

5th May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 29

A very truncated week this week but we have worked hard to make the most of the 3 full days that we have had with the students. It is also encouraging to see the students' attendance remain strong despite the interruptions, so thank you for your support in making that happen. Looking ahead, it is another shortened week, owing to the bank holiday and we have our first parents' evening under the new blended system. It will be interesting to see how this works out. We also have a Year 9 retreat and the window opens for Year 9 assessments.

Whole School Focus: Careers Provision

It was interesting to read some comments in the recent Big Ask which seemed to suggest that some parents assumed our only work in careers was the weekly newsletter that I attach to this briefing.

Obviously, this isn't the case, as many of you will know, I believe very strongly in the power of high-quality careers as a vehicle for educating, inspiring and supporting students to see beyond the local and obvious, and to build aspiration.

Our Careers Programme is part of our Touching Hearts Curriculum and runs across every year group as a spiral curriculum, building upon what has gone before and preparing the students for what lies ahead. Each Year has its own individual aim:

- Year 7: To begin to explore the range of careers pathways that exist
- Year 8: To develop the students' understanding of the world of work
- Year 9: To consider their own skills and attributes and how these link to subject areas and career pathways
- Year 10: To gain employability skills and explore the world of work including Labour Market Information and post-16 career planning
- Year 11: To ensure students are ready to choose their post-16 courses and are fully aware of all the options available to them at the end of Year 11 and beyond.

In addition to the structured careers curriculum, all of our students are involved in a range of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) throughout each academic year (See our [Provider Access Policy](#) – pp 4-7).

Our students also have full access to all our CEIAG Resources for example:

- Assemblies from Aspirational Speakers, Career Connect and other external providers.
- Careers Connect –Drop-ins (lunchtimes)
- Careers Connect Portal and other on-line websites
- Advice from your subject teachers – subject career notice boards
- Designated careers base in the careers room – Prospectuses and Future Careers resources available

I hope this helps reassure parents about the importance we place on careers education and the broad range of experiences we provide to our students.

1719 Society and Team Reims

As you may be aware, we recently held our interviews for next year's 1719 Society. It would not be an understatement to say that we were overwhelmed by the volume and quality of applications. Previous years we would expect around 20 applications of varying quality, this year we had over 40, all of extremely high quality.

In the interviews we identified the 18 students who will form the 1719 Society but, owing to the strength and quality of many of the other applicants, we were keen to tap into the skills and attributes these students had shown, hence the creation of a second student leader group which we are calling Team Reims, named after the home city of our Founder. Far from being a 1719-lite, Team Reims will work very differently and will focus upon connecting and supporting some of our most marginalised students.

Jenny McCourt

This week we received the very sad news that one of our former colleagues, Jenny McCourt, had passed away after a short illness. Though I never knew Jenny, I know she was much loved and respected in the school by staff and students. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Big Ask again raised questions around what extra-curricular activities the school is running for students. So I thought it would be useful to share the [extra-curricular timetable](#) for this term. Of course, these are just the regular sessions and there are many more activities that take place as one-offs and as special events.

Reading Interventions

As I have mentioned previously, reading has been a priority for us this year. We have invested considerable time and effort in assessing all of our students reading abilities. Where students have shown issues with their reading, we have introduced a range of levels of intervention and support, which I have also previously shared with you.

This week, we have been re-assessing the reading ages of those undergoing intervention and the impact has been extremely significant with some improvements of 4 or 5 years in reading age in just 5 months.

Your help in encouraging and supporting the importance of reading beyond school will help build upon these strong foundations.

Year 10 Mocks and Year 9 Assessments

Next month, Year 10 will be doing their mock exams, these are dovetailed to the main GCSEs to allow the students access to the large formal exam venues. The timetable for these will be shared very shortly.

Year 9 assessments, like all of our key stage 3 assessments, take place in class across a 2-week window. These windows have been in the calendar for some time to allow students to prepare and revise but students have also been issued with blank timetables to record the times of each subject's planned assessments, to help with the final parts of their revision during the window.

Rewards

This week's Lasallian Star awards are attached.

Additional Rewards:

- Top Star point Winner: Scarlett Traynor
- £10 voucher winner: Ryan Barrow

- Lasallian Award: Alfie McFarlane

Attendance Data

Sadly, the national system we take our data from is experiencing technical issues so we cannot provide the usual update. However, we have seen our attendance continue to rise, which is very positive.

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

Mon 8th: Bank Holiday

Mon 8th – Thu 11th: Year 9 Retreat (14 students)

Tue 9th – Fri 19th: Year 9 Assessment Window

Thu 11th: Year 7 Parents Eve (please note this will follow the new arrangements)

Mon 15th: GCSE Exams start

Wed 17th: Governors Personnel Committee 5pm

Thu 18th: Year 10 Parents Evening (please note this will follow the new arrangements)

Fri 19th: Inter-school formation Sessions

Wed 24th: West Park House Mass

Half Term (Mon 29th May – Fri 2nd Jun)

5th Jun – Fri 16th Jun: Year 7 Assessment window

W/B 5th Jun: Year 10 Mocks begin (running through until Fri 16th Jun)

Thu 8th: Year 8 Parents' Evening (please note this will follow the new arrangements)

Wed 14th: Governors Behaviour Attitudes and Personal Development Committee

And finally...

Last weekend, Mrs R and I took on babysitting duties for her side of the family. Josh (4) and Esme (9) had the joy of staying at Chez Rannard Friday night. We had a variety of plans and activities including a long walk to Crosby beach, shell collecting, tic tac toe on the sand, ice-creams, board games back at the house and finished with a film. I am not sure who was most tired at the end of the evening, though I am confident none of the 4 of us saw the end of Mylo and Stitch – no loss!

Throughout that evening both the kids were full of questions, energy and chatting away about a whole range of things, it was lovely, if draining! The next morning, however, I had school work and Mrs R had a range of jobs to do. We feared these wouldn't be possible with the constant questions etc, but the solution came in the iPad Josh had brought and Esme accessing Youtube videos of women putting make up on.

We were both shocked at how different the two were, absorbed and silent just staring zombie-like at the screens. It also made me wonder how many parents choose these options with their children? I can understand why this might be the case, to gain some quiet, to allow them to do chores etc, but it was quite disconcerting. I know from Mrs R and primary colleagues that there are real concerns over the communication and literacy skills of children who use screens regularly.

For us the guilt was too much so we stopped doing our work and, despite protests from both of them, we went to the park.

Have a good extended weekend,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher

Form Class	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
J	No available due to shortened week	No available due to shortened week	Bradley Harrison	Maddie Walsh	John McHugh
O			Yazmine Johnson	George Barton	Bailey-Rae Gleave
H			Jesse Ferguson	Dawid Urban	Rosie Kirkham
N			Jessica Smith	Lydia Tyson	Isabelle Carey
B			Ciaran Lyons	Lareina Mohammed	Alfie Westhead
D			Sophie Glover	Dylan Parry	James Wands
L			Niamh Flynn	Cole Speakman	Ethan Christopher
S			Luke Haselden	David Haddock	Angel Sebesagae

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



Prospective students are attending fewer university open days when researching where to study due to rising living costs, according to the university admissions service (UCAS). Read more [here](#).



Are you a female? Thinking of creating a career in the automotive trade? Check out this [new female forward workwear collection](#) from Ford in collaboration with Dickies.



Younger workers may be changing what it means to work in an elite job – and even de-emphasising its importance entirely. Read this BBC News report about "[How Gen Z are disrupting the definition of 'prestigious' jobs](#)" to learn more.

Atkins Apprenticeship applications close on 12 May 2023! "Did you know many of our creative, planet-saving Apprenticeship roles are still LIVE? We have so much on offer across numerous locations and career areas; from Project Management to Building Surveying, Civil Engineering, to Environmental, Digital and Technology to Cyber Security, Transport Planners to Rail Engineers and more." Check out their job roles [here](#).



Wondering what skills you need to develop to get ready for the workplace? [Here](#) are the 10 most in-demand skills globally and the 10 most in-demand hard skills for 2023. (Pssst! Don't know the difference between hard skills and soft skills? Learn more [here](#)!).



Are you taking exams this year? Check out the "[Be at Your Best](#)" guide from NGTU which provides a range of advice from their ambassadors and partners to help you perform your best.

JOB OF THE WEEK



Textile designers create fabric designs and patterns for woven, knitted and printed materials for clothes and interior furnishings. The annual salary is £18,000 to £40,000 and you can expect to work 40 to 42 hours a week.

There will be 0.7% more Textile designer jobs in 2027.

[Click here to read more.](#)

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

When broken down by gender the data showed that teacher, vet & doctor ranked as the most popular single choice for girls while engineer, footballer & computer scientist were most popular for boys. Six per cent of young people said they weren't sure or didn't know what they wanted to do. [Read more here](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Insight into Medicine is back on the 6th May from 3:30 - 7pm. Join Medic Mentor to hear from their amazing guest speakers (all current, practicing Doctors) about their roles, what they do, and how they got into their specialism. [Register here.](#)



Applications for Bridge to Careers in Construction programme for year 12 students in London are now open. The programme will feature 4 workshops delivered on-site at offices in London, to learn about the wide variety of apprenticeship available in construction, whilst developing key employability skills. The programme also features a very exciting fully-funded residential weekend in the summer holidays, with a timetable of fun outdoor pursuit activities, enabling students to use and further develop their employability skills before the apprenticeship application window commences in September. You can read the eligibility criteria and [apply here.](#)



The UK Government have announced the UK's top Apprenticeship Employers for 2022. Who do you think made the list? [Check it out here.](#)



[Addleshaw Goddard](#), an international law firm that provides legal services to some of the biggest and most respected companies in the world. They're offering a one-day work experience that'll be hands-on and immersive, giving you a taste of what a career in law is really like. Read more and [register here.](#)



BP are offering a one-day work experience and a whole week of work experience in July, so you can see first-hand how they're making a difference. With their focus on sustainability and creating a more efficient, cleaner energy future, they're leading the charge when it comes to finding innovative solutions to the world's energy challenges. If you're passionate about creating a better world and want to be a part of a company that's making a real impact, then BP is the perfect place for you. Read more and [register here.](#)



Great Minds is a YouTube series interviewing some of the leading minds in branding, marketing and social media. If this is an industry you're looking to get into, check out the [latest episode with @i.am.5ft](#), who you may have heard of from TikTok. Within the episode, he discusses growing his TikTok following organically to 120k+, avoiding potentially damaging brand partnerships, big footwear deals, how to build a brand + so much more.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

SAMSUNG

Our mission is to help people do the impossible. We take inspiration from what people want to accomplish in their lives and work to create products that empower in new ways. This is what drives our innovation forward. Find your opportunity to do what can't be done at Samsung.

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"At Aberystwyth, we continue to receive recognition for our excellence in teaching and student experience. From academic excellence and student satisfaction, we pride ourselves on our welcome and our inclusivity located in one of the most breath taking Mid Wales.

We are proud to be consistently recognised as a leading UK University."

You can read more about University of Aberystwyth courses [here.](#)

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