



De La Salle  
School

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Dear Parent / Carer,

### Parental Update 9

I hope you had a wonderful half term break; ABBA Voyage was amazing and a bit more than the Jim Henson / Muppets show I was expecting. This first week back has been a relatively quiet one, but still had our parental ski trip meeting, our first meeting of the newly formed Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA), some of our SVP students taking part in a food poverty workshop at the Town Hall as well as the usual clubs and practices that we have.

Next week, we start with our in-school Remembrance Service (as we did last year, **students who are in any uniformed cadets, scouts etc are invited to attend on Monday in that uniform**), our Year 7 and 10 students enter an assessment window (see later), we have a Governor Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee. Then after that, things start to build up with our GCSE Presentation Evening, Your Future Careers event and a big English Theatre trip.

### Whole School Focus – Academisation

As avid readers will be well aware, we are due to academise on 1<sup>st</sup> December. This will change the school from being a Catholic Local Authority Maintained School, under the Trusteeship of the Lasallian Brothers, to a Catholic Academy, still under the Lasallian Brothers but as part of the Laetare Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

When a school academises this can take many different forms – in some cases this can be a very radical overhaul: changing school name, changing uniforms, change of staff including headteacher, change of curriculum and change of many school systems.

However, we are fortunate that this is not the case for us. We will be joining a brand new catholic Multi Academy Trust, Laetare CMAT, which several religious orders, including our own Lasallian Brothers, have helped to create. Key to the vision of our new CMAT are its core guiding principles:

- Respect for Distinctiveness
- Collaboration for the Common Good
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity
- Equity
- Transparency

It is these principles that ensure our school remains 'our school' and not a number in the roll of a large MAT, whilst at the same time, provides us with the strength, economies of scale and access to external support, that anyone would want from a MAT. So there will be no tangible changes to uniforms, school names, staffing etc.

If you would like to explore the CMAT further, it now has its own website: [Laetare CMAT - Home](#) which is in its early days, but gives you a clear picture of the new family we are joining.