



De La Salle School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 30th April

Obviously mentioning sun screen in last week's update has brought the cooler weather this week, so for balance if I remind parents to ensure students have a coat on cooler days, the warmth might return.

This week has been a very busy week in school as our Year 11 continue their ongoing assessments and staff continue the considerable marking that has been required to process them. Whilst the rest of the school are focussed on identifying gaps in knowledge and addressing them. We also managed to fit in a Year 10 girls' charity football match.

There are a number of important notices this week as we finalise our arrangements up until the end of term.

Ofsted

We have now received the published version of our Ofsted letter and visit (attached). I am very pleased to say that they have judged that we are **taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances**. We are really pleased with their assessment of the school and the many positive comments in the letter. It is also great that they only identified one area for further action – regarding teacher knowledge of phonics. This was something we already had plans for which were only held up as a result of the pandemic.

Though they are not allowed to comment on the staff and parent surveys in the letter, beyond how many were completed, they did say verbally how very positive both surveys were. So thank you to everyone who completed them.

Homework

Several parents have raised the issue that, as we now use TEAMS for setting student homework, they are no longer able to check if it is being completed, as they would within Show My Homework. We think we have now found a way of reporting homework from teams to parents via email. Miss Warburton will be writing out with details of how this will work on Monday.

School Trips and other fun things

Remember them? As we start to slowly emerge from current restrictions, we are keen to re-establish the many wonderful wider opportunities that we were providing our students. We already have some geography field trips planned, some sporting activities are now starting to take place and we are making arrangements for beginning work on performing arts activities, including a show just before Christmas.

We are also, tentatively, looking at the trips we run abroad. Obviously at this stage we are not making any firm commitments, and certainly no financial commitment, but the ground work is underway to ensure that, as soon as possible, our students can, once again, enjoy these great opportunities.

Year 11

I wrote out yesterday to Year 11 parents to inform them that the Year 11 students will finish onsite lessons at half term, Friday 28th May. They will then have online bridging work and activities available to them between 7th and 18th June.

Sadly there will be no large scale Prom at the Totally Wicked Stadium this year, but we are keen to ensure the Year 11 have an end of year celebration. This is planned for the evening of Thursday 10th June. Mr Hale and Mr Leggett are working with the students on how this will look, and details will be sent out to Year 11 parents separately.

COVID

The local data continues to show low levels of infection in the local area. This is very encouraging and hopefully will ensure we stay on the roadmap out of restrictions. However, it is important that we all continue to test twice a week, follow the controls and guidance and remain vigilant for symptoms.

PE Kit

The optimism I displayed last week with regards to improvements in uniform standards appears to have been slightly misplaced. Mr Whelan has reported that we are starting to see issues with students wearing correct PE kit, Mr Whelan will be writing out to clarify for everyone the expectations. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Forthcoming Events

- Monday 3rd May: Bank Holiday (school closed)
- Monday 10th May: Yr 9 Immunisations (Not COVID Related)
- Tuesday 11th May: Yr 9 Immunisations (Not COVID Related)
- Wednesday 12th May: Governors Personnel Committee (5pm)
- Friday 28th May: School closes for half term (3pm)

And finally...

Our work on the 3 Year plan is well underway and in the final stages of writing and before the end of term, I will share the key themes with parents. Though the task of actually writing up plans can be mundane, the time spent looking ahead and identifying what we want the school to look like in 3 years' time, is incredibly exciting. All of the staff have been very positive about the plan, our future and how we can give our children the excellent educational experience they deserve.

In the meantime, I hope you and your family are able to enjoy the bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher