



De La Salle
School

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 20

A positive start to the new half term with much activity in and beyond school. Our Year 10 behaviour pilot and the new corridor movement expectations seem to be going well, our Year 7 Parental evening had great turnout, I watched our Year 7 and 8 dramatists performing at the Shakespeare North Playhouse, some of our HAP students visited Cambridge University and we are halfway through assessments for Years 8 and 10 and full mocks for Year 11. Phew!

Looking ahead to next week, the assessments and mock exams continue, some Year 9 and 10 students are in Iceland with the geography trip and there are a range of STEM, careers and Faith in Action workshops and activities taking place across the week.

Whole School Focus – Academisation Explainer

Quick recap - as I have mentioned many times, our school will become an academy at some point in the coming months. This is not something we have any control over, as the school still has an academy order dating back to 2015/16. However, as a school, we do have a choice over which Multi-Academy trust we join and, as you will be aware, governors and our Lasallian trustees, have decided we will join the Laetare Catholic Multi Academy Trust (CMAT).

So where are we up to now? The creation of the Laetare CMAT was confirmed by the DfE Advisory Board in December and since then work has been underway to set it up and begin the process to 'onboard' the schools that will make it up.

How will the CMAT be structured? MATs are just like big schools in many ways and our Laetare CMAT has the following structures:

- **Members** (there are 3 of these): they are there to look after the interests of the Religious Orders whose schools will make up the Laetare CMAT. Our Lasallian representative is Br Aidan Kielty. These are unpaid positions.
- **Directors**: similar to the way that individual schools have governors, MATs have Directors. Ours has 12 of them who have been carefully selected to ensure that there is a range of skills, experience and representation eg HR, education, finance, legal etc These are unpaid positions.
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**: this is a bit like the Headteacher of the whole MAT. To help set the CMAT up, a temporary part time CEO has been appointed. He is Andy Bridson, who for the rest of the week when he isn't CEO is also Headteacher of Cardinal Langley School.
- **Chief Finance Officer (CFO)**: this is the person who oversees the finances of the MAT. Again, a temporary part time CFO has been appointed to help set the CMAT up. This is Kieran Done who works the rest of his time at St Ambrose College.
- **Local Governing Board**: these operate at an individual school level. So, when we academise we will retain our own set of governors who will continue to oversee the running of our school, much as they do now.

Mobile Phones – New Government Guidance

It was surprising and interesting that whilst there is plenty the government could be doing to address the big issues affecting education – tackling the recruitment and retention crisis, reducing child poverty, fighting for better funding, better supporting young people with special needs... and

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

so on. Instead without consultation, we had an announcement of another 'crackdown' on mobile phones in school settings.

There is no doubt that mobile phones and, in particular, the constant access to social media they provide, have a major impact on young people (and the not-so young). However, the guidance is basically telling schools that they should have a policy that restricts access to phones during the school day. This is something, like most schools, that we have had in place for several years.

For the sake of clarity, our policy is that phones are allowed to be brought into school but, between 8.30am and 3.00pm should be turned off and out of sight. If they are seen, heard or used they are confiscated, to be collected at the end of the day.

Self-Taught Talent

One of our Year 9 students, Billy Gill-Atherton, has made the news recently with his self-taught musical talent. Billy was filmed playing the Maple Leaf Rag at the Ena Mill Shopping Centre. Footage of his performance was posted on Facebook and then made the [local news](#). Congratulations to Billy and good luck in developing that musical talent.

ADDvanced Solutions

ADDvanced Solutions is a community network that give excellent support to families of children and young people with Neurodevelopmental Conditions. They offer face-to-face and online Community Network Groups, Family Learning Programmes and Workshops which are open access and are for families pre, during and post diagnosis or assessment.

New to St. Helens is the Autism Post Diagnostic course which is open to parents and carers of children or young people with a diagnosis of autism. This is split into three age groups, the one next half-term focuses on young people aged 14-19. More details can be found here:

https://www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk/news/newsletters?dm_i=YFK,8JKA6,3BJ64D,ZCUBP,1

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 (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.

