



De La Salle
School

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30th November 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 12

A short week, but a long update, with a number of items from the LA. Maybe it is just my age but I am beginning to wonder where each month has gone, as we approach the start of December. A shorter week in school and slightly less busy than previous weeks, as we take a breath before we begin Advent and the preparations for Christmas.

Last weekend and then this week, I have had some positive meetings with the headteachers of those schools who will be joining us in the Laetare CMAT (see later). The Lasallian Headteacher gathering was particularly inspiring (also see later) as we continue to grow closer as a Lasallian District.

Whole School Focus – Reports

Most year groups will shortly be receiving interim reports on your child's progress. We have spent a lot of time trying to get these right for parents, taking on board your feedback. In particular, your request that we are more specific with information on what specifically your child needs to do to improve.

The new look Key Stage 3 reports will have the following structure:

- Key Information: this includes:
 - o Explanation of what information is in the report
 - o Attendance information
 - o Star and Behaviour points
- Subject specific section in which each subject:
 - o Will provide a score for Engagement / behaviour / Homework / Equipment and Kit
 - o Will list all the key knowledge that your child will have learned this term
 - o Will say how secure that knowledge is, ranging from: Secure / Mostly Secure / Some Gaps / Serious Concerns
 - o Where knowledge is secure or mostly secure then no further work is required as the teacher is happy they have built sufficient understanding to move on in their learning.
 - o If there are 'some gaps' or serious concerns' then further work is needed to make this more secure. Some of this will, of course, take place in school, but there will also be a direct hyperlink to specific support for this piece of information to allow you and your child to revisit that knowledge.

Parents will receive 3 reports across the year, supplemented by a short pastoral meeting with your child's form tutor, which took place a few weeks ago, and a bigger Parents' Evening, later in the year, during which you will get to speak to your child's subject teachers.

Academisation Update

Quick recap (skip to next paragraph if you already know this): the school as a historic Academy Order against us which means we must academise. For several years there was no multi academy trust (MAT) suitable for us to join. In the past 2 years, this has changed and so our academisation must take place. Our trustees and Governors have decided that our best interests would be looked after within a national Catholic MAT for schools run by religious orders – the Laetare CMAT.

You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.

The paperwork is now complete for the Laetare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust and it will go to the DfE Advisory Board on 14th December. If agreed, then work will begin to create the Laetare CMAT as a legal entity. This will include appointing an interim part-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO). They will then work on setting up the CMAT and prepare to 'onboard' schools.

At the same time, we will then begin the process to academise. There is considerable work involved in this around due diligence, finances, land ownership, transfer of staff contracts (or TUPE) etc and is likely to take several months. So, at the moment, the target date for academisation is 1st July 2024, though these timescales can easily slip if issues arise along the way.

The nature of our CMAT, unlike many other MATs, means that wherever possible, decisions are delegated back to the school. So, unlike some MATs where uniform, policies, school name etc might change, this will not be the case for us. Our CMAT will provide some central services i.e. payroll, HR, financial management systems etc but we will still remain De La Salle.

Lasallian Headteacher Gathering

This is an annual event and switches between GB heads meeting one year and Heads from the whole Lasallian District (GB, Ireland and Malta) meeting the next year. So, this year was the GB heads from the Lasallian Schools (us, DFLS Basildon, St Peters Bournemouth and St Joseph's Beulah) along with the larger group of Associate Schools (these are schools that were previously DLS schools).

As well as the opportunity to catch up with the other heads and the Brothers, we were inspired by Brother Aidan's call to arms for our work and why we do it – in particular the importance of reaching everyone in our community including those at the peripheries – the least, the last and the lost. We also finalised the work on the Laetare CMAT documentation, planned Lasallian work for the coming year, including next year's visit from the Lasallian Superior General, Br Armin, and shared good practice from our own schools.

One highlight for me was hearing the Headteacher at St Margaret Ward School in Stoke, talking about how they have created and developed their own 1719 Society and how well it is working.

Ski Clothing Re-Gifting

We annually run a ski trip for our Year 9 students. For many, like me, your child will do the trip and then no longer use the ski clothing and equipment that you purchased (well there aren't many slopes around St Helens) and they will grow out of them quickly. If you have any good condition ski clothing for children that you no longer need, these would be gratefully re-used within school. Please feel free to drop off at reception or contact Miss Shepherd on shepherds@delasalleschool.org.uk

Social Media

This is just a respectful reminder to all parents and families that any issues with staff, students or other families should be addressed through the school rather than via social media.

Santa Dash (from LA)

This family-friendly event takes place on Saturday 9th December, 11:00am at Victoria Park, St Helens. Participants are welcome to walk or jog their way round the 4km loop. Entry is just £5 for adults and £2 for children/young people aged 5-18 years, with each participant receiving a Santa Hat to wear on route and a medal at the end. All proceeds go to the Mayor's Charity, the Deafness Resource Centre. and fancy dress is welcome!

SEND Provision (from LA)

St Helens is currently participating in the Delivering Better Value, (DBV) in SEND Programme. This programme is being facilitated by the DfE and the aim is to facilitate sustainable management of

local authorities' high needs systems, with support and intervention tailored to the challenges areas are facing. More information on the programme can be found here: [DBV in SEND](#)

We are currently collecting survey information which will support a grant funding application we will submit in December and are asking parents for their views via the attached QR code.

DLS Pensioners' Christmas Party (final call)

We are running the pensioners party again this year on 14th December if you know of anybody in the community, including family, who would like a ticket please drop me an email rooneyl@delasaleschool.org.uk

We are also looking for any donations including:

- Raffle prizes
- Christmas crackers for the tables
- Old Christmas decorations

If you feel you can contribute in any way please pass any donations in to reception.

HAF (from the LA)

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is aimed at providing nutritious food and enriching activities for primary and secondary school aged children who are eligible for benefit related free school meals during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays for children and young people aged 4 – 18 years who are eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM), and their families. Children and young people who are in receipt of a support plan via Early Help, Child in Need, Children We look after, EHCP or receives additional hours at school then they are also eligible for the HAF programme.

Throughout the Winter holidays eligible children and young people can access a variety of free activity sessions and all of these sessions will include a nutritious meal.

For more information on the exciting activities and opportunities that are available, dates and times please follow the link below or call Central Link Children's Centre on 01744 673445.

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/4060/Holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

The sessions are fully funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

Attendance

Our attendance is doing reasonably well and above national average levels but could still improve further. Please continue to do all you can to ensure your child attends school every day.

Latest attendance data from 4th September to 17th November:

- DLS Attendance: **92.7% (change of +0.1)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **92.0% (no change)**
- Difference: **+0.7% above the national (change +0.1)**

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

Friday 1st December: INSET Day: School Closed to students

Tuesday 12th: Year 11 Parents' Evening

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

And finally...A shirt, a shirt, my kingdom for a shirt.

As I mentioned earlier the Lasallian Head's Conference, at the weekend, was a very productive and positive experience but not without its issues. I set off early on Friday morning for the 4 ½ drive down to Kintbury (4 hours plus a 30-minutes of toilet breaks along the way).

I arrived and we had our first day of sessions, finishing at 5.45pm ready to get to our rooms (and make the beds) before assembling again at 6:00pm – quite a tight turnaround. At this point I went to the car to get my change of clothes for the evening and next day only to discover my bag of toiletries and basics was there but not my clothes, in particular my shirt for the evening reception.

My initial thought was that my car had been somehow broken into and the items stolen. Then the reality that I was in deepest rural Berkshire, miles from anywhere and who would want my clothes – I can't imagine the black market crying out for two shirts and a pair of chinos! Then I realised I had left them hanging up by the front door back at home.

Fortunately, one of the staff at Kintbury had a similar erm 'robust' physique as me and was able to loan a shirt for the evening. All sorted, the only downside was a rather passive aggressive text from Mrs R as to why I had left clothes 'lying around' when I knew the cleaner was coming.

Have a good weekend.

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher

Delivering Better Value in SEND:
Parent and Carer Survey



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



WonderWhat is a new creative careers finder for 13/14+ year olds. It's free to use, and there's no logon. All you need to do is tap the images you like, and you will be matched with 3 creative career options – all with realtime sector salary information, news, and social accounts you could follow.



Are you interested in studying either Psychology or Criminology? Not too sure on the differences between the two subjects? 'Battle of the Ology's - Exploring female serial killers' will take you through the main differences between Forensic Psychology and Criminology using a real life criminal case to support your learning and understanding. Join Sunderland University live on the 6 December from 5 - 7pm.



If you are considering an apprenticeship, you probably want to know how much you're going to get paid and will be glad to hear that the Apprentice minimum wage has been boosted to £6.40 an hour, the 21% increase will take effect from April 2024. This is the minimum an employer can pay you and is often far more, especially for degree apprenticeships.



Are you wondering what to do when you leave school? Lloyds Banking Group Careers Live takes place on 5th December from 5 - 6pm and brings together colleagues to share their experience in their role with young people, providing insight and inspiration into the world of work. Participants can ask questions in the live chat and learn about the range of roles on offer.



The RAF are running a Virtual Engineering Event on Tuesday 5th December from 5pm - 6:30pm.

JOB OF THE WEEK



This week's video focuses on the job role of a Wellsite Geologist. They study and classify rock cuttings from oil and gas wells in order to determine how drilling should be started and how it should proceed. 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 national living wage will increase by over a pound an hour – or 10 per cent – from £10.42 to £11.44 an hour.

It will also apply to 21-year-olds for the first time, who will see a 2.4 per cent increase, from £10.18 this year to £11.44 next year.

Source

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



If you're a Year 12 Student and have ever thought to yourself 'when should I start preparing for an apprenticeship' or 'how can I prepare for an apprenticeship', [this is the video](#) for you!



[UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fairs](#) are taking place all over the UK. They offer the opportunity to meet with a range of employers and universities, attend seminars and get support to plan your future.



For many young people, thinking about the next steps can be a daunting task... It can feel even more daunting if you are looking at options in London where there are SO MANY different training establishments and employer programmes available. [This guide](#) aims to help to provide you with clear information on the pathways and routes to help get young people to where they want to be.



Management accountants are more than number crunchers. They are business leaders, innovators, decision-makers and forecasters in organisations across the globe. [In this live webinar](#), you will learn about management accounting and how the CGMA Finance Leadership Programme can help you advance your career. This event takes place on 7th December from 12 - 1 PM. If you can't make the time, register and you will receive the recording.



There are more than 350 different careers in the NHS. Many work with patients while others work behind the scenes. What they all have in common is that they make a difference to people's lives. To find the NHS careers that best suit you, all you need to do is [answer some simple questions](#).



Do you love English but aren't sure where it could take your career? [Meet Craig Glenday](#), Guinness World Record's Editor-in-Chief! As Editor-in-Chief, Craig has travelled the world adjudicating records and making TV and radio appearances. Highlights of his career include having breakfast with the legendary Buzz Aldrin and meeting Beyonce.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"Wherever you choose to develop your Merlin career, our Accelerate Apprenticeships promise FUN, exciting experiences right from the start. We offer apprenticeships in; Chefs, Management, Marketing and Engineering, along with a number of other Adhoc professional qualification options!"

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"We believe in a world beyond ordinary - a place where normal gets put firmly in its place. We are Nottingham. Locally rooted, yet globally connected, we are the heart of the UK. One destination with endless possibilities. One beating heart with a desire to drive change."

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

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