



De La Salle
School

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11th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 6

A week of reflection and connection to the Lasallian family for our Year 7 students who have had their retreats all week which will culminate in this afternoon's Welcome Mass. Elsewhere, it was great to be a part of the ASH All Star Awards last night – celebrating the successes of the young people in our secondary schools. We also had the Scholastic Book Fair in school which has proved very popular, our wave of extracurricular clubs and events have started, we had two Year 10 art trips to Liverpool and the Governors Quality of Education Committee met.

Looking ahead to next week, it is a busy one with Year 7 and then Year 10 Parental Information Evenings, our Pastoral Parents' Meetings (online), Carmel College in school to speak to Year 11, our 1719 Society students are on retreat in Kintbury and I will be over in Castletown for the Lasallian Headteacher Conference before heading down to Kintbury at the weekend, to join our students and the celebration of St Cassian's 50th anniversary on Saturday and Sunday.

Whole School Focus –Parents' Meetings

Across the school year, parents have a number of opportunities to meet with school staff to discuss their child and their learning. The nature, timing and placement of these are all carefully thought through to ensure they are useful and well placed. The three main ones are:

Pastoral Parental Meetings (Years 7-10): These are a short check-in which take place in an online meeting that parents book with their child's form teacher. They are placed earlier in the year to explore how each child has settled into school, attendance, behaviour etc. These will not cover subject specific issues, or in-depth queries – these should be through directly contacting the school, as I outlined in Parental Update 1 this year. These will be taking place on **Thursday 17th October** (with online appointments between 3-15pm and 5-45pm).

Parents' Evenings: these are an opportunity for parents to meet their child's subject teachers to talk through the student's progress so far in each subject. These are held as blended meetings, with the first set of appointments being available online, a short break, and then later appointments which are in-person (this was done based upon feedback from parents). Parents should be able to see all of their child's teachers, though for a small number of subjects at Key Stage 3 i.e. music and drama, these appointments are by request with the teacher (as there simply wouldn't be enough time for the teacher to meet all parents). Dates for these parents' evenings are:

- **Year 11:** Thursday 24th October
- **Year 10:** Thursday 6th February (2025)
- **Year 9:** Thursday 13th March (2025)
- **Year 8:** Thursday 5th December
- **Year 7:** Thursday 24th April (2025)

Parental Information Evenings: these are where parents are invited into school to receive information regarding the curriculum that their child is studying and age-specific guidance on how to support their child's learning at home. The dates for these are:

- Year 11: November – date tbc
- Year 10: Wednesday 16th October (5.30pm-7.30pm)

You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.

- Year 8 & 9: 19th September: (6pm – 7.30pm)
- Year 7: Tue 15th October (6pm – 7.30pm)

These are the formal meeting events, but of course parents should feel free to contact the school at any time if they have any questions or concerns as I outlined in Parental Update 1.

ASH All Star Awards

These are a new evening of student awards created by ASH (Association of Secondary Headteachers of St Helens), which ran for the first time last night. We had nominations in most categories and were delighted to have 3 of our students shortlisted for awards on the evening: Lucy Evans, Heleina Ballesteros and Harry Carville-Ambrose.

The evening started with a stunning performance from a joint -school choir, including our own DLS students, and then, for each award, the detailed nominations were read out and the final award provided. We were proud of all those nominated and those shortlisted. We were also delighted that Lucy won the overall 'Kind and Caring Student of the Year' award. It was a wonderfully positive evening which will be repeated again next year.

Teen Fiction Week

Next week is Teen Fiction Week. To celebrate this, a range of teen fiction texts will be available to students in G6 at lunch time on Wednesday 16th October for students to browse and borrow if they wish. This event is open to all years. Students should get a pass from Student Services and come to G6 to look through a selection of our most up to date teen fiction texts, to chat to English staff about reading recommendations and to chat to each other about texts you would recommend. If students have a text at home that they have read and would like to swap with another student, please bring that too.

Learn To Ride

One of the things schools are seeing is the large number of students who either cannot ride a bike, or are not confident in riding a bike. For any parents who want to develop their child's bike riding skills, there are 3 free Learn to Ride sessions on the 31st October. The location is Taylor Park St Helens and the sessions are run by Bike Right, free of charge.

If parents would like to sign their child up for this then sessions can be booked via this link: <https://www.bikeright.co.uk/courses/child-group/>

Lost Property

The list of items left lying around the school continues to grow. If you suspect your child has misplaced an item, or are brave enough to venture into the murky world of their PE bag and discover something missing, please contact Mrs Shepherd at Student Services shepherds@delasalleschool.org.uk

Parent Forum (Year 7 Parents)

As I mentioned last week, 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. Our next meeting is this coming Monday (14th) at 5:00pm. If you are a new parent of 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.

Careers Newsletter

Strong careers advice and guidance is a high priority in the school, and we are fortunate to have a brilliant careers team: Mrs Scully, Mrs Moran and Mrs Eastwood. Our strength in this area was recognised by us being asked to be the lead school for one of the 2 Liverpool City Region Careers hubs. Plenty of work happens in lessons, with events and trips for our students almost daily.

