



De La Salle
School

Mill Brow, Eccleston, St. Helens,
Merseyside WA10 4QH

Telephone: 01744 20511
Email: delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr. A. Rannard BA (Hons) NPQH

23rd October 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Weekly Parental Update

Well we have made it to half term, I have lost count of the number of times I have tried to eat or drink through my visor, waxed lyrically on a TEAMS meeting for several minutes before realising I was on mute or got to the shops and then returned home as I had forgotten my mask.

These eight weeks have challenged our community and thrown hundreds of questions our way. Equally in those eight weeks we have collectively: staff, students, parents and governors, found the hundreds of answers necessary to allow school to continue. I am grateful to everyone for their collective efforts in making this happen.

As a thank you, I have also managed to keep this week's bulletin relatively brief, which will come as a relief to all of you, and I have shared Rose Cook's poem For Someone Who is Juggling Their Life, which probably applies to all of us.

New Information

Current Situation

To update you on our current situation:

- Since the last update we have had 3 students test positive – one in Year 11 and two in Year 8 and 1 member of our Cover Supervisor Team.
- As a result, 43 students across various year groups have been required to self-isolate.
- So far since 1st September, we have had 24 of the school community test positive for COVID19.
- We currently have 88 students in self-isolation and 11 staff absent school, these are for a variety of reasons: advice from test and trace, family members with symptoms etc.
- Our current attendance remains steady at 93% across the whole school and 84% once students self-isolating are included (under government regulations, students in self-isolation are coded X and do not count as absences).

Staffing Changes

Over the past week we have made some staffing changes.

- Mrs Croft has been promoted to the Senior Leadership Team as temporary Lead Practitioner.
- Mrs Morley has been made permanent in her role as Head of Year 8

- Mrs Critchley has been appointed as temporary Head of Year 7 (to cover Mrs Croft's promotion)
- Mr Johnston has been promoted to Pastoral Support manager for Year 8 to cover Mrs Brunt's maternity leave.

I have also made changes to the roles of members of the SLT, after half term I will share the new structure, however, some key changes that you may need to be aware of are:

- Mrs De'ath will take on the role of Designated Safeguarding lead and Mr Ross will act as Deputy.
- Mrs Wellens will take over pastoral oversight of Years 7 and 8, their Heads of Year and Pastoral Support managers.

I am sure we all wish them well in their new roles.

Food Poverty

You may be aware that Parliament voted not to extend the free school email provision into the holidays. We are very aware that for some families this will cause considerable issues. In emergency, please contact us and we will always look to support our families. It may also be useful to know that some local businesses are offering support for families in need. We have been made aware of the following businesses who are offering support (please contact the individual businesses as certain restrictions may be in place or proof may be needed):

- The Daily Grind, Corporation St (near Victoria Statue)
- Momo's Café, Westfield Street
- Denton's Deli, Greenfield street
- Newton Deli, Wargrave Road
- Toast Coffee House, Dentons Green Lane

Earphones

A reminder that these should not be worn during the school day and may be confiscated until the end of the school week. Your support with this message is much appreciated.

Regular Reminders

Reporting positive COVID tests

We have now created an email address for parents to report COVID test results to us. These are auto forwarded to myself and Mrs Peet and will allow us to act promptly, particularly if the results are received of an evening or over the weekend. Rather uncreatively the email is: covid@delasalleschool.org.uk if reporting a positive test please include:

- Name of child
- DOB
- Contact number
- Date symptoms started
- Date of test
- Date of results

Of course during the school day you can also contact the school directly by phone.

Symptoms

I have attached the useful 2 page reminder of what you need to do in cases of COVID, and can I remind all parents and students to be vigilant for symptoms which include at least one of:

- a high temperature;
- a new continuous cough;
- a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Please do not send students in to school if you or they are awaiting a test or have symptoms.

Around this time of year, it is common for people to start to get coughs and colds. The following link to the BBC website provides a useful explanation of the differences between cold symptoms and COVID symptoms. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54145299>

Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is no doubt these are testing times for everyone and we would encourage anyone who has concerns about themselves or another person to seek help. This could be through school and the pastoral staff that we have. Alternatively, visit the special section of our website which covers:

- Direct links to lots of different types of support
- Advice and guidance
- Activities to help you or others
- Information on Anxiety, Mental Health, Wellbeing and Mindfulness.

The link is: <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/parents/coronavirus/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Finally

Amidst all of the challenges you face and the juggling you are doing, I hope you and your family get time to switch off and recharge. That is very much the sentiment of Rose Cook's poem which I shared with staff this week. Enjoy half term.

*This is a poem for someone
who is juggling their life.
Be still sometimes.
Be still sometimes.*

*It needs repeating
over and over
to catch their attention
over and over,
as someone who is juggling their life
finds it difficult to hear.*

*Be still sometimes.
Be still sometimes.
Let it all fall sometimes.*

Rose Cook

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard (Headteacher)