



# De La Salle School

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5<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

## Parental Update: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Firstly can I thank the many parents and students who contacted the school to wish me and the other staff well whilst recovering from COVID, they were very much appreciated. I am pleased to say that I am now back in work and well on the road to recovery. Still breathless and tired at times but, as Mrs R points out, I was hardly an Olympic athlete beforehand!

A second thank you goes to the leadership of the school in admin, middle leadership and especially the senior leadership team and Mr Hale who have ensured the school continues to run smoothly in my absence. I fear they have now discovered how little I actually do.

As we enter the sixth week of national lockdown and remote education, we are eagerly awaiting the guidance on how and when the wider re-opening of schools will take place. Staff, students and parents have done a sterling job in maintaining high quality education over this time, but we are eager to bring our students back into school in a safe and manageable way. I will of course keep you updated on these plans as the guidance comes through.

### 1. Support for Parents

The government have now updated their guidance to parents regarding home education and additional support including some useful links for parents regarding:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Resources for parents of children with SEND
- Additional educational resources

You can access this guidance at: [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_source=93574ea8-d560-4b8f-8b16-67f5d71ef7ff&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=93574ea8-d560-4b8f-8b16-67f5d71ef7ff&utm_content=daily)

The local authority have also asked us to share the following link to tips for parents who are home schooling:

<https://www.triplep-parenting.uk.net/uk/hot-parenting-topics/my-child/and-school-life/>

### 2. Observing Lockdown Rules

All schools have been asked to re-emphasise to all parents the importance of ensuring their children are following the lockdown rules. In particular not mixing with other families and only going out of the house for reasons permitted under the lockdown rules. The guidance can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

### 3. The Big Ask

A big thank you to all who took part in the Big Ask. In all we had 285 parents respond, so thank you to all who did. I thought you might be interested to see the parental feedback:

*You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.*

**Core Questions:**

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral or N/A	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child is happy at DLS	41.8%	47.0%	8.4%	2.5%	0.4%
My child feels safe at DLS	38.2%	51.6%	5.3%	3.5%	1.4%
DLS makes sure its pupils are well behaved	24.9%	53.3%	16.5%	3.9%	1.4%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	16.5%	41.8%	22.8%	15.1%	3.9%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	27.1%	40.7%	25.7%	3.6%	2.9%
The school has high expectations for my child	30.6%	51.1%	15.5%	1.1%	1.8%
My child does well at this school	30.3%	52.8%	13.7%	2.8%	0.4%
The school lets me know how my child is doing	28.5%	50.4%	14.1%	5.6%	1.4%
There are a good range of subjects available to my child	29.7%	54.8%	12.0%	2.8%	0.7%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at DLS	35.8%	48.2%	11.3%	3.5%	1.1%
The school supports my child's wider personal development	28.5%	41.5%	25.4%	3.5%	1.1%

**Specific questions**

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My Child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed. (responses from the 78 parents who had children with SEND)	30.8%	35.9%	23.1%	2.6%	7.7%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with it quickly and effectively (responses from the 91 parents who said their child had experienced bullying of some sort)	16.5%	44.0%	24.2%	12.1%	3.3%

**Final question**

Question	Yes	No
I would recommend this school to another parent	92.1%	7.9%

This is very positive feedback and pleasing to hear from parents. However, our focus is on those areas that achieved lower satisfaction scores, which we will explore further and look to address any issues.

**Year 11 GCSEs**

The government consultation on GCSEs has now closed and we await news on how this year's GCSE grades will be awarded. In the meantime, we continue to deliver as full a curriculum as possible to our Year 11 students in order to ensure they are not only well prepared for whatever form the GCSE awarding takes this year, but also to help them transition successfully to College or apprenticeships.

Finally, we inch ever closer to Spring and with the increasingly brighter mornings and evenings, and as the COVID data starts to improve, though we know there is still a long way to go, we can at least feel we are coming towards the end of lockdown and can all look forward to one day returning to some sort of normality.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard (Headteacher)