



De La Salle
School

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 4

A busy week has seen me out of school for almost half the week at a Catholic Headteacher Spirituality Day in the cathedral yesterday, travelling to St Joseph's in Stoke for our latest Laetare CMAT meeting, and leading sessions at this morning's middle leader conference. I am fortunate to have a strong senior leadership team who run things in my absence, but it is good to be back in school this afternoon.

Meanwhile in school, we held our first Formation Week, with lots of developmental opportunities for staff and students, we hosted the Catholic Headteacher Central Cluster meeting, had our first full governors meeting of the year, had young Oxford student, Iris, deliver an Inspire Me talk to our young geographers, saw staff working with St Josephs on Learning and Teaching and had St Helens College come and speak to our Year 11 students.

Whole School Focus – Form Time Reading

Our Touching Hearts time takes place 8.30am – 9.00am every morning, except the day of that year's Prayer and Liturgy Assembly. Across the rest of the week, students will have 2 lessons on our values from the Touching Hearts Curriculum (which will reduce down to 1 after half term), a session of extended worship and a form class reading session.

Form time reading follows the ERIC principle - Everyone Reads in Class. This does not mean that all children must read aloud - the teacher or a confident and able student should take this role. However, it does mean that all children must engage, listen respectfully and participate in discussions as directed by the form tutor.

The texts are provided to form teachers in the form of a PowerPoint containing all the information needed for that session. Each text will have a key word (word of the week) and this word will be explained at the start of the PowerPoint. Form teachers then take time on this slide and encourage their form to use this word in their written work or in discussion.

Each of the extracts are non-fiction covering topics that students will find interesting and relevant – so far including: Marta Viera da Silva's attempt to gain a gold medal with Brazil women's football team, an article suggesting teenage brains can't tell what's important and what isn't and, this week, on banned books and the issue around why they have been banned.

This is a new approach to extended reading with the aim of engaging students and encouraging more of an interest in reading / the real world around them. We would be keen to hear any feedback - positive or negative - so that extended reading becomes a meaningful and enjoyable form time activity.