

17th March 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 24

A very disjointed week this week with the strike action breaking the flow of the week for staff and students. Despite this, we still managed to run two theatre trips, an inter-school formation event, take our Year 11s to a Geography Aim Higher day, have students attend a Climate Change Conference, have a rugby league match and deliver HPV vaccines to our Year 8 students.

Whole School Focus: You Said...We Did...

We have been working on the issues that you raised in the last Big Ask to try to address your concerns. Some of these things were already being implemented and others are more recent (see attached).

The next Big Ask will be coming out before the end of term, so please look out for it and contribute your views – good or bad!

Lenten Service and CAFOD fundraising

Our SVP Youth group have been working hard planning our Community Lenten Service which will take place on Tuesday 28th March at 6:00pm. All parents are invited and the service will include a short performance, some time for reflection and some students singing. There will be refreshments made available at the end. If you would like to attend we would very much appreciate an RSVP for this event to be sent to cantillons@delasalleschool.org.uk

A reminder that our CAFOD fundraising is still open for donations via:
<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/dlslent/post/2469110>

Careers Newsletter

As you know, each week we also issue the weekly Careers Newsletter. Mrs Smedley, our Acting Head of Careers, is concerned that many parents don't bother opening this. So, could I ask you to take a minute or two each week just to have a quick browse of it, there is plenty of interesting and relevant information in there.

Rugby Success

Our boys' Year 10 rugby league team progressed to the next round of the St Helens Cup after a monumental team effort against Cowley, De La Salle were victors 12-10 in a tight contest in atrocious conditions. Try scorers were Charlie Bennett and Thomas Fairclough with Charlie converting the winning penalty.

The lads ran their blood to water and were literally covered head to toe in mud, we even had three Year 9s stepping in to help out - Callum, Jacob and Ciaran who gave outstanding performances (report by Mr Tucker).

Strike Action

I know many parents will be unhappy with the disruption to the young people's education recently, and I assure you, we feel the same as we are very aware of the negative impact these closures have on students and families. I would also point out that our colleagues on strike are also making significant sacrifices through their lost pay in order to push for better funding, including pay, in education.

Funding is a major issue for many reasons firstly to ensure schools are sustainable with the recent added demands – an example being our gas costs which previously would have been around £25,000 per year and are now set to increase to around £250,000 per year next year. Pay is also an important point, not just to ensure serving staff stay in the profession but to attract new entrants, particularly with the teacher shortages we are seeing nationally.

No two schools have been affected the same way as we all have different levels of union membership across the 4 main teaching unions. Fortunately, talks appear to have re-started and I am sure we all wish for a rapid resolution.

HAF

The Holidays and Food Programme is funded by the DfE and aims to support children to eat more healthily, be more active over the school holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition, as well as be more engaged with school and other local services.

Is my child eligible? The HAF programme is primarily for children aged 4-18 years who are eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM), and their families. Children who are in receipt of a support plan via Early Help, Child In Need or Children We Look After, EHCP, or if your child receives additional hours at school then you are also eligible for the HAF programme. The link below has all of the information for the Easter programme. Links will go live at 9am on Monday 20th March for children/families to book activities. <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/holidayfun>

Rewards

I haven't included all the whole school awards as it was such a short week, but hope to continue them again from next week. However, I can share last week's Year 7 students: Shay, Solomilla, Zach, Eve, Roxy, Fletcher, Faith, Charlotte and Julia.

Year 8 have also managed to collect stars again this week: 80 are from of the week, then the stars are: Katie, Liam, Dylan, Logan, Thomas, Bethany, Paige and Joseph. Top star points in Year 8 go to Bethany, David won the £10 voucher and our Year 8 Lasallian was Lilly.

Attendance Data

We continue to build that gap on national attendance, which is great news.

5th September 2022 – 10th March 2023:

- School attendance **91.1 % (up 0.1%)**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **90.9% (same)**
- Gap: + 0.2% (**improved by 0.1%**)

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

Sat / Sun 18/19th: DofE Expedition

Tue 21st: LJMU Science Lesson (period 3)

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

Wed 29th: Full Governors Meeting (5pm)

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

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

And finally...

I mentioned earlier about the significant jump in the school's utility bills that we have been told to budget for. These increases are eye watering to say the least. This was also the situation in the

Rannard household this week where we received our updated bill which stated last year we were paying 87p per day for gas and this year it will be £14.50 per day! Unless one of my sons has opened a glass blowing factory in the shed, we think this must surely be a mistake.

Such increases, however, raise the issue of fuel poverty that I know many families will be feeling, or at risk of feeling – the heat or eat debate. For those in that position, it is important to reach out for help to charities such as [National Energy Action](#) who can give advice and support on these matters.

Finally, a happy Mothers' Day this Sunday to all of our mothers, I hope you have a very relaxing and enjoyable day. At home, it is Mrs R's birthday as well, so I will need to make a mental note to get 2 lots of carnations from the Texaco on the way home.

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher

You said...	We Did...
You wanted more information on the role and work of the governors in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section of the school website dedicated to our governors, who they are, what roles they fulfil and an annual attendance summary. • How governors raise their profile with parents is also an item for discussion at the next full governors meeting.
You were not clear on what your child was learning in subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have revisited all of our schemes of work and created very easy to use road maps to show the journey your child will follow in each subject. All of these are available on the school website here. • In addition, we ran curriculum information sessions for every year group in Autumn. The information from these is also on our website by year group • We have bought in to Elevate support to provide online session for helping your child at home. • School reports now have a large section with a detailed explanation of what your child is studying in that subject.
Some parents have concerns regarding behaviour and sanctions not being effective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have introduced a new graduated approach to behaviour which I shared with you on 18th November. This systematically picks up behaviour issues and addresses them through support, monitoring and sanctions. • We have introduced a new detention system, with escalation to after school detentions. • We continue to provide 24 hour access to the Sharpe System to allow for anonymous reporting of concerns. • We have trained up Year 10 and 11 students as MVP Mentors in Violence Prevention. They now also have a weekly presence in Sr Marie Hall • We have introduced a protocol for dealing with reports of harmful language and behaviour based upon feedback from our students. • We now carry out regular student voice sessions to listen to the lived reality of students. • Our extended form times now have a session each week called Just Say It, for students to talk about issues of concern in a safe and supportive environment.
That homework was not always being set and you didn't know if it wasn't being completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edulink now the single point of setting homework directing students to the appropriate homework resources. • We are looking at how we report non-completion to parents through our behaviour system.
Extra-Curricular activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a period of change, the PE department is now fully staffed again and has restarted our sporting extra-curricular activities and fixtures. • We have also collated all the different extra-curricular activities that we run on a regular basis and this timetable of extra-curricular activities is now on the school website
Rewards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have increased the number of rewards that students can receive based upon the star points. Including certificates, scratch cards, gifts, vouchers and front of queue passes. • I have started to share these in the weekly parental update.
You weren't always clear on how well your child was progressing in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full report states clearly what your child can do within each subject area. • We are reviewing the information we report throughout the year

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

10-19 March is British Science Week, a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. This year's theme - connections! Nearly all innovations in STEM are built on connections between people; two (or more) heads are better than one, after all! But as well as exploring the importance and joy in connections between individual scientists, research groups and institutions, you could discover the different ways connections appear across all areas of science.



So, what can you take part in to learn more about STEM careers during British Science Week? Check the What's On Page to view virtual events and resources. You can also use the Science Live website to see what in person events are taking place in the local area - make sure you check the location as events are all over the UK!

Join Dr Ceri Lewis and Dr Adam Porter from the University of Exeter to find out about the range of amazing life that inhabits the seafloor. This lesson focuses on the identification, classification, and adaptation of our marine life, both those species that live on the seabed, and those that burrow into the seabed. Read more and register here.

To celebrate International Girls in ICT Day, Fujitsu are running an Insight Event will focus on the technology and wider STEM opportunities at Fujitsu. You'll discover the benefits of pursuing ICT and hear inspirational stories from the professionals who did it first. With an added emphasis on well-being, you'll learn about the role that wellness plays at Fujitsu, plus how to practice it yourself! Read more and register here.



JOB OF THE WEEK



We have replaced this week's usual "job of the week" with a quiz for you to try!

Are you interested in STEM but not sure which career might suit you? Find out which STEM industry suits your interests.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Overall, since 1990, employment in STEM occupations has grown 79%—increasing from 9.7 million to 17.3 million.

Between 2017 and 2029, the number of STEM jobs will grow 8%, a higher rate than non-STEM jobs.

[Read more here](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Interested in learning more about Fujitsu but you don't identify as female?! Don't worry, there is an event for all genders! Fujitsu is one of the world's largest IT service providers - but what do they actually do? This programme will open Fujitsu's doors and let you see inside. You'll discover smart cities and try your hand at quantum computing. On this Fujitsu WorkX virtual work experience programme, you'll learn about the company's passion for using technology to create a more inclusive and sustainable future in the Fujitsu Way. You'll get to explore various areas of the business including cybersecurity, quantum computing and automation. [Read more and register here.](#)



How do you coordinate engineering projects? What goes into designing large-scale infrastructure? Find out from world-leading design, engineering and project management consultants at Atkins! Kickstart your career today and become a 'Future Innovator'. This programme will teach you how to build a better world, including smart cities and urban development. You'll take this further by discovering aerospace defence and technology. Not only that, you'll also cover clean energy, power and sustainability so you can understand how to be part of a net-zero future. [Read more and register here.](#)



All around the world, every single day, people make decisions based on the weather. The Met Office provides weather and climate forecasts based on world-leading science and enhanced by the close working relationships they have with partner organisations around the globe. Using data and cutting-edge technology, the Met Office aims to benefit our planet, and everyone on it. Springpod has partnered with the Met Office to provide you with more insight into the behind the scenes at the organisation! [Read more and register here.](#)



The health and social care sector is one of the most rewarding career routes you can take. With over 350 roles to choose from, it can be tricky to know where to put your skills and passion. For those with a passion for science and an inquisitive mind, a career in healthcare science can be a fantastic option. But, what exactly is healthcare science? Fortunately, we're here to help! [Read more and register here.](#)

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



**UK Research
and Innovation**

"UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). Our organisation brings together the seven disciplinary research councils who operate across the UK."

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

We have replaced the usual "uni of the week" with information on how you can see the best ranking universities for different STEM subjects.

You can use [The Complete Uni Guide](#) - if you click "subject league tables" at the top, you can amend it to look at other subjects. It is currently showing Computer Science. You can click into each university to read more about their offer.

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