



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

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update: Week ending 12th February

I am sending this week's update earlier this week as there is some important information to share ahead of half term. At the moment, we are still awaiting government decisions and guidance on how and when schools will re-open more widely and, based upon the recent consultation, how GCSEs will be awarded. I am led to believe that GCSE information is expected over half term and wider re-opening information is due in the first week back after half term. We shall see.

Part 1: New Information

1. Second Catch-Up Day

Feedback about our recent Catch-Up day from parents and students was very positive. We are very aware that all students, and especially for our older students, have a considerable amount of work and live lessons. It is easy for individuals to fall behind or feel overwhelmed with what they have or have not done.

Therefore, we will have a second **Catch-Up Day this Friday (12th Feb)**. No live lessons or work will be delivered on this day. Instead, during this week, I have asked teachers to make clear to all classes, exactly where students should be up to. Students can use the time to review and regroup where they are in each subject and identify what still needs to be done. Having this clarity is an important element in helping students manage their studies and maintain healthy minds. Then students can return after half-term with a shared understanding of where they are up to with their studies.

2. Safer Internet Day

Mrs De'Ath, is coordinating our work on Safer Internet Day today, but I thought it would be useful to share a reminder of our protocols around using TEAMS:

Before joining the lesson please ensure the following:

- You are dressed sensibly - No shoulder should be on show, please ensure you are wearing either a t-shirt or jumper.
- You are sat in a communal area - You should NOT be sat in your bedroom. During the lesson please sit in room with other people nearby.
- Be prepared - You need to ensure that you have the basic equipment of a pen, pencil and note book. Your teacher may ask you to bring along work so be prepared!

During Lessons:

- **Switch off your camera and microphone.** This protects your privacy and stops any background noise at your location from disturbing the lesson. These can be turned back on later if you need to ask questions.
- **Hands Up** - If at any point during the lesson you need to ask a question. Click in the 'Hand' icon. This will inform your teacher that you are waiting to ask a question. When the teacher want you to ask the question they will invite you to turn your microphone back on. Speak clearly and use appropriate language.
- **Asking a question** - If you would like to ask a question, but you do not have a microphone - Do not worry! Use the 'chat' feature and type your question instead! Check to see if someone else has already asked your question. If they have, hover over the top of the question and click on the 'thumbs up', so your teacher knows which questions are most popular.

3. Half Term

A reminder that next week (Mon 15th to Fri 19th) is half term. School will be closed to all students and will re-open to Key Worker and Vulnerable Children on Monday 22nd February, with all other students resuming remote education.

4. LA COVID Inspection

I am pleased to say that the school comfortably passed the Local Authority inspection of its procedures, risk assessments and controls for opening during COVID. A big thank you to all the site team and everyone who works daily to keep the school: staff and students, safe.

5. Year 8 and 9 HPV Immunisations

Unfortunately, at this time we do not have an update regarding the Year 8 and 9 HPV immunisations. The Health Service who deliver the immunisations are awaiting further guidance from Public Health England. As soon as they have an update, the Children's Health Service will be in touch with school. (These immunisations are standard annual jabs and are not related to any COVID vaccine).

Part 2: Ongoing Information

Government Guidance

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

Finally, though a few days away yet, I would like to thank all of our parents for their continued support in helping us to deliver blended learning to students. I hope that you and your families will be able to have some respite over the half term and that the weather is kind enough to allow you to enjoy some quality time outdoors (obviously within COVID guidelines!).

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard (Headteacher)