



De La Salle
School

Mill Brow, Eccleston, St. Helens,
Merseyside WA10 4QH

Telephone: 01744 20511

Email: delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr. A. Rannard BA (Hons) NPQH

29th September 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 4

This week we saw our Year 7 students taking part in their Form Retreats, an aerial theatre company come in and work with some of the students, our Year 9 skiers begin their Chill Factor sessions in preparation for their trip, our Year 11 boys take part in the first round of the ESFA Cup, a very well attended Year 10 and 11 information evening and the Year 7 Freshers' Fair.

Looking ahead to next week we have the DofE Assessments this weekend, the first Year 9 geography Field Trip, Cronton College in school to present to our Year 11s and, of course, our Open Evening on Thursday 5th October. Just a reminder that **students will finish at 1.10pm** (free school meals monies will be available for students to spend at breaktime) on that day.

Whole School Focus – Year 10 FFT information

One issue that emerges regularly in our Parental Big Ask, is parents of Key Stage 4 students wanting to know target or expected GCSE grades for their child. We have previously been very reluctant to do this, as we don't really use target grades in school with students, as there are lots of issues with them and their accuracy, particularly post-pandemic.

However, in response to parental requests, we recently sent out some data from the Fischer Family Trust (FFT). This set out information on potential grades within each subject area. Please be clear that these are NOT target grades, but an indication of how children with a similar profile (i.e. similar levels of performance from primary school) have performed previously if they attended the top performing 20% of schools.

Though many schools do use the FFT data and almost treat the data like a science, I am not convinced it is particularly helpful and would urge extreme caution when using these. In particular I would encourage parents to bear in mind:

- This is not about your child, but rather how other children of similar ability in primary school, have performed historically
- Young people progress at different rates as they grow up.
- It is not about our school, but the performance of the top 20% of schools historically
- The grades should not limit your child's performance (they are not used internally by teaching staff)
- GCSE grade boundaries move around so the same exam score could have different GCSE grades in different years, which make any predictions quite challenging.
- If your child works hard and applies him/herself, they could easily go beyond these grades.
- Likewise, they are not a guarantee, so if your child does not work hard and apply his/herself they could easily fall well short of these grades.

Ultimately, when students grow up, nobody will ever ask you what your FFT grades were, it is what the students go on to actually achieve that will be important.

Year 7 Retreats

Our chaplain, Sam, has led and organised this week's Year 7 retreats. These have taken place over 2 days for each form class and have included reflection time, learning about our founder, some group singing, meditation and preparation for today's Year 7 retreat mass. These retreats are an important part of helping our students to understand their Lasallian identity and our shared heritage as a Lasallian family.

Information Evenings

A big thank you to the parents of Years 8-11 who turned up for the Information Evenings over the past 2 weeks. Feedback has been really positive and I have passed this on to Mrs Greensmith who organised both events, and the staff who presented.

All of the information for both evenings, is available on our school website here:

<http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/parents/parental-information-evenings-2023/>

Year 11 Football (from Mr Fletcher) Vs Cardinal Heenan

If ever there was a game the boys deserved to win, and didn't, it was this one. From start to finish they created chance after chance, but just couldn't put the game to bed. In the end the game finished 3-3 and was sadly decided through penalties with our boys losing 5-4.

Throughout the game the boys showed spirit, determination, true individual resilience and a team ethic every coach would be proud of. Super proud of each pupil and we're looking forward to taking them into the Merseyside Cup.

Legal Placement Sought

A past student is currently completing his law degree and is desperately seeking a placement within the legal sector. This could be as little as a week shadowing, to something more extensive – all offers appreciated. If you can help, please contact delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk and leave your details.

New HAP coordinator

Congratulations to Mrs Smedley who has been appointed as our High Attaining Pupils (HAP) Coordinator, taking over from Mr Talbot after his recent promotion to Second in English. This role involves planning and developing opportunities and experiences for our high attaining students (sometimes referred to as 'most able') and championing their cause in a similar way to the Pupil Premium coordinator for FSM students or the SENCO for SEND students.

Open Evening (reminder)

Our Open Evening is taking place on **Thursday 5th October**. We are always aware that there is a lot of great choice out there for secondary schools and so it is important that we show a positive, but accurate, picture of our school to prospective parents. To help ensure the building is ready, **students will be finishing school at 1.10pm** (free school meals monies will be available for students to spend at breaktime).

The evening starts from 4.30pm and closes at 7.30pm. I will be speaking at 4.45pm, 5.45pm and 6.45pm,

Student rewards

Additional Awards go to:

- Year 10 Attendance Award – Louie Melling
- Lasallian Star: Katie Wooton
- Top Star point winner: Fabian Grabowski
- £10 voucher: Phoebe Price
- Year 7 Star outside of school: Braken Keyte for a successful Latin and ballroom competition

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

Sat 30th – Sun 1st (Oct): Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition assessment

Tue 3rd Oct: Year 9 Geography Field Trip (group 1)

Thu 5th: Open Evening (school finishes at 1.10pm)

Tue 10th: Year 9 Geography Field Trip (group 2)

Mon 16th – Fri 27th: Year 10 Assessments

Thu 19th: Pastoral Meetings (all year groups): 3:15 – 5:45pm

Mon 23rd – Fri 27th: Year 11 Mock Exams (for practical subjects only)

Wed 25th: Welcome Mass (Lowe House) 6.30pm

Fri 27th: Finish for half term (3.00pm)

And finally . . . good intentions gone wrong

With being back at school, has come my annual diet and attempt to lose weight after the holidays. I have been following one of these starvation style diets, so not eating until I get home. So far, I have been doing ok, but on Tuesday I had been at the Saints' stadium for a meeting and knew I would be in work till late so thought it would be prudent to have something for lunch.

I knew I was passing McDonalds but, feeling virtuous opted for KFC (surely chicken is healthier) just a straight forward chicken burger – that has to be healthy. However, I have only ever been to KFC a couple of times in my life and have no idea what the 'go to' meals are. Hence, I quickly found myself making some rushed decisions into the drive-thru speaker, struggling to hear the staff member.

It started with a tower burger, then the speaker muffled something about "making it a box order" – I had no idea what this meant, but figured I would need something to carry it all in. Then I was asked "what sides?", I really have no idea of the options so these were read out at great speed, I heard salad and opted for that.

By the time I got to the collection window, my good intentions were well and truly sunk as I was handed what looked and felt like a hamper for a family of 8, and I am sure I caught the staff member looking to see who else was in the car to eat it – nope it was just me. Next diet starts Monday.

Have a good weekend.

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher

STUDENT REWARDS

This week's Lasallian Star Awards go to:

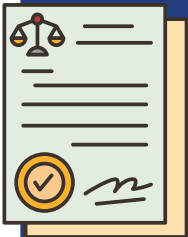
Form Class	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
J	Weronika Wuwer	Wesley Orellana	Max Whalley	Ryan Fitzpatrick	Alfie Rowlands
O	Warren Hyland	Jasmine Hodgkiss	Laila Rigby	Isabella bannister	Isabella Rose Collict/Tyler Arnold
H	Jack Bloore	Jesse Ferguson	Lucie Derbyshire	Marianna Ferro Negrelli	Josh Critchley/Elijah Houghton
N	Louisa Martindale	Katie Shimmin	Logan Burke	Isaac Rankin	Louie Leyland
B	Robert Bleakley	Pearl O'Toole	Ruby Talbot	Ethan Clegg	Jayden Dowling
D		Alex Loftus	Alfie Mackey	Isabella Dyer	Sophie Canavan
L	Ethan Rotherham	Bethany Thompson	Brandon Albaladora	Jessica Shepherd	Max Cooper
S		Lucas Fair	Mille Jones	Layla Seagraves	Joshua Challinor
Engagement	Harvey Hagan	Lola Woods	N/A	N/A	N/A

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

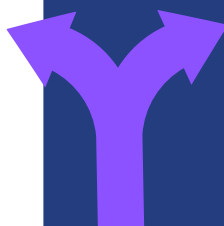


This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.


OPPORTUNITIES




The next live event from Morrisby focuses on "Becoming Professional" - what does a legal executive do and is it a career for me? Hear from practitioners and students aspiring to be legal executives. In partnership with CILEX the professional body. This event takes place at 4:30pm on 12th October 2023. Read more and register here.



Theresa Townsend, a qualified careers advisor, is running a session specifically for parents to introduce them to all the college and 6th Form options, and help them find out all they need to help their teen explore their college and 6th form options and make the right choices for them, without worrying they are missing out on something. If you're in Year 10 or Year 11 and think your parents could benefit from this event, please ask them to register here. This event takes place on 3rd October at 8pm.



The official Meet the Russell Group Webinars will again be taking place on October 3rd, 4th & 5th. These sessions are for any students who are considering applying for universities such as Cambridge, LSE, Kings, Manchester, Bristol, Exeter, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Durham. Each webinar will run either during a morning (9:00 - 10:30am), or afternoon (12:00 - 13:30 or 16:30 - 18:00pm) session and cover topics such as Personal Statements & Applying to a Russell Group University. Register here.



Are you considering a career working in for the Armed Forces? The Army, RAF and Royal Navy websites are all fantastic ways to research your options and understand more about how applying.

JOB OF THE WEEK



This week's video focuses on the job role of an Disaster Manager. A disaster manager is someone who is entrusted with the responsibility for planning and managing the pre, during and post-disaster activities. Watch the video to learn more about how much you could earn, the qualifications you need & what subjects link to this career.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Last week we asked; Why do you think we are seeing an increase in people being made redundant?

Although the UK is expected to avoid a recession this year, the country faces a challenging economic outlook. Businesses are making redundancies to keep themselves afloat.

Source

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

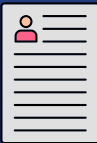


OPPORTUNITIES

Career Pilot are running a series of exclusive online workshops designed for Home Educated students. However, these may be useful to any young person in education.



Event 1: What fires and inspires you? Find out your skills, values and interests and start thinking about how what you love matches with what you want to do in the future. Exploring self, your skills, your values and your strengths and how your home education experience can be a great asset when considering a future career. [Register here.](#)



Event 2: How to explore jobs and get into work and be your own best promoter through a great CV. What do you want from a job? What are employers looking for? How can you be in the best place to apply? Tips for building your skills, experiences and getting a great CV ready, and how to prepare for interviews. [Register here.](#)



Event 3: Next steps for home-educated teenagers at 16 and 18 – qualifications, apprenticeships, university, work – what's available and what will you choose? Explore the pathways open to you, consider what might suit you best, consider how to apply and get where you want to go. [Register here.](#)



The Youth Voice Census is an annual temperature check on how young people in the UK feel about life, study, work and general prospects. Over 4,000 young people aged 11-30 took part in 2023. It is the largest survey of young people in the UK. This year's [Youth Voice Census findings](#) indicate that young people are feeling disconnected from where they live with increasing concerns of what their futures might hold.



The Not Going to Uni website has had a facelift, the new site is easier to navigate and you can find lots of helpful advice about the alternatives to university on [their blog.](#)

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

ecotricity Jobs

"Wherever you work at Ecotricity, you'll play a part in our mission to create a green Britain – and you'll make a genuine difference with your day job. Whether it's sales, marketing or customer service, IT, engineering or much, much more – you might just find your dream job here." You can read more about their careers [here.](#)

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"A globally outstanding centre of teaching and research excellence, a collegiate community of extraordinary people, a unique and historic setting – Durham is a university like no other.

We are ranked 78th in the QS World University Rankings 2024 and 27th in QS World University Rankings 2024 for Europe."

You can read more [here.](#)

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