

13th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 24

A week with lots of extra-curricular activities with rugby, cricket and football fixtures, some of our Key Stage 4 students went to a Healthcare Roadshow, Year 9, 10 and 11 students went on a music trip to see the British Music experience in Liverpool, students of all years went to Flame at Wembley last Saturday and our Year 8 students took part in a mock Magistrates Competition, coming runners up. Of course, the highlight of the week will be tonight's Hype Music festival for our Year 7 and 8 students.

Looking ahead, we have a potentially disrupted week, with two possible strike days (Wed/Thu) if talks once again prove unsuccessful. More positively, we have a geography Aim Higher visit for Year 11 students, governors finance and search committee meetings and some of our key stage 4 students will be visiting the theatre.

Whole School Focus: Options

This message is for all parents, not just those in Year 9 and I share it to help parents understand how education has changed in recent years and to help manage future expectations. As you will know, in Year 9 our students take their options, selecting those subjects they wish to follow into Key Stage 4. Many of us will recall having 4 option choices at school, this is no longer the case for students as the level of choice that students have has grown smaller, for several reasons:

- The changed GCSEs of recent years are much larger and challenging than in previous years, requiring more time for each one (meaning most students now complete 9 GCSEs rather than 10)
- As with all Catholic schools, all students complete GCSE RE, which takes up one option slot.
- The government (the DfE not Ofsted) has been very clear in its ambition to have more students (90% by 2025) complete the English Baccalaureate: this is a combination that includes a modern foreign language and a humanity (History or Geography). This means that all of our more able students (top 2 sets either side of the year) are expected to do Spanish or French as one option and then all students to choose history or geography as another option.

All of the above means that, in reality, for most students, they will have one completely open option slot to choose.

This may seem disappointing but does make sense, as students no longer leave education at 16, there is less need for specialism in Key Stage 4, so there is great value in maintaining a strong academic curriculum (the core consisting of English language and literature, maths, at least 2 science GCSEs and RE). This then provides our students with a very strong foundation for making post-16 choices into A Levels, vocational education or apprenticeships.

Strike Action

At the time of writing, I understand talks are still ongoing between the unions and the DfE and there have been breakthroughs in Scotland and Wales. However, at the moment, strikes are still planned in England on Wednesday (15th) and Thursday (16th). If this is the case, then arrangements will be the same as on previous strike days. Let us all hope a solution can be found before then.

Cricket Success

Well done to our Under 13 girls' cricket team who, under the inspirational leadership of Mr Singh, have made it to the final of the EBC County Cricket Competition. We are incredibly proud of the girls and wish them all the best in the final on Tuesday 21st March at the Bolton Arena.

Rewards

I mentioned last week about trying to pull together the rewards lists from each year group. Attached are the latest weekly awards from each year group. Each year can take its own approach to rewards each week and Year 10 have focussed upon subject rewards. (Apologies I didn't have access to the Year 7 awards at the time of writing).

In terms of what students receive, dependent upon which award they get, these include certificates, scratch cards (which reveal a range of possible prizes such as stationery, much valued front of break and lunch passes etc), chocolate and sweets prizes and £5 or £10 vouchers.

Year 11 special award: Sam for working so hard across all subjects.

Year 8 special awards: Ava (top star points), Michael (£10 award winner), Elliott, Aaron, Leo and Joey (Lasallian award for supporting the confirmation programme).

Year 10 subject recognition awards:

- **English:** Helenia, Sophie and Seb
- **RE:** Connor
- **Geography:** Eleanor and Reece
- **History:** Charlie, Adeyemi and Amelia
- **ICT:** Brandon
- **Spanish:** Ava, Jake and Aoife
- **Computer Science:** David
- **Engineering:** Dona and Victor
- **Music:** Dona
- **Drama:** Emma
- **Health and Social Care:** Emily, Zoe, Olivia, Shelby and Dara.
- **Art:** Ellie- Mae
- **Graphics:** Freddie, Charles and Jessica
- **Catering:** Isabel

Big Lent Walk for CAFOD

Our students have made a great start to the big Lent Walk for Cafod, despite the tricky weather towards the end of the week. We're now up to 35% of our fundraising goal for CAFOD. As mentioned last week 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, please bring me the cash and I'd be more than happy to donate on your behalf. Parents will receive the link throughout Lent.

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

Attendance Data

We remain just ahead of the national average.

September 2022 – 3rd March 2023:

- School attendance **91 % (same)**

- National Secondary Attendance is: **90.9% (same)**
- Gap: + 0.1% **(same)**

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

Wed 15th March: House Competition: Dance Off (lunchtime)
 Wed 15th March: Governors: Finance and Premises Committee (5pm)
 Thu 16th March: Governors Search Committee
 Thu 16th March: Year 10 and 11 Theatre trip (evening)
 Tue 21st March: LJMU Science Lesson (period 3)
 Tue 28th March: 1st Apr: Shakespeare's Italy Trip
 Wed 29th March: Full Governors Meeting (5pm)
 Wed 29th/Thu 30th March: Spring Concert / Music Showcase (evening)
 Fri 31st March: school closes for Easter (3pm)

And finally...

It has been interesting to see the Gary Lineker/BBC situation developing and raises interesting questions about freedom of speech, impartiality and the role of those in public positions commenting on political issues. On a much smaller scale, this is something teachers and headteachers need to be and are very aware of.

Don't get me wrong, I am very aware the vast majority of people are not at all interested in anything I have to say on any topic (that includes at home as well as in school!) but teachers can sometimes be very influential on the views of young people. This is something I remind staff of, at key points, that we are there to inform, not to influence, to educate not to indoctrinate. The safest way to ensure this is to work on building strong values in our young people (we have our [5 Lasallian values](#)) that we revisit regularly with staff and students.

When these values are understood and lived, then there is no need to tell people what to think, as they have a value-based understanding upon which to make their own decisions on topics. Having said that, I just want to clarify that I informed the BBC that I was not available to present Match of The Day.

Have a good weekend and half term break.

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher

Stars of the week

| Form Class | Year 11 | Year 9 | Year 8 |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| J | Dylan | Luke | Holly |
| O | Jessica | Deacon | Lola |
| H | Harry | Jesse | Lucie |
| N | Michael | Zara | Tobias |
| B | Leah | Elizabeth | Michael |
| D | Grace | Alexander | Alfie |
| L | Robbie | Orla | Ava |
| S | Gracie-Mae | Lucy | Bethany |

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

NCW

Happy National Careers Week!
You can check out the Virtual Careers Fair [here](#) where you can meet employers and attend online workshops.



Use the hashtag #NCW2023 on social media platform to find information on events from employers and education companies taking place this week. If you can't make the time, don't worry! Sign up anyway and you will be sent the recording.



Nationwide have now opened their apprenticeship applications for their finance and mortgage 2023 apprenticeship cohort. [You can read more and apply here.](#)



Harrods have launched their new careers website, you can read about their employment opportunities, why you might want to work for one of the biggest luxury stores in the UK and apply to their roles [here](#).



The UCL Summer Schools are a fully immersive experience, you'll live as a student staying in accommodation overnight and meet other students from across the UK. Throughout the week you'll attend lectures, seminars, lab work and trips across London to get a taste of what it's like to study at UCL. But it's not all academic work! We have an exciting programme of social activities planned including tours, the chance to explore London and Wellness Wednesdays. There's something for everyone on our Summer School. [You can read more and apply here.](#)

JOB OF THE WEEK



Clinical scientists research and develop techniques and equipment to help prevent, diagnose and treat illness. The annual salary is £33,706 to £65,262 and expect to work 38 to 40 hours a week. There will be 3.3% more Clinical scientist jobs in 2027. [Click here to read more.](#)

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The most timely estimate of payrolled employees for January 2023 shows another monthly increase, up 102,000 on the revised December 2022 figures, to 30.0 million.

[Read more here](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Every day this week on the NGTU [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, they will be posting a video showcasing a different option you can take into the world of work. The idea is that by the end of the week, you will have learnt about 5 different ways you can enter the world of work, helping you to make further decisions on your future career.



The University of Essex have put together a bank of videos for National Careers Week that hope to show a range of different career options that can be studied at university. [You can watch them on demand, any time, here.](#)



Paying for university might sound daunting but fear not - there's plenty of help and support out there for you. This virtual session with Solent University, from 5.30-6.30pm on 13th March, will delve into the world of Student Finance, how to apply for funding, and how to manage your money whilst at university. [Register here.](#)



This webinar, in collaboration with ASK Apprenticeships and UCAS, will outline higher and degree apprenticeships and explain some of the key features of gaining a qualification through this route. Higher and degree apprenticeships allow students to earn a wage while studying for a higher education qualification, and they can provide a great pathway to specific career areas for students who prefer to take a practical approach to learning. 14th March 4-4:45pm. [Register here.](#)



In this webinar on 14th March 4:30-5:15pm, you'll discover our top online tools, the things you need to consider when choosing and how to compare different courses and universities. By the end of the webinar, you'll be so knowledgeable that deciding on a course will be easy. [Register here.](#)



University of Greenwich's series of twilight lectures are delivered virtually by academics via Zoom and cover a range of subject areas to complement students sixth form or college studies and to provide an insight into studying these disciplines at degree level. Subjects include: Humanities and Social Sciences, English Literature, Mathematics, Economics, Engineering, Science and Psychology. [Scroll to the bottom of this page to see subjects, dates and registration.](#)

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"Dixon Wilson is one of the leading accountancy firms, specialising in providing accountancy, audit and tax advice and strategic planning to private clients, companies, entrepreneurs and their businesses. We are proactive in recruiting the best graduates and professional staff." You can read more about their careers [here.](#)

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Sheffield is a vibrant, green, modern city with real character. Unforgettable nights out followed by gentle walks in breathtaking green spaces. Sprawling shopping centres and proud independents. Most importantly, you'll find yourself amongst friends in a busy university city that sets you up for an exciting future. We've lots of sides just waiting to be discovered." You can read more about University of Sheffield's courses [here.](#)

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