One additional element we have is linking home and school through our weekly careers newsletter which is sent with my weekly update. This is a high-quality newsletter containing key opportunities, a job of the week, labour market information, employer spotlight and university spotlight. The aim is to allow parents to be knowledgeable and have discussion with their child around careers and aspirations for the future.

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.

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. Please email if you could support these sessions. smedleyk@delasalleschool.org.uk

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

Mon 14th: Meeting of those parents on the Parent Forum

Tue 15th: Year 7 Information Evening for parents (6.00pm – 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

And finally...Never judge a book by its cover

My youngest son finished his maths degree last year and has just started on his teacher training course a few weeks ago. After the first few weeks in college, he found out he was starting in a Catholic secondary school, whose headteacher I know quite well. Just before he started, I was at a meeting with the headteacher who said she had seen his surname and wondered if we were related.

So, after his first day in the school, I was eager to hear how he got on. He said the headteacher had welcomed all 4 of the teacher trainees (my son, another man with the same name as my son training as a history teacher, and two female trainees). He said that the headteacher was lovely but when they were introduced, had mistakenly thought that the history trainee was my son.

I was puzzled that she would make the mistake between them, but then it started to dawn on me. Now for context, my son is about 6 foot tall with blonde hair and very 'slim fit' build – more like his mother than me. So, I asked him what the history trainee looked like – to which my son said "He is a short chubby bloke and bald". It all made sense!

For additional insult, my son reported back the next day that the history trainee was actually 40 years old as well. Wait until I see that headteacher!

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

10th October is **World Mental Health Day**. This year's theme set by the World Federation of Mental Health is workplace mental health. The theme highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, for the benefit of people, organisations, and communities.

There are lots of ways that you can take part in World Mental Health Day. You can use the social media hashtag #WMHD2024 to see what companies are doing to celebrate and raise awareness, this may be wearing a green ribbon to show support, holding a Tea & Talk, or getting running an event to showcase how they support their employee's mental health.



Talking is good for your mental health. And talking about mental health is important. But starting a conversation isn't always easy. Whether you'd like to talk to someone about how you're feeling, or check-in with someone you care about, here are some tips that can help.



Every year 1 in 4 of us will experience a mental health problem. Nearly 2 million are waiting for NHS mental health services, and since 2017 the number of young people struggling with mental health has doubled. Mind have set out the steps the new UK government must take towards a future where there's no mind left behind.



If you're thinking of a career in mental health, here are some job roles that you may wish to consider: Mental Health Nurse | Child Psychotherapist | Occupational Therapist & Art Therapist



In this video from the NHS, people with lived experience of mental health describe the "huge impact" that great mental health care had on their recovery and their lives, and some of our mental health nurses explain why there's "...no greater gift than supporting someone and seeing them prosper and flourish."

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

JOB OF THE WEEK



Mental Health
Therapist

Mental Health Therapists are qualified professionals who treat the cognitive, behavioral, and emotional aspects of mental health conditions. They work with individuals, families, couples, and groups in a variety of settings.

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

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

875,000 workers suffered from work-related stress, depression and anxiety in 2022/23.

This makes Mental Health the 5th most common reason for sickness/absence from the workplace in 2022.

Source

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Did you know that there is an instant messaging platform called [Unibuddy](#) that allows you to speak to current university students studying all over the UK? You can filter by subject or university and get honest answers to any questions you have about the university or course.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 2	Equal to GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 3	Equal to A Level
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 4	Equal to higher national certificate (HNC)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 5	Equal to higher national diploma (HND)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 6	Equal to degree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 7	Equal to master's degree

The [Government's Apprenticeship application website](#) has made it easier for you to ensure you're applying to the right level apprenticeship. Instead of using the terms "intermediate", "advanced" etc, they now tell you the level and what it is equivalent to. For example, "Level 3 - Equal to A Level".



If you don't have much planned for October break and would like to spend your time helping your future self, an [online work experience opportunity](#) could be perfect. They can help you to decide if an industry is right for you and they will look great on your CV, apprenticeship applications and university personal statement. Here are a few options...



You have probably heard of accountancy and advisory services before. Think you know what professionals in this field really do? Embark on [this virtual work experience](#) to explore the world of accountancy and advisory services with BDO!



[This varied programme](#) will introduce you to a wide range of areas within the housebuilding space. From construction and site careers to marketing and tech roles, you'll come to understand how rewarding a career in property can be.



With over 350 roles in the healthcare sector, each with a unique purpose, it's time to discover your path. [This programme](#) provides valuable insights into health and social care careers, helping you take your first steps in this area. From an introduction to the sector to exploring different opportunities and responsibilities, you'll engage in quizzes, activities, and conversations with leading industry experts. Join us for a fantastic programme that prepares you for a fulfilling career in health and care professions.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"A career in Civil Engineering is an exciting and dynamic one. Not many industries make such a tangible difference to our civilisation, and we need to ensure that we have the best talent to meet the ever-increasing demands of our society and the ever-changing face of our infrastructure needs."

Read more about [Tony Gee Careers here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Join a community of open-minded thinkers and doers, where everyone is empowered to reach their full potential. Together, we'll work hard to build a better future—for you and the wider world. You can choose from 300+ degree courses. We offer flexibility so you can tailor components of your degree to suit your own interests & ambitions."

Read more about [Cardiff University Courses here](#).

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