



De La Salle  
School

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20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Parental Update 3

The weather has been kind this week, as we held our first Parental Information Evening last night for Year 8 parents, we had a visit from our School Improvement Partner (see later), we started our PSHCE programme of lessons (which run on a rota once per week across the year), our Year 7s turned out en masse for their first football practice and we end the week today with the first of our middle leader conferences and our Day of Prayer for Global Peace.

Looking ahead to next week, it is our first Formation Week (see later), we have the photographer in school for prospectus photos (note to self-get my hair done), we begin our class masses at St Teresa's Church, we have our first Full Governors meeting, St Helens College are in to see Year 11, our Year 10s have a football match, we have a Shakespeare performance and workshop and finish the week with our second middle leader conference.

### Whole School Focus – Sanctions (the C-System)

Last week I explained the developments we are making to our student reward systems, and hope that parents are starting to see this in action. I also promised to do a quick recap, this week, about the school's behaviour and sanction system, the C-System. I would also point out that behaviour around the school and in lessons is good, with the vast majority of students doing exactly as they should. However, we were keen to make it even better.

Last year we trialled and then introduced a new way of dealing with behaviour in the classroom. These pilots proved very successful in improving classroom behaviour and helping ensure that lessons and teaching could take place in a quiet, calm and orderly classroom.

The system we use is the C1, C2, C3 and C4 system, used across many schools. In summary this means:

- C1 – is an initial warning for example for talking, not completing a task etc (student's name is recorded on the board) but no further action
- C2 – where poor behaviour persists or is repeated. Teachers will record this at the end of the lesson and it will incur a behaviour point
- C3 – where further poor behaviour continues. Student is sent to internal remove (this is a planned space in another classroom). The teacher records this, students receive 2 behaviour points and the subject teacher will contact home.
- C4 – where poor behaviour is displayed whilst in internal remove. In this instance, the students will be removed from the class and placed in our Pastoral Support Unit for the rest of the day, including missing break and lunch (or if during lesson 5 then remaining for 20 mins after school). They will also receive 4 behaviour points and a middle leader from the department will contact home
- C5 or Red card: this is the same as a C4 but is for one-off serious unacceptable behaviour

The feedback and data from last year showed that the vast majority of students never reach C1, only a few reach C2, and fewer still C3 or beyond.

## **ASH Awards**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the borough's first ever St Helens Secondary Schools All Stars Awards, founded by the St Helens Association of Secondary Headteachers (ASH). These awards look to celebrate the exemplary work of young people across the ten local secondary schools.

Each school has nominated pupils across ten categories and the winners will be revealed at a special ceremony on Thursday, 10th October at St Helens Rugby League Stadium. The event looks set to be a truly special evening which will uplift and inspire, celebrating the tremendous work of our high school students, acknowledging their dedication, commitment and hard work.

The awards will be presented by Beri Salihi, St.Helens Women Rugby League Player, in the following categories:

- Academic grit and determination award
- Student leader of the year
- Sportsperson of the year
- Outstanding perseverance and resilience
- Outstanding contribution to the school community
- Outstanding contribution to the St Helens community
- Creative and Performing Arts student of the year
- Kind and caring student of the year
- Environmental student of the year
- Young carer of the year

We are delighted that we have had 3 of our students – Heleina Ballesteros, Lucy Evans and Harry Carville-Ambrose - shortlisted for awards. We wish them good luck on the night.

## **School Improvement Partner (SIP)**

Like the vast majority of schools, we engage a SIP to provide an external view on our performance and the impact of our improvement work. Our current SIP is Dr Antony Edkins, who is a former headteacher and serving Ofsted inspector. Dr Antony works with a number of schools across the Archdiocese.

Dr Antony provides both challenge and support to myself and the senior and middle leaders across the school. Yesterday's visit focused upon him working with middle leaders on upcoming Ofsted changes, followed by sessions with myself and the other senior leaders around our summer results and plans for the year ahead. I am pleased to say he was very happy with the ongoing improvement work we are doing and able to offer quality comment and support.

## **Formation Week**

We have introduced formation weeks each term to provide us with space and time as a school community to reconnect with our faith, Lasallian identity and mission. For those unaware, formation is not about indoctrination of some sort but rather developing staff and student self-awareness, knowledge and understanding of our spiritual identity, our values and the part they play in our school community.

## **School Photographer**

On Monday, we have a photographer in school who will be taking photographs for our prospectus, website and other marketing materials. He will be calling into some classes as well as capturing our facilities inside and outside. We collect photo consent when your child starts with us, so there is nothing else that you need to do. It will be great to see all students in full uniform, looking as smart as they always do!

## **Information Evenings (reminder)**

These are evenings where we provide information and guidance to parents on how best to support your child. We have run these for two years now and had very positive feedback from parents

(88% of parents said they felt more confident supporting their child with revision and 87% that they had a better understanding of what to do to help support their child).

The evenings will take place at the following times:

- ~~19th September – Year 8 (Year 9 parents also invited but this will be a repeat of the information you had last year) 6pm – 7.30pm~~ Information from the evening is currently being uploaded to the website.
- **15th October – Year 7** (6 – 7.30pm)
- **16th October – Year 10** (5.30 – 7.30pm)
- **Year 11** meeting will take place in November (date tbc)

### **Water Bottles (reminder)**

It is great to see so many students now coming into school with refillable water bottles. Can I ask, if your child doesn't have one, to provide them with one and remind them to bring it in every day. Students can also buy discounted DLS water bottles at Student Services for £1 – with free labelling. Students can currently buy flavoured carton drinks, though these are proving problematic with the litter they create – we are reviewing whether to continue selling these.

### **Year 7 Retreats and Welcome Mass (reminder)**

Our Year 7 students will soon be having their retreats. The theme: Touching Hearts - helps students to understand that at the core of our mission here at De La Salle we are each called to reach out and create heart to heart connections with those in our community. These will be taking place on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th October for the JOHN forms, and Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th October for the BDLs forms.

At the end of that week on Friday 11th October we will be having a Year 7 Welcome Mass at 2pm in Main Hall, parents are welcome to join us - arriving via the Mill Brow gate and the De La Salle grey gate on the right (please be aware we have very limited parking in the school). We are looking for a parent to read a bidding prayer if anybody is interested too! Let Sam, our chaplain know if you want to volunteer: [CantillonS@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:CantillonS@delasalleschool.org.uk)

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

#### **September:**

- Mon 23rd: Fri 27th: Formation Week
- Wed 25th: Full Governors Meeting (5pm)

#### **October:**

- Wed 2nd: Open Evening (school closes at 12.10pm)
- Fri 4th: Lasallian Day of Prayer
- Mon 7th – Thu 10th: Year 7 Retreats
- Mon 7th – Thu 3rd: 1719 Society Retreat to Rome
- Fri 11th: Year 7 welcome Mass (2pm)
- Tue 15th: Year 7 Information Evening for parents (6pm – 7.30pm)
- Wed 16th: Year 10 Information Evening for Parents (5.30pm – 7.30pm)
- Thu 17th – Sun 20th: Yr 11 retreat to Kintbury (St Cassian's 50th Anniversary)
- Mon 21st – Fri 25th: Formation Week
- Tue 22nd: Flu Vaccinations – all year groups (for those with consent)
- Thu 24th: Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Fri 25th – Sun 27th: Year 11 DofE Expedition
- Fri 25th: Finish for half term

#### **Half Term**

### **And finally...Foraging**

I am convinced that there isn't an event that takes place in the Liverpool City Region that Mrs R doesn't know about. She is one of those people that scours the 'what's on' social media streams to find 'wonderful' events for us to do as a couple, family or with friends. This has led to us, amongst

other things, watching light shows, touring tunnels and sitting on beanbags listening to Vivaldi's Four Seasons in St George's Hall

This explains why, last Sunday morning, rather than enjoying a coffee sat reading the Sunday papers in the warm, I was stood in Calderstones Park in the cold rain on a foraging course. Over the next two hours, as my whole body became saturated, I had paid £75 for Mrs R, my son Charlie and I to be shown around the park identifying various plants, fruits and fungi along with 15 other ~~mugs~~ people.

We learnt about water mint herbs, turkey tail, artist conk and jelly ear mushrooms, sweet chestnuts, nettle seeds and beech tree nuts, all of which, I recall, she said were vaguely edible alongside warnings of similar things which were highly poisonous. Now I can be an adventurous chap but I think I will put my faith in the supermarket fruit and veg section rather than play Russian Roulette over whether that mushroom was a Hen of the Woods (edible) or a Death Cap (you guessed it – poisonous).

The one really interesting piece of information was about the yew tree we found, this turns out to be very poisonous to humans, in fact just 5 of the berries would be enough to see someone off. This might prove useful information if Mrs R keeps on booking these events!

Have a good weekend.

**Andrew Rannard**  
Headteacher

# 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

26th September is **European Day of Languages**. The celebration aims to promote awareness among the general public of the importance of language learning and protecting the linguistic heritage. Here are some things you can do to learn more about languages..



- You can use [this resource](#) to learn 20 things you may not know about the World of Languages.
- You can view [this webpage](#) to see what online events are being run in celebration of European Day of Languages.
- You can read [this blog](#) to learn more about where studying languages could take your career.
- You can check out the [UCAS Subject Guide](#) to understand more about pathways into a languages related career.

The **Get into Medicine Conference** takes place on 21st September 2024 and is a complete guide to the medical application journey. Students get essential insights into the medical UCAS application process (such as the NEW personal statement structure), connect with professionals, fellow students, and gain a deeper understanding of a future career in medicine. It discusses the new personal statement style that will be used from September 2026.



Talking of personal statements, from 23rd-29th September, UCAS are running their **Personal Statement Week**. They will be covering lots of topics from how to use AI to support your writing to translating your skills to include them in your application. You can [read more and sign up here](#).



Changes?! What changes?! **Don't worry if you're not up to speed on Personal Statement changes**. You will be guided through everything you need to know when the time is right. For now, here's an [info poster](#)

## JOB OF THE WEEK



[Tour Guide](#)

Tour guides may lead groups or individuals through historical sites, museums, geographic destinations and on outdoor excursions. Knowing multiple languages helps you to be able to aid a diverse range of tourists from varying countries.

Watch the video to learn more about working hours, salary and qualifications needed.

## LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Students taking up A level humanities & arts subjects has declined dramatically.

For example, research has showed that while 56% of AS or A-level students studied a humanities subject in 2015/16, only 38% studied one in 2021/22.

[Source](#)

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

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER



## OPPORTUNITIES



Play Your Way Into Production is a game designed to break down barriers to getting into the screen industry. Playing the game gives you an understanding of the tasks and duties of certain job roles and develop skills which are traditionally gained through work experience.



Are you ready to unlock your potential? Access **Apprenticeship's new series of webinars** is specifically designed for students and young professionals. They aim to provide you with the insights and guidance you need to excel in today's dynamic industries. Upcoming industries are; September - Accounting, October - Civil Engineering and November - Project Management. [Read more and register here.](#)



The Design Kids have an archive of interviews with many different types of designers from different areas of the world. Not only is it a super informative resource, but also it's designed beautifully... as you would expect from a collective of top-tier designers!



Are you keen to find virtual work experience placements? Springpod is a great resource to find opportunities and they now have a [step by step guide](#) to help you make the most of the website.



Behind every sport and sporting event is a huge range of professionals. Careers in Sport LIVE events provide you with the opportunity to see first-hand the diverse roles and responsibilities working within a professional sports club and their foundation.



The Mindera UK Foundation promotes diversity in tech by offering education, funding, mentorship, and opportunities to underprivileged and underrepresented individuals, helping them pursue meaningful careers in the sector. During [this panel discussion](#), you'll learn more about the tech sector and the endless possibilities out there to discover.

## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"At Global Voices, we understand the crucial role that clear communication plays in successful business operations. As one of the leading interpreting agencies, we offer a comprehensive range of interpretation services designed to meet the diverse needs of businesses and organisations across various industries."

Read more about [Global Voices here.](#)

## UNI SPOTLIGHT

"We are everything a university should be. It's somewhere you can belong, a community to join with a collection of colleges that offer close-knit support and a proud identity. We are consistently ranked in the top 15 in major UK league tables, we're one of the world's top 150 universities in the QES World University Rankings 2024."

Read more about [Lancaster University courses here.](#)

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