



De La Salle
School

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25th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 21

It is barely believable that, as restrictions from a 2-year global pandemic come to an end, we find ourselves facing a war in Europe. For us, as adults, with 20, 30 or 40+ years of life experience, that is naturally a cause of concern and anxiety. For our young people, it is hard to understand how they feel about the situation or the scale and depth of the anxiety it will be causing them.

These may or may not be issues that are coming up at home, but I thought you might find it helpful to know the advice we have given staff as it is likely that some of our young people will raise the issue of the attack in Ukraine, war in Europe or even risk of World War 3.

As adults, our role is to be calm, supportive and caring in these conversations. If you find yourself in this position our advice is:

- Remain calm.
- Listen to what they have to say and their concerns.
- Encourage them to get their information from reliable sources e.g. Newsround/BBC/ITV news rather than social media.
- Emphasise how far away Ukraine is (most of the fighting is almost 2,000 miles away (similar distance to North Africa).
- Guide the conversation towards what the students can do about it e.g. support of charities and organisations who are there to help (they could go and research these) as well as keeping them in our prayers.
- If a child is extremely upset refer them to a member of the pastoral teams, Sam (Chaplain) or the SLT.

Weekly Academic Focus: Engineering Upcoming Careers Talks for Year 9, 10 & 11

Next week we have Aspire 2B Careers Talks taking place in school. These will be delivered by Chris Ashley - Building Service Lecturer sharing information on Level 2 and Level 3 Post 16 courses in Building Services Engineering within the St. Helens group. These are academic courses for students who want to be future Architects, Project Managers, Quantity Surveyors, Civil Designers etc. They have links with small, medium, and large companies along with Universities within the Northwest.

They will run on Tuesday 1st March 8.30am in Mr Thomas's classroom. The students have already been made aware, but if your child would like to attend they should sign up at the Careers Room, places are limited! ('sign up form' is on the Careers Room door).

Year 11 Pastoral Parents' Evening

Appointments are now available to book for Year 11 pastoral parents' evening which takes place via SchoolCloud on Thursday 10th March. This is an opportunity to speak to your child's form tutor at an important time in the lead up to their GCSE exams. To book your appointment, please visit: <https://delasalleschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Year 9 Options Information

Ahead of the Year 9 Options Information Evening next Thursday, the options booklet has been updated on the school website. Please visit <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/parents/year-9-gcse-information/> to read the booklet and other information about the options process.

Ash Wednesday

As you would expect, the students will have the opportunity to receive their ashes on Wednesday as we begin our Lenten journey together.

Vaccinations

The school immunisation service has confirmed that they will be in school in the middle of next week to deliver dose 1 or dose 2 of the COVID vaccine to those who have granted consent. Please note this is run and delivered by the NHS School Age Immunisation Service, as a school we simply provide the venue and help bring students to the immunisation team. They can be contacted on 01744 624353.

School Response Times

Can I remind parents that, if you contact the school, we will always try to respond and get back to you as quickly as possible but our response times, as set out in our Parent Charter, are within 24 hours for the most serious issues and 48 hours for all other issues. This obviously applies to school days and not holidays or weekends.

Citizens Advice Uniform Cost Survey

Citizens Advice St. Helens are seeking the views of parents who are finding difficulty in providing school uniform for their children. They have designed this questionnaire to help them to better understand the impact that the cost of school uniform has on their everyday budgets.

<http://sthelenscab.org.uk/school-uniform-survey/>

All information and data collected will be confidential to Citizens Advice.

House Scores

This week we saw our Silver Awards being calculated and distributed for those students who achieved 700+ positive points for behaviour and attendance. Over 300 of our students achieved this, also each earning a House Point.

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	267.2	220.2	127.2	150.2	166.2	931
Team Champion	251	246	121	145	130	893
West Park Wonders	295.6	126.6	120.6	109.6	86.6	739
Mount Carmel Crusaders	212.4	158.4	112.4	86.4	109.4	679

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

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

Thursday 3rd March: Year 9 Options Evening (2 sessions 6:00pm and 6.45pm)

Monday 7th – 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)

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

Wednesday 20th April: students return (normal time)

And finally...

It has been a windy start to the new half term, during which part of our chapel roof was blown off. Thankfully, our heroic site team were able to repair the skylight when the wind speeds fell and the damage was not too bad. Thankfully the end of the week has been much calmer.

Have a good weekend.

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher