



De La Salle
School

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1 October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Weekly Parental Update 1.10.21 – Week 4

The start of this week saw our 1719 Society spending 3 days away on retreat at the Lasallian Retreat Centre in Kintbury. I was fortunate enough to be with the students who displayed a real passion and desire to work to support our students' experience at the school. It is inspiring to see young people stepping up to take on their leadership roles in this way and hopefully their work will benefit all of our students.

Meanwhile in school, many of the clubs and activities on offer to students have begun, and we hope to have a definitive timetable for all students early next week. On a less positive note, our rates of infection continue to rise and, in the COVID section below, I will outline the additional measures that we are now putting in place.

Open Evening – Change of date

In discussion with Public Health officials, we have taken the decision to postpone our Open Evening, owing to the high rates of COVID in the school. The new date is **Thursday 21st October** (4.30pm – 7.30pm). We are very keen that the Year 5 and 6 students are able to see the school in person and this is as late as we can push it. If rates remain high, then we can move to a virtual Open Evening, but we hope this isn't the case. Students will therefore finish at normal time on 7th October but will finish at **1.30pm on Thursday 21st October**.

House Competition Scores

This week has seen the completion of the second round of house fixtures, these involved Year 10. Next week is the turn of Year 8 (as Year 9 students are away on trips across next 2 weeks) with Mount Carmel playing Campion in netball and football on Tuesday and West Park playing Notre Dame on the Thursday.

Our first Bake Off will be for Year 7 on Wednesday 13th October. Each house can nominate 2 students who will be provided with the ingredients and a recipe card to complete their technical challenge. The competition will be judged by our very own Prue Leith, Paul Hollywood, Matt Lucas & Noel Fielding. I am one of those judges and suspect I am not going to be Paul Hollywood!

The scores in the house cup so far are below and currently include the Year 10 and 11 sporting points and two weeks of attendance points.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	House Total
Notre Dame	5	6	6	87	105	209
Campion	5	7	5	83	65	165
Mount Carmel	2	3	2	43	63	113
West Park	8	4	7	47	27	93

Bus Time Changes

We have been made aware, by Merseytravel, of the following changes to bus timings that are now in place:

- The 750 school service will now depart at 07:45, arriving at the school for 08:10.
- The 751 school service will now depart at 07:52, arriving at the school for 08:07.

There are no changes to the routes and the afternoon services are unaffected. These changes have been done to improve the reliability of the services.

Vaping

Vaping seems to be the new fad with young people at the moment. This is not helped by the easy availability of cheap flavoured vapes that appear to be marketed at young people. I would encourage you to be vigilant of your child possibly having one of these vapes. Obviously, students are not permitted to have these in school, and students found with them will be excluded, in line with our policy on other drug related paraphernalia.

Homework

I have been informed that we have managed to establish the link between TEAMS Assignments and Show My Homework. This should start to allow you to access any homework's that have been set on either system, depending upon which you prefer to use.

Upcoming Events

Below are some of the key events coming up this half term:

5th October – Year 9 Geography Fieldtrip to Snowdonia

8th October – Flu Vaccinations, all years (where consent has been provided)

11th – 15th October – Year 7 to Year 10 Assessment Week

12th October – Year 9 Geography Fieldtrip to Snowdonia

14th October – Year 11 Information Evening (this will be delivered virtually)

21st October – Open Evening (students finish at 1.30pm)

22nd October – School closes for half term

COVID Related Information

Further Controls

Our rates continue to increase within the school and we met again with Public Health on Wednesday to discuss what further controls should be implemented to help slow the infection rates. The main new control is to carry out onsite testing today and at the start of next week. This testing will be provided by the LA Mobile Testing unit and offered to all students. Information is being sent out for parents who have not yet given consent for testing, but might wish to.

Staff Absence

The rising rates of COVID are also impacting upon our staffing at the moment, though at lower rates than student infections. This inevitably means that some students do not have their usual teacher. Wherever possible, we always try to use our own staff to cover lessons and the work set will usually be from the class teacher. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Vaccinations

Our understanding is that the LA is running a pilot for the offer of COVID vaccinations with 2 secondary schools (we are not part of this pilot). They will then be in contact with schools regarding how this will roll out across the town.

Flu nasal spray vaccinations (not COVID Related) should take place on 8th October, for those students who have provided consent.

And finally...

My youngest heads off to university this weekend with the mix of emotions that brings (along with the never-ending financial requests) and I know many of you will also have older children or relatives who have also just gone to university, or are about to. We wish them all well and hope they settle in over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher