



De La Salle School

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11th February 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 20

As we reach the halfway point of the school year there is much to be pleased with in our achievements so far as a school community: not least keeping education going for students (with attendance at around 90%) despite the impact of COVID. So a big thank you to you, the staff and students for helping to make this possible.

At the same time, we look ahead to the second half of the year and beyond. It would appear to be a post-Covid (or at least living with COVID) landscape, during which we will be focusing upon 2 key areas:

- Our behaviour, culture and ethos
- Making sure our curriculum is accessible for all

Both of these are areas that have suffered most from the impact of the pandemic and, though already part of our 3 Year Plan, we will be increasing our focus and efforts to strengthen both of these areas.

Weekly Academic Focus: Changes to GCSEs

This week we saw the publication from Ofqual, of the changes that will be made to GCSEs (and A Levels) this year. The full, subject by subject guidance, can be accessed from the link below and our GCSE subjects / exam boards are listed below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/subject-by-subject-support-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-students-in-2022>

EDEXL - GCSE Music (with music service)	AQA - GCSE Chemistry
EDEXL - GCSE RE	AQA - GCSE Physics
AQA - GCSE Geography	AQA - GCSE Combined Science : Trilogy
AQA - GCSE Music (with School)	AQA - GCSE Spanish
AQA - GCSE History	AQA - GCSE English Language
AQA - GCSE Art	AQA - GCSE English Lit
AQA - GCSE Graphics	OCR - GCSE Computer Science
AQA - GCSE Photography (Yr10 students)	OCR - GCSE Drama
AQA - GCSE Biology	OCR - GCSE Maths
	OCR - GCSE PE

COVID

It has been pleasing to see rates have continued to fall this week, despite us easing the restrictions on face coverings. We will also be watching the government's advice regarding COVID when details are published, following yesterday's headlines about all restrictions being lifted sooner rather than later.

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

Year 11 Mock Results

As the teachers mark the exams they will already be using the information to adapt and target teaching and help students understand where they could improve. Though marks and question scores will be shared during lessons, actual grades will not be shared until mock results day on Friday 4th March. This is to try to recreate the experience for the students of receiving their results as they will in the summer.

House Scores

Congratulations to those students who took part in the Year 8 Science Fair this week. The results being:

- Eloise Emmett who won the Year 8 Science Fair for Mount Carmel
- Jasmine Hodgkiss who gained a very close second place for Team Campion
- Beth O'Brien (also Team champion) and Alex Harrington (Notre Dame) shared 3rd place.

After half term, there will be Year 7 STEM sessions every Monday lunchtime as they work in groups to prepare for a STEM challenge. We are also hopeful to be able to resume the lunchtime House competitions again, as COVID restrictions are removed.

With these latest scores added, the current House Competition league table looks like this:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	House Total
Notre Dame Raiders	251	204	110	132	150	847
Team Campion	226	221	96	122	107	772
West Park Wonders	277	108	104	93	68	650
Mount Carmel Crusaders	201	147	100	73	96	617

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

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

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

Monday 7th March – Thursday 10th March: Year 10 Retreat

Thursday 10th March: Year 11 Pastoral Parents' Evening

Thursday 17th March: Year 7 and 8 Drama Trip

Monday 21st March: Data Drop 2 Opens

Thursday 24th and Friday 25th March: We Will Rock You (7.30pm)

Thursday 31st March: Year 10 Parents' Evening (Virtual)

Friday 1st April: School closes for Easter (3:00pm)

Easter

Tuesday 19th April: Staff INSET Day (students do not attend)

Wednesday 20th April: students return (normal time)

And finally...

As this half term comes to an end, I hope that you and your family are able to enjoy some quality time together ahead of what already looks like a very busy and exciting second half of the school year.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher