

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Parental Update 23

This has been a strange week in many ways – the media portrayal of a sense of unease across many schools with the various student protests and, closer to home, I have been having to work from home, having tested positive for COVID (hence the slightly shorter update). The latter being very frustrating as it disrupted a week of important meetings and events, so a big thank you to those staff, especially on the SLT, who picked up many of those for me.

School was also very busy (so I am told) with our Year 11s having their 'mock results' day, we welcomed our new trainee teachers: Miss Holland, Miss Fenlon and Mr Gbor, we welcomed the team from Kintbury (the Lasallian retreat centre), our Year 8s began their assessments, we began our Big Lent Walks for CAFOD (see later), we celebrated World Book Day, we had our Behaviour Attitudes and Personal Development Gov meeting and, this weekend, we have a DofE walk and the Year 8 Mock Magistrates Competition.

### Whole School Focus: Big Lent Walk for CAFOD

I am sure many of you will remember the Good Shepherd Collections of our youth. These have now been rebranded under the CAFOD banner and this Lent we will be taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk to raise money as part of our Lenten Charity work.

The money raised from this event will contribute towards climate change education in developing countries, equipping people with the knowledge and tools they need to overcome the devastating impact that the change in the world's climate is having. People in developing countries are starving due to lack of crop growth, they are unable to sell produce for medication and disease and illness is rife within communities. Donations of any amount will support CAFOD in their work. The Big Lent Walk is a challenge for individuals or groups to walk 200km during Lent. We will be walking during Form Time as house groups within each year.

We are asking parents/carers and friends to contribute to our CAFOD fundraising online, via our personal CAFOD donation page. This is a really easy process, just follow the instructions on screen with an option to Giftaid. If you are unsure about donating online, students can bring in cash and Sam will be more than happy to donate on your behalf. Parents will receive the link throughout Lent. This page will be updated with our progress once the walk begins.

<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/dlslent/post/2469110>

Our first cohort of walkers started yesterday and this will continue throughout March. Thank you for your support.

### Rewards

A number of parents questioned the school's approach to rewards and this is something we are currently reviewing. We do have regular rewards for students in all years, including stars of the week. As an example, I have provided the Year 11 and Year 8 names below for this week, along with the special Year 11 and Year 8 awards this week. These take place every week for every year group. I will look at the feasibility of reporting these regularly for all years.

## Stars of the week

Form Class	Year 11	Year 8
J	Sam	Daniel
O	Luca	Scarlett / Lilly
H	Lily	Charlie
N	Gabriel	Phoebe
B	Sydonia	William
D	Daniel	Cole
L	Benjamin	Chad
S	Larissa	David

**Year 11 Team Special Awards:** Adam, Amelia, Ryan and Grace.

**Year 8 Team Special Awards:** Isabelle, Max, Lauren and Tobias

## Semi Final Disappointment

Our Year 9/10 Girls' Football team played this week in a semi-final against Rainhill. The girls lost 2-0 in a very close game that could have gone either way, with both teams having some great chances and the goalies making some brilliant saves. The girls were superb, and the attitude and effort shown throughout the game was outstanding. (Mrs Hart)

## Student Protests

I am sure many of you will be aware of the national waves of student protests. I don't know of a school that wouldn't happily engage with students around any serious issue they were concerned about, but many of these seem to be more about a Tiktok trend and anti-social behaviour rather than any genuine grievances.

Fortunately, despite rumours and whispers, our students haven't really been involved. However, one distinctly unsavoury element of these protests has been the social media attacks upon school staff, including at some local schools, and particular the headteachers. Regardless of the rights or wrongs of any individual school's rules, such personal and often vile attacks are very sad. These are staff who, whether others agree or disagree with them, have dedicated their lives to working with and supporting young people's education. Let's hope some calmness returns soon.

## WhatsApp Scam

Our school-based police officer has asked us to share a Whatsapp scam that affected students at another school. It involved a message asking a student to give another student a code that was sent to his phone under the guise that it would give him access to a school WhatsApp group. In reality it was a 2-step verification code for online purchases that the suspect had made using the other student's mobile number. Please remind students not to share any such passcodes.

## Year 9 Options

A reminder to our Year 9 parents to complete their child's options choices by Friday 10th March. Options Online will be unavailable after this date.

## Attendance Data

We have pipped ahead of the national average, which is great to see.

September 2022 – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023:

- School attendance **91 % (same)**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **90.9% (down 0.1%)**
- Gap: + 0.1%

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

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> / Sun 5<sup>th</sup>: Year 9 DofE Training Walk  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup>: Year 8 Mock Magistrates Competition  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup>: Year 10 Assessment window opens  
Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Mar: Deadline for Year 9 Options to be completed online  
Fri 10<sup>th</sup>: Hype festival (Years 7 and 8)  
Wed 15<sup>th</sup>: House Competition: Dance Off (lunchtime)  
Wed 15<sup>th</sup>: Governors: Finance and Premises Committee (5pm)  
Thu 16<sup>th</sup>: Year 10 and 11 Theatre trip (evening)  
Tue 21<sup>st</sup>: LJMU Science Lesson (period 3)  
Tue 28<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Apr: Shakespeare's Italy Trip  
Wed 29<sup>th</sup>: Full Governors Meeting (5:00pm)  
Wed 29<sup>th</sup> / Thu 30<sup>th</sup>: Spring Concert/Music Showcase (evening)  
Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Mar: school closes for Easter (3:00pm)

**And finally...**

That taught me to joke about Mrs R having COVID, with a week of isolation and yes you guessed it, I remained in the spare room!

One side-effect of not being in school was missing World Book Day yesterday. As part of the day, the House Leaders had arranged for a staff house competition to dress up as a character from a book. This is a shame as last Friday I had been asked to take part and had agreed.

Testing positive on Sunday evening prevented me having to think about which character I would have dressed up as. However, I have had time to think who I might have come as - obviously in my mind it was a romantic classic hero such as Mr Darcy, Mr Rochester or Heathcliff. However, when I asked my family, their suggestions included Mr Twit, Uncle Fester, Gru from Despicable Me, Augustus Gloop, Mr Nosey, Rafa Benitez or anything played by Alexei Sayle (the last two aren't even literary characters).

Have a good weekend.

**Andrew Rannard**  
Headteacher

# 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

March is a busy Month for national events.  
Take a look below to read more...

We have International Women's Day on 8th March 2023. Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #EmbraceEquity. Here is a list of IWD events.



We also have National Careers Week from 6th - 11th March. National Careers Week (NCW) is a one-week celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. Their aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people develop awareness and excitement about your future pathways.



You can check out NCW TV to see lots of short films from different employers about what they can offer you. There are also a range of guides, booklets and activities available here.

10th-19th March is British Science Week. This is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. This year's theme - connections! Check out the activity packs available here. Many employers have arranged events to celebrate and you can see a list of these here.



Lastly, World Book Day is taking place on Thursday 2 March 2023 and the emphasis is on making it YOUR World Book Day. Penguin Books have created some resources that you can use to learn more about being an author, illustrator and comedian.



## JOB OF THE WEEK



Farmers and farm managers grow crops and raise farm animals for food production. The annual salary is £21,000 to £50,000 and expect to work 39 to 41 hours a week including evenings and weekends. There will be 4.8% more Farmer jobs in 2027. Click here to read more.

## LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

You may have seen that there have been lots of industries striking recently, including rail, teachers and nurses.

There were 843,000 working days lost because of labour disputes in December 2022, which is the highest since November 2011

Read more here

If you have any questions or need support, please contact [moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk)

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER



## OPPORTUNITIES

On 6th March, Not Going to Uni are running a webinar on "What options are available to help you into The World of Work?". They will cover:

Outlining the different options available when entering the working world (Traineeships, Apprenticeships, Gap Years, Entry Level Jobs and Courses)

Overview of our NGTU website and the best way to use it for your career search

Insight from our ambassador, Keira - Procurement Associate at Multiverse

Insight from our ambassador, Lucy - Food Science Degree Apprentice at Avara Foods

Q&A session

You can [sign up here](#). If you can't make the time, still sign up and you will receive the recording to watch at a later time/date.

BBC are running a Forces Live Lesson on Monday 13 March at 11:00am. Using your knowledge of gravity, friction and air resistance, you will be challenged to design a landing module to bring our intrepid explorer safely back down to Earth. Along the way, you'll be hearing from real-life astronauts including Dr Helen Sharman, the first British astronaut in space and American astronaut Bob Hines who's recently returned from a NASA space mission. [Click here to read more and sign up.](#)

InnovateHer is bringing an exciting assembly to your classroom to celebrate International Women's Day and STEAM Week this March, focusing on the importance of embracing equity, so everyone has the opportunity to succeed whilst spotlighting careers on each day of the week. Each day will focus on a different subject: Science, Tech, Engineering, Art and Maths. [Click here to read more and register.](#)

On 8th March at 7pm, Celebrate International Women's Day and join this free 50 minute online yoga class with a focus on female empowerment. Suitable for all ages and abilities. [You can register here.](#)

Also, make sure you are following key career pages on Instagram like [UCAS](#) and [Not Going to Uni](#) who have events running during NAW2023.

## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"Automotive is an industry that is changing rapidly and moving into a new era. A car is no longer a combustion engine wrapped in metal, it is a computer capable of learning, and gift-wrapped in space age light, strong and carbon neutral technology. We need people with open minds who can embrace the future."

You can read more about their careers [here](#).

## UNI SPOTLIGHT

### University of Essex

"Our students and graduates have always been committed to making change, both big and small. Challenging the norm is not just encouraged, it's expected. When you're a member of the University of Essex, you will have the freedom to challenge, the confidence to speak out and the courage to share your ideas."

You can read more about University of Essex's courses [here](#).

If you have any questions or need support, please contact [moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk)