



De La Salle
School

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6th October 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 5

It was great to welcome the Year 5 and 6 students and families to our Open Evening last night, and a huge thank you to the staff and students who were involved in such a massive event. Elsewhere in the week, we had our first Year 9 geography field trip to North Wales, we welcomed our 3 new trainee teachers: Mr Wilson (English), Ms Nolan (science) and Ms Ravenall (Spanish).

Looking ahead to next week we have the second Year 9 Geography Field trip, St Helens College in school to present to our Year 11s, our governors' Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development Committee and we are hosting an Archdiocesan SEND Coordinators meeting.

Whole School Focus – Social Media

Like most schools, we now have a considerable presence on social media. Most of it is on twitter including:

- Main School Twitter Account: @DLS_StHelens
- Headteacher Twitter Account: @DLSHeadteacher
- Sam our Chaplain: @cantillon_sam

And our departments:

- English: @DIsEnglish
- Maths: @MathsDIs
- RE: @DLSREDept
- Geography: @dlsgeography
- History @HistoryDIs
- PE: @DLSPEDept
- Art: @ArtechDIs
- Science: @ScienceDLS
- DT: @DLSDT1
- MFL: @dlsml
- Performing Arts: @DIsperformingA

We also have our school Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/delasalleSH/>

Open Evening Thanks

I have to say a huge thank you to the 100s of students who gave up their time so kindly to support Open Evening, which was a very busy and positive evening. Parent after parent commented upon how kind, welcoming and wonderful the students were – an absolute credit to the school and you as parents. Also, a big thank you to you, as I know you will have had to do the dropping off and picking up!

Academisation Update

[A brief recap for the benefit of new parents: the school was issued with an academy order back in 2016 and so we have to academise at some point. Up until recently, there was no obvious Multi Academy Trust for us to join. However, some of the religious order schools (we are different to Catholic diocesan schools), are about to create a new Multi Academy Trust, called the Laetare Catholic Multi Academy Trust. This will be a UK wide trust which we will be looking to join.]

It is expected that the proposals for the Laetare Trust will go before the appropriate DfE panel in November. This will allow the CMAT to be created, attract the start-up funding and begin to appoint interim staff to coordinate its creation. Following this, we would then begin the process of academisation in order to join the CMAT. This is likely to happen late in the summer term or for the start of the next academic year.

In terms of impact upon staff, students and parents, this would be very minimal due to the collaborative nature of the CMAT, quite different to many other MATs. So, no changes to our name, uniform, rules, curriculum etc. It will, however, give us access to additional funding, school improvement and collaborative opportunities.

District Council Meeting

The start of this week saw me in Lasallian HQ in Oxford for the Lasallian District Council Meeting. I represent the GB Headteachers on the council alongside colleagues from Ireland and Malta. This is a pivotal time for the Lasallian family as the next 4-year strategic plan is being developed trying to futureproof the Lasallian community as the number of brothers decreases. A big part of this is the future of all the Lasallian schools and membership of the Laetare Multi Academy Trust which affects us directly (see above).

Freshers' Fair

Last Friday saw us holding our Freshers' fair for Year 7. This is where the hall is set out with a range of clubs, teams and activities that take place during the school week. The Year 7 students rush around excitedly signing up for all their favourites. As well as the usual popular choices like sports teams and SVP, we had a couple of new entries this year: Collectors Club, which involves young people bringing in and sharing things they collect, and an Ethical Crafts Club. The latter was extremely popular with over 60 students signing up to take part.

Crossing Petition

One of our local primary schools, Bleak Hill, is in the process of trying to improve road safety by the installation of a crossing at Kiln Lane. This would obviously also benefit some of our won students. To help achieve this, we have been asked to share [this petition](#) in support of the move.

Legal Placement Sought (Repeated request)

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.

Student Rewards (see attached)

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: Bailey Johnson
- Top Star point winner: Aidan Hynes
- £10 voucher: Michael Lyons
- Year 7 Star outside of school: Bree Kelly 7D, for cheerleading success at Saints in front of 18000 spectators

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

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

Mon 16th – Fri 27th: Year 10 Assessments
Thu 19th: Pastoral Meetings (all year groups): 3:15pm – 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)

Half Term

Mon 6th Nov: School re-opens
Mon 6th – Fri 17th Year 11 Mock exams (non-practical)

And finally...who really runs schools

This week has seen me out of school for 3 days: 2 in Oxford for a Lasallian District Meeting, and today in Halifax, fact finding in some outstanding schools. Two very different, but important events and lots of driving (at the risk of oversharing, I am increasingly amazed how many service station toilet breaks I now require on long journeys).

When I first moved in to headship, it was easy to kid myself that the school was totally dependent upon me and, for the first few years, in Everton and initially when I arrived here, I would not venture out of the school, for fear that 'they' couldn't cope without me. I would be walking around everywhere making sure everything was ok, without realising I was more of a hinderance than a help!

The reality, however, is far different, with most people not even knowing or noticing that I am out of school, particularly as I have a strong senior leadership team and Deputies who take it in turn to be in charge in my absence.

