



De La Salle
School

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12th January 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 15

I hope this update finds you in good health after a pleasant and enjoyable Christmas, and that your new year resolutions are going well. The first week back after Christmas is always a bit of a strange one as people re-adjust from the festivities and over-indulgence of the holidays, returning to an often sombre, dark and cold January.

However, for our school it is an exciting 2024 ahead of us: we continue our work on behaviour systems and structures that I mentioned in Update 14, we will be going through the academisation process over summer and, in Autumn, we have been chosen as the GB school to have the Lasallian Superior General, Br Armin, visit us as part of his tour of GB, Malta and Ireland. Much to look forward to.

Whole School Focus – Mission

I think the start of the year is a good time to remind parents, staff and students about our school's Mission and Values. I will start, this week, with our mission, this sets out the school we are seeking to become – what we are trying to achieve. We use this as our guiding star (well it has just been the Epiphany!) to set our direction in our policies, systems and daily way of life. The mission below is unique to our school and was written shortly after my arrival in 2017/18 based upon work we did with staff, governors, families and students.

Our Mission: “You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.”

We are a Catholic community of staff, governors, students, Brothers and families enriched by our Lasallian heritage, traditions and values. Our mission is to work with all in our family community to:

- See each person in our community as an individual with their own talents, needs, hopes, dreams and aspirations
- Provide a holistic education that challenges each of us to achieve our potential and become the person God intended us to be: spiritually, morally, academically, physically and socially
- Walk side by side with our students to help them grow into confident, independent, kind, respectful and tolerant adults, with a strong sense of social responsibility, ready to make a valuable contribution to the world of tomorrow
- Create a safe and supportive environment where those of all faiths, and none, can explore, share, discuss and celebrate their spirituality

Next week, I will share our 5 Core Values which show the 'how' or the way we go about trying to achieve the mission.

Beat the Students

No this is not part of our new behaviour policy, though I am sure some of us, of a certain age, recall the days when corporal punishment was commonplace. Beat the Students was something suggested by a colleague to include in the weekly update, as if it wasn't exciting enough!

So, each week I will include a few questions from a subject which would be tackled by our Key Stage 3 (Yrs 7-9) students. You can pit your wits against your child and see if you still remember the skills and knowledge you learnt at school – maybe the loser does some chores.

To start us off, below are some linear equations to be solved. Solve the equations to find x:

1) $7x + 9 = 23$ 2) $5x + 7 = 42$ 3) $4x + 3 = 51$ 4) $9x + 5 = 41$ 5) $4x + 2 = 34$

Answers at the end of the update.

Big Ask

We are replacing the Big Ask (our parental survey) with an improved system called Teacher TAPP. This allows us to pose a range of different questions and produce much more effective and quicker analysis of the results. We are doing the same with our staff and student surveys.

The next parental survey will be out in the next week or two, please take the time to share your views on our school. I assure you we really do listen and use your feedback for our improvement.

Parents' Evenings

Next week we have our second full parents' evening, this time for Year 8. You may also find it useful to know the dates of the other Parental Meetings:

- Wed 21st Feb: Year 7
- Wed 6th March: Year 9
- Wed 24th April: Year 10

Parish Council Road Safety Request

Following the petition that we were asked to share regarding the safety of children crossing Kiln Lane, we have been asked by the Parish Council to share an additional request. They have asked us to encourage parents to report any near miss occurrences on the stretch of Kiln Lane from the junctions of Coronation Road to Alder Hey Road.

This is mainly because any action by St Helens Council has to be data led and valuable insights from parents and children could hopefully support any findings from the council survey and strengthen the case for the implementation of a crossing.

One of the Councillors, Ian Riley, has agreed to lead on this initiative and act as a funnel for any reported occurrences to be submitted to the council. If you would like to speak to Ian about participating in this initiative and how it would be administered he is available on 07853926135 or ianriley465@gmail.com.

Term Dates 2024 / 2025

For those of you planning holidays for next academic year, I can now confirm the term dates and INSET days for 2024 / 2025:

Autumn term:

- Mon 2nd Sep – Fri 25th Oct
- Mon 4th Nov – Fri 20th Dec

Spring term:

- Mon 6th Jan – Fri 14th Feb
- Mon 24th Feb – Fri 4th Apr

Summer term:

- Tue 22nd Apr – Fri 23rd May
- Mon 2nd Jun – Tue 22nd Jul*

INSET Days (students don't attend)

- Mon 2nd Sep 2024
- Fri 6th Dec 2024
- Fri 27th Jun 2025
- Mon 21st and Tue 22nd Jul 2025 (*so school effectively closes on Fri 18th Jul)

Post-Christmas Uniform

A big thank you to the majority of parents who have supported the school and ensured that their child attends in appropriate uniform. Sadly, we still have a small number of students with training shoes, jewellery and false nails. Students have been given to the weekend to resolve these issues.

Student Rewards

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: Iris Wall
- Top Star point winner: Brooke Hide
- £10 voucher: Xan Chisnall
- Yr 7 Stars outside of school:

Attendance

Our attendance took a bit of a hammering at the end of last term and though 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 22nd December:

- DLS Attendance: **92.0% (change of -0.4)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.4% (change of -0.3)**
- Difference: **+0.7% above the national (down 0.1)**

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

Mon 8th – Fri 19th: Years 7 and 9 Assessments

Wed 17th: Year 8 Parents' Evening

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

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

Wed 7th: HAP Study Workshop

Wed 7th: Governor Personnel Committee (5pm)

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

Beat the Students Answers

So how did you do? Here are the answers for this week [**in brackets**]:

1) $7x + 9 = 23$ [**2**] 2) $5x + 7 = 42$ [**7**] 3) $4x + 3 = 51$ [**12**] 4) $9x + 5 = 41$ [**4**] 5) $4x + 2 = 34$ [**8**]

And finally...The Longest Month

For all of us, with the new year often comes the annual set of resolutions, and I hope you are doing well with yours. For me, an excess of indulgence over the holidays is being addressed with a change of diet and dry January. Both of which are still going well, surprisingly.

Despite having dieted on many previous occasions, I am still always shocked that the weight, which has taken me 52 years to build up, doesn't suddenly fall off after 12 days of sensible eating, a fruit smoothie and sweating along to a Joe Wicks workout.

Anyway, for all of us, especially those doing Dry January or Veganuary, I pass on Brian Bilston's poem, which Mrs Twist, Head of St Cuthbert's School shared with me this week:

Thirty days has September, April, June and November. Unless a leap year is its fate, February has twenty-eight. All the rest have three days more, excepting January which has six thousand, one hundred and eighty-four. – Brian Bilston

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher

Student Rewards

This week's Lasallian Star Awards go to (**apologies that the bulletin has been written earlier than usual so some year teams haven't finalised their stars of the week**)


Form Class	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
J		Orla Hart	James Howard		
O		Andrew Bate	Lola Hitchen		
H		Matthew Rawlinson-Lynch	Lucie Darbyshire		
N		Katie Fyles	Stephen Terry		
B		Darcie Foster	Thomas Flatley		
D		Ruby Nelson	Sophie Dowling		
L		Alfie Heaton	Lauren Jamie		
S		Lucas Fair	Ella O'Hara		
Engagement		Beth Polding			

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




Lloyds Banking Group Careers Live brings together colleagues to share their experience in their role with you, providing insight and inspiration into the world of work. You can ask questions in the live chat and learn about the range of roles on offer. You'll hear about how to ace an Apprenticeship Application and will also be joined by recruitment experts who will share what they are looking for. Join us for the next virtual event '[How to Ace your Apprenticeship Application](#)' on 6th February 2024. It's not too early to sign up!




[Play Your Way Into Production](#) has been produced by One to One Development Trust in collaboration with SIGN as part of a research project to break down barriers to getting into the screen industry. The game is designed help potential new entrants understand the tasks and duties of certain job roles and develop skills.



If you're a parent, guardian or carer, you can help inspire the apprentices of tomorrow. [Here is a guide for Parents and Carers](#) on how to support your young people to find and apply for apprenticeships.



In the latest report from Korn Ferry about Talent and Recruitment in 2024, they predict how AI will impact people that are looking for work. [Read the key trends and predictions here](#). How do you think AI will impact people seeking employment?



The [new guide from Amazing Apprenticeships](#) tells you the essential information that you need to know about finding an apprenticeship. Remember, [National Apprenticeship Week 2024](#) takes place from Monday 5th - Sunday 11th of February so there will be lots of employer events taking place. Search #NAW2024 on social media to find more information.

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 [Metallurgist](#). Metallurgy is a fascinating field of engineering that concentrates on the extraction and processing of metals and alloys.

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 latest government data, published in November 2023, reveals that the median average UK weekly wage for full time workers in England and Wales is £682.

That's the equivalent to an annual pre-tax salary of just over £38,000 – an increase of 6.2% compared to 2022.

[Source](#)

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES

Watch [this exclusive webinar with the Early Careers team from Dunelm](#) to learn more about their amazing apprenticeship opportunities and the exciting range of vacancies available in 2024. With apprenticeships available across the business, from Finance to Retail, Sustainability to Logistics, Buying & Merchandising to Insight & Analytics, Dunelm are inviting you to learn more about their apprenticeships which all take place in a caring, friendly and supportive environment.

“BT is more than just a broadband company. We're a global force, assisting people in 180 countries to create, collaborate, and communicate better than ever. Our purpose is as simple as it is ambitious – we connect for good. Let us unveil the myriad of opportunities BT has to offer and explain why we believe BT is the perfect place for you to kick start your career.” [Live event taking place on Thursday, January 25th, 2024 at 10am.](#)

From an introduction to Direct Line Group to a deep dive into their teams, their use of technology and sustainable practices, this programme will teach you it all! Beyond the scope of DLG, you'll explore the importance of networking and employability skills. Take everything in at your own pace as you make your way through a programme filled with written, interactive and video content, whilst also attending live webinars with insurance professionals. What's more, you'll get to put your knowledge to the test in this programme's quizzes and activities... [Sign up here.](#)

Who doesn't admire a cool car now and then? But have you ever considered a tangible future with Jaguar Land Rover? In this virtual work experience programme, you'll be introduced to the wide range of career opportunities at JLR. Discover the sectors that go into keeping these vehicles and their company running, their functions, and the jobs available within them. You might just find the role that feels right for you! [Sign up here.](#)

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

JLR

“An apprenticeship programme at JLR opens doors to automotive innovation and technology, enhancing your skills and experience for the future. You'll be surrounded by other ambitious teammates, working together on projects that fundamentally shape the vehicles of the future.” You can read more about their careers [here.](#)

UNI SPOTLIGHT

“With over 27,000 students, from around 150 countries, Warwick is a place where you'll experience new cultures and perspectives every day. You will learn from expert academics, who are some of the world's top thinkers. Our campus offers a variety of places to study and reflect.”

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

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