



De La Salle School

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

29th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope you are all well and managing to stay on top of the trials and tribulations which life is throwing at us at this current time. As you are aware we have had a number of positive test results in school recently and this has meant a number of key individuals, teams and students have had to self-isolate, however you are assured the rest of the staff have pulled together admirably and offered their services and expertise to ensure the school and all remote learning ran successfully. Staff are going above and beyond what is expected to cover for colleagues and ensure all students receive a first class teaching experience.

This week we received the devastating news that our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Mulhall's husband Jon sadly passed away. This has shook us as all as a community, as Jon was a good friend of the school and was known and loved by many. We ask you to keep Mrs Mulhall and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this tragic time.

A Just Giving page has been set up with the money raised going to the Walton Centre who had been caring for Jon. Details of the page are: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/JonMulhall> if any parents wish to contribute.

1. Year 9 Parents' Evening

Yesterday the online Parents' Evening worked successfully, with only a minor glitch in the first 15 minutes; staff have been asked to contact any parent by phone or email if the appointment was missed.

The system itself had improved since the last Parents' Evening and many staff and parents commended how easy it is to use and how effective it has been.

2. The Big Ask

Thanks to all of you who completed the Big Ask, Mr Ross has now disseminated the results of these for staff analysis and we will be able to follow your thoughts and advice and steer the school to further success. Will you please remind your children to complete the students Big Ask before the end of next week?

3. Online Lessons

Each week staff are issuing attainment points for attendance at on-line lessons and on-line learning. You can see how your child is participating by looking at the achievement points gained through Edulink with 2 being the highest and 0 meaning no participation.

The data produced is being analysed by Year teams and Heads of Faculty and will generate further contact from the school to ensure students can access the curriculum and are engaged.

4. February Half-Term

As announced by the Department for Education all schools will close for half-term for **all** staff and students, including vulnerable students and the children of key workers. De La Salle will close on Friday 12th February at 3.00pm and will re-open at 8.30am on Monday 22nd February. This will allow everyone to step back from school and home-learning and hopefully recharge their batteries.

5. Testing

From next week our Test Centre is offering a weekly test to all students who are attending school and is offering all staff in school 2 tests a week. Guidance shows the best way to eliminate the virus is to avoid contact, so **please if you are a key worker only send your child to school if it is absolutely necessary.**

6. Catch up Wednesday

In response to discussions with parents, students and staff we are allocating next Wednesday 3rd February as a catch up day, when students will have time to complete any outstanding assignments to be uploaded on Teams. There will be no live lessons delivered that day, nor any additional work set. When students have completed any outstanding work, they will be expected to spend the rest of the time away from the screen.

School will be open as normal for the vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

7. Mental health – Kooth Assembly

All students are expected to attend a Mental Health Assembly by Kooth on period 1 next Tuesday, 2nd February. This is aimed at supporting young people during lockdown and is aimed at all students, not just those currently struggling. It would be really helpful if you ensured your child attended.

8. Net Aware

Here is a link to Net Aware, the NSPCC's web page which features all the latest social media apps.

You may want to have a look specifically at TikTok, Snapchat, Discord & Omegle: these apps were mentioned in recent Local Authority training.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

[Apps, games and social media sites reviews for parents](#)

Further help and support. If you're a child or young person and want to talk, contact Childline online or call 0800 1111. Anyone who's worried about online grooming or sexual behaviour online can contact CEOP. If you discover any criminal content when you're online you should report it to the Internet Watch Foundation

www.net-aware.org.uk

9. GCSE Pod

GCSEPod are collaborating with Cameron Parker, a renowned motivational speaker for schools and colleges, who will host fast paced, high energy student webinars, focusing on motivation, managing stress, avoiding burnout and staying focused.

Students can register for the webinars via the links below:

Student Webinar - Stress to Success - GCSEPod - 23rd February - 6pm to 7pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D7YDLM5EQ--jRCN0J6K47w

Student Webinar - Student Event - GCSEPod - 3rd March - 5pm to 6pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_osYf0fJXRXGizGoINc3VaA

Students can remain anonymous and parents can watch with them as Cameron makes goal setting, coping strategies and building confidence seem easily attainable.

Current times are challenging for everyone but with strength, unity and determination we will guide and support each other through the dark days. Please remember as a school we are the heart of the community and we are here for you when you need us.

This week has been difficult in school, having so many key members of the team absent whether it be through illness or quarantine, but my thanks goes out to every member of staff and the Governing body for their help and support. No longer will I question Mr Rannard about what it is he actually does!

Take care.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hale
Deputy Headteacher