

3rd February 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 20

Our skiers arrived back safely at the weekend and all seemed to have had a good time with no significant injuries, though Mr Thomas managed to hit most things and has helped to deforest most of Northern Andorra. Elsewhere, it was lovely to see our Class of 22 who returned last night for their Presentation Evening (more later), LFC Foundation were in working with some Year 8 students, our Year 11 students have been completing mock practical exams and some of our Year 10 students were on retreat at Kintbury.

Next week, is Child Mental Health Week (see attached poster), Sam the Chaplain and I are at the Lasallian Mission District Assembly (more later), we have governors Personnel Committee, our Iceland trip sets off, we continue our focus upon uniform and lateness to lessons and of course we finish next Friday for half term.

Whole School Focus: Big Ask Feedback Part 2

Across the whole Big Ask (142 parental responses), the vast majority of parents say they are happy with the school with our overall average rating being 3.9 stars (out of 5), though this is down slightly on last year's rolling average of 4.1. The main theme in the parental comments is one of thanks and praise for the staff and the school, which is lovely but, as always, to improve it is the concerns you raise that need to be looked at.

The second section of the Big Ask focusses upon Quality of Education:

Q#	Question	Autumn 22 (out of 5)	Change compared to avg of previous year
7	I am confident that the work my child does in lesson times prepares them for assessments.	3.6	-0.4
8	My child is able to read confidently	4.3	-0.2
9	My child is supported by teachers and other adults in school if they need help with reading	3.9	-0.4
10	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	3.3	-0.3
11	My child knows what they need to do to make progress following assessments	3.6	-0.4
12	I know who to contact if I need help or support with my child	4.0	-0.4
13	I feel my child is supported in school	3.8	-0.5

Key points from your responses:

- The responses remain positive (between 3.3 and 4.3 stars) but are lower than other sections
- Questions 7, 10 and 11 are the lowest scoring and this is matched by some of the free text comments.

- Some parents not feeling they know where their child is up to or what they have to do to progress further (4 parental comments)
- Some parents also raised concerns about homework (8 parental comments)

As with all of your feedback, we listen and look to act on the valid issues you have raised (see later paragraph on homework), in order to make the school a better experience for everyone. Next week's section will focus upon the Behaviour and Attitudes section of the Big Ask.

Presentation Evening

Last night we held our first Presentation Evening for 3 years. It was lovely to see our Class of 2022 return to collect their GCSE certificates and Special Awards. Our guest speaker was Frank Cottrell-Boyce who is a past student and great friend to the school. He was his usual brilliant self and kept the audience in the palm of his hand throughout with his natural story telling ability. There will be a feature in the bigger end of term newsletter but in the meantime, a big thank you to the families, students and staff who attended a wonderful evening.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

As part of our ongoing engagement with parents, we are consulting upon our updated [Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy](#). If you would like to share your views on the policy, you can do so [here](#). The deadline for you to share your views is 5:00pm on Wednesday 8th February.

Student Behaviour (Year 8 after school)

We had concerns raised regarding the behaviour of some Year 8 students who went to support a football tournament taking place after school in the local area. As always, it is a very small minority of students that have let our community down, however, if you could echo our message requiring students to behave in a Lasallian manner at all times, not only in school.

Students Leaving During the Day/Being Collected

Could I ask that if your child needs to leave during the school day e.g. for a medical appointment or similar, if you could let your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager know in advance. Students should not be contacting parents themselves directly.

Could I also ask that whoever is collecting them, comes in to reception. For the safeguarding of students, we will no longer just be sending students out to cars without seeing who is collecting them. Thank you for your understanding.

Homework

As a response to parental feedback from the Big Ask, we will switch on the notifications for homework for parents and students. It is essential that students select the completed option on Edulink once they have completed/handed in a homework or notifications will continue.

Please follow the link <https://support.overnetdata.com/knowledge-base/homework-for-learners-and-parents-in-edulink-one-video/> for further information about Edulink homework.

Lasallian Mission Assembly

It has been 7 years since the last assembly which helps to decide the future direction of the Lasallian District for the future. There will be over 50 delegates representing the Brothers, all the schools and the retreat centres. Sam our Chaplain and I will be representing our school.

I have been part of the District Council working on the assembly over the past 18 months. It is a pivotal point for our district and of course the schools within it, not least, our own school. It will set the direction for the District and its schools for the next 7+ years which will be so important and have such an impact on our future.

I am never keen to be out of school, but this event is so important for the Lasallian Community and, in particular for our school's future, as we explore how academisation may look for us and the

other Lasallian Schools. It is important that this is something that we lead on and is in the best interests of our school.

Attendance Data

Oh we are so close to the national average! Next week let's try to catch / exceed it.

September 2022 – 27th January 2023:

- School attendance **90.9% (up 0.1%)**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **91.0% (up 0.1%)**
- Gap: **-0.1% (unchanged)**

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

W/B Mon 6th: Year 11 Mock exams

W/B Mon 6th: Iceland Trip

Wed 8th: Governors Personnel Committee (5:00pm)

Fri 10th: Finish for Half term (3:00pm)

Half Term

Mon 20th: INSET Day (students do not attend)

Tues 21st: Students return

Thu 23rd: Year 10 RSHE Drop Down Day

Mon 27th: Year 8 assessment window opens

Wed 1st Mar: Governors Behaviour Attitudes and Personal Development Committee (5:00pm)

Sat 4th / Sun 5th: Year 9 DofE Training Walk

Mon 6th: Year 10 Assessment window opens

Fri 10th: SpringFest (Years 7 and 8)

Wed 15th: Performance Management Meetings

Wed 15th: Governors: Finance and Premises Committee (5:00pm)

Thu 16th: Year 10 and 11 Theatre trip (evening)

Tue 21st: LJMU Science Lesson (period 3)

Tue 28th – 1st Apr: Shakespeare's Italy Trip

Wed 29th: Full Governors Meeting (5:00pm)

Wed 29th / Thu 30th: Spring Concert / Music Showcase (evening)

Fri 31st Mar: school closes for Easter (3:00pm)

And finally...

Last night was great to see the students come back after those few months away, where for many, they grow up and change so much. Often re-inventing themselves or finding a new style or look, changed hair, clothing, boots etc. I am sure we all look back at our 17-year-old selves with a range of emotions. I certainly look back and see an overly confident but significantly skinnier, young man, with a full head of semi-mullet hair.

On this theme, one of the favourite assemblies I do is to encourage students to write themselves a letter for the future. For when they are 20, and maybe another for when they are 30+. It is always a really powerful moment when they start to think about what they would say to that future self, getting them to think about their future self - where they will be living, what they will be doing, even what car they may be driving? I also encourage them to think about what their future self might say to them now.

There will be a million things we might want to say – study hard, make the most of your friends, the winner of the next grand national, buy shares in Apple, don't go into that tackle in a few weeks that broke your ankle etc. All of which might be helpful, but to keep it really simple, when I look at that not so fat but overly cocky young man I think my only message would be "be kind", from the overly fat but not so cocky old man.

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear parents and carers,

6 - 12 February 2023 is Children's Mental Health Week. The week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to raise awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is Let's Connect.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections, and for Children's Mental Health Week 2023, Place2Be is encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

As parents and carers, you are an important role model to your child. How you connect with friends and family will influence your child, and how they develop their own friendships and relationships. For example, how you greet people and maintain friendships, but also how you forgive people or say sorry when you need to.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few simple ways you can connect with your child and help them to make meaningful connections.

1. Connect with your child in everyday ways

Moments of connection (and re-connection) are really important in child-caregiver relationships. For example, when you pick them up from school, or come in from work, try to give them your full attention and see if this helps you feel better connected as you hug, talk, smile and hear about their day. Watching your child play and joining in is really important to them – so put your phone away and have a bit of fun – being playful is good for adults, too!

With your older child, you may find times such as car journeys a good time to talk, or to re-connect by playing music you both like. It is important to be accessible to a teenager when they need to talk. You may have to be there 'on their terms' and be ready to listen.

2. Talk to your child about important connections

This could include talking about family members, friends, neighbours, childminders, people in the local community and others in your faith group (if you have one). Remember it's ok to talk about people they miss, for example, family members who live in a different country or people who have died.

Children learn a lot from their parents about how to express their feelings, including the joy that comes with feeling connected to others and the sadness that comes with missing others.

3. Talk to your child about their friends

As children become teenagers, their friendship groups become increasingly important to them. Be open to hearing about their friendships and try to listen without judgement.

Ask them about their life in real life and online. You may not think online friends are 'real friends', but your child may feel differently. Losing friends, feeling left out or being bullied is very painful and your child needs to know you will support them through these difficult times.

4. **Connect by taking an interest in your child's world**

As adults we can sometimes be dismissive of the things that our children and teenagers are interested in, e.g. their music, fashion, what they watch etc. If you do take an interest in these things, however, you may feel better connected to your child and the important things in their world. This can lead to other conversations about other things in their lives that matter to them.

5. **Find time to connect as a family**

Family life can become busy and stressful, so it's important to find some time where you connect together. This could include simple things like cooking, watching a film, playing a game, going to the park or even doing the family shop together.

6. **Try to resolve conflict and re-connect after arguments**

Arguments and moments of disconnection are bound to happen in families - between your children, between yourself and your children and between yourself and your partner, if you have one. It is important that children learn how to disagree in appropriate ways, how to say sorry and how to make amends when they have done something wrong. They will learn a lot about how to do these things from you - so try to model the behaviour you want to see in your children. Talk to them about how to re-connect with friends after arguments including what they can do to help repair relationships.

Video activities from Place2Be

Puzzle Pieces – aimed at 4-7 year olds, this activity is presented by CBBC's Art Ninja, Ricky Martin, and will show children how we are all connected. Why not take part as a family? childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/puzzlepieces 🔗

Connecting Paperchains – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 7-11 year olds, this activity helps children think about the people, things and activities they feel connected to. childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/paperchains 🔗

Exchanging Postcards – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 11-14 year olds, this activity encourages young people to explore what connection means to them. childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/postcards 🔗

Looking for free practical advice to help you support your child?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour. parentingsmart.org.uk 🔗

Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: place2be.org.uk/help 🔗

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

OPPORTUNITIES



The new pre-degree Foundation Year in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is the first of its kind at Cambridge. Free and fully-funded, the programme was created last year to offer a stepping stone to Cambridge for those impacted by educational disadvantage and disruption. [Click here to read more](#) about how students are getting on one year in.



Try a university degree, before you apply, and make sure it's the right course for you. Explore [Springpod's library of Subject Spotlights here](#). Here are some featured spotlights:



Pharmacy: Join renowned pharmacist, Nadia Bukhari in this Subject Spotlight with UCL. Nadia uses her years of experience to give you a taste of what being on the Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) course is like at UCL. Learn about drug combinations, take in the aspirin case study, and understand what's involved when you're a pharmacist.



Law: Join Mike Meehan as he explores the law's response to covid, how it impacted us as a society, the new laws that covid has prompted, and the rules and regulations that impacted our freedom and human rights during the recent pandemic. He'll also be posing a review and engage exercise to test your knowledge!



Music: Join Dr Tom Attah as he both defines and contextualises popular music as a socio-cultural activity and practice, looks at how popular music genres are made up of individual style elements, and discusses music as a form of 'language'. Tom also thinks about listening to music for feeling in a fascinating activity involving the theme tune to Jaws!

JOB OF THE WEEK



Equalities officers make sure people are treated equally in an organisation by promoting positive practices and attitudes.

The annual salary is £22,000 to £45,000 and expect to work 38 to 40 hours a week.

There will be 3.9% more Equalities officer jobs in 2027.

[Click here to read more.](#)

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The unemployment rate for September to November 2022 increased by 0.2 percentage points on the quarter to 3.7%. In the latest three-month period, the number of people unemployed for up to six months increased, driven by those aged 16 to 24 years.

[Read more here.](#)

If you have any questions or need support, please contact moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



SEND Education: Join Trevor Cotterill as he looks beyond the labels when considering Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), thinking about how we use labels and categories when identifying SEND, the issues surrounding the notion of inclusion, and an introduction to the complexities associated with identifying the characteristics of autism. Trevor also poses two case studies relating to autism and challenges you to apply your understanding of the topics covered in this Subject Spotlight.



Personal finance: Join Paul Bentley as he explores the world of personal finance, with a particular spotlight on understanding finance and the stock markets, exploring currency and the logic behind investing. He'll also be posing an interactive activity for you to tackle, which will heighten your awareness of the world of personal finance!



Media: Join Dr Jilly Kay as she discusses how the media shapes our identities, the role the media plays in social justice movements, and how media and communication are transforming politics in the modern age. She will also analyse the media framing of the black lives matter movement, posing a research task for you to aid your understanding.



Fashion: Join Teodora Mitrovaska & Seun Ade-Onojobi as they ask the question: "Is Great Fashion the Product of a Great Team or an Individual?" in a series of episodes that culminate in an interactive and absorbing Subject Spotlight focussed on fashion.



Canine Therapy: Join Lauren Hunt as she poses the question "Is it just humans that benefit from rehabilitation?" in a series of episodes that culminate in a totally original and exciting Subject Spotlight focussed on Canine Therapy.



Economics: Join Dr Marianna Koli as she poses the question "Why are some countries poor?" in a series of episodes that culminate in a fascinating and topical Subject Spotlight focussed on Economics. She will be looking at global inequality, who is responsible for that, the uneven distribution of Covid-19 vaccines during the recent pandemic, and the impact of the pandemic on the global economy.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"We're change agents and cyber gurus. Performance improvers and problem solvers. Data scientists and growth hackers. Bot programmers and software builders. Risk managers and confidence builders. We're more than 365,000 global perspectives ready to welcome yours." You can read more about their careers [here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT



"UCL is consistently ranked as one of the top ten universities in the world (QS World University Rankings 2010-2022) and is No.2 in the UK for research power. With more than 400 undergraduate degree programmes and 42,000 students from 150 different countries, we're London's truly global university." You can read more about UCL's courses [here](#).

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