



# De La Salle School

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18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Parental Update 18.6.21

It has definitely been a week of mixed emotions across the school. The week didn't start well, with the grim news of rising cases and the extension to lockdown restrictions owing to the rapid spread of the Delta Variant, particularly in the North West.

This was followed the next day by two threatening communications sent to all the St Helens Schools: one from 'A Group of Concerned Parents' (a national group, not parents from our school) and the other from Workers of England Union. Both letters informing me of the legal action I will personally face if I impose various COVID related policies or actions, which is something to look forward to.

However, the week has ended in a far more positive manner when I had the real pleasure of interviewing our Year 10 prefects who had applied to be members of the 1719 Society. They were simply inspiring in their attitude, commitment to the school and passion for wanting to serve others. Hopefully they will be able to operate without the current COVID restrictions.

### Current Cases

This week we have seen several cases of COVID within school:

- 4 student cases this week (1 x Yr 7, 2 x yr 8 and 1 x yr 9)
- 20 cases since 1st Jan (8 staff and 12 students) and
- 51 cases this academic year (13 staff and 38 students).

### Self-Isolation

When a case occurs we try to carefully track and trace any close contacts. Several parents we have contacted have asked if their child can test every day instead of self-isolating. This was something that the government had suggested but then withdrew, though a pilot programme was in place for a small number of schools. I asked this question of Public Health and their response was:

*The practice of daily testing of contacts was being completed in a small number of schools as a pilot. These pilots have since stopped as the cases have started to increase again recently.*

*If pupils are identified as a contact of a positive case they must complete the full period of isolation regardless of a negative test.*

### Delta Variant – Enhanced Response Area

As I have mentioned, the figures for the area are rising and the Liverpool City Region has been designated as an Enhanced Response Area. As such, all schools in the area were issued with updated guidance which included (I have also attached the LA guide for families):

- Advising that face coverings are worn in communal spaces
- Advising that, where possible, face coverings should be worn in classrooms by staff and students.
- Postponement or cancellation of proms whether onsite or at an outside venue
- Postponement or cancellation of in-person transition events e.g. Year 6 transition days
- Twice weekly testing of staff and pupils, on-site if possible.

For our school, this means:

- Wearing of face coverings by staff and students in communal areas and classrooms is recommended (though not compulsory)
- We have cancelled our transition days for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July, though we intend to still deliver our summer school in wb 26<sup>th</sup> July.
- We have additional kits available for home testing and are exploring the possibility of re-opening our on-site testing.

### **Twice Weekly Testing**

To help tackle this rise, we have been asked to encourage all staff, students and their families to take part in the twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing. Students and staff can access tests from school whilst families can collect them from the local test centres.

### **Uniform – Support/Donations**

We hold a good stock of second-hand school uniform that is in very good condition so I wanted to make parents aware of two things:

- Any families struggling financially should contact the school and we will try to support you discreetly and without fuss.
- Any families whose children are leaving or have outgrown their uniform and it is still in good condition, we would welcome any donations to reception, in particular ties!

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

Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June:	Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Lake District
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening (online) School finishes at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	<b>INSET Day (students do not attend)</b>
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 10 Immunisations (Not COVID related)
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June:	Year 8 Immunisations (Not COVID Related)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July:	Year 9 Immunisations (Not COVID related)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July:	Year 9 Immunisations (Not COVID related)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July:	Year 9 Immunisations (Not COVID related)

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

This morning I pushed the button to send off and confirm the last of our Year 11 Teacher Assessed Grades for the GCSE awards this year. This has involved a monumental effort from the staff and students to ensure we are able to give as fair and accurate grading in every subject for every student. Let us all hope this is the one and only time this is needed.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Rannard**  
Headteacher