This week, we move on to French. What do the following words or phrases mean?

A – La chambre B – Quand? C – La viande D – Le vent E – Le chien

Answers at the end of the update.

Student rewards

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: Elliot Maguire
- Top Star point winner: Mamina Ishfaq
- £10 voucher: Millie Roper

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 4th September to 2nd February:

- DLS Attendance: **92.0% (down -0.1)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.2% (no change)**
- Difference: **+0.9% above the national (down -0.1)**

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

Mon 19th – Fri 30th: Year 11 Mock Exams, Year 8 and Year 10 assessments

Sun 25th – Thu 29th: Iceland Trip

Tue 27th: Year 9 Careers Activity
Wed 28th: Year 8 STEM Challenge
Wed 28th: Year 9 Options Evening
Wed 28th: Governor Behaviour, Attitude and Personal Development Committee
Thu 29th: Year 10 Careers Event
W/B Mon 4th Mar: Feel Good Feel Better lunchtime activities (all week)
Tue 5th: GCSE Drama Moderation
Wed 6th: Year 9 Parents' Evening
Wed 6th: Full Governor Meeting
Thu 7th: Year 9 and 10 healthcare Visit
Thu 7th: Year 8 STEM Visit
Sat 9th: Mock Magistrates Court Competition

Beat the Students Answers

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

A – La chambre **[the bedroom]** B – Quand? **[When?]** C – La viande **[the meat]**
D – Le vent **[the wind]** E – Le chien **[the dog]**

And finally...Let it Linger

Last week saw Valentine's Day and, ever the romantic, I decided to make it a special day for Mrs R, especially now that both boys are not at home, a day we would both remember. So, the day started with breakfast in bed followed by a nice country walk. I had chosen a circular route starting and ending at the Scarisbrick Marina.

Off we set and though sodden underfoot, the rain held off and our walk was really enjoyable, apart from an incident with a loose farm dog and later an unexpectedly deep puddle (Vicar of Dibley-esque). Ending up along the canal, wishfully imagining having a canal boat (going full David Essex) and then we ended back at the Marina for a world class hot chocolate. All good.

Some shopping on the way home as I was planning on cooking – a spicy Iranian fish curry (it was Ash Wednesday) – and needed a few more essentials like Fenugreek leaves (who knew Fenugreeks even had leaves?). So, after a quick, though very expensive, visit to Booths (at least Dick Turpin wore a mask when he robbed people), we were home and I started work on the curry whilst Mrs R caught up on whatever TV programme she is currently obsessed with (I think it involved Amanda Holden and Alan Carr).

At this point, our eldest texted to say he was coming home and what was for tea? Fortunately, I had made enough to go around. Even though I say so myself, the meal was a bit of a triumph with some somosas, naan breads and poppadoms – then the main meal of Iranian fish curry. It really had felt like a day to remember.

It was only the next day that I realised how true that was, as the house still smelt heavily of the curry. And the next day. And the day after. We tried everything – air fresheners, open windows and doors even a modern version of 'shake and vac', but nothing put the freshness back! Finally, just over a week later, I think the last of it has gone. I am cooking again tonight, but I think we will just go for fish fingers and chips!

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	All of Year 11 have been put forward this week for their attitude and behaviour during this week's mock exams	Jessica Smith	Kian Potter	Olivia Curzon	Ellie-May Roberts
O		Arian Rahmanifard	Liam Blackburn	Harry Kernick	Harry Monteith
H		Isobel McLoughlin	Alistair O'Connor	Rose Kirkham	Josh Critchley
N		Reuben Cranney	Rebekah Goddard	Owen Polding	Mia Rigby
B		Jack Haddock	Ellis Butler	Zach Dunn	Daragh Lyle
D		Sophie Glover	Connie Reid	Eoghan Beesely	Esta Cardwell
L		Mason Rogerson	Iris Wall	Maisy McTomney	Krzysztof Mendola
S		Joshua Burkert	Jamie Davies	Olivia Bailey	Melissa Goddard
Engagement		Lola Woods	N/A	N/A	N/A