



De La Salle
School

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15th December 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 14

A hectic week with events and activities happening left, right and centre. This at the end of a long term, which is starting to take its toll on staff and students. This is a slightly shorter Parental Update as I am trying to keep items for next week's end of term newsletter.

Whole School Focus – School Culture

It has been widely publicised nationally and locally about the increased behaviour issues in schools, post-pandemic. This is something echoed by every headteacher I speak to. Across the country there has been a significant spike in suspensions and permanent exclusions (PEX) – indeed St Helens would normally have low single figures of PEX at this point in the term, but is currently at 28, including a significant number from primary schools.

As a school we are fortunate to have generally very well-behaved students and supportive staff, though we too have felt the impact of change. It seems appropriate, therefore, that we are now in the process of looking at how, as a school community, we address these challenges.

Behaviour, however, is only a part of this; we are also looking at wider issues (large and small) such as culture, self-regulation, self-improvement, ethos, litter, uniform, expectations, rewards and celebrations.

As with all of our larger school improvement work, this review and change is a large scale piece of work that we are approaching in phases, in line with the [EEF Implementation Model](#). The phases of this work are highlighted below:

- Explore Phase: until Christmas
- Prepare Phase (February Half Term)
- Deliver Phase (Easter)
- Sustain (Summer/Sept 2023)

Over recent weeks, we have been out and about visiting a range of other schools to see which approaches they take, to help inform how we want things to look in our school. We have seen everything from silent corridors, year groups remaining bubbled, industrial scale detention systems, and much more. These have been very useful but we are very aware that any changes we make, need to fit in with our school's Lasallian ethos, we cannot and would not just want to copy and paste someone else's approach.

In our work, in particular, we are exploring:

- A clearer behaviour system based upon our Lasallian values
- Improved programmes of support and intervention for students displaying challenging behaviours
- A taught culture curriculum covering a range of areas such as:
 - o What are expectations around the school?
 - o Why we have rules?
 - o How do they link to future employability?
 - o How to reflect on our own behaviour and academic performance?
 - o How to prepare ourselves better for lessons and exams?

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

- A more regular and meaningful reward culture
- Clearer sanctions systems
- Greater consistency of approach across the school

As we explore our way forward we will be listening to the experiences and views of staff, parents and students and start to pilot some changes and approaches before a wider implementation later this year and at the start of the next academic year.

Homework and Assessments (Key Stage 3)

Along with our new reporting systems we are looking to simplify and clarify homework and assessments. Partly to ensure more effective and consistent application across the subjects and year groups, but also to help parents to play their part as well.

Mrs Croft will be writing to parents next week with the following information:

- Slight changes to homework from January for Years 7, 8 and 9
- Assessment timetables for Year 7 and Year 9 for the first week back

We would appreciate your support in ensuring students are accessing revision and completing homework to the best of their ability.

Post-Christmas Uniform

I realise many students will be lucky enough to get new and usually very expensive training shoes from Santa, and will push to want to wear them for school in January. Can parents please ensure that students only come to school in appropriate school shoes (as per the school website).

Parking

Come on, it has been weeks since I last mentioned this! However, the situation has once again deteriorated, particularly at the end of the day. Can I request (again) for parents not to park anywhere near the school on Alder Hey Road, and not to block the buses or park opposite them, as this reduces the road to a single lane which quickly becomes blocked.

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.

Student rewards

This week's Lasallian Star Awards (attached)

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: Brooke Hide
- Top Star point winner: Beatrice Woodhouse
- £10 voucher: Madeline Webster
- Year 7 Stars outside of school:
 - Broady Clarke, Harry White, Harry Monteith, Even Feeney, Matthew Reid and Louie Layland (football success)
 - Bracken Keyte – performing in Christmas panto at Hope Street Theatre
 - Amber Moss – performing 3 amazing shows with Individuality Youth
 - Sophie Wilkinson – performing in the Wizard of Oz at Planet Ice, Widnes.

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: **92.5% (change of -0.1)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.7% (-0.1)**
- Difference: **+0.8% above the national (no change)**

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

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

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

Mon 8th Jan: School re-opens (normal time)

Wed 17th: Year 8 Parents' Evening

Wed 17th: Governor Quality of Education Committee (5:00pm)

Fri 19th: Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Trip

22nd – 28th: Year 9 Ski Trip

Wed 24th / Thu 25th: Year 11 Mock Interviews

Wed 24th: Governor Finance and Premises Committee (5pm)

Mon 29th: Year 10 Retreat

Mon 5th – Fri 8th Feb: Year 11 Mock Exams (for practical subjects)

Wed 7th: HAP Study Workshop

Wed 7th: Governor Personnel Committee (5:00pm)

Fri 9th: School closes for half term (3:00pm)

And finally...Only Fools and Horses

Last night, Mrs R had suggested we went to the local pub quiz, which after a week of late nights was exactly what I felt like doing. "We don't have to take it seriously, it's just a bit of fun" she said, so along we went. Sure enough, where there was something free going on, my eldest and his girlfriend also tagged along.

It was actually a nice evening, the quiz was quite relaxed the questions didn't seem too hard – "which sport is Tony Bellew famous for?", "Which royals were married in 2005?", and the music round was 80s. By the halfway stage our team was actually in the lead and there were free chip butties – living the dream.

It was around this point that Mrs R's competitive streak started to emerge, with 10 more questions left, we led by 2 points and I was told to stop eating the chips and concentrate! Of these 10 we were able to answer most of them and Mrs R and the eldest were discussing what to do with the winnings. Only to find that a table of 10 had miraculously caught up with us – Mrs R pointing in a

passively aggressive tone loud enough for others to hear, that they seem to have been on their phones regularly between questions, and that one of our answers was correct when she checked afterwards on Google – but to no avail.

This came then to the tie break – “How many episodes of Only Fools and Horses were made?”. Much discussion, my initial thought being 10 series of about 8 episodes – so around 80, with a few more for specials so say 85ish? This was talked down, by our eldest who thought there were far more, because that is all he sees on Dave TV. The other team guessed 70, we settled on 110. Turns out, 64 main episodes and with specials, the total was 80.

So sadly, we lost, but on the plus side, I could finish off the chips and we won a booby prize – of a skipping rope. C’est la vie, or as Del Boy might say, “Mangetout Rodney, mangetout”.

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	Lucy Hulse	Zach May	Megan Woodward	Ellie-May Roberts
O		Emma Sherwood	Amber Mallon	James Jones	Harry White / Harry Monteith
H		Isobel McLoughlin	Will McLear	Alex Carter	Castiel Byrom
N		Fin Kelsall	Olivia Worrall	Anna Farr	Zac Donald
B		Ben Smith	Ruby Lynn-Talbot	Olivia Miao	Bracken Keyte
D		Joshua Bailey	Natalie Wilson	Georgia Northey	Maisy Mitchell
L		Darcy Murray	May Hyland	Maisy McTomney	Jacob Meredith
S		Harry Carville Ambrose	Joseph Dutton	Alanah Tinsley	Jude Stead
Engagement		Megan Whittle	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




Capgemini is a global leader in partnering with companies to transform and manage their business by harnessing the power of technology. The Group is guided everyday by its purpose of unleashing human energy through technology for an inclusive and sustainable future. It is a responsible and diverse organisation of 360,000 team members in more than 50 countries. The Group reported in 2022 global revenues of €22 billion. Capgemini have just opened their degree apprenticeship roles, [read more & apply here](#).



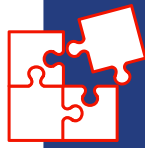
So, what can you expect from a career as a journalist? Journalism is one of the most exciting careers around, with many varied roles and specialisms - and no two days are the same! [Read more about journalism here](#).



Are you 10-18 years old with a phenomenal game idea you want to share? Are you thinking about making games when you leave school? Entries are open for BAFTA Young Game Designers 2024! [Read more here](#).



Are you considering an apprenticeship but not really sure what's a myth and what's reality? This article entitled "[BAE Systems apprentices debunk apprenticeship myths](#)" will help!



Good news, it is going to become easier to find an apprenticeship as UCAS have now launched their Apprenticeship Matching service. This means that once you have shown interest in an apprenticeship on the UCAS website, they will show your CV (with your consent) to employers in the industry you're interested in!

JOB OF THE WEEK



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

They are the heart of a patient's health by using their knowledge of the science of food to help individuals and groups make the right choices about what they eat. 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 Help Musicians and Music Minds Matter survey showed that 43% of professional musicians earn less than £14,000 a year and suggested that low income is one of the causes of poor mental health among musicians.


[Read more about this and what is being done here](#).

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


CAREERS NEWSLETTER




OPPORTUNITIES




Microsoft are currently offering a unique opportunity to join their Apprentice Data Academy and earn a Level 6 Digital Technology Solutions Professional qualification with a 3-year employment contract as part of the Future Forward Apprentice Program. [Read more and apply here.](#)




This [brand new 6-minute film](#) (with British Sign Language interpretation) follows the inspirational stories of apprentices with learning differences, disabilities and health conditions. Learn how these apprentices are progressing their careers through apprenticeships and the ways that their employers and training providers are supporting them.



Join Career Live UK LIVE on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, at 10:00 am for an exclusive peek into the heart of London Gatwick's Finance Operations! In this broadcast, they'll be delving deep into the dynamic Finance team at London Gatwick, featuring insights from the brilliant minds of Thomas, Alison, and Toni. With Gatwick's robust post-pandemic recovery and an impressive revenue of £776.6 million in 2022, this team is on fire! [Register here.](#)



Pens at the ready, Tacchi-Morris's annual creative writing competition is back! Write in any genre: prose, poetry, script, a confession, a love letter, a list... be bold, be imaginative, but contain your entry to just one side of A4. [Read more here.](#)



UCAS have released data on this year's university applications. The key headline is that more students than ever before feel comfortable in sharing a disability or mental health condition when applying to university or college. [Read more here.](#)



Are you passionate about working to overcome climate change? [This blog from SpeakersforSchools about Life Sciences](#) will help!

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

octopus energy

"We're on a mission to make energy greener, fairer, and genuinely better for people. Our global energy revolution is backed by Generation, the sustainable fund co-chaired by Al Gore. We have thousands of diverse roles ready to be filled across our Group and around the world."

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Studying at Aberystwyth University will provide you with the opportunity to develop academically, mature personally, and succeed professionally. As well as outstanding teaching and research, we strive to offer an unrivalled student experience in a location that's second to none."

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

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