



De La Salle School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 14th May

Happy Founder's Day to all of our community. This has been an important week for our community. That sense of belonging to the Lasallian family has always been important but, in the light of the past 15 months, even more so.

Speaking to parents, staff, other headteachers and young people, there has been a real sense of detachment as we have spent so much time apart. That is why our week of celebration leading up to today has been so important – helping us all to re-connect and once again feel a part of the Lasallian community.

Lasallian Garden

A part of our celebrations this week has involved us creating a Lasallian reflection garden. This is designed in the shape of the Lasallian Star with a tree planted at each of the 5 points, representing a year group and one of the 5 core Lasallian Values:

- **Year 7:** Crab Apple Tree – symbolic of youth and joy and links into our core value of having an Inclusive Community
- **Year 8:** Whitebeam Tree – symbolic of hope and strength and links into our core value of Quality Education
- **Year 9:** Japanese Larch Tree – symbolic of awareness of the world and links to our core value of Concern for the Poor and Social Justice.
- **Year 10:** Japanese Sycamore Tree – symbolic of strength, eternity and divinity and links to our core value of Faith.
- **Year 11:** Golden Sunburst Honey Locust Tree – symbolic of beauty, tolerance and protection and links in to our core value of Respect for All Persons.

The students who represented each year group did a wonderful job as ambassadors for their peers and helping to plant the trees.

Face Coverings

The government have announced the next stage of changes in our roadmap out of lockdown. We have now had the detailed guidance and made the necessary changes. The most significant change being around the wearing of face coverings. Our policy, from Monday, will be:

- Face coverings remain compulsory on school buses and public transport
- Students no longer need to wear face coverings anywhere in school (though of course they are welcome to continue wearing them)
- Staff are recommended to wear face coverings where social distancing is not possible.

The reason the government have different requirements of staff and students is because the students continue to operate within bubbles whilst staff move between bubbles.

The full government guidance for schools can be found here: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachm>

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

[ent_data/file/985138/10_May_Schools_Guidance.pdf](#) Face covering guidance starts on page 10.

Bus Behaviour

I have been disappointed to hear concerns raised by one of the bus providers for Merseytravel, regarding the behaviour of a small number of our students on the buses. We have addressed the matter with the students involved and the two buses affected, but would appreciate your support in reminding students of the importance of being good Lasallians beyond the school gate.

PCR Testing

Public Health have confirmed that they are seeing a number of young people with positive LFT test results (LFTs are the tests distributed by us as a school), but not with a follow-up PCR (these are the more accurate tests from test centres) and have asked for our assistance in highlighting the importance of PCR testing. The guidance around this is below.

A positive assisted LFT test result is the trigger for the legal duty to self-isolate. Legal notifications will be rescinded if there is a negative, follow-up PCR result, if the test was taken within 2 days of the positive LFT test result. This timeframe is to ensure the PCR test accurately reflects the LFT test result as much as possible, while still allowing sufficient time for someone to arrange a PCR test. The PCR test can be taken at a test site or at home. Within two days means the PCR should be taken on the day the LFT test was taken, the next day, or the following day.

Example: An LFT test returns a positive result early Monday morning on the 15th of the month. The person has the rest of Monday 15th, or Tuesday 16th, or Wednesday, 17th to take a PCR test within the 2-day timeframe.

Forthcoming Events (items in bold indicate different school finish time)

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| Wednesday 26 th May: | Governors: Behaviour and Welfare Committee (5pm) |
| Friday 28 th May: | School closes for half term (3pm) |
| Monday 7 th June: | School Re-opens |
| Monday 14 th June: | Year 9 Geography Field trip to Lake District |
| Wednesday 16 th June: | Governors: Business Committee (5pm) |
| Thursday 17 th June: | Year 9 Form Tutor/Parent meetings (online) |
| Wednesday 23 rd June: | Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Lake District |
| Thursday 24 th June: | Year 7 Parents' Evening (online) School finishes at 1.30pm |

And finally...

It is easy for us to take stereotypical views of people. For example if I was to say to you, imagine an IT technician – I am sure many of us would imagine the character from the Office or others from the IT Crowd. However, one of our very own IT team, Mr Greenhalgh has surprised us all by writing and having published his collection of poetry! He has not asked me to mention it nor is he aware I am sharing this with you but, his book is entitled **Simple Words for a More Elegant Time** and further details are available at [Simple Words for a More Elegant Time: Amazon.co.uk: Greenhalgh, Andrew: 9781789631869: Books](#) I guess the phrase 'never judge a book by its cover' has never been so apt!

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher