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Dear Parent / Carer,

### Parental Update 17

Some very wet and stormy weather this week but that didn't hinder us having the busiest week of this academic year with lots of activities and events taking place: Ski trip, Holocaust Memorial, STEM activities, Reading Buddies, Art Workshops, Year 11 Mock Interviews, Faith in Action, HAP activities, sporting training and fixtures, vaccinations, Tutor Trust Science sessions and a House Mass – such breadth and variety of activities really makes me feel proud of our staff and students. I also want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Scully and Mrs Moran for the work they put in to making this week's Year 11 mock Interviews run so smoothly. This involves an immense amount of work and preparation to get so many interviewers in, to work with our students. Thank you also to all who interviewed and to our parents for reminding the students of their importance – attendance at them was 99%!

### Whole School Focus – Confirmations

As I am sure you will be aware, in the Catholic Church, there are 7 Holy Sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist (or 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion), Reconciliation (1<sup>st</sup> Confession), Confirmation, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders.

The first 3 usually take place when the students are younger and before they arrive at secondary school. The Sacrament of Confirmation, however, has now moved back to being taken when students are in secondary school (though this has moved around over the past 10 years).

The Archdiocese of Liverpool is now inviting our young people (in Year 8 and above) to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the Catholic Church, this is a sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger and more perfect Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The preparation for this sacrament begins in school with an introduction to it from the Animate team, who are the Archdiocese's youth ministry team (or the information can be accessed from their [Youtube channel](#) in the 'Confirmation Called to Serve Section'). This also ties in with the Year 8 RE curriculum where students are taught about the sacrament.

Afterwards, should your child wish to receive the sacrament, parents should register them online at: <https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/> and once registered, your child will be invited to preparation sessions in your local area. Deadline for registration is 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Though the school plays a part in the initial preparations, much of the work is done in the parishes, so if you have any questions, please contact Fr Simon Gore on [s.gore@animateyouth.co.uk](mailto:s.gore@animateyouth.co.uk) or your parish priest.

### Year 7 Sporting Success

As the weather improves slightly, some of the sporting competitions have been able to resume.

**Netball:** Our Year 7 netball squad were in fine form at the St Helens Netball Festival this week. Playing 4 games, they came away with 3 wins and 1 narrow defeat. Well done girls!

- Cowley B 3-1 (W)
- Rainhill B 6-0 (W)
- Rainhill A 1-2 (L)

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

- Cowley A 2-0 (W)

**Football Year 7:** Not to be outdone, our Year 7 boys also had success on the football pitch. They gained a place in the District Cup Semi-Final after a 4-2 victory away to Rainford High. Goals from Braniff (2), Fyles and Donegan, and Players of the Match were Thomas and Leyland.

**Football Year 10:** Our Year 10 footballers were less fortunate, as they took on a strong Kirkby High School, away from home. The match finished 3-3 but DLS sadly lost on penalties.

Looking ahead to next week: Our Year 7&8 girls play Lord Derby in the National Cup, our Year 7 play SEACA in the Merseyside Cup and we have Year 7 rugby, Year 8 netball and Year 10 football town festivals.

### **Holocaust Memorial**

Throughout this week, Mrs Morris and the History Department have been speaking to our students about Holocaust Memorial Day, which is this Saturday. In the current climate, it is more important than ever that our students are informed and aware of the dangers of prejudice through Anti-Semitism and more widely through others forms of discrimination.

In addition to this, our student leaders also attended the St Helens Holocaust Memorial Service today at the Town Hall.

### **Upcoming Assessments**

A reminder that we recently had the Year 7 and 9 Assessments and that, after half term, we will be having the Year 8 and 10 assessments alongside the Year 11 mocks (some practical mocks are before half term).

To continue our work to support our students in preparation for these, they are currently receiving support on revision techniques through their form tutors.

### **Beat the Students**

A reminder that each week I will include a few questions from a subject which would be tackled by our Key Stage 3 (Years 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.

This week, we move on to English. Are the following sentences examples of simile, metaphor or personification?

**A – The moon was like a ghostly ship**

**B – The engine leapt into life, its pistons protesting loudly**

**C – My Mum has a heart of gold**

Answers at the end of the update.

### **Student rewards**

Apologies these were not available for today as several of the pastoral staff are and have been away at training and on trips.

### **Attendance**

Attendance continues to be a priority. Please continue to do all you can to ensure your child attends school every day.

Latest attendance data from 4<sup>th</sup> September to 19<sup>th</sup> January:

- DLS Attendance: **92.1% (no change)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.3% (no change)**
- Difference: **+0.8% above the national (no change)**

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

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

Wed 7<sup>th</sup>: HAP Study Workshop  
Wed 7<sup>th</sup>: Governor Personnel Committee (5:00pm)  
Fri 9<sup>th</sup>: School closes for half term (3:00pm)

### **Half Term**

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> – Fri 30<sup>th</sup>: Year 11 Mock Exams, Year 8 and Year 10 assessments  
Wed 21<sup>st</sup>: Year 7 Parents' Evening  
Wed 21<sup>st</sup> – Thu 22<sup>nd</sup>: Year 9 Cambridge HAP Visit  
Wed 21<sup>st</sup>: Year 7 and 8 Shakespeare School Visit  
Sun 25<sup>th</sup> – Thu 29<sup>th</sup>: Iceland Trip

### **Beat the Students Answers**

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

- A. The moon was like a ghostly ship [**Simile**]
- B. The engine leapt into life, its pistons protesting loudly [**Personification**]
- C. My Mum has a heart of gold [**Metaphor**]

### **And finally...The Usual Suspect**

Whilst on our evening walk, Mrs R was sharing her day's experiences teaching her Year 5 class – the headline being that her ball of elastic bands had gone missing. She had a strong suspicion as to who might have taken it, let us call him 'Little Billy'. Not only did he have a bit of previous form, but there were a couple of elastic bands around where he sat.

However, not wanting to jump to conclusions, Mrs R thought she would attempt to appeal to the perpetrator's conscience and told the story of her Bernadette Medal. In short, when at primary school, Mrs R was given a gift from a family relative who had been to Lourdes. This was a small medal of Our Lady which, when opened up, revealed a small piece of blue cloth, which she was told was from Our Lady's robe that she wore at the foot of The Cross. Though fully believing at the time, looking back Mrs R suspects this was probably not authentic, least of all as it was polyester.

Anyway, long story short, despite being told not to, the young Mrs R took it into school to show her teacher and class. Sadly, at some point, the blue piece of cloth was stolen, leaving Mrs R in floods of tears. So, the purpose of her sharing this with her class was to help them empathise with the feeling of loss and sadness at having something taken.

Did this work? Did the thief's conscience kick in? She cannot be certain, however, shortly after, Little Billy said he would help and check the toilets for it, emerging 2 minutes later informing Mrs R and the class that he had found the ball of elastic bands, and holding it high above his head – like Rafiki presenting Simba in the Lion King, to the cheers of the rest of his class.

Have a good weekend.

**Andrew Rannard**

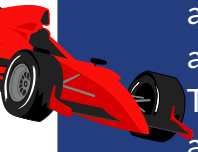
Headteacher

# 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




Williams Racing have opened their 2024 work experience placements for those in Years 10-13. "Our work experience weeks are designed to provide an insight into the diverse range of skills and occupations required by an F1 team to produce a racing car. This programme is ideal to help you make the right career, apprenticeship and/or future subject choices." [Read more and apply here.](#)




The Brown Girl League are Introducing our In Conversation With series which aims to create a safe space to engage with inspiring speakers, fostering an environment where you can ask the questions closest to your heart - questions that might have felt daunting to voice in other settings. [Register your interest here](#) and each conversation in the series will be sent to you.



What do town planners do and where do they work? Planners organise, design and make decisions on where new homes, roads, schools, shops and all the other things we need to live and work should be built. At the same time, town planners try to make towns, cities and the countryside attractive, safe and environment friendly. Check out the [Planning Your World](#) website for what you could [change](#) if you choose a career in planning.



Are you dreaming of being a Pilot in the future? The [new TUI Pilot Cadet Programme](#) looks amazing! You can't apply until you're 18 but it's definitely worth knowing about for the future if this is an industry you're considering.



Do you love playing sports? In this NEW series from the RAF called Find Your Force podcast we discover what career routes you can take if you have a love for sports including: Football, Rugby, Swimming, Gaming and more. [Listen here.](#)

## JOB OF THE WEEK



This week's video focuses on the job role of a [Intelligence Analyst](#). They protect UK national security and economic wellbeing, as well as to detect and prevent serious organised crime, such as terrorist attacks.

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

There are around three million workers on the National Living Wage of £10.42 a year. This is set to rise to £11.44 an hour from April 2024.

National Minimum Wage (for workers 18-20) will get a £1.11 hourly increase to £8.60 per hour from April.

[Source](#)

If you have any questions or need support, please contact [moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk)

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER



## OPPORTUNITIES

HSBC Apprenticeships are now open! "Our UK Apprenticeship programmes allow you to combine work and study, with the opportunity to gain a formal qualification ranging from Foundation through to Degree level. These opportunities all provide an alternative to the classical A-level and university pathways; with a range of different learning methods designed to fit your way of learning such as workplace teaching, classroom-based learning, online courses, on the job training and independent study." [Read more here.](#)



AWE Apprenticeships are now open. "AWE have been training apprentices to make the world a safer place for 70 years, setting them up for success in a unique and exciting industry. We're looking for bright future leaders to join the 2024 cohort." [Read more here.](#)



Fujitsu have launched a new mentoring programme called "Guiding Futures". By taking part, you will have someone to speak to about careers and routes into your sector of interest, help with writing job applications, CVs, cover letters and higher education applications and an opportunity to build skills such as time management, organisation and communication. [Watch this video](#) and if you're interested, [register here.](#)



Ready to explore an RAF career? Explore our Award-winning Apprenticeships! Embark on an exhilarating journey into the world of the Royal Air Force and discover the boundless opportunities that await you. If you've ever considered a career in the RAF, look no further than RAF World – your gateway to an exclusive insider's perspective.



Check out the [National Apprenticeship Week event finder](#) to see what events employers are running to help you learn more about apprenticeships.



## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Life Is On | **Schneider**  
Electric

"At Schneider Electric we offer Apprenticeships, Internships and Graduate opportunities. We are on the lookout for passionate people to help us innovate at every level and build a future that empowers all to make the most of their energy and resources, ensuring Life Is On everywhere, for everyone, at every moment." You can read more about their careers [here.](#)

## UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Since 1963 we've been breaking down boundaries between students and researchers, arts and science, business and social responsibility. We're redefining what a university is and how it can best prepare you for a future in a rapidly changing world."

You can read more about University of East Anglia courses [here.](#)

If you have any questions or need support, please contact [moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk)