



# De La Salle School

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28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Parental Update 28.5.21

There is an old English saying “May you live in interesting times” that supposedly has its origins as a Chinese curse. Either way I think we would all agree that we are currently living through incredibly interesting times, and this half term as much as any. In preparation for becoming a Headteacher, like most of my colleagues, I underwent the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH), this was designed to ensure heads had training and preparation in the key aspects of running a school.

Over the past 18 months I and most of the heads I speak to, have discovered that the wealth of training we underwent has been of almost no use at all! Of much more help, has been the sense of Lasallian unity, compassion, kindness and support that I have seen with parents, staff and students. I hope this will continue as we take the school forward, out of the pandemic, in a positive and unified way.

### IT Issues

We were informed by the Metropolitan Police Cyber Unit that they had discovered login details attached to [@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:@delasalleschool.org.uk) for sale on the dark web. The most likely reason for this is a member of staff or student using it on a 3<sup>rd</sup> party site or app which has been breached and the information put up for sale. However, in response to this and after discussion with our IT Team, Agilisys, we took the decision to shut down all of our systems and disable all user (staff and student) accounts to ensure none of our data is compromised or at risk.

As a result, we have now managed to re-start all the staff and infrastructure accounts but will not be able to do the same for the students until the first morning back after half term. Year 11 will have theirs posted to them after half term. This will mean that students will not be able to access their TEAMS, school email or other school-based systems over half term. Staff are aware and any deadlines for work will be extended.

### Department for Education

I am not sure if someone has changed the coffee at the Department for Education, but after a fairly lengthy period of inactivity with very few educational initiatives being launched, since the end of April the Department for Education and Gavin Williamson have made a number of statements which indicate new or shifting policies. In particular:

- **Academisation:** The intention that all schools will be part of a Multi-Academy Trust (currently around 50% of schools are).
- **Mobile Phones in school:** Mr Williamson has been clear of the dangers and impact they have he supports them being banned and they are reviewing the rules around mobile phones with the possibility of a complete ban.
- **Low Level Disruption in Schools:** This is now a new focus and they are reviewing the powers headteachers have around exclusions and in dealing with this.

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

There is clearly change afoot that will affect most schools and we will be watching the direction of travel carefully as to how any of these affect us here at DLS. Gavin Williamson's recent speech at the Confederation of School Trusts can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-speech-to-the-confederation-of-school-trusts>

## **Year 11**

Yesterday we said goodbye to our Year 11 students as they finished their onsite lessons. Despite COVID restrictions, we were able to give them a more traditional send off than last year's students. This involved shirt signing, form pictures in our new Lasallian Star Garden, the football match, Leavers' Assembly and of course our Guard of Honour as they left. It was a very emotional morning for all with lots of tears, mostly Mr Leggett's. They have been a wonderful year group and we look forward to seeing them at Prom Not Prom after half term.

## **Half Term Events**

The Local Authority have asked me to share information on various events open to students and families over the half term. All details are in the attached document.

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

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:	Year 7 Parents' Evening (online) <b>School finishes at 1.30pm</b>

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

With the weather looking set to improve, I hope you and your family are able to get out and about and make the most of the half term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Rannard**  
Headteacher