



De La Salle
School

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29th November 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 12

An extremely busy week this week has seen a full week of formation activities, our students hosting the YOUTH29 Conference for some of our primary schools, a visit to the National Apprenticeship Show and to Liverpool City Centre for a fieldwork study, an urban farm workshop, two form classes visiting St Teresa's Church for mass, Hospitality and Catering exams, a Year 11 Parental Information evening, a visit to the War Museum and a Catholic Life and Culture Governors' meeting.

Looking ahead, next week is a 4-day week – with Friday being an INSET Day (students do not attend), we continue our Hospitality and Catering exams, have a Mount Carmel House Mass, a Year 8 Parents' Evening, welcome visitors from De La Salle schools in Malta and have Annie rehearsals on Saturday 7th.

Today is also the last school day for our 'old school' as from Monday we will be an academy. Though that sounds more dramatic than the actual reality – as uniform, name, personnel etc wont change. Finally, apologies for the high level of funding and donation requests in today's update!

Whole School Focus – Awards Evening (part 2)

Last week I shared the awards that were given to students in our GCSE Awards Evening. So, this week, I am sharing the other main awards which were given out for individual subjects (see attached). Each student was nominated for showing a passion, talent or great success within that specific subject.

Congratulations to all of our award winners, and the rest of the students for their great achievement. We wish them all well and hope they stay in touch as they move on to the next stage of their educational journey.

Christmas Card Competition

We held our annual Christmas Card competition recently with some really strong entries, with special commendation going to:

- Aoife Cross
- Ella Cotterill
- Hannah (yr 8)
- Leon Duggan
- Lewis Burke

After much consideration, the winning entry was made by Evelyn Dennett, whose design has been made into our school Christmas Card for this year. I have attached it to this week's update. Well done Evelyn!

Peru Fundraising

We have a number of students who will be travelling to Peru for a trekking and humanitarian expedition. One of the students, Pearl, is holding a fundraising bingo event on Friday 13th in West Park Rugby Club. Details are on the attached flyer.

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

Meanwhile Eloise and Elizabeth are running a 5-hour charity classathon with Ash Ward on 8th December: details can be found here: <https://bookwhen.com/awardhealthandfitness>

Drainage Help Needed

We are desperately keen to improve a small amount of the drainage on our grass fields over the brook. It currently houses our rugby pitches and athletics track but has in recent years become waterlogged in certain areas due to the rainfall. If any of our parents /alumni are able to assist us in adding a line of drainage down part of the pitch, please get in touch. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone with a drainage/landscaping/building/golf and sports pitch maintenance background. We would be able to greatly improve our rugby, and athletics offer as a result and offer students and our local community better facilities to use. Thank you.

Minibus Fundraising

As our extra-curricular offer continues to grow, we are increasingly in need of a second minibus. On occasions, we have had to cancel fixtures as the minibus is already in use. The PTFA already funds the minibus lease that we have and are pushing to raise funds for a second bus. Please look out for future fundraising activity – all help is gratefully received.

HOPE

Our annual Help Other People Eat (HOPE) campaign has been started. This is a student run fundraising event to provide support to others at Christmas. The students are aiming to raise £24 per form class during Advent – they can then decide if this goes to Mary's Meals or our own Founder's Food Pantry. The attached information has more details.

Academy Update

As I mentioned at the start, the big day (Monday 2nd) is rapidly approaching as we academise and join our new family of schools within the Laetare catholic Multi Academy Trust. Our new CEO, Andy Bridson, will be in school on Monday morning, along with Br Sean, on behalf of the Lasallian Brothers, and Sam Murray our Chair of Governors, as we enter the next, new and exciting phase of our journey as a school.

Raffle Prizes – A Request (repeated)

We have a range of events, including the Pensioners' Party, where we are looking for suitable raffle prizes. These could include bottles (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), toiletries, chocolates, gift sets etc (we are only looking for new items, not used). If you have anything that you could spare, these can be handed in to main reception.

Two messages from the Local Authority (repeated):

1. Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

The winter Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) will be running from Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025 for all eligible children, young people and families. The activity bookings links will go live on Tuesday 3rd December at 1.00pm for families to book their Winter activities, please note that activity places are subject to availability. We would like to ensure that as many eligible families take this offer up over the Winter to remove some of the financial burden to families who may already be on the brink.

Please see below the link to the HAF webpage with all of the information about the Winter programme. [HAF Winter Programme 2024 - St Helens Borough Council](#)

2. St Helens Santa Dash

This year's St Helens Santa Dash is taking place on Saturday 7th December at 11.00am in Victoria Park, City Road. Entry is £5 for adults, £2 for 5-18 year olds and free to under 5s. Further details on the event, including how to book, are on the attached flyer.

Important Payment information regarding ParentMail Shop (repeated item)

Due to the upcoming academisation of our school on 1st December, we have had to temporarily suspend payments for items in our ParentMail school shop, as the contract switches over. This includes school trips, revision guides, music lessons and uniform. Payments for these services will resume from 1st December.

However, please note that **dinner money payments are not affected by this change and should continue as usual.** We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transition period. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Annie (repeated item)

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.

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

Mon 2nd: Academisation Day

Mon 2nd: Student visit to St John's House (where the brothers live)

Wed 4th: Mount Carmel House Mass

Thu 5th: Year 8 Parents' Evening

Fri 6th: INSET DAY: School closed

Wed 11th: Care Home visit

Wed 11th: Full Governing Body Meeting

Wed 11th: Performance of Annie

Thu 12th: Christmas jumper day

Thu 12th: Flu Vaccinations mop-up session

Thu 12th: Santa Dash in school (tbc)

Thu 12th: Performance of Annie

Fri 13th: Care Home visit

Fri 13th: School Christmas Dinner

Fri 13th: Year 10 Rewards activity

Tue 17th: 1719 Pensioners' Christmas Party

Tue 17th: Year 7 Rewards activity

Wed 18th: Year 11 Retreat

Wed 18th: Community Advent Service (evening)

Wed 18th: High Achievers Programme (Year 10)

Thu 19th: Student advent services

Fri 20th: School finishes at 12.10pm

And finally...Wine Again?

I don't drink a lot but I do enjoy a good glass of wine and have a subscription to one of the online wine clubs. Every 3 months another case of wine arrives at my door and all is well. That was until the last couple of weeks.

I had been drawn in by one of the wine company's marketing catalogues which had a really good offer for a 15 bottle Christmas case of wine, and a few extra goodies. I love an impulse buy so a few clicks later, I received an email to say my case is on its way.

However, within 24hrs I also received notification that my normal 3-monthly wine was on its way. The arrival of these 2 boxes, together, didn't go down well with Mrs R – partly the expense, but more importantly, as she put it “where are we going to put all that?”

That was 2 weeks ago, so it was with a sense of dread that I got an email last week to say that I had a 3rd case of wine on its way. When I questioned this, it turns out I had ordered this Christmas case back in September for delivery just before Christmas and forgotten about it. It would be fair to say that Mrs R's face did not light up when it arrived earlier this week to find the house looking like a branch of Cellar 5 (another old cultural reference – it was an off-license in the 1980s)!

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher

Awards Evening (part 2)

English	Eleanor Evans
Maths	Jayden Rigby
Science	Beatrice Cliffe
PE	Isaac Dennett
History	Sam Slater
Art	Jessica Bannister
Hospitality	Nathan Kenny
Engineering	Heidi Mercer
It	Joshua Burke
Comp	Benjamin Dooley
Drama	Sophie Penman
Music	Stephen Pennington
RE	Alice Howard
Languages	Emma Shepherd
Geography	Jessica Braniff
Health and Social	Erin Eustace



'Peace
on
Earth!'

*Card designed by
Evelyn Dennett (Year 7)*

On behalf of the staff, students
and governors at De La Salle
(St. Helens).

we hope your heart is touched this
Christmas.

Wishing you a happy and holy
Christmas and a joyful New
Year.



De La Salle School

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

St John Baptist de La Salle

CRAZY BINGO *Night*

Join us for a night of fun, dancing and crazy
Bingo! Eyes down to win wine, gin, beauty
products and lots of silly prizes.

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

£15 ENTRANCE INCLUDES 3 BINGO TICKETS

START AT 7 PM

West Park Rugby Club

All proceeds go towards Pearl O'Toole's Humanitarian Mission to
Peru in 2025

Sponsored By:



**SCAN THE CODE
TO BUY TICKETS**



Catholic Life at De La Salle



34th Week of Ordinary Time



3 OF OUR 4 PODCASTERS CHATTING WITH JESSICA DREW AFTER RECORDING

This week we have had Formation Week, as we do each month, and we started the week with the first of our Core Conferences led by SVP Youth. We started Tuesday and Thursday with Mass in St Teresa of Avila with form classes from Year 7 and 8 and today (Friday) Sam is out of school to meet with other Chaplains from across the Archdiocese.

This Week

Formation week is a big operation with groups from across the school being brought together for their own personal, spiritual and emotional development. Each of our students have very different missions in their lives and we love to offer them tailored and bespoke opportunities to learn more about themselves and the role they have within our school, the community and the wider world.

Through formation, our students develop and strengthen their sense of purpose and confidence in their ability to make change and do good in the world. This often paves the way for students to take leading roles on projects, activities and events that mean something to them...just like our Core Conferences!

Core Conference is a concept that SVP Youth discussed together at the start of this academic year. The students aim to take our Core Values and place them at the heart of themed conferences throughout the year. This week we have our Respect Conference; YOUTH29. This conference was all about respecting our environment and protecting our planet to the best of our ability.

Core Conference 1: Respect; YOUTH29

YOUTH29 was a huge success on Monday. We had Year 5 students from across our local primary schools join us for the day as we thought about climate change, discussed climate migration, took part in creative workshops and made pledges to do our little bit to protect our wonderful planet.

From start to finish, the conference was completely student led. Sam P and Joshua L hosted our conference and led us through the day clearly and effectively. Nicole R, Elijah H, Elspeth O' and Charlotte H took the lead on our interview with Jessica Drew and offered us an opportunity to ask questions about climate change and climate migration. James L and Laila T prepared and delivered a wonderful workshop for primary school students, they took old T-shirts and re-worked them, turning them into carrier bags and giving

them a new life. Molly C and Libby G helped us to close the day with a wonderful closing pledge. Many other SVP Youth students were small group leaders for this conference and helped people through conversations and discussions throughout the day.

Mr Odley, one of our student teachers in Geography prepared a wonderful workshop that gave students a platform to raise their voice and explore what they would prioritize if they were world leaders for the day!

Express Your Interest

Just a reminder that we launched the expression of interest for a number of opportunities last week. We have interest forms open for FLAME, Year 10 St Cassian's Trip and our Year 11 Mindfulness Day. Please be aware that the deadline for the expression of interest is **December 1st** so please do respond as soon as possible.

HOPE '24

You can see our poster on our socials for Hope '24. We're in desperate need of donations for our campaign this year. At the moment, donations have been very slow and our food pantry supply is running very low. We're asking form classes to bring in £24 and as a class they can decide if they'd like to donate their money to Mary's Meals or to our school food pantry for the families in our community who need it most.

Our Next Theme

Next week is the start of Advent, finally! At this time of year we use the colour purple within our displays and materials produced for times of prayer and liturgy. This colour is symbolic of anticipation, penitence, and spiritual preparation. It is a season of waiting and preparation for the arrival of Jesus into our hearts and lives.

The theme of our prayer and liturgy will be; **Advent**. The theme for the first week of Advent is all about hope. Next week our Prayer and Liturgy will be lead by Form Captains in each year group. They have worked so hard on preparing their resources, we can't wait to hear them!

Opportunities to look out for

- Year 10 Residential to St Cassian's Retreat Centre
- Year 11 Mindfulness Day
- FLAME
- Christmas Party (1719)

Student Spotlight

All of the students involved in the Core Conference, YOUTH29 were absolutely incredibly and inspiring. The line of the day just has to go to Elijah from our podcast team. He wrapped up our interview with Jessica Drew (PhD student from Edge Hill) with:

"The way we see it, climate change is like a bully and what we need to do is stand up to it."

We're so proud of the young people in our school who are active citizens and making a real difference in our community!

Pray for us...

Christ the King, as we bring this liturgical year to an end, help our hearts to become ready to prepare a way for you during Advent. May we remember today that you were given as a gift to show God's love for us. Be near us and walk with us through the patterns of our lives.

Catholic Life team

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

National T Levels Week will take place on Monday 2nd – Friday 6th December 2024. The week will focus on continuing to raise awareness of the many T Level subjects now available and showcase the success of the programme.

If you aren't sure what T Levels are, here are a range of resources to help you learn more:

- [Rapid Read: What are T Levels?](#)
- [What are T Levels Film](#)
- [T Levels Case Study – Digital Production, Design and Development](#)
- [T Level Case Study – Design, Surveying and Planning](#)
- [T Levels Parents and Carers' guide](#)



Are you thinking about applying for a T Level but don't know what to expect? [Take this short course](#) and see if it's the right pathway for you!



Most law firms that accept trainees offer opportunities for Sixth Form pupils to get involved and see whether a legal profession is right for them. The [LawCareers website](#) has put together a round-up of firms and what events and work experience placements are available.



Check out The Uni Guide podcast episode: '[Get university ready - turn potential into performance](#)' [Episode 35](#): Kamal from Aim a Little Higher chats with student panellists Ishan and Leah about turning potential into performance. This motivational episode is packed with insights and available directly on UniTasterDays and on all major podcast streaming platforms.



If you have ever thought to yourself 'when should I start preparing for an apprenticeship' or 'how can I prepare for an apprenticeship', [this is the video for you!](#)

JOB OF THE WEEK



[Judicial Law Clerk](#)

A Judicial Law Clerk, also known as a Law Clerk or Judicial Assistant, is a professional (often a lawyer) who provides direct counsel and assistance to a lawyer or judge by researching issues and drafting legal opinions for cases before the court. Watch the video to learn more about working hours, salary and qualifications needed.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The average salary for the Legal industry in the UK is £48,476 per year, but it can pay up to £91,724 (and beyond!).

There have been 166,485 vacancies in the past year and the industry is set to grow by 5.75% over next eight years.

[Source](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Check out this [list of employers currently recruiting for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships](#). It is not inclusive (unfortunately, there isn't a way to see every available apprenticeship in one place at the moment) but the list is very extensive. To find more information on any opportunities that you're interested in, search the name of the company followed by the word "Apprenticeships" which should take you to the best page of their website to find more info.



Here are some [upcoming Speakers for Schools webinars](#) that you may find useful. Please note: Registration for our livestream events is open until 12 pm the day before the scheduled broadcast date.



3rd December: Why You Should Focus On Practical Skill Development

In this session, we will chat about the importance of building practical skills that go beyond academics. Martin will explore how hands-on experiences, like those encouraged by The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award can help develop confidence, resilience, and a sense of achievement in young people. This talk is a fantastic opportunity to learn how practical skill development can open doors, build character, and prepare you for whatever path you choose.



9th December: The World of Journalism And Presenting

Curious about what it's like to be a journalist or a radio presenter? Join Nick Robinson, the presenter of BBC Radio 4's Today Show, for an exciting talk about the world of journalism and broadcasting. Nick will share his journey from starting out as a journalist to becoming one of the leading voices on British radio. Learn about the skills needed to break into journalism, the importance of asking the right questions, and how to tell impactful stories that keep people informed.



11th December: Ready for Takeoff: Launching a career in Aviation with the CAA

The Aviation industry is huge and there's so much to get involved with! Learn from a panel of the CAA team and their different roles as they unpack their journeys and experiences into engineering, legal routes, and tech. There's more than meets the eye, let's unpack it together!

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"We pride ourselves on giving new lawyers a truly unique experience. Whether you're a student or graduate we aim to give you the tools and experience to forge a successful career in law.

That means combining learning with experience, and giving you the opportunity to work with people at all levels of our business."

Read more about [DLA Piper Careers](#) here.

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Our undergraduate courses in law, business, criminology, policing, psychology & computer science have been specially designed to give you an exciting, practical academic experience, teaching you real-world skills so that you can achieve your ambitions. 94% of postgraduates were in employment or further study 15 months after graduating."

Read more about [The University of Law courses](#) here.

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