



# De La Salle School

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Dear Parent / Carer,

## Parental Update

This week's update contains a real variety of items, including our two latest student-driven appeals which they have asked me to share with you. This week saw the successful roll-out of vaccines to those families who wanted their child to be vaccinated (we are also aware that many families had already had their child vaccinated at an NHS vaccine centre). This process went well, so thank you to all involved in enabling it to happen.

In the past few updates, based upon your feedback in the Big Ask, I have tried to include more information on the academic side of school life such as curriculum maps, schemes of work, PSHCE etc. Today I briefly mention PiXL and DTT, which is one of the techniques we are using to help fill any gaps in learning. It is great to share these developments with parents, though apologies that, after several weeks, parking does also raise its head again.

## Your Future Careers and Aspirations Evening

To support our Year 9-11 students' future career aspirations and course choices, a Your Future Careers and Aspirations Event was organised and scheduled to be held at De La Salle on Thursday 14th October. The event aimed to provide students, parents/carers with vital information to support and inform their preferred Post 16 pathway choices and the various opportunities that are available to them after Year 11.

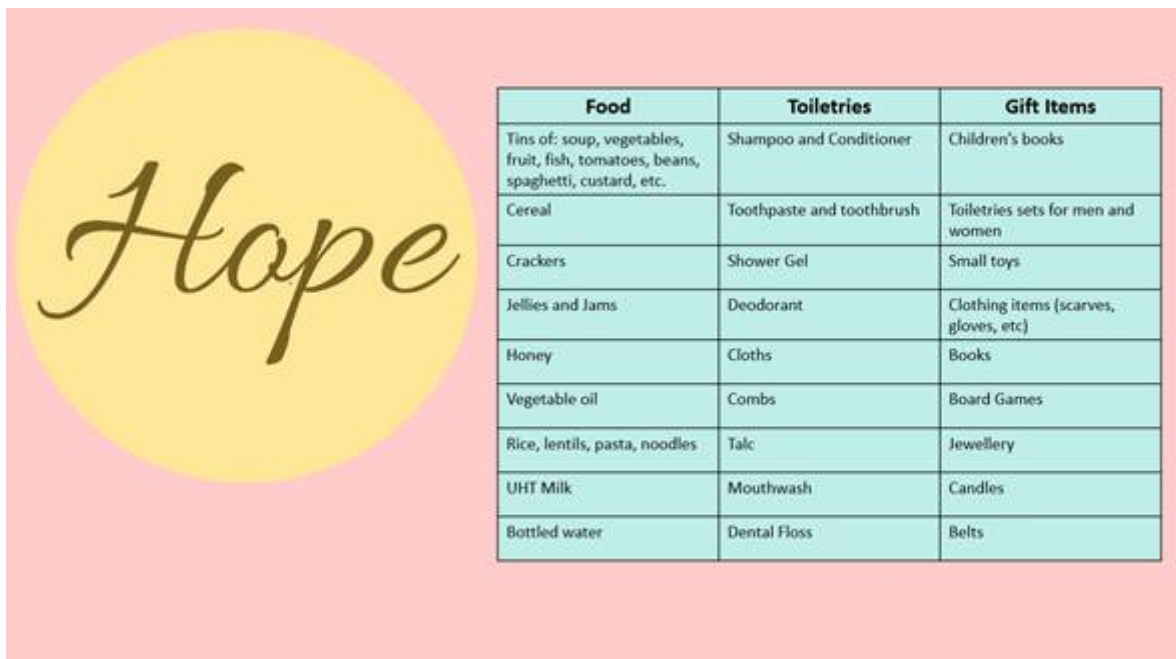
As the event was unable to take place, due to further Covid-19 restrictions within school, the careers team have worked with a number of the exhibitors who were due attend the event, to produce a virtual platform for all student's to access, which can now be found on the school website. This can be accessed here: <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/careers/events-and-educational-visits/>

With Post 16 choices (Year 11) and Option choices (Year 9), this is an important opportunity for students in all years to gather as much information as possible about potential future pathways and career choices, to allow them to make informed decisions that will result in a happy, secure, and successful future for all

## HOPE Campaign

This week saw the launch of our students' HOPE (Help Other People Eat) Campaign. Which seeks to support our local foodbank run by Teardrops. There are students across the school involved and Teardrops have generously organised a prize for the form class that collectively brings in the most donations. The items we are looking for can be found in the table below (the table will also be displayed in each form room). If each form brought in one item from each of the 27 categories, we would have over 1000 items to donate!! Items should be brought to chapel (or reception by parents) where students will find a tally that they can add their mark to.

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



### Coats for Christmas

Our 1719 Society are launching a 'Coats for Christmas' scheme before the end of term. 'Coats for Christmas' asks students and staff to bring in spare clothing that could be otherwise thrown away to make way for new clothes in the festive season.

Coats, scarves, gloves, hats and anything else warm would be the focus of this scheme. All donations for 'Coats for Christmas' should be dropped off at the chapel by students (or reception by parents) and will be taken to various local homeless charities in the area. This, and the HOPE appeal, are an excellent way to demonstrate concern for the poor and social justice - a key core value for De La Salle.

### PiXL / DTT

For the past couple of years we have been a member of PiXL (partners in Excellence). This is a network of thousands of schools which share good practice and develop high quality educational programmes, strategies and resources to help raise and improve the educational standards and character development of young people.

The past couple of weeks have seen students either sitting mocks (Year 11) or receiving feedback on their assessments. Following our assessments, the school has integrated the PiXL Diagnosis, Therapy and Testing (DTT) approach – this is nothing to do with COVID – into most subjects. DTT is a proven, effective method of identifying and addressing gaps in learning following assessments and is increasingly being woven into our subject schemes of work.

### Year 7 Science Fair Reminder

Mr Hughes in science has asked me to remind parents of pupils in Year 7 who are participating on 30th November in our Science Fair competition that they need to make their models. Other Year 7 pupils are most welcome to come to the Science Fair to view the creations!

### Parking

I have managed to avoid raising the issue for a few weeks but needs must. Can I please ask parents to park considerately when collecting or dropping off their children? In

particular our local community in Long Meadow have been blocked in by selfish behaviour of some of our parents. Equally, thank you to the vast majority of parents who do act responsibly.

### Parent Governor

Just a final reminder that today is the closing day for our vacancy for a parent governor. Details are in the letters section of our website: <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/parents/letters/>

### House Updates

This week we saw our Year 8 Bake off being won by Louie from Notre Dame Raiders to win the overall title of Master Baker, whilst the combined scores of each house's two bakers meant a 3-way tie between Notre Dame Raiders, Mount Carmel Crusaders and the West Park Wonders. House points update is below:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	House Total
<b>Notre Dame Raiders</b>	139	175	81	104	125	624
<b>Team Champion</b>	129	138	85	103	83	538
<b>Mount Carmel Crusaders</b>	136	73	82	60	79	430
<b>West Park Wonders</b>	126	84	72	63	43	388

### COVID

Rates remain lower than before half term but just above the threshold (5 cases or more in a year group) for scaling back the main controls. Please keep testing and being vigilant for symptoms.

### Dates for your diary (items in bold indicate a change to normal school day)

#### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: INSET Day – students do not attend**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Year 9 parents meeting with form tutors (virtual)

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Year 8 parents meeting with form tutors (virtual)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Year 10 parents meeting with form tutors (virtual)

#### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December: school closes for Christmas at 12.10pm (no buses after school)**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022: School re-opens (usual time)

### And finally...

As I write this early on Friday morning, we have a delivery of 50 trees arriving to be planted as part of our Eco Group working with the Queen's canopy initiative. It is still dark outside and I can hear the rain and wind from Storm Arwen lashing at the windows whilst my office is warm and welcoming.

I recall two previous headteachers I have worked for, both brilliant, and wonder which of them to take inspiration from: one was never seen beyond her office perimeter and ruled the school from in there, the other was first to take part in everything, leading from the front.

Doh, I'll get my wellies! Have a good weekend when it comes.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Rannard**  
Headteacher