

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Parental Update 26

An incredibly busy and productive week in school this week with the completion of our Year 8 sessions with the Anthony Walker Foundation, two Year 10 geography fieldtrips to Grasmere, the final vaccinations for our Year 8 students, Art, Graphics and MFL GCSE exams began, GCSE PE moderation took place, the Year 9 assessment window opened, we held our first chaplaincy Quiz Night and we had some great success in our football finals (see later).

Looking ahead to next week, we start with a Bank Holiday (Mon), Year 9 Assessment window continues, St Helens College are in to speak to our Year 10s, we have two days of careers workshops with Year 7 called 'What's My Job?', confirmation classes and our Year 11 mass. We are getting to the real business end of the year.

### Whole School Focus – ASSEDIL Conference

Last week I was fortunate enough to have the Lasallian Brothers fund my attendance at the ASSEDIL Conference in Malta. ASSEDIL (Association of the Directors of the Lasallian Institutions) is a group that incorporates Lasallian Headteachers across Europe and the Mediterranean. This year's conference was held within our District (which is GB, Ireland and Malta) at Sliema in Malta.

I joined the other 5 representatives from UK schools and over 150 other school leaders from across the many districts around Europe and the Mediterranean including: GB, Malta and Ireland, Spain, Belgium North, Belgium South, Poland, Middle East, Italy, Greece, France, Central Europe and then additional delegates from the USA, Argentina and the Far East.

The theme of the Conference was '*Growing Together in Lasallian Spirituality*' and began with a welcome from Br Ben Hanlon, our District's Brother Visitor (in which our school, here in St Helens, was specifically singled out for praise much to my pride but also red-faced embarrassment) and then a presentation from GB by Br Michael Curran (in which we got another special recognition), before the main body of the conference began.

The next 3 ½ days included presentations on the following:

- 2025: Lasallian Year of Spirituality by Br Santiago Rodriguez Mancini from Argentina
- Young Lasallians by Julia Mayor from Rome
- Meditations for the Time of Retreat by Brother Bill Mann from New York
- Prayer Spaces by Mr Cillia from Malta
- Hara by Br Javier Gil from Spain
- Spirituality and Young People by Mrs Colette Alix from France
- Silent Walk by representatives from Belgium North
- Godly Play by Mr David Urtasun from Spain
- Fill My Well: as Spiritual Leaders how do we sustain our spirituality? By Mr Gregory Leonard from South Belgium
- Closing Conference Address by Br Armin, Superior General

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

- In addition to these main presentations there were a host of workshops and activities throughout the conference.

I am very aware that I am blessed to be given this opportunity, and as one colleague back at school put it “*did you enjoy your holiday?*”. It was a wonderful occasion, but also a very demanding one. Each day starting with an 8am (7am UK time) breakfast before 8.45am prayer, then talks, activities and events through to the evening and then shared meals at the end – usually finishing around 11pm. In addition, I particularly find it challenging to focus when listening to audio translation (but that is probably just me!).

These shared meals were really lovely and it was great to get to know colleagues in a social environment as well as the main conference hall but by the end of the conference on Saturday evening, I was shattered and back in bed for 8pm, ahead of my morning flight on Sunday back to the UK.

This was a very special event and experience; my only regret is that I have turned down the opportunity to attend for the previous 7 years and missed out on the wealth of inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and experience that the Conference provided. I have returned with new fire and passion for our Lasallian ethos and a wealth of ideas and initiatives that we can learn from the other schools.

### **Sporting Success**

This week we took part in the first set of finals that our sporting teams have qualified for this year. There is no doubt that the new energy, strategy and passion within our PE department from Mr Metcalf and the wider team is really rubbing off on the students and their performances.

First up this week were our Year 8 Boys Football team who won the Town Cup Final for the second year in the row. An incredibly tight game ended in victory for our hardworking Yr 8s after going behind on an extremely hot afternoon. The final score was DLS 4 v Cowley 1: Goals from Fyles (2), Leyland and Murphy. POM: Braniff

Then on Wednesday it was the turn of our U13 girl footballers who were also crowned Town Champions! An outstanding team performance from our girls on another incredibly hot day. This was a phenomenal team performance beating Cowley 5-0. With goals from Phoebe (3) and Erin (2). Player of the Match was Phoebe.

Well done to both teams, we are incredibly proud of you. Next week we have even more football and rugby finals to be played.

### **Individual Sporting Success**

As well as team success within school, we have had two of our students also make great achievements outside of school. Firstly Archie Lowe who, since November, has been having trials for Scotland Rugby League and on Easter Monday made his debut in a friendly against a French touring RL team. This is an incredible achievement and one we, and Archie's family, are very proud of.

Meanwhile, as part of our work with Everton in the Community, another of our students, Sienna Millward, has been selected by Everton to participate in the Street Child World Cup in Mexico in 2026. Again, we and Sienna's family are very proud of this amazing achievement.

### **Invitation**

A big thank you to those who attended last night's Quiz Night – which was a real success. The next event we have planned is:

- **Founder's Day Afternoon Tea on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2pm start**

If you, or anyone you know, would like to attend, then booking can be made by the following link: Founder's Day – <https://forms.office.com/e/bCKHdnuYvj>

## **Lasallian Tribute to Pope Francis**

We were all deeply saddened to hear the passing of our Holy Father – a man who lived out the true meaning of Christianity and Lasallian values. Our District has produced a short tribute to the Holy Father which can be accessed [here](#).

## **St Helens Youth Hub**

We have been asked to share the summer programme and timetable for the YMCA Youth Hub in St Helens. The hub is based in the YMCA on College Street and runs activities every Monday to Friday after school and in the evening for young people. Their timetable of events is attached to this week's update.

## **Upcoming Events**

Mon 5<sup>th</sup>: Bank Holiday (School Closed)  
Mon 5<sup>th</sup> – Fri 9<sup>th</sup>: Year 9 Assessment Window continues  
Tue 6<sup>th</sup> – Fri 9<sup>th</sup>: Year 9 Retreat  
Tue 6<sup>th</sup>: Year 10 Football Final (date could possible change)  
Tue 6<sup>th</sup>: Year 11 Rugby Final  
Wed 7<sup>th</sup> and Thu 8<sup>th</sup>: What's My Job? (Year 7 Careers Workshops)  
Fri 9<sup>th</sup>: Year 11 Mass (pm)  
Mon 12<sup>th</sup>: Main GCSE Exams start / Year 10 Mock Exam window opens  
Mon 12<sup>th</sup> – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup>: Year 7 Assessment Window  
Wed 14<sup>th</sup>: Catholic Life and Culture Governing Board Meeting 5pm  
Thu 15<sup>th</sup>: Founder's Day  
Thu 15<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation Classes (evening)  
Mon 19<sup>th</sup> – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup>: Formation Week  
Wed 21<sup>st</sup>: Creative Careers Visit (yr 9 and 10)  
Thu 22<sup>nd</sup>: Geography Trip Parental Meeting (evening)  
Fri 23<sup>rd</sup>: School finishes for half term (3pm)

## **And Finally...**

Before heading to ASSEDIL, one or two of my team joked about me being out sunbathing all week in Malta. I assured them that this would not be the case as, from experience, such events consist of sitting in an air-conditioned conference room of some sort, for most of the daylight hours. I even suggested I would be coming back paler than I went.

However, on the arrival day, my flight saw me arrive in Malta around 11am and my hotel room was not available until 2pm. As we had nowhere to go, myself and two GB colleagues walked along the harbour front and found a small café to sit outside. In between a coffee, a bite to eat and a chat we spent most of the next 3 hours going through our emails on our phones.

It was only after checking in, unpacking and getting ready to head to the conference that I looked in the mirror – shocked to see that my head seemed to have been replaced by a tomato. As my sun cream was in my luggage in the hotel, I hadn't thought to slap any on and the weather felt quite pleasant with a cooling breeze so I didn't even think about catching the sun.

I was sure it was just a passing thing, maybe I overheated carrying my luggage up 4 flights of stairs, unpacking etc – it would die down soon. However, an hour or so later, when I arrived at the school where the Conference was being held, a colleague from Malta, who I have known for many years, greeted me with the words "I see you have been in the sun!". Needless to say, I spent most of the rest of the time indoors or in the shade.

Have a good weekend.

**Andrew Rannard**

Headteacher

**FREE**

REGISTERED CHARITY : 517144

# YMCA ST HELENS

**For 11-18  
year olds**

## Youth Hub Program

**6 May - 18th July 2025**



COMPLETE THE FORM  
VIA QR CODE OR CONTACT US  
FOR MORE INFO  
(OR JUST DROP IN WHEN OPEN)

**M**

**4:00-5:30pm  
Drop In  
Youth Cafe**



**5:45-6:15pm  
Youth Dinner  
A Free hot meal**



**6:45-8:15pm  
Performing arts  
workshops**



**7:30- 8:30pm  
Breakdancing**



**Tu**

**4:00-5:45pm  
The Great  
Cooking  
Challenge**



**6:00-7:30pm  
Tea & Talk**



**6:30-8:15pm  
Get Creative:  
Creative writing**

**W**

**4:00-5:30pm  
"History in the  
Making"**  
Research the  
history of St Helens  
in fun and  
creative ways



**6:00-7:30pm  
Get Active:  
Sports**



**6:45- 8:15pm  
Get Creative:  
Film/Photography  
& Digital Media**

**Th**



**6:00-7:30pm  
"Money  
Matters"**



**Fri**

**4:00-5:30pm  
Drop In  
Youth Cafe**



**4:00-6:00pm  
Get Creative:  
Art & Crafts**



**6:45- 8:15pm  
Get Active:  
Sports**



**7 - 8:30pm  
Chill out  
space  
A quiet space  
to relax**



**Youth Hub  
YMCA St Helens  
College Street  
St Helens WA10 1TF**



**01744 415260**



**YMCAStHelens**



**Youthwork@ymcasthelens.org.uk**

**"The Youth Hub is our safe place  
to be ourselves, to be comfortable, and be happy"**



**We also run Youth Work activities  
Every Tuesday 4:30-6pm**

**@Sutton Family Hub**

**(26 Ellamsbrige Rd, WA9 3PY)**

**For young people in school years 6,7,8 & 9**



**YMCA**

**Here for young people  
Here for communities  
Here for you**

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

FAMILY & YOUTH WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

HOUSING

TRAINING & EDUCATION

SUPPORT & ADVICE