



De La Salle
School

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13th October 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 6

Another very busy week for the school as we hosted a meeting of SEND Coordinators for the Archdiocese, the second of our Year 9 geography fieldtrips took place to North Wales, our clubs and activities are now in full swing (I will try to get up to date information on these for you soon) and we sent the first of our new look reports out for Year 7 (see Whole School Focus below).

Looking ahead to next week, it appears a quieter week, on paper, as our Year 10 assessments start, we have our next staff formation session and we hold our pastoral meetings with parents.

Whole School Focus – New Look Reports

As you know, we are keen to listen to and act upon parental feedback, I mentioned 2 weeks ago about the FFT grades being a specific response to parental request and feedback. Well the same applies to our new look reports, which Year 7 parents were the first to receive.

Parental feedback was asking for more specific information on how parents can help support their child in their learning. Therefore, the new look report consists of:

- Front page covering attendance and behaviour
- Next section provides the specific key knowledge which your child is expected to know for this term in each subject (for Year 7 this was English, maths and science). This is not general topics, but more specific areas of knowledge.
- Alongside each key piece of knowledge is feedback on whether your child has demonstrated that they know that 'expected knowledge' or if there are 'gaps in that knowledge'.
- Where there are gaps, we have provided very specific links to resources that support parents and students to address these gaps.

These links are there because we have, understandably, been asked to provide specific information to help parents. Of course, subject teachers will also look to address these gaps as you would expect, but it provides parents with a very useful, focused way to also help support their child.

Science Staffing

Like the other schools across the borough, we have been hit over the past couple of weeks by staff absence, and for us, this has been particularly acute in science. Please bear with us as we are very aware of the groups being affected and are trying to address the issues through specialist supply, switching teachers and merging some groups.

Attendance

Our attendance started positively this year, well above the national average. However, a recent bout of illness has seen it fall, though still above national average. Please continue to do all you can to ensure your child attends school every day.

Latest attendance data from 4th September to 6th October:

- DLS Attendance: **93.3%**
- National Secondary Attendance: **92.4%**
- Difference: **+0.9% above the national**

Key Information from NHS, DfE and the Police

The DfE, police and NHS have been in touch with schools across the borough to share 3 key pieces of information. These are below:

a) MMR Vaccinations

The DfE have asked all schools to raise awareness with parents about the importance of having your child vaccinated. In particular there are two key pieces of information they want schools to share:

- 102,000 children have started school this year are at risk of catching measles if they are not fully vaccinated
- 9 out of 10 unvaccinated children can catch measles if someone in their class has it. Parents are encouraged to contact their GP to check their child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations.

b) Rise in Ketamine Usage across Merseyside

There has been a significant rise in young people across Merseyside taking and selling Ketamine. Parents and schools are being encouraged to be aware of the drug and the signs of usage. YPDAAT are also looking to work with schools to support students to understand the dangers. The local health authority has produced a short video to help parents and school staff understand the issues around Ketamine. This video can be viewed here (it is only 13 mins and very helpful): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bjdliphIJ4>

c) Operation Banger: See attached poster from Merseyside Police

754 Bus Behaviour

Merseytravel have been in touch to express concerns regarding the behaviour of a small number of students on the 754 bus. PCSOs travelled with the bus earlier this week and we have asked Merseytravel to share any relevant CCTV footage of poor behaviour and offered to liaise with parents on their behalf and support any sanctions they wish to impose e.g. banning any students displaying poor behaviour.

Term Dates for 2024/25

I realise that this is a very long way off, but you may find it useful to know the term dates for following academic year (not this year). They are:

Autumn Term 2024:

- Mon 2nd Sept to Fri 20th Dec
- (Half term: Mon 28th Oct – Fri 1st Nov)

Spring Term 2025:

- Mon 6th Jan – Fri 4th Apr
- (Half term – Mon 17th Feb – Fri 21st Feb)

Summer Term 2025

- Tue 22nd Apr – Fri 18th Jul
- (Mon 26th May – Fri 30th May)

Student rewards

This week's Lasallian Star Awards (see attached).

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Stars: Grace Peacock for being a Reading Role model and a great assistant in the library, Oscar Birchall and Jayden Sanders
- Top Star point winner: Holly Ford
- £10 voucher: Lucas Chong

- Year 7 Star outside of school: Elijah Houghton (Year 7 football) – for being an amazing teammate, working hard and encouraging others
- Special mention to our students who were part of the Saints Elite Cheerleading team in competition recently at Alton Towers

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

Mon 16th – Fri 27th: Year 10 Assessments

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

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)

Tue 7th and Wed 8th: Year 10 Art Fieldwork Trips

Tue 21st: Flu Vaccinations

Thu 23rd: Your Future Careers event for Years 9-11

Thu 23rd: Presentation Evening (last year's Year 11)

Fri 1st Dec: INSET Day: School Closed to students

Fri 22nd Dec: School Closes for Christmas (12.10pm) No Buses

And finally...fanning the flames

We had our routine fire drill last week, which went well, as you would expect, overseen by Mr A Fletcher in my absence. Over the years, and across many schools, I have some very interesting experiences of fire evacuation – good and bad. However, my most dangerous experience was back as a Head of Year at St Thomas Becket in Huyton (and apologies if I have already shared this with you).

At the time I was regularly sent out and about to investigate any issues: intruders, dogs on the premises or, in this case, smoke coming in through the back of the Sports Hall fire door. So, I was dispatched to check it out. On arrival I saw some local wags had placed a plastic bread tray (the green ones that hold about 20 loaves in the supermarket) by the fire door and set a small fire going on it. There was no major risk of the building catching fire, so all was well.

I therefore decided to put the fire out myself using the stamping method, rather than an extinguisher (the foolishness of youth). However, at the time I was on the lower levels of teacher pay and this was reflected in my fairly cheap plastic shoes.

Several stamps later, my shoe had started to melt and 'weld' with the plastic bread tray. This meant the bread tray was attached to my shoes and my stamping was effectively lifting the bread tray up and down and fanning the flames to grow and start to lick at my polyester suit. Fortunately, I was able to use my other foot (which looking back seems even more foolish) to kick the tray off and separate it from my shoe. I then stood watching the fire die out thinking how close that was. I returned back into school, once the fire was out, sweating, with a singed suit leg and strange dirty green sole to one of my shoes, to report all was well, nothing to see here!

Have a good weekend.

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher



Letter to parents and guardians from Merseyside Police re. Halloween and Bonfire Night

We are writing to all parents and guardians to ask for your help over the upcoming Halloween and Bonfire Night period.

We want everyone to have fun and we'll be working hard to keep you safe, but we need your help:

Know where your children are

- Encourage kids to go to local events that are being organised, or try a spooky film together
- If your children are going out (particularly on the 30th and 31st of October), make sure you know where they're going. If possible, drop them off and pick them up
- Don't let your children hang around the street
- If they're going somewhere local – walk there with them
- Have an agreed time when they need to be home
- Don't buy fireworks or eggs and flour for them, and don't let them take it out of the house

Know the risks

- Throwing things at cars, buses, shops and houses can hurt people – drivers might swerve if they get distracted and cause a crash, or someone might get hurt by broken glass (and scratched paintwork can be very expensive to fix)
- Getting into trouble with the police can lead to a criminal record, which means not being able to go on holiday to countries like the USA, and not being able to do certain jobs
- Messing around with fireworks is dangerous – some burn as hot as 1,200 degrees - hot enough to melt glass and cause serious or fatal injuries

Know the law

If a young person under the age of 16 commits any of the offences below, the parent/guardian will have to pay the fine.

- A person under the age of 16 can be arrested and fined if found with an unlit firework
- A person under the age of 16 can also be arrested and fined if they throw or light a firework or make a bonfire
- A person under the age of 16 can be arrested and fined for throwing things like eggs, flour, paint or other objects at people, vehicles or property

Thank you for your help and support. By working together, we can keep your children safe this Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Merseyside Police

Student Rewards

This week's Lasallian Star Awards go to:

Form Class	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
J	AJ Fenlon	Megan Bromilow	Archie Pinder	Cameron Kilgannon	Summer Waites
O	Megan Brown	Harry Provan	Phoebe Smerdon	Jack Jarmolowicz	James Hesketh
H	Ella McTomney	Chloe Denning	Emily Hilton	Drew Mitchell	Sophie Wilkinson / Jessica Duffy
N	Jack Frodsham	Lola Roberts	Joshua Latham	Dylan Shelly	Neve Frazer / Mia Rigby
B	Imogen Duvall	Ellis Nabi	Fabian Grabowski	Lily Nugent	Even Feeney
D	Lotte Smith	Lyla Ball	Harry Leonard	Liam Revill	Dexter Boardman
L	Lauren Dykes	Darcy Murray	Chad Centeno	Shea Farrell	Nathan McArdle
S	Jayden Rigby	Lucy Balmer	David Haddock	Isabella Thompson	Charlotte Hughes
Engagement		Phoebe Weldon	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



Are you interested in working in Clean Energy in the future? This free eBook tells the stories of people from all over the globe, including Algeria, Poland, Canada, South Africa and Belgium. Learn about the climate crisis and the different roles working to create a cleaner world for us all.



The YEP Forum has created a prospectus to highlight the diversity of jobs within the energy sector. There are so many different kinds of roles, from a nuclear engineering apprenticeship, through to working in customer service for a retail energy company or for a tech startup. It could mean working as a lawyer, accountant or communications professional. To help us reach Net Zero, we will need all the people we can get, from all kinds of backgrounds, bringing with them a diverse range of skills.



The Get into Medicine UCAS Conference is a comprehensive guide to the medical application process. The doctors and medical students will cover:

- application timelines
- how to pick which medical schools to apply to
- personal statements and much more.

The opportunity is open to students in years 10-12. Read more and register here.



On October 20, 2023 from 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Bloomberg are hosting an Application Workshop led by one of their Apprenticeship recruiters. They will cover how to create and optimise your CV and your application with them. As well as giving you the opportunity to ask their recruiters any questions you may have about the application process. Read more and register here.

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

JOB OF THE WEEK



This week's video focuses on the job role of a Games Tester.

They play video games, tests their features, and identifies glitches and bugs before game release then work with developers to fix the issues and make sure they're ready for users. 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

LMI isn't limited to facts about UK employment. We can use it to see what job roles are in demand all over the world.

Fancy living in Japan? In 2023, the jobs in highest demand are IT project managers, data scientists and legal counsel.

Source

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



On November 02, 2023 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Bloomberg are running an Interview and Assessment Day Preparation Workshop led by one of their Apprenticeship recruiters. They will cover how to prepare for interviews and assessment days, provide tips and tricks. [Read more and register here.](#)



A [degree in magic](#) being offered in 2024 will be one of the first in the UK, the University of Exeter has said. The MA in Magic and Occult Science has been created following a "recent surge in interest in magic", the course leader said. It would offering an opportunity to study the history and impact of witchcraft and magic around the world on society and science.

Parents can join [Speakers for Schools on October 18th at 6.30pm](#) to hear from creative industry employers about roles available and the importance of creative skills in the workplace. They'll be joined by upholsterer Sonnaz Nooranvary from BBC The Repair Shop who will be talking about her route into Heritage Crafts via an apprenticeship. Parents will also hear how Speakers for Schools opens doors to leading employers such as Virgin, TikTok, Bentley Motors, Tesco, Boots, the NHS, Vodafone and Spotify.

You can check out all the work experience opportunities taking place this autumn via Speakers for Schools [using this link](#). There are opportunities available with a wide range of employers across a number of sectors. They're a great way to develop your employability skills and learn more about an industry you're interested in.

The CareerMap website has had a make over! The site includes an apprenticeship and graduate job board, career advice hub and live webinars to help you on your career journey. [Check it out here.](#)

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



FASTNED

"At Fastned we build strong relationships with the people we work with, with EV enthusiasts, environmental change-makers and even nay-sayers.

We challenge the status quo, deliver wow in our charging concept and in the way we work." You can read more about their careers [here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"We are a research-intensive university and a founding member of the Russell Group. We are ranked 12th in the UK and 81st globally and are proud to host a diverse community with students from over 130 countries."

The University of Southampton has 35 different subjects areas for you to explore. You can read more [here](#).

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