



28th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 18

A very poignant week this week, as yesterday, we joined the world in remembering the Holocaust. Students took part in shared assembly, including a period of silent reflection. As part of the day, our Year 7 chaplaincy group came up with the idea of every child being able to write a word or phrase that related to the Holocaust. These were incredibly powerful and thoughtful and the concept, from the Year 7s, was that each piece of paper was a spark, that kept the flame of remembrance alight. Wow, your children are so inspirational!

This week also saw our attempt to deliver 1:1 Year 11 mock interviews. It would have been very easy to simply ditch doing these in the current circumstances, but credit to Mrs Scully, Mrs Moran and Mr Greenhalgh (IT), they were able to go ahead and despite a few hiccups with a couple of interviewers letting us down, the vast majority of these (over 200) were successful. So, thank you to everyone involved.

School Library

Following feedback from you, in the Big Ask, I am trying to include educational issues within these weekly updates, as well as more practical issues (though I haven't mentioned parking for a while now!).

This week, I want to share with you that we have now re-opened the school library to students. We have a team of volunteer students and staff who are helping to run it each lunchtime, with Year 11 having full access to study, whilst the other year groups can access it on a rota. We have a wonderful stock of books and it is great to see them being borrowed, and this complements the wider work on reading and literacy that I have shared in Update 16 two weeks ago.

Lasallian Survey

As per my previous letter, we are encouraging parents and families to share their views regarding our Lasallian Ethos. This is a piece of work happening in all of the Lasallian schools across the country. If you haven't shared your views yet, then please do so using this [Google Form](#)

COVID Update

As I mentioned earlier in the week, infection rates within the school remain fairly high and, to help reduce infections, some additional controls remain in place until rates fall. These controls include:

- Wearing of face coverings in communal indoor areas until Tuesday
- Avoiding large gatherings and assemblies
- Year-based entry and rota for dining room
- Ongoing controls such as ventilation, additional cleaning etc.

As I write this, our current rates are:

| Group | Positive cases |
|--------------|----------------|
| Year 7 | 18 |
| Year 8 | 14 |
| Year 9 | 8 |
| Year 10 | 8 |
| Year 11 | 10 |
| Staff | 7 |
| Total | 65 |

We will look at the rates after the weekend and decide if it is appropriate to scale back some restrictions early next week.

Year 11 Mock exams

Next week sees the start of two weeks of mock exams for our Year 11 students. All students and parents have been sent the mock exam timetable and supporting materials, and individual subjects have also provided resources for students. The exams will start sharply in the morning, so students should go directly to line up, and not to their form rooms when they have a morning exam. The mock exam timetable can also be accessed here:

<http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/students/examinations/>

Yr 7-10 Assessments

These will take place in the first two weeks back after half term. Students will be given advanced notice of when each subject exam will take place for their class within this 2-week period, rather than a centralised whole year exam timetable. This will allow individual teachers and classes to run their assessments at the most appropriate point in the curriculum, within that 2 week window.

House Scores

The latest House scores are:

| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | House Total |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Notre Dame Raiders | 244 | 187 | 103 | 126 | 144 | 804 |
| Team Champion | 221 | 159 | 93 | 117 | 100 | 690 |
| West Park Wonders | 271 | 103 | 97 | 86 | 63 | 620 |
| Mount Carmel Crusaders | 199 | 91 | 97 | 71 | 93 | 551 |

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

Monday 31st Jan – Fri 11th Feb: Year 11 Mock exams

Tuesday 8th Feb: Year 8 Science Fair

Friday 11th Feb: school closes for half term (3pm)

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

Monday 21st Feb – Fri 4th March: Years 7-10 Assessments

Mon 7th – Thu 10th Mar: Year 10 Retreat

Thu 10th Mar: Yr 11 Pastoral Parents' Evening

Thu 17th Mar: Yr 7 and 8 Drama Trip

Mon 21st Mar: Data Drop 2 Opens

Thu 24th and Fri 25th Mar: We Will Rock You (7.30pm)

Thu 31st Mar: Year 10 Parents' Evening (Virtual)

Fri 1st Apr: School closes for Easter (3pm)

Tue 19th Apr: Staff INSET Day (students do not attend)

Wed 20th Apr: students return (normal time)

And finally...

Our world record Bug Hotel managed to make the news this week as it was mentioned on an episode of QI starring former student Johnny Vegas. The story can be read here: <https://www.sthelensstar.co.uk/news/19872834.st-helens-world-record-discussed-bbcs-qi/> we are expecting a surge in bookings!

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher