



De La Salle  
School

Mill Brow, Eccleston, St. Helens,  
Merseyside WA10 4QH

Telephone: 01744 20511

Email: [delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk)

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

15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **Parental Update 23**

This week initially looked to be a quieter week, but looks can be deceiving. In the end, it was another very busy period within school. Staff have been marking and processing the mock GCSEs alongside the Year 8 and 10 assessments, there were a range of sporting fixtures and success (see below), we continued our journey with the Anthony Walker Foundation in trying to ensure our community is free from discrimination (see below), held a parental meeting for the Camp International, continued our work with Lancashire Cricket promoting the participation of girls, and yesterday held our Year 11 Mock GCSE results day.

### **Whole School Focus – Racism**

As I mentioned earlier, we have had the Anthony Walker Foundation (AWF) in school this week, continuing our work on addressing racism in school and the wider community. I have always felt a tragic connection to Anthony, his family and the Foundation, as at the time, I had been the Head of Year for one of the boys – Michael Barton - who went on to kill Anthony. Even to this day, I still look back and wonder what more I could have done to educate Michael and prevent such a tragedy.

Those tragic events happened almost 20 years ago and we would hope that society has moved on and grown more tolerant in that time. That is why it is so disheartening to hear the testimony of our minority ethnic students talking about their daily experiences of racism around St Helens and within our own school community.

I realise this is such a difficult subject which provokes challenge and makes people uncomfortable. It would be easy, as a school, to not mention or shine a light in this area. However, if we are to be a change for good for ourselves, our students and the wider community, then it is important that we are open, honest and alert to racism in whatever form it takes.

We have to have hope that education is key to dismantling racism. By working with AWF, our shared aim is to empower and educate young people to challenge hate crimes/incidents and embrace anti-racism through collective learning and thought-provoking discussions. With the aid of positive group participation and engagement with our young people, we can work to create a school and wider community free from hate and prejudice.

As we continue this work, your understanding and support is essential in reinforcing these messages. This is not some 'woke ideas', this is about ensuring that all of our students, regardless of the colour of their skin, feel equally as valued, safe, loved and supported throughout their time at the school

### **School Car Park**

Can I please remind parents that, except for those with specific permission, that you should not use the school car park at the start or end of the day. Earlier this week one of our parents, whose child is in a wheelchair, was unable to park anywhere near the entrance as selfish parents had parked there. Even when seeing her struggling to get the wheelchair down the kerb, none of them thought to move. Please don't be that selfish parent.

## 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 to English Literature, do you know the answers to these questions:

- a) **Who is the current Poet Laureate?**
- b) **What is the name of the fourth book in the Harry Potter series?**
- c) **Which author wrote the Hunger Games series?**
- d) **What is the name of the pig in EB White's Charlotte's web?**
- e) **Which country did Aesop's Fables originate from?**

Answers at the end of the update.

## Magistrates Success

Last Saturday, our students took part in the Mock Magistrates Competition. This involved the students taking on roles of legal teams and witnesses to prosecute and defend. Our students competed against several other schools and won both rounds: prosecution and defence. Our students were brilliant and the lead magistrate commended them for their conduct and public speaking. They even received their certificates from the High Sherriff. The students are now through to the Regional Finals, well done all!

## Sporting Updates

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

- **Year 7 Boys Football:** Year 7s' run in the County Cup continued with Thursday night's victory against a tough Rainhill side. Improvement was called for at half time and a great Lasallian response ensued. A penalty save from Feeney secured victory in the shootout. MOM: Thomas and Ward.
- **Year 10 Rugby:** well done to our Year 10 boys' rugby team who competed in the CVL tournament this week. Some great attitudes and performances on show as always.
- **U13 Girls Football:** Our girls continued a great run in the national cup with a fantastic 4-3 victory over West Kirby Grammar School for Girls. Well done to all girls involved for a great performance in a tight affair. POM: Nightingale.
- **Year 8 Boys Football:** Both our Year 8 boys' football teams represented the school on Tuesday in the CVL friendly festival at Sutton. It has been great to see so many boys playing and training, with their semi-final cup game coming up.

## 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: Dylan Cross
- Top Star point winner: Maisie Leigh
- £10 voucher: Scott Grimes

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> March:

- DLS Attendance: **91.8% (down -0.2)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.1% (no change)**
- Difference: **+0.7% above the national (down -0.2)**

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

Tue 19<sup>th</sup>: Year 10 Engineering Visit

Wed 20<sup>th</sup>: Year 7 Reward trip (part 2)

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>: Mount Carmel House Mass

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

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

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

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

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 in order from smallest to largest:

- a) Who is the current Poet Laureate? **Simon Armitage**
- b) What is the name of the fourth book in the Harry Potter series? **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**
- c) Which author wrote the Hunger Games series? **Suzanne Collins**
- d) What is the name of the pig in EB White's Charlotte's web? **Wilbur**
- e) Which country did Aesop's Fables originate from? **Greece**

### And finally . . . Money, Money, Money

As I mentioned last week, I attended the ASCL Conference on Friday and Saturday, which was excellent as always, with particular highlights being James Kerr, who worked extensively with the All Blacks, and his talk on leadership, Marcus Wareing talking about the power of key people in young people's lives and, of course, the current and possible future Secretaries of State from all parties and the new Head of Ofsted.

As the conference was in Liverpool this year, I decided to stay over on the Friday night (I paid not the school before anyone asks!) and invited Mrs R to stay, after all it is soon her birthday and it was Mothering Sunday weekend – so what a treat for her!

We met up with headteacher colleagues from across the North West to share our stories and gossip over drinks and an evening meal. All very enjoyable. However, the real treat for Mrs R was that I had secured her a pass for day 2 of the conference, courtesy of a local headteacher who couldn't stay.

Mrs R was panicking that someone would recognise that she wasn't the person named on the badge, but that wasn't an issue getting in, though one person stopped to ask how the new whiteboards were getting on that he had fitted in that school over the summer. She just smiled and said "Yes great thanks!"

Once in, we visited the exhibitor stalls – this was a huge hall full of displays and presentations from a range of educational companies, all providing freebies, in turn for you giving them your school details to chase up later with a sales pitch. I usually try to avoid this, but Mrs R was in full primary teacher mode, recognising the value of free pens, and visited every stall, listening earnestly to each of them and showing her badge in order to get whatever goodies they had going.

By the end of Saturday, a very happy Mrs R left the conference with several bags laden with gifts including two bottles of wine, a bottle of gin, stress balls, a torch, a tape measure, triangular highlighter, notepads, diaries, dozens of pens and an ADHD foundation fidget toy. Apologies for this sounding like the end of the Generation Game, we are only missing a teddy bear, a hostess trolley and a canteen of cutlery!

I just worry for my headteacher colleague whose badge she used, as to the flood of companies that will have swamped her school's switchboard that Monday morning!

Have a good weekend,

**Andrew Rannard**

Headteacher

# Student Rewards

This week's Lasallian Star Awards go to:

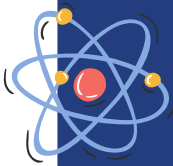
Form Class	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
J	Nathan Barrow	Laila Turner	Kate Finnigan	Emily MacNeill	Sophie Kavanagh
O	Lucas Mark	Liberty Heyes-Jump	Bethany Kay	Aleisha Rose Hollier	Lana Edwards
H	Kian Power	Gaye Gordon	Tilly Barrow	Harry Quantrill Anders	Poppy Egan
N	Dona Biju	Lola Roberts	Adam Heaton	Anna Farr	Bobby Shackleton
B	Ava Wall	Pearl O'Toole	Billy Gill-Atherton	Isaac Mower	Daragh Lyle
D		Ethan McCabe	Jack O'Brien	Mat Peers	Leighton Round
L	Will Vose	Alfie Heaton	Bianca-Maria Telisca	Aiden Manderacas	Ethan Jones
S		Lucy Balmer	Sam Lomax	Zach Bruen	Janie Ward
Engagement		Phoebe Weldon	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



British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that will place between 8 - 17 March 2024! There are lots of events happening, you can check them out here.



While there are well-documented challenges with diversity in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM), the people and roles that make up this varied sector are more diverse than the all-too-well-known societal stereotype of lab coats, goggles, and conical flask might suggest. Smashing Stereotypes consists of a collection of stories from individuals and teams that we hope will spark a change in perceptions of people and careers in STEM. Read them here.



The British Science Week 2024 poster competition is open now! The theme this year is 'Time', – there are loads of STEM topics were explored! Students could create a poster showing how a certain type of technology has changed over time, or even the advancement of time-telling technology itself. Budding poster makers could also go futuristic show us how they think the world might look in years to come, or perhaps look at nature – lifecycles, lifespans, evolution and hibernation – nature is full of timely topics. Read more and submit your entry by 28th March.



If you are a budding scientist, here is your opportunity to make a real difference to a current biological record. The 300-year-old national wildlife record needs British public to help scientists track spring across the UK. Records date back to 1736 and will help us identify winners and losers in wildlife populations. Read more about how you can help and get involved here.

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 Herbalist.

They take a holistic approach to illness, treating the underlying cause of disease rather than just the symptoms. They are able to prescribe herbal remedies, many patients are referred to a herbalist by their GP.

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


According to the annual BBC Bitesize Careers survey, when asked which company or organisation teenagers could choose if they could work anywhere in the world, the NHS was the number one choice, ranking ahead of Apple in second, Google in third and NASA in fourth place.

Source


# CAREERS NEWSLETTER




## OPPORTUNITIES




Engaging, consumable content is the name of the game these days. Whether it takes the form of a fancy hardback or an accessible audiobook, the scope of opportunity in publishing is vast and extends *far beyond* what many people presume. Sound intriguing? Want to learn about the business of publishing from an industry leader? Hachette UK is here to help you take your first steps into the publishing world. [Check out their work experience opportunity here.](#)



“We’re excited to announce our Environmental Practitioner Degree apprenticeships are open for applications. If you’re part of the Environment Agency (EA), you’re part of the solution. Working with us means protecting and improving the environment for generations to come, tackling issues of national importance across a huge variety of disciplines and professions. We’re based in over 14 areas across England. Find out more about what it’s like to work in the Environment Agency by [learning about one of our former apprentices.](#)” You can [read more and apply here.](#)



UK University Search are excited to be collaborating with the Russell Group once again to bring you our popular, informative and inspiring webinars that cover a range of key topics. [Taking place from the 30th April to the 2nd May](#), they have five 90-minute sessions each featuring five or six expert panellists who will offer clear, impartial guidance for students looking at taking the next step in their educational journey. We would highly recommend this event to any students considering applying to a [Russell Group university](#) in the future.



[On-Demand Class Chats](#) with Amazon are immersive career experiences - designed to give the chance to try different activities connected to various careers. You’ll gain an insight into the role and what opportunities exist before getting hands-on and trying out an activity for yourself!

## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

“If you are looking for an apprenticeship, you won’t find anywhere quite like the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) to begin your career. We work with incredibly advanced technologies and equipment on some of the most exciting research, engineering and computing projects around.”  
You can read more about their careers [here.](#)

## UNI SPOTLIGHT

“The University of Reading has been at the forefront of UK higher education for nearly a century. Over the decades we have become innovators and pioneers, pushing academic boundaries and leading social change. We strive to create a stronger, University, building on our past to create an exceptional future.”  
You can read more about the University of Reading’s courses [here.](#)

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