



De La Salle School

Mill Brow, Eccleston, St. Helens,
Merseyside WA10 4QH

Telephone: 01744 20511
Email: delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr. A. Rannard BA (Hons) NPQH

7th January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 15

The first week (or part week) has gone well and the students are adapting to wearing face coverings within the classroom. Thank you to those parents who have ensured their child brings their own face covering, this continued support is really helpful.

Parents' Evenings (early finishes for all students)

The next few weeks, we will be holding our academic parents' evenings for Years 8, 11 and 9 (Year 10 is in March and Year 7 is in June). The dates are as follows:

- Thursday 13th January (Year 8)
- Thursday 20th January (Year 11)
- Thursday 27th January (Year 9)

Appointments run from 2:00pm – 4:00pm then 4.30pm – 6.30pm and will be online. Year 8 and 11 are already open for booking and Year 9 will open next week.

Can I remind parents that, as usual, these are compressed days i.e. the students still have 5 shorter lessons whilst lunch and break are combined so that **all students finish at 1.30pm on these days** (if required, students are permitted to remain and work in the dining room for the buses that will run as normal).

Epiphany

Yesterday we held a whole school online liturgy to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Sam, our Chaplain, led us through a very thoughtful reflection on the message of the Feast and how it can relate and inspire us in our daily lives.

Thank you and Goodbye

On Tuesday we say goodbye to Mrs Wilcock, who has worked with us for many years in within our SEN support and, more recently, in supporting reading and literacy across the school. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her hard work and dedication and wish her well in her new role.

RSE Course for Parents

I know that several parents have shown an interest in our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) programme. Many of our resources come from Ten Ten, an Archdiocesan approved provider. For those interested, they are running a short support session for parents called: What is Relationship, Sex and Health Education in Catholic schools? A guide for parents. This is scheduled online for Thursday 3 February at 7pm at a cost of £10 (I am not on commission) and further information can be accessed here: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/cpd/rshe-parents/>

COVID

Just a reminder of the new temporary national restrictions that have been brought in. These include:

- **Face coverings:** these are now expected to be worn **in all classrooms** as well as communal areas (apart from those who are exempt). It would be **really appreciated if parents could ensure students are provided with their own face coverings.**
- **Isolation:** rules on isolation have now also changed so that, if a child tests positive, they can return to school on day 7 if they have a negative Lateral Flow Test on day 6 and day 7. If these are positive they should continue until 2 days of negative tests or see out the full 10-day isolation.
- **Exams:** external exams and assessments planned for January will go ahead.

The government has now updated the **parental guide** which can be accessed: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=4%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Testing

A big thank you to the team of staff who carried out our return to school testing. Though we have a significant number of staff and students who are isolating after testing positive over the Christmas period, I am pleased to say that only 4 positive cases were picked up in the tests carried out on Wednesday.

Staff Absences – DfE Call for Qualified Teachers

You may have seen in the news about the pressures schools are under, across the country, as a result of high levels of staff absence. In response to this, the DfE have sent out an Urgent Call for Qualified Teachers to return to the profession in the short term. This is not our school's scheme, but a national scheme, details of which can be accessed here: https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/urgent-call-for-qualified-teachers?utm_source=7%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

As I have mentioned previously, we are not immune to this and today we had 15 staff absent through both COVID and non-COVID absences. We are working hard to limit any disruption these absences may have on students.

And finally...

As we enter the new year, my resolutions seem to be falling faster than English wickets in the Ashes. I hope you are having more success, but however your resolutions are holding up, remember to err is to be human, to forgive is divine so be kind to yourself, you can always start them again Monday.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher