



De La Salle
School

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31st January 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 17

Another busy week has seen our Year 11s have their mock interviews, we remembered World Holocaust Day, our PE mentors delivered coaching sessions to younger students, we had our Year 10 retreat, our Shakespeare school rehearsals continued, we resumed our sports practices and fixtures after the poor weather, we had a Governors' Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee meeting and today we had our School Improvement Partner, Dr Antony Edkins, carrying out his termly visit.

Looking ahead to next week, on paper it is a quieter week with key events being the Year 10 Parents' Evening and a Year 10 Travel and Tourism trip to Manchester Airport. Alongside today's update you should also have:

- Careers newsletter
- Chaplaincy update #10
- NDP Pathway info
- Details of half term club at Rainford High

Whole School Focus – SIP Visit

Today we are having our termly visit from our School Improvement Partner (SIP), Dr Antony Edkins. Dr Antony has been our SIP for the past 18 months and brings a wealth of experience: as well as having been a headteacher, he is also a serving OFSTED inspector, education consultant and SIP to a number of schools across the Archdiocese.

The SIP's role is to act as a critical friend to the school and, so far, has seen him working with myself and senior leaders in setting our strategic direction post-Ofsted. His work now has moved to support middle leaders in ensuring that their curriculum and lessons within their departments are both challenging, effective and ensure that students remember the 'sticky knowledge' necessary to move to the next stage of their education.

Today he is working with our core subjects: English, Maths, Science and RE, observing lessons with a focus upon how effective our teaching is for all students, but especially for students with SEND and disadvantaged students.

His visits not only provide challenge and support for us as school's leaders, but also, his reports are shared with governors and the Laetare CMAT as one of the many external quality assurance measures of what we are doing in school.

Science Supply

I need to apologise to parents that we are still having issues in appointing a suitable science teacher, despite successive attempts. As you would expect, we are continuing to do everything we can to source and recruit a science teacher in the Science department. We always strive to provide the best experience possible however, we are facing an issue common across the country with a national recruitment crisis for science which is making this extremely very difficult.

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

Whilst facing this issue, we are continuing to support all of our pupils as best we can by ensuring all work set is good quality, relevant and follows the curriculum, with practical's being delivered by our own staff where needed on a rota. We are continuing to review staffing and moving science staff around where possible on a weekly basis. We are hopeful to have some more stable improvements in staffing by Easter.

We fully appreciate it is difficult for classes affected but assure you we are doing everything we can to help everyone in very difficult circumstances.

Year 11 Mock Interviews

A big thank you to all the employers and business professionals who gave up their time on Wednesday and Thursday evening this week to conduct our Year 11 mock Interviews. I was even able to drag my eldest, Charlie, in to do both nights. It is really powerful to see how much these interviews mean to our Year 11 students, many of whom have never had a proper interview before.

Many of the students are incredibly nervous whilst waiting to go and be interviewed, but their reaction afterwards is wonderful to see. The students were a credit to us, attendance was very high and our guests were full of praise for the students and the way they conducted themselves. A big thank you also to Miss Moran and Mrs Scully for their work in organising the event and well done to our students.

Uniform Standards

We continue to work hard to try to ensure all students are meeting our uniform expectations: this includes jewellery, hair colour, training shoes and piercings. The vast majority of students meet these standards every day and we say a big thank you to all of our families and students who support us with this. Sadly, there is a small number of students and, sometimes parents, who don't want to meet these expectations which is frustrating and causes unnecessary conflict and workload for our already pressed pastoral staff. Our expectations can be found [here](#) – please work with us to meet them.

Laetare CMAT Updates

Much work continues in creating and setting up systems and processes for the school now it is an academy, and also for the newly formed Laetare CMAT that we have joined. We remain the only school within the CMAT at the moment, though the others are now moving closer to joining us.

Key work at the moment includes:

- Consultation with staff regarding a change to our pay date, to align us with the other schools who will be in the CMAT
- Setting up new finance and HR systems in preparation for the end of our contracts with St Helens Council (at the end of the financial year)
- Preparation for the re-advertisement of the CMAT Chief Executive Officer (CEO) role
- Appointment of one of our ex-teachers and current governors, Mr Nunnery, as one of the Directors of the CMAT
- Ongoing weekly meetings between myself and Mr Bridson, our CEO and Miss Warburton (our business manager in school) and Mr Done, our Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Rostra Seating

After half term, we will be replacing the rostra seating in the main hall. The old seating has been there for many years and was a second-hand gift from Carmel College when we got it. However, it is now definitely reached its end of life. We are delighted that we have some new seating that we were able to purchase with the last of our reserves before they were reclaimed by the LA when we academised. The main hall will be out of action for up to 2 weeks after half term.

Computer Xplorers Holiday Tech Club

Our friends at Rainford have asked us to share information (see the attached flyer) for a February half term tech club taking place at Rainford High School. It will run between Wednesday 19th

February and Thursday 20th February from 9am - 3pm with half days available, it is suitable for all age groups and abilities and they are SEND friendly. They will be running a variety of activities including Robotics, Digital Animation and a different Minecraft Education challenge each afternoon. Details of how to book on are available on the attached flyer.

Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP) Drop-Ins

Please see the attached information for parents regarding NHS run NDP drop ins beginning in February across the borough.

Trainers & Boots (reminder)

If any families are having a post-Christmas sort-out and getting rid of trainers or boots, the PE department would welcome any donations of any footwear that no longer fits.

Upcoming Events

Fri 7th: Year 10 travel and Tourism trip

Mon 10th: Shakespeare Schools Performance (Years 7 and 8) at Shakespeare North Theatre

Tue 11th: Year 8 Faraday Challenge educational visit

Tue 11th: Year 8 Think Fast educational visit

Wed 12th: Governors' Catholic Life and Culture Committee (5:00pm)

Thu 13th: Campion House Mass

Fri 14th: INSET Day (students do not attend)

Half Term

Mon 24th: School re-opens (usual time)

Tue 25th – Thu 27th: Year 9 Vaccinations

Mon 3rd (March) – Fri 14th: Year 8 Assessment Window

Tue 4th: Year 10 Healthcare and STEM Skills Show educational visit

Tue 4th: Year 8 Think Fast educational visit

Wed 5th: Ash Wednesday Services

Thu 6th: Year 9 Options Evening (provisional date dependent upon rostra seating being fitted)

Sat 8th and Sun 9th: Year 10 DofE day walks

And finally...I've got the Blues

The week before last was famously the most depressing week of the year and I headed into last weekend with a couple of events that might have helped cheer me up and blow away the blues. These included: the possibility of my pilot lesson which I mentioned last week taking place, the football team I help to manage who were playing our top of the table rivals – a win would almost guarantee us the league, and of course my beloved Tottenham Hotspur were in action against Leicester.

Sadly, my flying lesson was cancelled due to the weather- disappointing, but somewhat expected. The football team I help manage then lost 5-0 in a very unusually dire performance. At least I still had Spurs to cheer me up on the Sunday afternoon. Once again, as anyone who knows anything about football will know, Spurs are 'Spursy' and of course after going 1-0 up managed to lose 1-2.

Add to that, it was the 3rd week of dry January and the most depressing week of the year was certainly that! On the plus side, however, Mrs R persuaded me to use the money saved from the cancelled flying lesson on purchasing a Dry-Robe for her. I guess this was another 'essential' household item, like the cladding I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, for all that open water swimming she has never done!

Have a good weekend.

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher

Catholic Life at De La Salle



3rd Week of Ordinary Time



OUR SCHOOL GROUP PHOTO FROM ST CASSIAN'S

We spent the majority of our week in St Cassian's, our Lasallian Pastoral Centre in Kintbury. We visit St Cassian's often as a school community whether that be for retreats, Lasallian community events or educator gatherings. In fact, we're back down there next weekend! We can't stay away for long! Meanwhile, the Catholic Life team have all been up to different things keeping the mission aglow...

Year 10 Retreat

We offer a residential retreat for Year 10 to St Cassian's each year. Something that has weighed heavy on our hearts in the declining number of students who are open to the experience. We often think about the barriers that people might face in regards to a retreat, cost? distance? a disconnect from God? We're mindful of our ever-changing world and truly believe in the power of retreats, especially those that help our students to network and connect with the wider Lasallian community.

We might have been few in numbers this time around, but we were thrilled with the group of students that did attend. Kind, considerate and ready to get involved in all that was asked of them, we couldn't have been more proud. The team made several comments about the positive attitudes and behaviour of our students.

We were even able to celebrate Ellie's birthday with the retreaters, with a huge thank you to the team for making her feel so special upon her arrival!

As staff, we always think the team do a great job in St Cassian's and we can talk about it all day long. Instead, we wanted to share the reflections of two of the students who attended the retreat;

We were first in Year 7 when we came to St Cassian's for Lasallian Camp. Our first impressions were that everyone here felt so welcomed, the resources that were used were great, the atmosphere was warm and it felt amazing.

We have returned to Kintbury a number of times now...partly because our parents keep signing us up!...no, it's really just because of the people. People from around the world come here to volunteer and they're all just so nice, we're all away from our families and they make it feel like home.

We have quiet time each morning and night here and it is a time to reflect and think back on your day in the evening, or in the morning you can think about what is going to happen in the time ahead. Neither of us particularly follow a religion, I don't believe in God or connect with Jesus but I still

think it is such an important time to reflect on your actions. It is a space where you can just relax after burning off so much energy in the day. Seriously, it is a time when you can just be yourself and think about whatever God you might believe in.

DLAN Inauguration!

This week Mrs Jess, Lead Practitioner for Catholic Life and lead of our Catholic Life Team has been in Ireland to meet with Lasallian Animators from across our District of Great Britain, Ireland and Malta. This meeting is the first of its kind for the Animators and we can't wait to hear all about it. But for this newsletter, it is important to explain what a Lasallian Animator is!

An Animator is someone who actively promotes and nurtures the Catholic faith and Lasallian mission within their setting! Their role is to encourage, inspire, and support others in living out the values of the Gospel and the mission and legacy of St John Baptist De La Salle. The role helps bring faith to life, making Catholic values relevant and meaningful in everyday experiences.

We have a voluntary Animators group in school made up of staff that give their time to the mission and we're always looking for more!

Our Next Theme

Next week is the fourth week of Ordinary Time. At this time of year we use the colour green within our displays and materials produced for times of prayer and liturgy. This colour is symbolic of growth and freshness. We use green to represent that our understanding of scripture, and our hope is always new, developing and fresh within our community.

The theme of our prayer and liturgy will be; **A Hope-Filled Thanks**. Our students have spent time this week planning for the delivery of our next theme. We are looking at Luke's Gospel, in particular the meeting of Simeon, Anna and the Baby Jesus. The students are looking forward to sharing with their peers the way we can be grateful for our faith and the role it has to play in our lives.

Catholic Life Team

St Cassian's Open Retreat

- There is an annual free retreat to St Cassian's called 'Inside Out'. This is available for students in Year 11+ and students should complete their own booking forms.

This is not a trip associated with school but we are willing to support with transport this year to help students access the opportunity! Please reach out for more information.

Sacrament of Confirmation

- The registration for Confirmations is now open for Students in Year 8+ To register visit liverpoolcalled.co.uk and follow the details.

Student Spotlight

With our focus being on the Year 10 retreat this week, we wanted to share a poem from one of our students that was shared in St Cassian's:

So very pleased to meet you, I'm happy that we came, wonderful times together with you, I won't forget your name. I ask a simple favour, since we will be apart. To keep a loving memory, of Kintbury within your heart.

Pray for us...

Loving Father, on this week that we mark Holocaust Memorial Day, we remember the lives lost and the suffering endured. Grant us the strength to stand against hatred, to embrace compassion, and to work for peace and justice in the world. May we honor their memory by building a future of love and unity. Amen.



Computer Xplorers

Leading the way in providing tech-based activities that are both inspirational and educational!

FEBRUARY HALF TERM TECH CLUBS

ST HELENS

 **Rainford High School**
Higher Lane, Rainford, WA11 8NY

 **2** 19th & 20th Feb 2025

 **9am-3pm**
half days available



Providing fun, educational activities this half term!-

Wednesday- Digital Animation & Minecraft

Thursday- Robotics & Minecraft

BOOK! Visit the link or scan the code-
computerexplorers.co.uk/bolton-wigan/book



    @CompXBolton

Neurodevelopment pathway drop ins beginning February 2025



Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Come along to one of our drop in sessions in St Helens.

Our team will answer questions you have about the neurodevelopment pathway process.

You don't need to be using our service, you can drop in if you have any questions to ask about this.

We look forward to meeting you.

Second Tuesday of the month at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub 1pm to 4pm.

Third Tuesday of the month at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

Fourth Tuesday of the month at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

11 February at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

11 March at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

8 April at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

18 February at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

18 March at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

15 April at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

25 February at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

25 March at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

22 April at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

Sutton Family Hub, Ellamsbridge Road, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3PY

Parr Children's Centre, Ashton's Green Drive, Parr, St Helens, WA9 2AP

Central Link Family Hub, Westfield Street, (off Peter Street), St Helens, WA10 1QF

Newton Family Hub, Patterson Street, Newton-le-Willows, St Helens, WA12 9PZ



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

We've already mentioned that 10th-16th February is National Apprenticeship Week. We'll be sharing more on this next week but remember, you can use the hash tag #NAW2025 on social media to find opportunities from employers!

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. This is a mental health awareness week that launched by children's mental health charity, Place2Be. The week exists to empower, equip and give a voice to all children and young people in the UK. This year, Children's Mental Health Week is focussing on Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.

Fancy a creative challenge? This free resource encourages you to learn more about yourself by imagining a plant in growth. It starts off by inviting you to reflect on the roots of your identity, what is important to you, and what helps you grow. You will then think about what is growing from these roots, as with greater understanding of oneself also comes an increased capacity for personal growth, resilience, and connection with others.



Would you like to work with young people experiencing poor mental health? Child and adolescent psychotherapists (CAPT) work with children and young people aged up to 25 and their families and carers to assess and treat a wide range of psychological problems. Here is the NHS Job Profile. If you don't think this role is for you, but would like to work for the NHS, check out the NHS Careers Quiz to be matched to one of their 350 different job roles!



Looking for psychology work experience? You're not alone. In today's competitive job market, hands-on experience is the golden ticket to kickstart your career. This blog is your compass, guiding you through opportunities, dos and don'ts, and insider tips.



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 can work with children, adults or families.

Watch the video to learn more about how much you could earn, working hours and pathways into the industry.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

As of March 2024, there were about 283,000 therapy professionals in the UK. This includes psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, and more.

This has increased from 127,000 in 2010.

Source

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



InvestIN have a [range of free events](#) in February to help you learn more about different industries such as Law, Medicine, Engineering and Finance.



The University of Brighton are offering [online tutorials](#) in how to [build an online portfolio](#) for your application; their staff and students will give tips and advice on how to prepare your portfolio and what you should include. You will need this for any creative course (including Architecture!). The next session is 11th February, 5- 6pm.



Viasat: Space for Good is the first-of-its-kind STEM innovation challenge for students, focused on how to achieve sustainable space using technology – for the good of all of us on Earth. You can read more about [how to enter here](#).



If you want to get prepared for National Apprenticeship Week, check out the [events listing on their website](#). This includes face to face and virtual events.



Join Not Going to Uni for '[Your Guide to... Apprenticeships LIVE!](#)'

This event will be help you to discover more about apprenticeships, and how you can prepare yourself for this journey! NGTU will have talks from four different employers, and an exclusive session with Not Going To Uni.



Mercedes-Benz are recruiting apprentices across the country to join their award winning apprenticeship programme training as Retail Parts Advisors and Customer Experience Specialists. Join their [virtual sessions](#) to find out more.



An apprenticeship is a paid job where you learn and gain valuable experience while working. It combines on-the-job training with structured learning, leading to a nationally recognised qualification. [On this webinar](#) you will learn: What is an apprenticeship, the benefits, how you will learn, what support is available and how to apply.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

“Mercedes-Benz offers students a broad field of opportunities to discover their talents best: with internships, dissertations or a job as a working student. You will master challenges, grow beyond yourself and learn from visionary colleagues and mentors. Make your first steps into your career with us.”

Read more about [Mercedes Benz Careers here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT

“Find your place, your people, your aspirations. Start your journey to studying at Edge Hill. We aim to offer you a place where you can learn, thrive and feel accepted, embracing your new community and discovering new passions. We want to give you the tools to succeed. That’s why we offer a rich variety of undergraduate courses.”

Read more about [Edge Hill University here](#).

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