



De La Salle School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

The end of this half term marks the half-way point of the academic year. It has been a very productive first half of the year, which has included many improvements and activities, and of course, our eagerly anticipated Ofsted visit.

Unfortunately, as a result of the time and effort that the inspection inevitably absorbed, I can only send a letter now rather than the usual Sway newsletter (cue audible sighs of relief). I do apologise for this, but hopefully I can make up for this omission with a bumper edition at the end of the Spring Term (cue groans).

Ofsted

Unfortunately, I am not able to share the outcome of the inspection until the report has been approved and sent to us. I am hopeful that this will be around mid-March. However, I would like to thank the many parents (over 200) and students (over 500) who shared their views of the school via the Ofsted surveys. The inspectors were very impressed by your support and engagement with the process and with the school.

Staffing Changes

Mrs O'Toole, who has been acting Head of Maths in Mrs Gill's absence, will start her maternity leave at half term, and we wish her well. In her absence, Mrs Croft has agreed to take over the role of Head of Maths until Mrs Gill returns to school. We have been delighted to hear very positive news about Mrs Gill and she is hopeful to be back with us at some point after Easter.

Miss Morley has been appointed to take over the role of Head of Year 7 temporarily until Mrs Gill returns and Mrs Croft will return to the Head of Year role.

Air Pods

After half term Air Pods and other similar earphones will be banned from school. The ongoing issues over loss and damage of these very small and expensive items, and the time absorbed in dealing with them, far outweighs the individual pleasure they provide students. Please encourage your child to leave them at home.

Floodlights

We were delighted that our application to install floodlights to the MUGA pitch has now been approved. This will allow our students to be able to play home games of an evening throughout the school year and, through our lettings, bring in additional income that we can spend on the students.

If anyone is interested in using our existing facilities, then details and bookings can be found here: <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/hire/>

Coronavirus

All schools have been asked to share the following information with parents regarding the ongoing outbreak of the Coronavirus:

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice via the links below:

- <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-and-avian-flu-advice-for-travel-to-china>

All advice on coronavirus (COVID-19) is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS advice is available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/>

Finally, can I once again thank you for your continued support for the school, which makes such a positive difference for us all. Particularly to the many of you who sent in messages of good luck and support for the inspection. I hope you and your family have a restful half term and look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 24th February.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Rannard (Headteacher)