10th: Your Future Careers Event

Mon 14th: Year 8 Assessment window opens (closes Fri 25th)

Mon 14th: Football Beyond Borders (Year 8)

Wed 23rd: Governors Quality of Education Committee (5pm)

Mon 28th: Year 11 Geography Field Trip to Liverpool

Mon 28th: Football Beyond Borders (Year 8)

Fri 2nd Dec: INSET Day – school closed to students

And finally...

I have never been a believer in the 'big sell' at Open Evening, as I think it is important that families see the true school, so that they understand what we are about. Too much PR or painting an inaccurate picture is unfair on those families making such an important decision. Equally many families have the view that schools are still like Grange Hill, with a harsh 80s brutality, Gripper Stebson ready to take your lunch money off, Stewpot swindling you out of it, Tucker, Benny and Alan nipping off to the chippy for a 'loosie', heads being flushed down the 'bog' and Mr Baxter giving you the slipper (incidentally I was horrified recently when I saw myself in a photo and realised I am increasingly a look-alike of him).

That is why it was so good to hear those comments about the hundreds of young people who helped out yesterday, your children. There is nothing fake about them, just lovely, kind, and mature young people - they are true Lasallians!

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher