



De La Salle
School

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8th December 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 13

A very chilly start to the week meant that Christmas Jumper Day yesterday was a warm relief! Elsewhere, our week saw us welcoming Liverpool John Moores' scientists in to work with some of our Year 11 students, auditions for our end of term DLS Has Got Talent show, our Year 7 and 8 Reading Buddies visiting local primary schools, Tutor Trust start their tutoring work with our Year 10 students and our Year 10 Mentors in Violence Prevention running classes with younger students.

Next week looks a busy one with a HAP experience day for Year 10, Full Governors' meeting, ASDAN Bowling trip, mental health awareness workshops, vaccination mop-ups and our Pensioners' Christmas Party on Thursday.

Whole School Focus – Hamper Appeal

I have promised to give today's whole school focus slot to the staff and students working on hampers for families at Christmas. Here is the message they wanted me to share:

It's that time of year again where everyone wants something from you and we make no apologies, we do too!

We are looking at doing upwards of 30 hampers for some of our most in-need families this year and we are asking for donations of nice food stuffs and luxury items for the hampers.

If you can't get to the shops yourself, a monetary donation would be gratefully received. Any donations of whatever sort can be given in at reception or Student Services.

We have all the staples, so let's make our families, who are having a difficult time at the moment, feel that they are loved. Thank you for the joy.

Someone infamous once said "We are not asking you to give everything, just something. If everyone did something, we would have everything."

Reports Clarification

Last week I gave an update on the new look reports but just wanted to clarify a couple of things that maybe were not 100% clear:

- The new style reports at the moment are only for Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)
- Year 7 reports aren't scheduled to go out until February
- Year 10 have the standard report with test % scores
- Year 11 will have their mock results

Progress Meetings

In school we are mid-way through our Departmental Progress Meetings. These involve myself, Mrs Croft (Lead for Data) and Mrs Mulhall (Lead for Quality of Education) meeting with each subject Head of Department to look through their departmental mock results. The meetings focus upon: key points from the data, performance of cohorts and individual students, what is working well and what isn't and then finishing with planning the actions for the final 13 teaching weeks before the

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

exams start, using the information from the mocks. These have been positive meetings and indications suggest we are looking at another rise in results this year.

Year 11 Mock Interviews – Appeal for Interviewers

We are organising two 'Mock Interview' evenings for all Year 11 students. The interviews will take place on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th January 2024 between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. Mock interviews will be face to face and will take place in the school dining hall and main hall. Students have been working on their CV's which will also form a part of the interview process.

If you have availability and would like to be involved in this event by volunteering on one, or both evenings, to interview students, please email: delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk

If you require further information about the mock interviews please do email and our school careers team will be happy to give you a call.

Year 7 Snapchat Group

We have been made aware of a large Year 7 snapchat group which has proven problematic in recent weeks. Parents may want to monitor if their child is part of this group.

Student rewards

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

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: Bianca Telisca
- Top Star point winner: Emma Frodsham
- £10 voucher: Jacob Lewis
- Year 7 Stars outside of school: Sonny Wilson winning Awesome Attitude and Outstanding Improvement in martial arts classes / Poppy O'Brien taking part in Musical Feast performance, playing violin.

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 29th November:

- DLS Attendance: **92.6% (change of -0.1)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.8% (-0.2)**
- Difference: **+0.8% above the national (change +0.1)**

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

Tue 12th: Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thu 21st: Carols by Candlelight (6:00pm)

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

And finally...We are all human

Apologies, nothing humorous this week (no change there some of you will be thinking). This week has seen the Coroner's verdict on the death of headteacher Ruth Perry. The whole story has been a painful tragedy for a woman who dedicated her life to her school. There are many lessons to be learnt from this, especially for Ofsted, whose response of a one-day training course for inspectors seems woefully inadequate.

One lesson for everyone, though, is the reminder that although schools, academies and Multi-Academy Trusts may seem like large faceless organisations, they are really made up of people – human beings. Whether it is the teachers, students, parents, support staff, governors and even headteachers – we are all just people, humans. At times we can all be brilliant and wonderful, at other times we make mistakes and bad decisions, and most of the time, somewhere in the middle. Despite the wider trends in society to rush to judgement or blame, that is why, whether it is an angry parent, teacher, member of staff or a child, it is important that our starting point is one of understanding. Understanding why that person is angry? Why did they say or do what they did? How were they seeing things at the time? It is that understanding that helps to remind us of the human rather than just an organisation.

Like most in education, I have no great love of Ofsted but I do have some sympathy for the Ofsted inspectors who issued that judgement that led to Ruth's death. They too are individuals who have to live with the impact of their decision. Of course, the greatest sympathy is for Ruth's family and school for the loss of their much loved and incredibly dedicated sister, daughter, friend and headteacher.

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		Ellie O'Neill	Kian Potter	Megan Woodward	Vlad Tsonev
O		Phoebe Bradley	Bethany Kay	Ella Haggerty	Noah Burrows
H		Daniel Dinov	Ciara Ashall	Jacob Wood	Poppy Egan / Amber Moss / Amber Pilling / Jess Duffy
N		Tom Pelham	Rebekah Goddard	Solomiila Laba	Lily Gorton / Layton O'Brien / Bobby Shackleton
B		Jack Rennie	Ellis Butler	Lucas Kelly	Isabella Davies / Alexa Varkulis
D		Aidan Foster	Alfie Mackey	Maddison McPaul	Maisy Mitchell / Betsy Segar
L		Mason Lyon	Max Mitchell	Esme Scott	Amelia Kahn / Matthew Reid
S		Maddie Birch	Millie Roper	Maddy Millen	Mila Smith / David Bolan
Engagement		Grace Parr	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 considering a career in politics? The Patchwork Masterclass programme develops the personal and professional skills of young people from communities that are traditionally underrepresented in political spaces. Events, training and mentoring take place both in-person and online over the year to increase your political knowledge and engagement. Patchwork widens access and enables you to seize opportunities, build your networks and develop your confidence as an active member of political and civil society. [Read more and apply here.](#) Applications close on Wednesday, 3rd January 2024.



From Monday 4th December, Not Going to Uni have launched a campaign which will focus on helping you to prepare for the January apprenticeship application window

Here's what you can expect to see on their social media pages (on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [TikTok](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#)) over the next few weeks :

- Application form tips and tricks
- Interview top tips and advice
- Assessment Centre experiences and guidance



The Apprenticeship Academy is a 6 week programme that provides students in Year 11 and 13 with everything you need to know to find, apply for and interview for apprenticeship opportunities in the UK. Are you ready to commit? [Register here!](#) The deadline to register is Tuesday 20th February 2024.

Interested in thinking about your future but find reading information or watching videos a little tedious? Why not explore [Panjango online](#), learn about the world of work and develop the knowledge, skills and experience to fulfil your potential in this gamified careers world!

PLAY

JOB OF THE WEEK



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

They give anaesthetics for surgical, medical and psychiatric procedures, including facilitating pain-free childbirth and resuscitating acutely unwell patients.

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

A survey of workers by the Trades Union Congress in November found that 9% of workers had been told to reapply for their jobs on worse terms and conditions since March 2020.

Petitions and protests have now begun to stop companies from firing and rehiring staff.

[Read more about what this means](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES

Want to get ahead over the Christmas break? Here's a list of things you can do that are on demand and can be accessed any time...

Watch an [inspirational talk from Speakers for Schools](#). There are a huge range of talks from professionals working in a wide range of industries, learn more about their job roles, how they got there and any advice they have for you if you're interested in their industry!

Watch a [Subject Guide webinar from UniTasterDays](#). These impartial videos have one key aim; to support students who are considering university to make informed future subject decisions. They feature guest speakers from a range of different universities, who are always experts in the subject being explored.

Take part in a [free, on demand work experience programme with Springpod](#). These can be access, started and completed any time so if you're keen to learn more about an industry, why wait! There are over 55 on demand work experience opportunities to choose from.

Get ahead by [registering for a UCAS Hub account](#). Bin the sticky notes. Delete your screenshots. Now you can organise everything - including your application - in one place. [Read more about the benefits of having a UCAS Hub account here](#).

Complete the [Buzz Quiz](#) to find out:

- Your personality type
- What jobs might suit you
- Your strengths and what makes you tick
- Popular subjects and courses for your personality type

Use [Barclays Life Skills](#) free tools, tips and interactive resources to help you recognise and develop the skills you have. This will help you to build confidence, boost your employability and stand out from the competition.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"For DPD, apprenticeships are a valuable investment in the future. With us you have the opportunity for personal development and professional fulfilment. Our apprentices of today are our qualified specialists of tomorrow. From IT to finance to administration, we have roles for everyone." You can read more about their careers [here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"By choosing to study at Chichester, you are joining an inclusive, supporting and caring university where you are truly valued. At Chichester, we offer a diverse portfolio of courses within a range of subject areas meaning you can find the perfect course to suit your dreams and aspirations."

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

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