



De La Salle School

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21st January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 17

Another busy week for everyone this week including our Year 8 Retreats, Year 11 Parents' Evening, Girls' Football Festival, ongoing rehearsals for We Will Rock You, sports practices and preparing for the Year 11 mock interviews next week to name just a few things. Next week is starting to look even busier, which is exactly how we want our school to be, a hive of activity and experiences for our students.

Curriculum Information

In the autumn term I shared a link to all of our departmental road maps, these gave an overview of the journey a student would make in each subject throughout their time at the school. I am now pleased to say that you can now also access the full curriculum map for each subject. These provide you with a much more detailed breakdown of the Topics, Knowledge, Skills and Assessment term by term for each subject. These can be accessed here: <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/school-life/curriculum/>

COVID Changes

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister announced that all Plan B measures will be removed in England, with a full return to Plan A by Thursday 27th January.

The DfE have clarified that, in education and childcare settings, this means:

- *Since Thursday 20th January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in Year 7 and above. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.*
- *From Thursday 27th January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in Year 7 and above.*

This will be the case in school unless local conditions change and we receive further guidance from local public health officials, but staff and students are welcome to continue wearing face coverings should they wish to. The updated parental guide can be accessed here:

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=20%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Onsite Testing

Next Tuesday (25th January) we will have the mobile testing unit visiting the school and hope to be able to provide onsite testing for students in Years 10 and 11 and, depending upon uptake, Year 9. These year groups have been selected as they are our highest number of cases. Communication for this will go out separately.

Vaccinations

Parents should have received a letter from the School Age Immunisation Team, regarding the offer of a second dose of vaccine for those who wish their child to receive it. We are awaiting confirmation of a date, but I understand they are likely to take place at some point in March.

House Badges

Our House Badge pins have now arrived and this week we started distributing them to students. These badges are small pin badges in the colour of each house and are awarded for each discipline or sport that a student represents their house in. Well done to all who have represented their house. If a student has earned a badge but not yet received it, then they should speak to their Form Sports Captain or Form Tutor. The latest House scores are attached.

Year 7 RAK

Next week, Year 7 will be celebrating Random Acts of Kindness week. Students are encouraged to carry out random kind acts for others students, staff, family or others. Staff will be keen to hear from the students what they have been up to and how such kindness has made them feel.

Year 11 Mock Interviews

The Year 11 Mock Interviews will take place after school from 3.45pm – 5.45pm on **Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th January 2022** via Microsoft Teams. School IT will create a new 'Interview Room' team that your son/daughter will be invited to join 24 hours prior to their interview, this team will be closed as soon as the mock interviews have been completed. If your son/daughter is unable to access Microsoft Teams at home, please contact school asap and we will arrange for them to stay behind after school for their interview.

Parents' Evenings (early finishes for all students)

Thank you to our Year 11 Parents for attending the meetings this week. Next week we have our Year 9 event (Thursday 27th January). Appointments run from 2:00pm – 4:00pm then 4.30pm – 6.30pm and will be online. 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).

Forthcoming Events (items in bold indicate a change to normal day)

Tuesday 25th January: Year 11 Mock interviews (3-45 to 5-45pm)

Wednesday 26th January: Year 11 mock interviews (3-45 to 5-45pm)

Thursday 27th January: Year 9 Parents' Evening (online): all students finish at 1.30pm

Monday 31st January: Year 11 mock exams start (for 2 weeks)

Friday 11th February: school closes for half term

Monday 21st February: School re-opens after half term

Monday 21st February – Friday 4th March: Years 7-10 Assessments

And finally . . .

It was a year ago to the day that I tested positive for COVID and I recall clearly the sense of fear and uncertainty unaware of the difficult 2 weeks that lay ahead. I am also very aware that many were not as fortunate as me, and I am grateful to come through that experience with no lasting issues. So, though the 12 months since then has been

very challenging, I am thankful for the good fortune to have been able to be here and work with you, students and colleagues as we wait in hope of light at the end of the pandemic tunnel.

So on that note, and with the daylight hours growing, Spring buds starting to emerge and pandemic figures falling, I will leave you with the message I shared with staff today, from one of our founder's quotes, "*Your face should be happy, showing gentleness and respect.*"

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher