



De La Salle  
School

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Headteacher: Mr. A. Rannard BA (Hons) NPQH

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Parental Update 24

Today's update is heavy in invitations and opportunities for you, as parents, to become more involved in school by sharing your views, signing up for the Parent Forum or an invitation to our Lenten Service next week. This will be the last update of the term, with the end of term newsletter replacing it next week.

Another very hectic week has seen me out of school quite a lot again at various meetings, meanwhile the pace of life in school also races on. Tutor Trust science tuition for Years 10 and 11, a Year 10 engineering visit to the Museum of Science and Industry, our Year 10 Scholars Programme continued, Faith in Action workshops, suicide awareness workshops, Mount Carmel house mass and our Year 7 students had a slightly damp but wonderful visit to Alton Towers.

### Whole School Focus – Parent Forum

I am always keen to hear from staff, students and parents on what is working and what we can do better. We already have a range of student forums and a staff reference group. I think the final missing piece is capturing parental views. Of course, we have our regular surveys but I am keen to explore how we can dig deeper and have parents more involved in providing a voice within school. Therefore, to close this gap, I am looking to establish a Parents' Forum.

I hope we can establish a group of 10 parents per year group who would commit to meeting, probably monthly for an hour or so, to offer their views on the school, but also to work alongside us as we develop our policies and provision. As well as regular meetings, I hope we will also be able to sound out views and thoughts on certain topics via Teams or similar online communication. If you would like to be part of the Parents' Forum, then please complete [this short MS Form](#). If we have more than 10 parents, then we will allocate places randomly. The closing date for nominations is 3.00pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### Lenten Service 2024 - Invitation

Our SVP Youth students have been working hard to plan the Lenten Service for this year. Taking inspiration from Pope Francis' Lenten reflection, the theme for our service this year is Father, lead us to freedom. Our service will take place in our school's **Main Hall on Tuesday 26th March at 5.00pm**. There will be refreshments provided.

It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible to support our students as they share their hard work, but also to join us as a Lasallian community to mark the final weeks of our Lenten journey with a time of reflection.

If you intend on coming along, please do let us know via email to our Chaplain, Sam. [cantillons@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:cantillons@delasalleschool.org.uk)

### 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.

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

This week, we move to Spanish vocab, can you translate the following words or phrases into Spanish:

- a) **Good morning!**
- b) **What time is it?**
- c) **Happy birthday**
- d) **Where is the restaurant?**
- e) **How much is the bill?**

Answers at the end of the update.

### **Safeguarding Alert - Capcut**

Some parents have recently raised concerns about an app called 'Capcut'. It's a video editing app on phones and computers, but it also allows students to chat with strangers. This came to light when a parent noticed their child having a discussion online with a stranger. We thought it would be useful for parents to be aware in order to monitor this. As always, any parents who are concerned about inappropriate behaviour online should contact the police.

### **Well-Being Award**

Our school is currently working to achieve a school improvement award. In order to evaluate our current provision, we need your input. Your views are important in helping us understand what we are doing well and how we can do even better.

Please follow the link below to complete the survey. It should only take a couple of minutes. All responses and suggestions will be carefully considered and used to plan a range of school improvements.

Evaluation submissions are valid between: 19/02/2024 - 28/03/2024. To complete the survey [click here](https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/65ba14263cfe5) Or copy and paste the following: <https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/65ba14263cfe5>

### **Sporting Updates**

Another great week of sporting effort and success across the school (each report is from Mr Smith and Team PE staff):

- **Year 9 Boys' Football:** Well done to the Year 9 boys football team for a convincing 3-1 over Sutton Academy. Goals for Joey, Jayden and Charlie who also got himself 2 assists. A huge improvement in attitude, well done and let's keep this up! And a special thanks to Noah, Connor, Adrian and Jayden for stepping in last minute to play. MOTM: Will McLear, rock solid all game in defence and drove the team forward. A fantastic display, pure quality on and off the ball
- **U13 Girls Football:** Our girls continued their run of wins, this time in the Merseyside Cup. The girls beat Range 7-3 to progress to the quarter finals of the cup. A great game by every single girl to show resilience and overturn a 2-3 half time deficit. PoM: Hague! The girls also play the next round of the National Cup next week.
- **Year 8 Girls' Netball:** well done to our Year 8 girls' netball team for a fantastic display against Rainhill, scoring 12 goals in the process. PoM: Bain, Cottam and Nightingale. Netball training continues every Thursday for all interested.
- **Year 7, 8 and 9 Girls' Cricket:** These sessions continue this week and next, during selected PE lessons and after school on Thursday. All yr7-9 girls are welcome.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

We have been contacted by some parents whose children attend a dance group at St John's Church Hall in Crossley Road, Thatto Heath. A group of young people, around Year 8 and 9 age were causing a disturbance to the classes, so much so they had to lock the doors. We understand some of these students were from De La Salle. They have asked if I could ask parents to speak to their child in case they had any involvement.

## Parent Voice on revision Techniques and Exam preparation

A reminder to parents to complete the recent survey that was sent out to capture your views on your child's experience of revision techniques and exam preparation. The deadline for these is today.

## The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

This is aimed at providing nutritious food and enriching activities for primary and secondary school aged children/young people whose families are claiming benefit related free school meals. The programme is aimed at children and young people aged 4 – 18 years. Additional eligibility is for families who are in receipt of a support plan via Early Help, Child In Need, Children We look after, EHCP or is in receipt of additional hours at school then they are also eligible for the HAF programme.

Throughout the Easter 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>

They are requesting that parents/carers book their child's place for the Easter holiday activities as soon as possible, as numbers are limited (each provider can provide full details of their available sessions upon request). Please contact the delivery partner directly to book a place. Activity links will go live at 2.00pm on Monday 18th March 2024. The sessions are fully funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

## Student rewards

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: Elliot Maguire
- Top Star point winner: Lily Chamberlain
- £10 voucher: Joshua Walsh
- Special Mention: Eden Nightingale for her sporting commitment. On Tuesday she played 3 quarters in a netball cup match and received players player, she then went straight to play the second half of in a football cup match. She was amazing and has demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship, well done!!

## Attendance

We have recently been hit by a serious bug around school which has increased staff and student absence. 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 15<sup>th</sup> March:

- DLS Attendance: **91.6% (down -0.2)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.1% (no change)**
- Difference: **+0.5% above the national (down -0.2)**

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

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> – Thu 28<sup>th</sup>: Year 10 Shakespeare's Italy Trip

Wed 27<sup>th</sup>: Year 9 HAF Save the World Event

Wed 27<sup>th</sup>: Governors' Standards Committee

Thu 28<sup>th</sup>: School finishes for Easter (3:00pm)

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Apr: School re-opens

## Beat the Students Answers

So how did you do? Here are the answers for this week:

- a) Good morning! ¡**Buenos días!**

- b) What time is it? **¿Qué hora es?**
- c) Happy birthday. **Feliz cumpleaños**
- d) Where is the restaurant? **Dónde está el restaurant**
- e) How much is the bill? **¿Cuánto es la cuenta?**

### **And finally...Come Fly With Me**

The past couple of weeks have involved a lot of external meetings – all important but it means my day to day work just builds up, and so takes up more of my weekend than usual. I don't mention this for sympathy – it is my job and I am well paid to give up this time – but it explains why on Saturday morning I was up by 7.00am and working away on my computer.

It was just after I had started, that a close friend texted to see if I was awake and, if so, could I speak to her daughter who had been away in Thailand for several weeks 'finding herself' with a group of her friends, but had now had enough and wanted to return home – quickly.

What does this have to do with me you might be wondering, as was I, whilst I was mid-way through some governor papers. The reason was that she was very anxious and upset at the thought of flying home alone. It was just after the tragic suicide of the ex-Boeing employee and the poor girl was catastrophising as to how safe planes were.

Knowing my love of Flight Simulator and my general plane-based geekiness, she had actually contacted her mum to see if she could talk to me. So, by 7-10am I was on a facetime chat with her. Some initial questioning established that her main source for aviation intelligence had been Tik Tok. So after about 10 minutes and a bit of research, I had established which airline and which planes she would be getting home.

For the next 20 minutes I waxed lyrical about the safety record of the Boeing 777-300ER followed by some strong testimony in support Qatar Airlines and their safety reputation. Anyway, by the end of that, I think I had bored her out of her fears and she seemed much happier to be flying. She just had a 4-hour bus journey to the airport to navigate.

So, my final words of encouragement were to joke that she shouldn't be worrying about the plane, it is the bus that is far more dangerous. She seemed a little pale again as she finished the call, probably something she had eaten.

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                           |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>J</b>          | Bel Gyurler                    | Sumayya Abdullah | Alfie McFarlane       | Cameron Kilgannon            | Charlie Lowe                     |
| <b>O</b>          | Max Clarke                     | Andrew Bate      | Connor Ryan           | Lucy Evans                   | Ella Davies                      |
| <b>H</b>          | Isaac Dennett                  | Leah Taylor      | Scarlett Ahoton-Smith | Whole form for being amazing | Elijah Houghton / Josh Critchley |
| <b>N</b>          | Stephen Pennington             | Grace Harrison   | Phoebe Price          | Isabella Dyer                | Andrei Telisca                   |
| <b>B</b>          | Heather Gordon                 | Darcie Foster    | Thomas Flatley        | Olivia Miao                  | Chloe Dowling                    |
| <b>D</b>          | Salma Aouadi                   | Megan Thomason   | Brandon Boardman      | Freya Edwards                | Barirah Fatima                   |
| <b>L</b>          | Tiernan Conway                 | Darcy Murray     | Isabelle Lowe         | Maisy McTomney               | Lucy King                        |
| <b>S</b>          | Heidi Mercer / Grace Brownbill | Mia Stewart      | Arlo Shallcross       | Harry Newman                 | Daisy Woodcock                   |
| <b>Engagement</b> | Blake Atherton                 | 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




18th-22nd March 2024 is Neurodiversity week! There are a range of panel discussions, with inspirational speakers from a range of backgrounds and professions. The discussions will all be focussing on key neurodiversity topics, and aim to educate while inspiring conversations about neurodiversity. All events are free of charge and open to all.




As well as taking part in the events, you can also check out the Neurodiversity Week resource hub which includes a range of guides, booklets and even a comic book.




Whether you're into writing or producing, lighting or sound, performing on stage or making it happen backstage – there's something for you with the National Theatre. They work with young people aged 13-25 to explore every aspect of theatre-making. Join in where you are, online. Read more here.



Do you know you want to work in the Music industry but unsure which job role is right for you? Use the new Careers in Music quiz to explore your options.



The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2024 is open for entries! The competition is open to anyone aged 11-17. The deadline to enter your poem/s is midnight BST 31 July 2024.



Within the NGTU International Women's Day resource, you can find inspiring stories from a range of female apprentices working in a variety of roles across the UK.



Are you interested in Digital Careers? If so, the new website "Get into Digital" from Microsoft and Get my First Job will be of interest.

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

## JOB OF THE WEEK



This week's video focuses on the job role of a Acoustician. They specialise in the study of sound. The application of acoustics is present in almost all aspects of life, including designing a concert hall, helping people with hearing impairments, investigating communication in marine animals, or researching the way in which sound travels underwater.

Watch the video to learn more.

## LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The landscape of the job market is continuously evolving, influenced by technological advancements, societal changes, and the global economy.

Based on the latest trends and data from last year, JAC International have put together an insider's guide to the careers shaping our world right now.

[Read more](#)



# CAREERS NEWSLETTER



## OPPORTUNITIES

Speakers for Schools have a [library of inspirational talks](#). Whether you're interested in unleashing your creative talent, learning what it's like to be a Chief Executive in the Sports world or a woman breaking down barriers in Economics, there's a talk for you.

Always been fascinated by space? Simply don't understand how a 300-tonne plane can make it into the sky? Maybe it's time to take the [Airbus Aerospace programme](#)! They'll go into detail about Space Exploration and how new initiatives help us here on Earth.

You may have done charity work of some kind, perhaps something like collecting things for those in need through your school. But did you know there are official career paths involved in working with a registered charity? [In this programme, you'll discover which roles are available in charity](#) and what skills and values you'll need to succeed in them. You'll dive right into the world of charity organisations through quizzes, activities and interactive content.

You've probably seen lawyers doing their thing in your favourite shows or films, but have you ever wondered what the legal profession in the UK really is? [This virtual work experience programme](#) will help you explore a few sectors of the legal profession and what roles are available within them. So sit back as you join us in learning more through interactive content, videos with industry professionals and a series of activities!

The world around you is filled with feats of innovation made possible by civil engineering. From constantly improving transport to tackling the effects of climate change, there's a lot that goes into civil engineering that you mightn't have known about. [Springpod and the Institution of Civil Engineers have partnered up to provide you with a fantastic programme](#) that'll show you what's out there within the vast and varied world of civil engineering.

## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"Wincanton is a people driven company that cares about you and we are confident we have the flexibility to match your individual requirements, talent and skills. Come and work in an exciting and innovative industry, where we have a range of opportunities to suit you now and help you to build your career."

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

## UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Bristol is one of the most popular and successful universities in the UK, ranked 55th in the world in the [QS World University Rankings 2024](#). We are at the cutting edge of global research. We have made innovations in areas ranging from cot death prevention to nanotechnology."

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

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