Don't get me wrong, Headteachers play a key role in setting strategic direction and creating the climate and direction within a school, last night I was the one who gave the 3 speeches to prospective parents, as they want to know the Headteacher's views and approach. However, on a day to day basis, it is the deputies who really run schools.

Some of my most enjoyable years in education were as Deputy Head in Everton – it felt like I knew everything, knew everyone and pulled all the strings to make things happen. The Head would make some key decisions but it was me, as the deputy, who made them a reality – but then again, the Assistant Headteachers and Middle Leaders probably thought I was kidding myself there too!

Have a good weekend.

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher

Student Rewards

This week's Lasallian Star Awards go to:

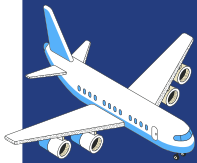
Form Class	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
J	Not available at time of writing	Eve Doodson	Charmaine Swift	Luke Gibson	Cory Murphy
O		Tinkerbelle Ratcliffe	Lola Hitchen	Bailie Rae Gleave	Hollie Walne
H		Anna Barlow	Ciara Ashall	Julia Wlodarz	Courtney Connor/Scarlett Maleedy
N		Callum Holmes	Harry Houghton	Bradley Stubbs	Frankie Owen
B		Ben Smith	Elijah Scott	Rosa Graceffa	Poppy O'Brien
D		Aidan Foster	Sophie Dowling	Daisy Hughes	Bree Kelly
L		Alfie Heaton	Abigail Kay	Mia Peers	Koepha Carney
S		Maddie Birch	Bethany Addison	Rosie Edwards	Imogen Webster
Engagement		Demi-Lea Ayres	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



Every 90 seconds a British Airways aircraft takes off from somewhere around the world. Ever wondered what it's like to be part of that excitement - the magic that connects Britain to the world and the world to Britain? Now you can. Check out all the [new career resources from British Airways here](#). This includes an online "Introducing BA" course, mentorship programme and opportunities to apply for work experience insight days.

Not Going to Uni and The Black Apprentice Network are joining forces to arrange an event in line with Black History Month. The event will take place on 17th October at 6pm. The webinar will include:

- An introduction to NGTU and The Black Apprentice Network
- Overview of Black History Month and what you can expect to get out of this webinar
- A panel discussion with Black Apprentice Network and NGTU ambassador apprentices
- How both companies can both support apprentices
- Q&A

[Register for the event here.](#)

Springpod has partnered with Amazon to host Class Chats. These are virtual career talks focused on career pathways in Tech delivered by experts from Amazon. The 1st talk is scheduled for the 5th Oct at 11am. It will be approx 30 to 40 mins. They are broadcast live but available on demand afterwards so if you can't make the time, still sign up to receive the recording. [See the full list of chats and register here.](#)

JOB OF THE WEEK



This week's video focuses on the job role of a [Fire Fighter](#).

Firefighters help to protect people from fire and other dangers, they also give advice on fire prevention. 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

For the three months ending July 2023, the highest employment rate estimate in the UK was for the South East (79.6%) and the lowest was for Northern Ireland (71.1%).

Rates of employment help us to see where there are the most jobs available.


[Source](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER




OPPORTUNITIES

 Grierson DocLab In Focus: Unscripted Editing, run in partnership with Netflix, aims to equip UK-based people working in editing with the skills, experience and networks to step into editing roles on large scale unscripted shows. The opportunity includes a training programme in London at Netflix HQ, work experience placement, mentorship and ongoing support. To hear more about the programme and about the role of the unscripted editor – as well as for the chance to ask questions about the training programme, applying and more – join The Grierson Trust and Netflix on Tuesday, 10 October at 6pm for a Discovery Webinar. [Register here.](#)

UCAS Hub Student Packs - These short self-led tasks take you through the early uni research stages, encouraging you to explore your options on ucas.com and in more depth in the UCAS Hub.

- [Turning the spotlight on yourself](#) – in this pack, you are encouraged to think about your interests and future options – encouraging you to start their research.
- [Thinking of going to uni?](#) – we get that thinking about what you may want from higher education is tricky, this pack will share more about how the UCAS Hub will help with research.
- [Choosing your courses](#) – you are asked to start researching your courses and given pointers about what to research. This is best placed for Year 12 and 13.
- [Researching apprenticeships](#) – you can use this pack to kick-start your research about apprenticeships and explore all the jobs on offer.

 The British Library is a fascinating organisation with a number of varied areas and exciting opportunities available to you. To help build your understanding of these areas and more, Springpod has partnered up with the organisation to bring you a fantastic programme all about the world of The British Library. From creating an inspiring collection and putting together an exhibition to building your employability skills, the programme covers everything you need to know. [Register here.](#)

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"CMS are a future facing firm that pushes boundaries in an ever-changing world. We see ourselves as more than just legal advisors. We're here to partner with our clients. To not only resolve current issues but anticipate future challenges and provide innovative solutions to meet these."

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Since our foundation, we've been guided by a compelling purpose: for the University of York to become single-minded in combating inequality, championing social justice & advancing opportunity for all. Study at York and you'll graduate with more than a qualification. You'll be immersed in knowledge & opportunities that will encourage you to grow & succeed."

You can read more [here.](#)

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