



De La Salle School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Weekly Parental Update

A quieter week this week ends with the relatively positive news that the Liverpool City Region will enter Tier 2 at the end of the current lockdown next week. We are very aware of the impact the lockdown has had on many of our families, especially those who work within the retail, hospitality and leisure industries as well as those who are self-employed. Any families experiencing severe hardship, please contact the school and we may be able to offer support or direct you to an organisation that can help you.

Details of what restrictions remain in place under each of the tiers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#high-alert>

As always, my update is in two parts: new information and regular reminders.

Part 1 - New Information

Current Situation

To update you on our current situation:

- Since the last update we have had 2 students test positive – one in Year 8 and one in Year 11.
- As a result 14 students and 5 staff have had to self-isolate.
- So far since 1st September, we have had 33 of the school community test positive for COVID19.
- We currently have 50 students in self-isolation and 26 staff absent from school, these are for a variety of reasons: advice from test and trace, family members with symptoms etc.
- Our current attendance (for the year) has increased to 94% across the whole school and 86% once students self-isolating are included (under government regulations, students in self-isolation are coded X and do not count as absences).

Fogging

In order to improve our response to any positive cases and increase protection for staff and students, we have now commissioned cleaners to carry out 'fogging' for areas where a positive case may have been. You may have seen fogging being used by the government for public transport etc, it provides a very high level of cleaning along with a further period of protection against the virus.

Test and Trace App

Many staff and students use the Test and Trace App, however, this week we have had a number of students receive messages to self-isolate though they do not appear to have been a close contact. We have been working with St Helens Public Health and believe some may relate to occasions when blazers or bags may be hung up in close proximity, though the students haven't been in close proximity and we are looking to have some of these decisions reconsidered. Though it is entirely up to individuals, we would discourage the use of the app in school.

Year 11 CVs

The Year 11 students are currently in the process of drafting and re-writing their CVs. Though we obviously provide guidance and advice through our form tutors, to ensure they are high quality and individual it would be great if you could discuss these with your child and support them with completion. Once drafted, our Careers Link, Nicola Scully, will offer comments and advice on further improvements. If you have any questions contact your child's form tutor or Nicola.

Alder Hey Crisis Line

School will be closed for the 2 weeks of Christmas, but we are conscious families and students may face crises during that time. In addition to the support links on our website, we would like to make you aware of the Alder Hey crisis line

24 hours a day 7 days a week

For children and young people, parents and carers

0151 293 3577 or freephone 0808 196 3550

INSET Day

Just a reminder that Friday 4th December is one of our INSET days, as such, school is closed to students.

Part 2 - 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>

Further Information

Full updated details of the requirements for schools can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

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

Congratulations to our student Eco Warriors, Mrs Rooney and Miss Payne, who were not only shortlisted but won this year's Archdiocesan award for Eco Project of the Year. Sadly, due to COVID, there was no ceremony, but we are still very proud of their achievement.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher