



De La Salle School

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11th June 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 11.6.21

Last night we held our Prom Not Prom for the Year 11 students. I will readily admit I did have concerns, especially as many schools have opted not to have any form of Prom or some of those who had planned full proms are now looking to cancel or re-think. However, seeing the enjoyment and smiles on the many faces of the students last night made me realise that it was worthwhile and a great way to celebrate the end of their time with us.

It was much harder work than holding one at another venue (and a big thank you to Mr Leggett, Mr Hale, Mrs Moran, Mr Millea and the dozens of staff who helped out), especially during COVID times but it was particularly enjoyable to see so many students take part – far more than would normally attend prom. I believe a big part of this is the expense of a large formal prom, which for some can run into £1000s, when in reality, the students enjoyed it just a much, more attended and it felt like theirs. The dust is still settling but this may be something we look to continue in the future.

Delta Variant/ Twice Weekly Testing

We have noticed a considerable rise in the number of COVID cases, particularly the new Delta variant, in neighbouring local authorities. The numbers in St Helens, which though much lower, are also starting to rise.

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.

Lockdown Restrictions

Like the rest of the country, we are waiting to see the government's next steps as part of our roadmap out of lockdown. The rise in cases, mentioned above, may impact schools locally or nationally, and we have drawn up contingency plans for a range of eventualities.

Year 11

Firstly can I say a huge thank you to all of our Year 11 families for the wealth of very kind gifts, cards and donations that I, the staff and the school received. I was personally overwhelmed by the breadth of kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity you have shown – apologies that we have not replied to everyone but thank you!

There was a delay getting some of the login information out to our Year 11s but all should now have received them. Students are reminded to access the bridging materials that have been provided in conjunction with our local FE colleges.

EduLink and Moodle

Overnet Data, who host the EduLink and Moodle services, contacted schools to say that they need to do some emergency work in their datacentre over the weekend. Subsequently, EduLink and Moodle may be unavailable over the weekend. Overnet Data apologise for any disruption this may cause.

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

Parent Sessions

The local authority have asked me to share the following information on parent support sessions, which are open to all parents:

The young people's drug and alcohol team are running a 90 Minute parenting session to support parents and carers in the borough having discussions with their children about drugs and alcohol.

The session will cover:

- Talking to your children about drug and alcohol.
- Basic drug and alcohol awareness.
- Exploitation and what this is.
- Keeping your children safe and safety planning with your children.

Details:

Tuesday 15th June 2021

10am-11.30 - AM session

1pm - 2.30pm - PM session

This session will be virtual and held over Microsoft Teams. We will be taking booking until 12pm on 14th June 2021 and invites will be sent out that afternoon.

For any further details or to book a place on this please email your name, telephone number, email and which session you would like to attend: ypdaat@sthelens.gov.uk

Whittakers School uniform

Over the coming weeks families will be thinking of next year's uniform, so please find attached a guide from our main supplier, Whittakers, as to the different ways you can order and collect uniform.

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

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 24th June:	Year 7 Parents' Evening (online) School finishes at 1.30pm
Monday 28th June:	INSET Day (students do not attend)
Tuesday 29 th June:	Yr 10 Immunisations (Not COVID related)
Wednesday 30 th June:	Yr 8 Immunisations (Not COVID Related)
Thursday 1 st July:	Year 9 Immunisations (Not COVID related)
Friday 2 nd July:	Year 9 Immunisations (Not COVID related)
Monday 5 th July:	Year 9 Immunisations (Not COVID related)
Monday 5 th July:	Year 6 Transition day 1
Tuesday 6 th July:	Year 6 Transition day 2

And finally...

This week saw Ofsted publish their report into sexual abuse in schools. The full report can be accessed here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges and is difficult reading. The report makes clear that the issue goes well beyond schools and it is important that this, along with other concerns around gender, racial, religious and homophobic abuse is taken seriously and addressed both within and beyond schools. These issues are important to us and feature significantly in the work we are currently doing and planning to do in the coming year, to ensure that schools are safe places for everyone full stop.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher