



De La Salle
School

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1st March 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 21

This week we have seen our assessments for Year 8 and 10 continue, along with the final Year 11 mocks (the students have been a credit with their behaviour and attitude to these). We have held careers trips for students in Years 9 and 10 to Edge Hill, a STEM Competition activity for Year 8 students, workshops for Years 7 and 8 on the dangers of substance misuse, we had our 1719 Students present to our Governors' Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development Committee and held the Year 9 Options Evening.

Looking ahead to next week, the staff continue marking the wealth of recent assessments, we are holding lunchtime Feel Good Feel Better activities, Drama GCSE exams take place, we have Full Governors, Health and Social visits for Year 9 and 10 students, Year 8 STEM activity, Year 9 Parents' Evening, more sporting fixtures, including our Year 11 Boys Football Final and next Saturday, our students are competing in the Mock Magistrates Competition

Whole School Focus – Touching Hearts Curriculum

As regular readers of this update will know, we have been doing considerable work on our culture and ethos since November. Most of this has focussed around behaviour and the Year 10 Behaviour Pilot and is now developing our support for students, rewards and sanctions. However, our scope of work is much wider.

In today's whole school focus I want to talk about the Touching Hearts Curriculum – this is the name we give to our wider, holistic programme of development. The school currently has much to celebrate in this area, however, I feel that sometimes these elements can be too fragmented or unconnected.

Moving into September, I am keen that these are brought together in a way that is joined up, grounded in our mission and values and which is not repeated but built upon each year. This is something I have been outlining to our form tutors throughout the past week.

The aim being to have a well thought-out, interconnected curriculum for form time and PSHCE. This will incorporate much of the good work that we already do, such as:

- Taught behaviour curriculum
- Collective workshop
- Leadership skills
- PSHCE
- Our core values
- The Lasallian story
- Study skills
- Self-reviews
- Mentoring

This is an ambitious approach that will require considerable work, planning and coordination from our staff, but I think the benefits will be considerable for the holistic development of our students. Ideally building up to a portfolio that follows them through their 5 years with us and which captures their development as young people.

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

Traffic Safety

This week we were shocked and saddened to see one of our students involved in a road accident outside of school. The student was lucky to only receive relatively minor injuries. However, it serves as a warning of the need to keep our school entrances as traffic free as possible, to help our students cross safely.

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 Drama. Do you know who wrote the following plays?

A – Hamlet B – The Importance of Being Earnest C – A Doll’s House D – Mother Courage and Her Children E – The Crucible

Answers at the end of the update.

Sporting Success

Our Year 7 and 8 Girls’ Football had a great week of success, led by Miss Hutchinson. They started the week beating St Marys in the National Cup and will face West Kirby in Round 3 (girl of the game: Phoebe Hague).

They then followed this up by finishing 2nd in the District Tournament and will now go on to represent St Helens in the Merseyside County round.

Meanwhile, the Year 11 boys, under Mr Fletcher’s management, reached the final of the St Helens Cup with a 6-1 Win against Hope. They still await news from the other game to see who they will play in the final. Man of the match was shared between Kelsall and Cashman.

School Trips – Florence Cancellation/Expedition Opportunity

As you know, I place great importance on the wider ‘magical’ experience for our students. Therefore, I was greatly saddened by the cancellation of the planned Year 8 trip to Florence. Though this was due to factors beyond the school’s control, I know what a massive disappointment this was for students and families and I apologise that this has happened.

More positively, we have been in discussions with Camps International to explore running a ‘once in a lifetime’ 4 week expedition to Peru (whatever happened to two days in Colomendy?). This is an incredibly expensive trip (£4k+), but the aim is that students fundraise to help pay the costs. This will be open to students currently in Years 9 and 10, and will take place in the summer of 2025.

I need to be clear, this is not a school-run trip, but run by the company. They have been doing this successfully for many years. The company will be in speaking to students next week. Parents can also find out more [here](#) and of course, more information will follow for those who are interested.

Feel Good Feel Better

Our SVP Youth Group wanted to run a week of activities that will help people to connect with others, spend time with their friends, and find something that makes them feel good! The activities that they have planned for lunchtimes next week are:

- **Monday: Lost in Musicals:** our Performing Arts team host a wonderful session helping us to sing and dance away our blues!
- **Tuesday: a talk by Mrs Clague:** Mrs Clague shares her experiences volunteering in Kenya with us as we reflect on our actions and interactions with others.
- **Wednesday: Good Vibes Crafting:** We open up the Ethical Craft Club to all students
- **Thursday: Poster Competition:** Join us and design a positive message poster, with a chance to win a prize.
- **Friday: Student Support:** A drop-in event led by students for students

Student Rewards

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: All the Geographers on the Iceland trip were amazing
- Top Star point winner: Millie Jones
- £10 voucher: Ryan Barrow

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 16th February:

- DLS Attendance: **91.9% (down -0.1)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.2% (no change)**
- Difference: **+0.7% above the national (down -0.1)**

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

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

Tue 12th – Thu 14th: GCSE Catering Practical exam

Wed 13th: Governors Finance Committee

Tue 19th: Year 10 Engineering Visit

Wed 20th: Year 7 Reward trip (part 2)

Fri 22nd: Mount Carmel House Mass

Mon 25th – Thu 28th: Year 10 Shakespeare's Italy Trip

Wed 27th: Governors' Standards Committee

Thu 28th: School finishes for Easter (3pm)

Mon 15th Apr: School re-opens

Beat the Students Answers

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

A – Hamlet [**William Shakespeare**] B – The Importance of Being Earnest [**Oscar Wilde**] C – A Doll's House [**Henrik Ibsen**] D – Mother Courage and her Children [**Bertolt Brecht**]
E – The Crucible [**Arthur Miller**]

And finally . . . Give a Little Respect

Whilst getting changed after work last week, I noticed my main black suit had developed a couple of holes here and there. I guess suits by George from Asda aren't particular renowned for their longevity and, to be fair, it was about 18 months old.

Fortunately, a combination of Dry January, slightly healthier eating and some abstinence during Lent, has meant that I am about ½ stone lighter than I was. I say fortunately, because this meant that the suit I bought for a wedding 3 years ago and has since been too tight to wear, was back in the game – it fitted.

However, unlike my plain black and blue suits, this is a lighter grey with a bit of checked patterning and stripes running through it. I know that doesn't sound too good but this was not just any suit, this was a Marks and Spencer 'tailored' suit. Nothing too garish, but quite different to my usual suits. Undeterred, and wanting to avoid going the Big Asda, I tried it on Sunday afternoon. It fitted fine, happy days, and I went to show the family to check it looked ok.

Mrs R was very supportive, probably just relieved to see the end of my old cheap suit. My eldest then walked past – stopped, looked, laughed and then said “*The 1990s have just called and aksed if they can have their suit back.*”. Meanwhile my youngest, who has discovered retro comedy like Blackadder and the Fast Show suggested I looked like Swiss Toni, the second-hand car salesman. This is what is wrong with some of the youth of today....no respect!

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	For the second week, Year 11 have been put forward for their attitude and behaviour during this week's mock exams	Bradley Harrison	Simon Critchley	Not available at time of writing	Tyler Mulcahy
O		Joe Thomas	Emily McKenny		Alfie Marsh
H		Joe Burke	Annie Meredith		Amber Moss
N		Shay Varkulis	Tyler Purcell		Neve Frazer
B		Darcie Foster	Fabian Grabowski		Megan Foster
D		Luke Owen	Leo Jackson / Sophie Dowling		Fletcher Moorcroft
L		Niamh Flynn	Aaron Greenall		Robbie Smith
S		Maddie Birch	Millie Jones		Hannah Rigby
Engagement		Heidi Donachie	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




UCAS have released their data about applications to university this year. Their data shows 316,850 UK 18-year-olds have applied to university or college this year – an increase of 0.7% from 2023 and the second highest on record. [You can read more about this here](#) and if you're interested in learning more about studying a degree via university or a degree apprenticeship, you can [create a UCAS Hub account here](#).




In the summer of 2023, University City London welcomed students from over 225 universities in more than 50 countries, making the UCL Summer School a truly international experience in the heart of one of the world's most dynamic cities. They have just opened [2024 Summer School applications](#).




UCL not for you? No problem! Most universities offer a summer school experience so search the name of the university you're interested in followed by "summer school" to find the right web page to read more/apply.



[National Careers Week 2024](#) takes place from 4th-9th March. Check out this [employability checklist](#) to learn about some tasks that you can do any time. We'd also recommend looking at the social media hashtag #NCW2024 to see events from employers.



Advanced Therapies Apprenticeship Community (ATAC) develop apprenticeship programmes, designed to train and upskill individuals for the ever-growing and thriving life sciences industry. [You can read more about their opportunities here](#).



RISE UP help young people to prepare for, access and succeed in employment, apprenticeship and work experience opportunities with progressive employers. [Read more here](#).

JOB OF THE WEEK



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

Ergonomists job role is to ensure the protection, productivity, comfort & wellbeing of the people using products and equipment.

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

Artificial intelligence is booming among businesses, with global searches for 'Will AI take my job?' increasing by 2,900% since ChatGPT was first introduced in November 2022.

However, a [recent study](#) has indicated that one in six adults are more excited than concerned when it comes to AI.

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in working in the Tech industry? Tech She Can have a range of upcoming events that allow you to learn more about working with drones, electric cars and wearable tech for sport! [Check out the events here.](#) If you scroll down, you can also see a range of on demand videos that you can watch any time.

Do you see yourself being a secondary school teacher in the future? You'll be interested to hear that [the Department of Education are currently planning a degree apprenticeship option](#), meaning that after Sixth Form or College, you could go straight into an apprenticeship and become a qualified teacher within 4 years.

Discover a career without limits. [Take the quiz](#) and explore Physics careers that might be for you. The results might surprise you...

Kennedy's virtual work experience programme will allow you to take the first step of your legal career with a global law firm that does things differently. [Read more and sign up here.](#)

Keen to start earning and learning? ICAEW apprenticeships could be your first step to qualifying as a Chartered Accountant. [Learn more here.](#)

If you're looking for guidance about career and training options in the animal care and veterinary industry, then [Careers With Animals Day](#) is the perfect place to start. During this FREE, online event you'll be able to listen to career talks from a range of fantastic industry organisations, ask questions and gain advice.

YourGamePlan and Goodstuff present [The Pitch](#), a competition for individual students or groups (2-4) to dive head first into the world of advertising. Students are invited to respond to a real media brief for JD Sports. Read more and enter if you're interested!

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"A rich heritage, a commercial outlook, an iconic brand, a unique public service. It all adds up to make Transport for London a great place to develop your career. We invest a lot in our apprentices and graduates because we want you to be the future of our business. We'll support your development through training, mentoring & networking." You can read more about their careers [here.](#)

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Why choose Liverpool? It's an important question. There are thousands of answers... Our global outlook for a start, and our spirit of originality. Our warm and welcoming environment & the incredible city we're such a big part of. Start your journey here."

You can read more about the University of Liverpool courses [here.](#)

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

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OPPORTUNITIES

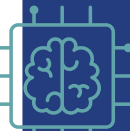
National Careers Week 2024 is taking place next week from 4th-9th March! Here are some of the events and resources that you might be interested in...



Virtual Careers Fair: The careers fair had close to 100 exhibitors in 2023 for you to look at and investigate. You don't just have to be in school to access the Virtual Careers Fair.



Check out the BBC Bitesize Careers resources to learn more about where different school subjects could take your career. BBC Bitesize also have a "Jobs that Use..." page which allows you to read real life case studies of people who have gone on to do all different things after leaving education.



Everyday use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is on the rise. From chatbots and voice assistants, to personalised shopping and recommendations, you've probably noticed it popping up in more areas of your life – but how could it affect jobs? Play this quiz to see how savvy you are about the future of AI at work.



With over 200 Motor Careers to choose from, IMI Autocity provides you with all things Automotive! The automotive sector influences everyone, from delivering goods on time to commuters travelling to work and emergency services being able to respond to a crisis, the automotive industry helps to keep the country moving. IMI Autocity is the one-stop-shop for impartial careers information and advice on careers in the Automotive sector.



There are more than 350 different careers in the NHS. Many work with patients while others work behind the scenes. What they all have in common is that they make a difference to people's lives. To find the NHS careers that best suit you, all you need to do is answer some simple questions.

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 Disaster Manager.

They plan and direct programs and procedures for responding to natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tornadoes.

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

594,940 people applied to university this year ready to start in September 2024.

Of these, 372,200 were age 18, this is an increase from 369,090 18 year olds who applied last year.

You can see a breakdown of all the applicant's ages here.

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES

UpReach are hosting two free webinars. You can read the details below and [sign up here](#).

6 Mar 2024 - Women in STEM

Explore empowering narratives from accomplished females, gain insights into overcoming challenges, and discover the pivotal role diversity plays in shaping the future of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired by the extraordinary journeys of women making a significant impact in the STEM fields.

5 Mar 2024 - The Secret to Writing a Great CV

You likely know that CVs are the foundation of all job applications, and maybe you've started writing one already (good job!), but how do you make it stand out? Come along to hear expert advice from a team of upReach careers advisors about how you best convey your skills and experience, and how to structure an outstanding CV.

Not Going to Uni are running a campaign called 'Shape Your Career' for NCW 2024. The aim of the campaign is to showcase different routes available into the working world and what different opportunities companies offer. The campaign will be formed of groups of images and videos created by their ambassadors and will be posted out on their social media channels. Search "notgoingtouni" to find their page.

As well as National Careers Week taking place next week, Friday 8th March is also [International Women's Day](#). Here's a [list of all the events](#) taking place for you to browse and sign up to any you're interested in. Remember, you don't have to be female to be an ally for equal rights. Many of the events will also be helpful for males, including events like "[Ask me anything about AI](#)" and "[The inclusion interviews](#)".

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"Do you want to be part of something extraordinary?

Something that not only gives you the opportunity to develop and grow your skills, but offers excitement, challenge and intrigue. At AWE, you will have the opportunity to work in world-class facilities, gaining knowledge, skills and behaviours that will enable you to have a world-class future."

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Do you love to question and have an appetite for knowledge? Do you consistently achieve top grades in your class? Are you looking for an exceptional education in an environment which values individuals for who they are? Oxford might be the place for you."

You can read more about the University of Oxford's courses [here](#).

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