



De La Salle
School

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4th October 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 5

A really positive week in school this week, which has really left me feeling proud of our school: staff and students (and parents of course!). We saw our extra-curricular PE offer launched (see later), our Freshers' Fair (see later) and our Open Evening (you guessed it – see later). Alongside we had a visit from Cronton and Riverside College, the training of our Mentors in Violence Prevention and training of our Reading Buddies, and today has been a Lasallian Day of Prayer.

Looking ahead, next week we begin our Year 7 Form Retreats, have two Year 10 Art Fieldwork visits going out, Governors Quality of Education Committee and finish the week with our Year 7 Welcome Mass. Today we also say goodbye to Mrs Leith, our Science Lab Technician: she has been in the school since 2007 but is stepping back from the challenges of her role, for a more gentle life, we thank her and wish her well.

Whole School Focus – Extra Curricular PE Offer

Our PE department, supported by other staff in the school, have now launched the Autumn / Winter Extra-Curricular PE offer for our students. I am really grateful to Mr Metcalf and the team for the time and energy that they have put into creating such a strong offer for our students. Mr Metcalf has managed to secure funding to enable us to procure the necessary external coaches for some of these events, so that there is no charge to our students.

Our sporting extra-curricular offer is really important to the school and the students as two of our Core Values, Challenge and Belong, can be demonstrated through students engaging in one or many of the sporting activities that we have available and the department would love to welcome all students to engage in the activities that will be taking place.

Please note:

- Coached sessions - Basketball; table tennis and Judo are all led by external coaches. School is covering the cost of these specialised coaches. You would have to pay between £5-7 to use these coaches elsewhere but they are free to all students. For these sessions, please sign up at the PE office.
- Basketball, Judo and Dodgeball will start the week beginning **Monday 7th October**.
- The table tennis coached sessions will start on **Monday 14th October**.
- Lunch clubs only require trainers except the gym clubs which require full PE kit.
- Students wishing to attend clubs but not join the team are welcome! So are those wishing to play for school teams.
- There is **no cost** to any of our school clubs.

The schedule of provision can be found on our website at <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/school-life/extra-curricular/>

Parent Forum (Year 7 Parents)

For the benefit of our new Year 7 parents, we have a Parent Forum which has a representation of parents from across the various year groups. So why do we have the forum? In some ways it is easier to say what this group isn't:

- It isn't in place of parent governors
- It isn't the PTFA
- It isn't a place for airing personal issues with the school or about individual students or members of staff
- It isn't a group that will make final decisions on school policy or procedures

However, it is:

- A place to learn about our school community and parental perspectives and views
- An opportunity for school to gain more detailed parental perspectives on specific issues, policies and systems
- An opportunity to gain feedback on the big issues affecting parents
- A place to begin consultation on changes in the future
- Most importantly, to focus on ways to further improve our school

I hope that we will be able to hold one in-person meeting per term, but we also use MS TEAMS for other communication. If you are a new parent of a Year 7 child and would like to be part of the forum, then please contact the school on delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk with Parent Forum in the subject line and the name of your child.

Prayer Cabin

We are delighted that our new prayer cabin is fitted, decorated and ready for students to use. This is a small cabin, which we have installed in the enrichment area garden. It provides a place for our students of all faiths to be able to book and use as a quiet and peaceful prayer space. It is equipped with all the necessary items needed for our various religions within school, to be able to pray. This is obviously alongside our much larger chapel, in the main part of the school, which we also use daily.

Annie

We are pleased to announce that our Christmas Musical Show will be the well-known and much-loved musical – Annie. The show will take place on **Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December** (Starting at 6.30pm). Tickets are available at £5 and £3 for concessions.

The rehearsal schedule for those involved is below:

- Monday lunch – Band
- Tuesday lunch – Singers
- Wednesday after school Band (week A)
- Thursday lunch – full cast
- Thursday after school Band and full cast

I was able to witness some of the numbers as students performed them during the Open Evening, and they are brilliant – well worth coming along to.

Scholastic Book Fair

The English department are excited to welcome the Scholastic Book Fair into school from Tuesday 8th October – Friday 11th October. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to purchase a range of different fiction and non-fiction texts to take home and read for pleasure. Each English class in year 7, 8 and 9 will visit the book fair during an English lesson where they will have the chance to browse the texts available and purchase one (or more!) if they wish to. The fair provides

access to some of the most recent and engaging literature for young people, including graphic novels, short stories and longer texts.

We are a cashless school and, as many of our students now have access to their own banking accounts, payment can be made via a QR code. Children can scan this to access a payment screen where they can enter their payment details. Alternatively, book vouchers can be purchased from Scholastic by clicking on the link here www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers. Alongside a visit to the fair in an English lesson, students will also be able to visit during lunch time and the fair will also be open after school on Tuesday 8th October from 3 – 3.45pm and Friday 11th October from 3 – 3.45pm if students / parents wish to visit.

Temporary Bus Stop Closure – 753/754

We have been informed that for one day (**on 8th October**) road markings are being renewed on Lugsmore Lane so the bus stop at **Lugsmore Lane and West Street** will not be in service. Students will need to use an alternative bus stop on the route. This is a Stagecoach service.

Calling All De La Salle Alumni!

Mrs Smedley, our HAP Co-ordinator, would like to get in contact with past pupils who would be available to come into school to talk about their education and career journey with our current pupils.

Our *Inspire Me* talks are to create opportunities where pupils can endeavour to raise their aspirations by attending these informal but very informative sessions.

Many thanks to Aiden Dillon who spoke to pupils recently about life at Cambridge University and learning languages. Please email if you could support these sessions.

smedleyk@delasalleschool.org.uk

Banned Books Week Competition.

As I mentioned in the last update, over the past week, our younger students have celebrated Banned Books Week. Banned Books Week is an event that is acknowledged around the world and recognises the freedom to read. Year 7 and 8 students had an assembly that explored why books such as *The Witches* by Roald Dahl and the Harry Potter collection by J.K Rowling have been banned and challenged in different parts of the world. Clues to the titles of banned books were hidden around the school, and students were very energetic in their approach to finding these and solving them!

A number of students reviewed banned books they have read and gave their thoughts on whether banning books could ever be considered a positive thing. All entries have been rewarded with achievement points with the following students winning a £5 book voucher to spend at our Scholastic Book Fair next week: Olivia Haggarty, Albie Atherton, Noah Darton, Isabella Davies and Isla De Groot. Well done to all of those who took part!

Open Evening (Wed 2nd Oct)

On Wednesday we held our annual Open Evening and the turnout was exceptional – far more families than we have had since I have been at the school. The feedback from those who attended was extremely positive, in particular praise for the kindness and welcome they received from our staff and our students. A huge thank you to the 100s of students who came back to help and support such a lovely evening. I was very proud of them and our school.

Freshers' Fair

I am just returning from our Freshers' Fair and once again feel so energised and inspired by the excitement from our Year 7 and Year 8 students as they go around speaking to staff and students

who run all the different activities and clubs that take place during and after the school day. This is the magic that makes schools a fun and enjoyable experience. I hope to publish the finalised schedule of clubs and activities soon.

Drinks at lunchtime, Suspension of Carton Drinks

As I mentioned last week, we had a temporary ban on carton drinks in school. The impact of this was actually quite surprising – the students were noticeably quieter and calmer, and the litter around school was greatly improved, though the caterers weren't too happy about the £500 drop of sales on each day. It is also great to see so the majority of students now using refillable water bottles. We are exploring replacing the tetra packs of these drinks with a recyclable canned version.

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. Students can wear their own clothes for the retreat.

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

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

Mon 7th – Thu 10th: Year 7 Retreats

Tue 8th: Yr 10 Art Fieldwork Trip 1 (all day)

Wed 9th; Yr 10 Art Fieldwork Trip 2 (all day)

Wed 9th: Governors' Quality of Education Committee (5pm)

Fri 11th: Year 7 Welcome Mass (2pm)

Tue 15th: Year 7 Information Evening for parents (6pm – 7.30pm)

Wed 16th: Carmel College in to see Year 11

Wed 16th: Year 10 Information Evening for Parents (5.30pm – 7.30pm)

Thu 17th – Sun 20th: 1719 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)

Wed 23rd: Year 11 Reward Trip

Wed 23rd: Governors' Personnel Committee

Thu 24th: Year 11 Parents' Evening

Fri 25th – Sun 27th: Year 11 DofE Expedition

Fri 25th: Finish for half term

Half Term

And finally...Let's Go Fly a Kite

One of the things that regularly bugs me, is the state of the bridge across the central quad courtyard. Despite the valiant efforts of our site staff, it is covered in huge amounts of bird muck from what have become our resident legions of seagulls, magpies and pigeons. It is with almost Douglas Bader levels of bombing accuracy that they are able to hit the outside of the glass (you won't get this sort of content in the Tower College newsletter!).

It is always a source of embarrassment with the mess they make whenever we have people coming around school. That was until Mr Bacon, our site manager, had his breakfast on a hotel

balcony in Hull. Ever on duty, it was there that he looked out over a large Tesco Superstore, noticing how bird and bird muck free it was. As his gaze rose, he saw it was down to what looked like a large kite in the style of a bird of prey.

Now we have weighed up different options – renting a falcon or kestrel but the cost is prohibitive, the outcome for the other birds isn't great and an hour or two after it has gone, they would resume their bombing raids. Likewise, at my previous school, we used a large model of an owl – not sure what breed of owl, but if 'angry owl' was a breed, it would be that. It seemed to work at first but within a week, those pesky birds were using it as a perch.

So, I wasn't filled with hope when we had the bird kite arrive and get set up by the site team on the roof above the bridge, but very surprisingly it has worked. Not a single bird to be seen in the courtyard at all. That was until early Tuesday morning when I was meeting with Mr Bacon in my office and we were talking about how good the kite had been only for him to spot a magpie 'giving it large' as the students might say, on the handrail of the bridge. My heart sank thinking the fecal dambusters would soon be back. Fortunately, it was just the recent strong winds had snapped the connecting cord, our kestrel kite was found in a nearby tree, reconnected and normal service resumed.

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

The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1999 that **World Space Week will be held each year from October 4th-10th**. World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition.

You can view all of the World Space Week events here. You can learn about different people working in the Space industry in these interviews. You can find more information and events by searching #WSW2024 on social media.

If you're considering a career in Space, the following employer opportunities may be of interest to you now or in the future...



The Orbex Internship Programme provides students at different points in their higher education journey the unique opportunity to work across a range of disciplines. The paid placements are expected to last 10 months with the potential opportunity to join Orbex in a permanent role in the future.



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! We'll go into detail about Space Exploration and how new initiatives help us here on Earth.



As a global company of over 8,000 dedicated people providing technological and scientific expertise, QinetiQ are excited to recruit the most talented and enthusiastic young people to become key parts of our business. Our Early Careers programmes give you the opportunity to be at the heart of impactful projects.



You're never too young to be part of European Space Agency! Check out the ESA Academy page for students.

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

JOB OF THE WEEK



Aerospace Engineer

They design, develop, and test aerospace technology, such as aircraft, spacecraft, drones, rockets, missiles, and satellites. They work in a growing field that covers a broad range of disciplines, including aeronautical and astronautical engineering. Watch the video to learn more about working hours, salary and qualifications needed.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

From the Space Organisations reporting a skills gap in their current workforce, **72% have a gap in software & data skills**, significantly higher than any other technical area. This is partly driven by a need for skills in AI & machine learning (41%) and data analysis & modelling (36%).

Source

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



[StudentStream](#) brings together video content featuring vital advice, help and expert knowledge from universities and colleges across the UK. Simply use the search function in the top right of the homepage to find the videos that are suitable for you, or select Pre Uni, At Uni, or Post Uni to find a number of different categories to help inform, motivate and inspire you.



[UK University Search](#) have a range of events across the UK and online which aim to connect you with universities, employers and helpful organisations to plan your future. At each of their events, they have a traditional careers fair as well as workshops running throughout the day on a range of helpful topics.



Another place to find upcoming careers fairs and events is the [UCAS events page](#). At a UCAS event, you can talk to unis, colleges, employers and apprenticeship providers to compare all your options side-by-side.



Are you thinking of applying to Oxbridge or a competitive Russell Group course? If so, be prepared to sit an admissions test as part of the application process! [This article from the BetterUniChoices](#) gives a helpful overview and advice regarding Admissions Tests; it covers the universities and courses that require testing and of what the tests consist, including UCAT (Medicine), LNAT (Law), TMUA (Maths) and ESAT (Engineering and Science).



Springpod have launched new Subject Spotlights and 'Try before you Apply' events which aim to help you pick what you want to study at university. Here is an [introductory presentation](#) to help you understand the benefits. You can access them through the UCAS website or Springpod website. If you have no idea what Springpod is, this [step by step guide](#) will help.



Did you know there are loads of careers out there centred around video games? Dive into the world of Competitive Gaming (Esports), during an [insightful Industry Spotlight with British Esports Community Manager, Emma "Emzii" Rose](#).

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"Ignite your career journey with an unforgettable experience at Airbus! We believe that learning happens with hands-on experience, and guidance from the industry's best. That's why we have built a series of programmes for students leaving school, taking time out to gain some industry experience, or graduating from university!"
Read more about [Airbus careers](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Studying at Bath means joining our multicultural community on a vibrant, friendly campus in a historic city. We're a university that's well placed to help you succeed, wherever you're from. We're ranked highly for overall performance, student satisfaction, and graduate employment." Read more about [The University of Bath Courses here](#).

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