



# De La Salle School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

## Parental Update 21.5.21

I remember when I first started, many years ago in Huyton, having gone into teaching from business, I was amazed that the summer term was a gentle drift towards the holidays: Year 11 (or 5<sup>th</sup> year as they might have been then) seemed to start study leave around Easter, no worries about Ofsted, nobody really chased up pupil attendance, if you volunteered for the school play you ended up with several weeks off timetable and on hot days you could take your class out to sit on the field for the lesson (avoiding the odd stray dog) – schools certainly seemed simpler and easier, though much less efficient, places to work.

These may be rose-tinted memories, however, education has changed considerably in the past 25 years – the levels of accountability and expectation have increased beyond recognition. So as we move to the business end of the academic year, far from staff and students making daisy chains on the field, they are working flat out revising, completing or marking assessments, writing reports, identifying gaps in learning, providing catch-up and planning the curriculum for next year. This year, in particular, has been incredibly demanding on the staff and students and I thank them for their hard work, resilience and focus.

### Coronavirus Variants

As you may be aware from the news, there are concerns around the spread of the 'Indian Variant' of Covid in the North West. At the moment, this has not been a significant issue for our community, but it does emphasise the importance of continued twice-weekly testing of staff and students (and families), along with maintaining good respiratory and hand hygiene. I will, of course, keep you updated if anything changes in our area.

### Qwell Mental health and Wellbeing Support

Working through the Local Authority, we are able to offer all of our community access to Qwell – this is an online mental Health Service. If interested in using the service, you will find the guides to signing up and a FAQ doc on our school website at <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/students/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

### Magnets

I wanted to raise a concerning trend on Tik Tok which involved young people putting magnets in their mouths (no I don't know why either). This has led to some young people accidentally swallowing the magnets and then needing medical treatment afterwards. You may want to speak to your child about this.

### Year 11

Our Year 11 students complete their onsite learning next Friday which will be followed after half term, by a 2 week window for online learning focusing upon bridging work into college studies, and of course our Prom Not Prom which is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

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

### **New Intake**

Our new intake students will be having 2 days of transition on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July followed by a week long Summer School in the first week of the summer holidays. More detailed information regarding this will be sent out to families after half term.

### **Library Services**

The St Helens Library Service have asked me to share information regarding the re-opening of the libraries so I have attached the relevant flyers they have sent. In particular, they want us to emphasise that:

- They are currently running a promotion until the end of June where library cards can be replaced free of charge (£4 usually).
- Fines on overdue books have been abolished
- There is no charge to reserve items.
- Their digital library service via Borrowbox and Libby provides access to thousands of books.

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

Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May:	Governors: Behaviour and Welfare Committee (5.00pm)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May:	School closes for half term (3.00pm)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June:	School Re-opens
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 11 Prom Not Prom (6.30pm to 10.30pm) Ticket only
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 9 Geography Field trip to Lake District
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June:	Governors: Business Committee (5pm)
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 9 Form Tutor/Parent meetings (online)
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June:	Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Lake District
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June:	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening (online) School finishes at 1.30pm</b>

### **And finally...**

As this week draws to a close and I take the magnets off Mr Hale and help Mrs Wellens pack up her overdue Barbara Cartland novels, I hope you continue to safely enjoy the relaxed lockdown measures with your family.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Rannard**

Headteacher