



De La Salle School

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3rd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Weekly Parental Update

Today's parental update comes a day earlier than normal as we have INSET day in school tomorrow. I realise for some parents this may be an inconvenience but the INSET days were allocated before COVID and we had managed to place three of them at the start of the year, and the final one is in the summer term. I think it was Mrs Mulhall who identified Friday 4th and all of the staff are exceptionally grateful for that forethought.

Overnight we had encouraging news from the government regarding GCSE exams this year and how they will ensure that our Year 11 students are not disadvantaged. We are awaiting full details and I will share these when available.

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 3 students test positive two in Year 9 and one in Year 11.
- As a result 20 students have had to self-isolate.
- So far since 1st September, we have had 36 of the school community test positive for COVID19.
- We currently have 62 students in self-isolation and 23 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) remains stable at 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).

Tier 2

The Liverpool City Region is now in Tier 2 – High Alert, I have attached an infographic which you may find useful to clarify what we can and cannot do according to the regulations. There is no real impact upon the current school restrictions and controls.

Mobile Testing Unit

Please be aware that the mobile testing unit will be available at the following times and locations:

Friday 04/12/20 at Eccleston Park Golf Club

Friday 04/12/20 to Sunday 06/12/20 inclusive into Clifton Street car park.

INSET Day

Just a reminder that **Friday 4th December** is one of our INSET days, as such, school is closed to students. The day is payback for time staff have given to after school for training and performance management. A good opportunity for staff and students to do some Christmas shopping without the weekend crowds – I will certainly be roaming the random treats of the central aisles of Aldi looking for Mrs Rannard's present.

Year 7 and 8 Dinner Monday 7th December

Year 7 and 8 students will have a grab and go lunch service on Monday 7th December as the Main Hall will not be available for full use. The menu will remain the same as normal. The hall will be back in use again from Tuesday 8th December.

RSE Letter

Along with this update, I have also attached a letter that should now be sent out annually regarding Relationships and Sex Education with information on how to access the content and areas of coverage along with information on withdrawal of students from RSE lessons.

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

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/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term?utm_source=1%20December%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

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

Despite our vertically challenged Christmas trees, we are still keen to make Christmas special at school. Much work is going on regarding the Christmas look, with some forms decorating rooms etc. (in a COVID compliant manner), but more importantly, the Advent preparation and true meaning of Christmas is a key part of our virtual assemblies and form times, including a virtual advent calendar which shares the Christmas story, as well as our charity work across all year groups. All of this will be brought together at the end of term with our virtual Christmas Liturgy which is being filmed now.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher