



De La Salle
School

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17th November 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 10

This week has seen the completion of our Year 11 Mock exams, a visit from the Retreat Team from Kintbury to speak to Year 11, a Punctuation Roadshow for Years 7 and 8, training for our Year 10 volunteers to be Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVPs), Governors Finance and Resources Committee, Year 9 Ski Trip parental meeting, a visit from Carmel College Art staff for any Years 9-11 students and I have finished the week here at the Archdiocesan Catholic Headteacher residential.

Looking ahead to next week, we continue our work with all year groups on teaching and strengthening their independent study skills, we welcome in some of our primary students who are 'Minnie Vinnies' (junior members of the SVP), we have our 'Your Future' careers event for Years 9-11, our West Park House Mass, Presentation Evening (for last year's Year 11) and I finish the week travelling to Kintbury for the weekend Lasallian Headteacher residential (I've already had all the 'part-timer' or for the older parents, 'Judith Chalmers' jokes from my SLT).

Whole School Focus – Your Future Careers Event

Long serving parents will recall that every year we have a Careers Fair that, previously, parents and students attended together and has always been well received. Last year, based upon good practice elsewhere, we held a re-vamped version, called Your Future, which the students attended without their parents. This worked extremely well and will be taking place again this coming Thursday.

The event involves over 50 visitors, representing a wide range of organisations: colleges, public bodies, large and small employers etc setting up display stands in the Sports Hall. Years 9, 10 and 11 are able to spend a whole lesson each going around speaking to our guests. The students are also provided with postcards that they need to get stamped to ensure that they covered a wide range of sectors and guests.

Our experience last year was undoubtedly even better than our traditional approach, something echoed by the students and also by the presenters. Last year they felt that the students asked far more questions and showed far greater interest than when they have previously done this with parents.

This year's event takes place on Thursday 23rd November thanks to the hard work of our in-school Careers Team (Miss Moran and Mrs Scully) and the many volunteers from companies, colleges, and public bodies.

Year 10 Rugby (from Mr Leighton)

DLS 6 Vs Cowley 4

In difficult conditions through the middle of the park, DLS had enough about them to beat "the old enemy" in a tough encounter. Excellent performances across the starting 13 and with the replacements - a really well supported team with a large number of DLS students there to cheer on the lads who behaved responsibly and respectfully to other students and staff.

Man of the match, was Joe Morris who played extremely well at full back. Training is on a Thursday night and is open to both male and female players. On to the next round!

Lockers

I mentioned last week about the additional lockers we had installed at the end of last year. Since last year we have had around 160 lockers available for students to use currently on an ad hoc basis. From Monday 27th November these will need to be booked out for free at Student Services and students should bring in a small key or code lock.

Lost Property

Like any school, we have a very large number of items that get left in classrooms, the dining room etc. Where they have names attached, we can easily return them, other un-labelled items go to Student Services and are displayed with the 'Bagpuss-like' hope of re-uniting them with their owners. After a while they are then stored until the end of the school year. If your child has lost something, they should speak to Miss Shepherd at Student Services. Parents can also contact Miss Shepherd who will happily search the stocks for any missing items. She can be contacted by email at the following address: shepherds@delasalleschool.org.uk

Year 11 Mock Exams

Today we have completed our 2 weeks of mock exams. The Year 11 students have been a real credit in their behaviour within the exams and the mature and focussed preparation for them. The next set of mock exams will take place either side of the February half term.

Presentation Evening

A reminder to parents of students who left Year 11 in the summer that our Presentation Evening is on Thursday 23rd November (7:00pm start). Could you please inform school (if you've not already done so) that you'd like to attend the presentation evening by end of today, **Friday 17th November**.

Attendance

Our attendance is still above average but has been hit recently by a range of absences. Please continue to do all you can to ensure your child attends school every day.

Latest attendance data from 4th September to 11th November:

- DLS Attendance: **92.6% (change of +0.1)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **92.0% (change of -0.1)**
- Difference: **+0.6% above the national (change +0.2)**

Student rewards

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: Beatrice Woodhouse
- Top Star point winner: Thomas Flatley
- £10 voucher: Leo Jackson
- Year 7 Stars outside of school: Flynn Ryan (Shakespeare superstar), Sonny Wilson (aspiring Ju-Jitsu master) and Evan Davies (Rugby awards success)

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

Mon 20th: Flu Vaccinations

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...TED Talk

I am writing this from the annual Catholic Headteacher Residential. This is a really good conference but always takes place just after the school league tables are published. I recall attending back in November 2018, with the first year of results after my arrival at DLS in September 2017 and we had a shocking P8 score of -0.93. To make matters worse, we were only second to bottom of the 33 Catholic Schools because the school I had come from, Notre Dame, was bottom.

It would be fair to say I was the subject of many funny, and some less than funny, comments – which was to be expected. Being asked if I was running a TED Talk on how to lead a school to failure, people asking if they could come and see how ‘not’ to do it and so on. All good natured, if a little annoying.

The difference a few years makes as this year I am here as, over the past 6 years, we have climbed from 32nd and this year are now the 9th highest performing school in the Archdiocese. I make no claim for credit at all as this significant improvement is down to the collective efforts of staff students and parents. We are also very aware that there is still much more to do and improve.

Two things, however, are interesting with this: firstly, 3 of the top 10 performing schools (including us) are Ofsted judged ‘Require Improvement’ whilst over half the lowest 10 performing schools are judged as ‘Good’.

The second thing is that several colleagues instead of joking about us, have now started asking genuinely to come in and see what we are doing as a school. Who knows, maybe I can feel a TED Talk coming on! As Bob Monkhouse famously said “When I said I wanted to be a comedian, they all laughed at me, well they are not laughing now.”

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	Awarded to the whole Year group because of their hard work and effort in the Mock Exams this week	Joshua Jones	Simon Critchley	Ruby Arnold	Alfie Rowlands
O		Emma Sherwood	Laila Rigby	Jack Jarmolowicz	Ava Fitzpatrick
H		Isobel McLoughlin	Lily Chamberlain	Jess Shepherd	Ian Edgerton / Scarlett Maleedy
N		Fin Kelsall	Phoebe Price	Betsy Roberts	Neve Frazer
B		Aidan Cooney	Alyssia Ellison	Lola Ballesteros	Grace Hill
D		Luke Owen	Reece Gerard	Goergia Northey	Sophie Whittaker
L		Ciaran McArdle	Ellie Hester	Grace NG-Perkins	Max Cooper
S		Yasmine Vatansever	Maisie Leigh	Harry Newman	Melissa Goddard
Engagement		Heidi Donachie	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



This week is Global Entrepreneurship Week, Side Hustle Initiative have partnered with 7 different founders who have all started their own businesses. Keep an eye on their LinkedIn and Instagram pages where they will be providing a deep dive into Entrepreneurial success with a different real life entrepreneurial story each day.



The Amazon Future Engineer bursary is a national bursary programme aimed at supporting women A-level and BTEC/OCR (or Scottish equivalent) students from low-income households who wish to study computer science or related engineering courses at UK universities. More information here.



The Students' Guide to University has been produced to support students to make brilliant future university decisions. Which may be the initial decision: is university right for me? Or the choices that might come next, on where to go or what to study? The guide has been split into sections which are designed to support students with various parts of their higher education decision-making journey. Download here.



Explore 250+ Higher and Degree apprenticeship vacancies in the October edition of the Higher and Degree listing 2023. Discover vacancy details from over 50 employers, including locations, salary information and direct application links.



Whether you're just starting out in your career or looking to make a change, the ASOS Future Makers apprenticeship programmes are designed to provide you with the skills, knowledge and experience you need to succeed. Register your interest 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 Charity Fundraiser.

They organise events and activities to encourage people to donate to causes and organisations.

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

The United Kingdom has secured the 10th position in the Global Talent Competitiveness Index, maintaining its spot within the top 10 after slipping out in 2020.

Switzerland, Singapore and the United States firmly retain their leading positions as the world's most talent competitive countries.

Source

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES

We know that your next step in education is a big one. UK University & Apprenticeship Search are here to help. They host large scale fairs at prestigious sporting venues and university campuses all across Britain. They ensure every student gets the chance to meet a variety of apprenticeship providers, universities and colleges in person, at one event, for free. [See there upcoming dates here.](#)



Are you interested in the VFX, Animation & Games industries? Check out the [Access VFX website](#) which provides you with info on the different job roles available, the opportunity to apply for a mentoring and webinar recordings to learn more about the industry.



Focusing on personality helps us achieve this more than focusing on skills and knowledge. Although important, skills and knowledge need to be regularly updated throughout our lives. Choosing a course or job based only on our current skills misses so much about what makes us human. By exploring personality animals, we glimpse our values, beliefs, identity, future, and underlying potential. Find out your personality type [using the buzz quiz.](#)



upReach are excited to announce their collaboration with the BBC to bring you a webinar on "Launch your Career at the BBC" on Monday 20th November, 5:00-6:30pm. The BBC's award-winning [apprenticeship schemes](#) could be the perfect chance for you to start a dynamic career across a wide range of jobs in the media industry. In this webinar, you can expect to hear about the fantastic opportunities at the BBC. [Register here.](#)



There are a million different uni rankings that come out each year, all ranking UK universities on different things like student satisfaction teaching quality, entry requirements or employment prospects. Introducing [The Greggs Uni Guide](#): These are the universities with the most Greggs within a one-mile radius of the campus.



EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"Lyons and Annot has risen to the challenge of the construction industry to find the next generation of 'the builders of the future' and have made it part of our mission to try and ensure that we can identify, train and support apprenticeships in construction wherever we can."
You can read more about their careers [here.](#)

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Choose Manchester and you'll put yourself ahead of the competition when the time comes to begin your career. With an award-winning careers service and courses built with employability in mind, it's no surprise that 94% of our graduates go straight into jobs or further study."
You can read more about Uni of Manchester [here.](#)

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