



De La Salle
School

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19th April 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 25

A warm welcome back after the Easter holidays, which I hope you and your family were able to enjoy. The summer term is always a busy but enjoyable time in school as the days get lighter and longer, our Year 11s begin their GCSEs, our Year 9 options are completed and we start to get to know our new intake for next year.

I am sorry to say that Mrs Melia (IT/Head of Year 11) will be leaving us on 30th April but delighted that she has gained promotion at another school. Mrs Melia has been with us for over 19 years and will be greatly missed. Meanwhile, the start of this term also sees us welcome some new staff.

These include:

- Mrs Gregory into English
- Ms Newton into Art
- Mrs Croughan as a cover supervisor

We hope they settle well in to the school and wish them good fortune in their time with us.

Whole School Focus – Governors

It has been a while since I updated you on the work of our governing body so I think to start, it is worth reminding you that the governors are the people who are responsible for the high-level oversight and accountability of the school. In turn they hold myself and other school leaders to account. Governors are all volunteers and give their time freely for the benefit of the school.

Our school has 12 Governors made up of:

- 7 Foundation Governors (appointed by the De La Salle Brothers)
- 2 Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governors
- 1 Staff Governor
- Me, as Headteacher

In addition, the school has associate governors who, though not full governors, are able to provide specific skills or experience to enhance the capability of the governor body, for example in finance.

The governors do their work in several ways:

- Full Governor Meetings 1 per term
- Committee Meetings (1 meeting per committee per term)
 - o Quality of Education
 - o Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development
 - o Finance and Premises
 - o Personnel
 - o Search Committee (this is a group of Governors who oversee the work and running of the wider governor body)
- Standards Committee (1 per term): this is new committee introduced this year which all governors can attend and focuses specifically on school standards and leadership

- Link Governors: these are governors who carry out individual visits to the school to focus upon specific areas ie Chaplaincy, Safeguarding, Careers etc

Recently, there have been some changes to our governors as, just after Christmas, our long-standing Chair of Governors, Teresa Sims stepped down as Chair for health reasons, though still remains a governor.

In her place, the governors elected Sam Murray as our Chair of Governors. Sam has kindly agreed to fulfil this role for the rest of the academic year, for which we are really grateful.

When schools academise, they are no longer required to have a local governing body. Looking ahead to our upcoming academisation, our MAT (Laetare Catholic MAT) has been clear that they believe strongly in the importance and value of a local governing body, so we are pleased that our local governors will continue in their roles.

Detentions/Behaviour Pilot (Years 8 and 10)

The first half term shows that the Year 10 behaviour pilot has had a positive effect on student behaviour, which is great news. This has now been rolled out to Year 8 as well. I explained in [Parental Update 18](#) about how the C-System works and have made minor amendments along the way.

From Monday, students within the pilot (Years 8 and 10) who reach a C3 or C4 (this is when they have been removed from class), will have a 20-minute detention after school that day. This is based upon our learning from other schools about the importance of a speedy sanction following poor behaviour. This will only apply to a very small number of students, but your support with this is greatly appreciated.

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 art. Do you know which artists created each of the following?

- a) **The Last Supper**
- b) **Girl with the Pearl Earring**
- c) **The Kiss**
- d) **The Night Watch**
- e) **Starry Night**

Answers at the end of the update.

Lenten Liturgies

On the last day, we held our Lenten Liturgies. This was a slightly shorter version of the community service we ran earlier in the week, to many of our parents and families. These services had been devised, written created and performed by our own students and were a meaningful and powerful depiction of the importance and relevance of Lent and the Easter story.

Lent Walk

The last day of term saw all the school take part in our Lenten Walk. Each year group came down and completed a walking circuit for which they could raise sponsorship money towards our Lenten charities.

The weather wasn't great but that didn't stop the students taking part, nor did it stop the ice cream vans who did great business serving an eager group of students!

Parent Forum

A big thank you to those parents who have put their names forward for the parental forum. It was great to see such a positive response and I look forward to engaging with them in the coming

weeks and months. I am just in the process of having all their details set up so that we can operate within the TEAMS structure.

Student rewards

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: James Howard
- Top Star point winner: Noah Ryan
- £10 voucher: David Haddock
- Special recognition: April Jones (Year 8): for her extensive sporting achievements including – representing the district, playing for Liverpool FC and Blackburn Rovers FC, currently having trials with Manchester United FC in football. In addition, she also plays for Lancashire ladies in cricket.

Attendance

The end of term saw us slowly start to recover from the illness that had gone around so rapidly within school. 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 15th March:

- DLS Attendance: **91.4% (down -0.2)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.0% (down -0.1)**
- Difference: **+0.4% above the national (down -0.1)**

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

Mon 15th – Fri 26th: Year 7 and 9 Assessments

Mon 22nd and Tue 23rd: Year 11 Art and Year 10 Photography Exam

Wed 24th: Campion House Mass (9am)

Wed 24th: Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thu 25th: Year 10 Geography Fieldwork Trip (93 students)

Sat 27th: GCSE Drama Students in School

Mon 29th – Fri 3rd: Construction Simulator on site

Tue 30th: GCSE PE Moderation

Tue 30th: Year 7 Careers event (morning)

Beat the Students Answers

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

- a) The Last Supper...Leonardo da Vinci**
- b) Girl with the Pearl Earring....Vermeer**
- c) The Kiss.....Gustav Klimt**
- d) The Night Watch... Rembrandt**
- e) Starry Night...Van Gogh**
- f)**

And finally...Pourquoi?

The Easter break saw Mrs R and I taking my parents and her mum and partner over to France, to spend a week in our friends' holiday home, called La Forge, somewhere Mrs R and I have been many times, but was new to the parents. Now I realise that sounds very posh and middle class, but the reality is very different. The house is a very small converted blacksmith's forge, in the middle of nowhere, and I mean nowhere!

Nevertheless, when we booked things, back at the start of a cold winter, it seemed a wonderful idea to take both sets of parents for a lovely rural French break – do some French history, enjoy the food and drink and just switch off, in the peace and quiet of La Forge – with just the half hourly chime of the nearby church bells to be heard.

What we hadn't factored in, however, was that my mum appeared to be on a sponsored talk and question-a-thon. During the 5-hour drive, I put it down to excitement and nerves at the week ahead. Even on the ferry and further 3 hours of French travel, could be excused.

Now I am used to lots of questions, not only in work but also with my eldest son who would question things constantly about the world around him. What was different, however, was the unanswerable nature of the questions: on the drive down- *Will the services be busy when we get there?* Waiting to board the ferry – *why has that car got a scratch down the side?* In the Hypermarket about a random bottle of wine – *is that a nice wine? Will your sister like that wine?*

The breaking point of it all, however, was when we were wine shopping in the Hyper U. As the only French speaker (speaker is doing a lot of heavy lifting there) I was called on to ask any questions etc. My mum, surprise surprise, had some questions so I had called over one of the store staff, who said she would get her wine specialist colleague to help. When he came over, clearly unhappy to have been dragged away from whatever wine-based activity he had been doing, my mum handed me a bottle of wine and asked me to ask him if it was dry or sweet. Without looking at the wine I drew on my Duolingo 345-day streak to ask him:

“Pardon monsieur, ce vin est-il brut ou doux?”

The store assistant just looked at me, looked at the bottle and then back at me and with a disgusted gallic shake of the head said *“C'est vin rouge”* and walked off. For clarity, it is only really white wine that is dry/sweet and this was a bottle of red wine, which I hadn't noticed. Mum asked what did he say? I simply handed her the bottle back sighing *“Mon Dieu!”*

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	Reece Potter	Lindon Hillier	Katie Finnigan	Elyssa Thornley	Riley Murphy
O	Isobel Jones	Harry weaver	Laila Rigby	Ruby Massam	Jacob Westhead
H	Sam Slater	Leah Potter	Alistair O'Connor	George Ryan	Ian Edgerton / Matthew Allen
N	Kieran Dugdale	Callum Holmes	Marth Davies	Martha Bain	Anya Wilding
B	Daniel Bate	Jack Haddock	Ellis Butler	Charlotte Riley	Megan Foster
D	Remy Naylor	Joshua Bailey	Joshua Gee	Freya Edwards	Leighton Round
L	Seb Bleakley	Bryn Edwards	Katie Wooton	Sophie Valentine	Amelia Kain
S	Joshua Burke	Maisie Woodyer-Smith	David Haddock	Fletcher Fenlon	James Geraghty
Engagement	All for completing their college work	Lola Woods	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




Are you interested in working in the Film Industry? This session equips you with all the information you need. The session will challenge common myths about the sector and showcase the variety of roles that are within your reach. You'll come away with up-to-date information to help plan a career in the screen industries.



Ever considered a career in property or simply want to hear from industry experts on how you can stand out from the crowd? Join the conversation to gain exclusive insights into the diverse range of roles available and benefit from expert guidance on how to create a winning CV and cover letter. Register here.



International Competition; "How does war effect people's lives?" - "We want to learn from you about the individuals and communities affected by war. What's a story that needs to be told? Is there a certain person that has inspired you? What are some of the impacts of war that people might not consider? Share your thoughts using poetry, art, speech and song! You can enter each category once!" Read more here and enter by 24th May 2024.



Embark on a transformative journey with Siemens Technology Virtual Work Experience. Discover the cutting-edge world of innovation led by industry-leading engineers at Siemens. Gain insights into digitalisation, climate action, smart infrastructure, and diversity & inclusion. Engage with Siemens experts, explore diverse roles, and learn how to launch your career through apprenticeships, internships, and graduate schemes. Your opportunity to shape the future of technology awaits - join Siemens and be a catalyst for positive change in the world of engineering and technology. Read more and apply here.

JOB OF THE WEEK



This week's video focuses on the job role of a Naval Architect.

They are responsible for the design, classification, survey, construction, and/or repair of ships, boats, other marine vessels, and offshore structures, both commercial and military.

Watch the video to learn more.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The UK AI market is worth more than £16.8 billion, according to the US International Trade Administration, and is expected to grow to £801.6 billion by 2035.

The number of UK AI companies has increased by over 600% over the last 10 years.

[Read more](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES

Getting into medical school in the UK is hard because it's an incredibly competitive process. There are a limited number of spaces available at each medical school, and a high number of applicants each year. If you are considering applying to study Medicine in the future, we would recommend looking at the [Medic Mentor website](#) which includes resources and events split into 5 steps:

- Step 1: Research becoming a Doctor
- Step 2: Speak to Doctors
- Step 3: Participate in Medical Extracurricular activities
- Step 4: Learn about the Medicine Application Process
- Step 5: Seek Mentoring

UCAS have a range of resources to help you explore your Higher Education options, via both university and degree apprenticeships. Here's some of the features that you may find useful:

- [Industry Guides](#) - These take a deep dive into different industries to explore job roles, average salaries, pros/cons & FAQs.
- [Subject Guides](#) - These guides tell you where the subject could take your career, the number of vacancies available, entry requirements and what universities and employers are looking for when it comes to previous subjects.
- [Career Quiz](#) - By answering a series of questions, you will be matched to jobs and see what courses previous students studied to get there.
- [Unibuddy](#) - You can speak with current students studying subjects that interest you to find out more about their experience.
- [Apprenticeship Smart Alerts](#) - Get tailored opportunities direct to your inbox, based on your preferences. Just create a UCAS account, fill out a quick form, and begin your apprenticeship journey!
- [Student events](#) - At a UCAS event, you can talk to unis, colleges, employers and apprenticeship providers to compare all your options side-by-side.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"Travis Perkins teams operate at the heart of the construction industry, trusted by the customers and suppliers who build and maintain the places that are important to millions of people. We're proud of where we have come from but it's where we go next that counts. Are you about to step onto the career ladder? We can help you pave the way into a great career."

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Imperial is a world-leading university for science, technology, engineering, medicine and business (STEMB). Imperial harnesses the power of science, engineering, medicine and business to pursue discoveries with world-changing impact. Our students aren't just witness to this, they're working alongside us."

You can read more about Imperial College London's courses [here](#).

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