



De La Salle School

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22nd April 2022,

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 24 (I think)

I hope you had an enjoyable Easter holiday. It has been a very positive start to the summer term so far. I am writing this just after coming in from greeting our students arriving via the Alder Hey entrance and I am really proud of them: their attitude, smiles, uniform – they are a credit to you. They have also returned with that start of term focus, and our Year 11 students in particular are taking the final few weeks of preparation seriously, which is good news.

On Tuesday we had a staff INSET Day which focussed upon re-connecting upon our Lasallian Ethos. The day helped us to reflect upon why we are here as teachers and support staff, how Lasallian we are in our work and how we can be more Lasallian in our daily working lives. I truly believe our Lasallian ethos provides us all with that extra dimension as a school.

If you missed our end of term Spring newsletter, this can still be accessed here:
<https://sway.office.com/sqcKaDID6vecE22c?ref=Link>

Weekly School Focus: Lasallian Ethos

Some of you will be well aware of our Lasallian ethos and heritage, whilst for others it may be something new. Our school is under the trusteeship of the De La Salle Brothers, a religious community founded by Jean Baptist de la Salle, back in France in early 1700s. He looked to provide education for the poorest and most in need.

His approach was quite unique at the time and has now been distilled down into 5 Core Values:

- Faith in the presence of God
- Concern for the poor and social justice
- Respect for all persons
- Quality education
- Inclusive community

The Lasallian family, since his death in 1719 (hence our 1719 Society), has grown and developed into a world-wide family. We are one of 15 Lasallian Schools in the UK and over 1000 Lasallian Schools worldwide. This includes over 90,000 educators and 1 million students across 79 countries. You can find out more about our District (UK, Ireland and Malta) here: www.lasalleiqbm.org/schools

Queen's Jubilee

Just a reminder that all schools were allocated an additional day's holiday this year for the Queen's Jubilee, as the actual bank holiday falls during the May half term. At the start of the year, we allocated our day to **Friday 29th April**, which combined with the May Day Bank Holiday on 2nd, makes next weekend a long weekend for staff and students.

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

Safe Spaces

One of our core values is respect for all persons so, as you would expect, we are very keen to ensure that the school is a safe space for all students, staff and visitors regardless of their gender, religion, sexuality, ethnicity or identity. To help ensure this we work hard to listen to the concerns of all, especially of students and groups of students to help identify the issues they may face in their daily lives at school.

To help ensure our school is a safe space for all, we run a variety of systems and initiatives including:

- MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention): these are specially selected and trained students who are a visible presence for other students to speak to and discuss issues or concerns. They also deliver sessions for younger students in assemblies and in form groups.
- Our PSHCE programme looks to address key issues such as consent, diversity, identity, respectful relationships and communication in relationships in an age-appropriate way.
- Our pastoral teams are trained to support young people who have been the victims of such behaviours and, in a restorative way, address and repair the damage caused.
- We work closely with external organisations, including the Anthony Walker Foundation, and are currently working towards their kite mark recognition award.
- We have our own in-school diversity group of staff and students who work hard to raise awareness and acceptance of diversity.

These are just some of the examples of work that is ongoing within school to help ensure that we make the school safe for all.

Big Ask

A big thank you to all the parents who completed the Spring parental Big Ask. Please be assured that your views are a very important aspect of feedback for us as we plan our ongoing school improvement. Once again, the feedback has been incredibly positive and I shall feedback to you over the next few weeks on what you told us, starting with:

Big Ask – Leadership and management questions

Question	Grade out of 5
The school has a clear mission, vision and ethos	4.5
The school makes effective and timely decisions	4.3
The school ensures everyone is on board with the improvements being made	4.2
The school communicates effectively	4.3
Governors at the school are effective	3.6
The school challenges itself to be better	4.4

Shutters on Toilets

I know there have been a number of mistruths circulating regarding the school toilets being shuttered and closed to all students. As you can imagine, this isn't the case. The school has 3 main toilet blocks for students: 2 small ones at each end of the school (by PE and the dining rooms), and our main toilets, at Sister Marie Hall, in the heart of the school. We have had shutters installed on the two smaller toilets over the Easter holidays, though these shutters are not currently being used. The main toilets do not have shutters on them.

In the future, they will allow us to close the two smaller toilets during lesson time, ensuring students use the main toilets. There are a number of reasons for this, some safeguarding and some practical:

- The two smaller toilet blocks are quite isolated and during lesson times, rarely passed by adults. As such, they have been used by small numbers of students, for truanting (not a new phenomenon but something we want to address).
- Their isolation has also led to a small number of incidents where they have been damaged or flooded (likewise not a new issue but again we want to address it).
- Students have reported issues with cleanliness of the toilets. Our cleaning team in school are great but already stretched and being able to close two toilet blocks during lesson times, eases that burden and hopefully ensures we can keep a high standard of cleanliness for the students.
- The main toilets have more than enough capacity for use during lesson times (26 cubicles inc disabled access)
- The main toilets, being at the heart of the school, have much greater passive supervision (staff walking past) making them safer for all students.
- All toilets will still be open at non-lesson times: lunch, break time etc. We have staff on duty at these times.

None of these changes our toilet policy, or the access students have to toilet facilities, it only channels them into a safer and hopefully cleaner toilet environment.

Corridor Movement

Though the school is generally a very calm and orderly place, at the changeover of lessons the corridors can become crowded with 1200 students moving around, students waiting at classrooms to enter etc. Some of our younger (and smaller) students have raised this as an issue and so we are keen to ensure all of our students feel safe, all of the time. To help address any congestion, since Easter, we have asked students to walk on the left in single file when walking around the building.

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

25th – 28th April	Anthony Walker Foundation Workshops (Yrs 8, 9 and 10)
Thursday 28th April	Year 9 Art Exhibition
Friday 29th April	School Closed for Queen's Jubilee
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday (School closed)
9th – 12th May	Year 9 Retreat to Kintbury
Monday 16th May	Year 11 GCSEs begin
24th & 25th May	Year 7 Careers drop down day
Friday 27th May	School closes for half term
Monday 6th June	School Re-opens
6th – 17th June	Year 7-9 Assessment weeks/Year 10 Mock Exams
Thursday 23rd June	Year 7 Parents' Evening (students finish at 1.30pm)
27th – 29th June	Year 8 Maths Trip
4th – 8th July	Year 6 Transition Week
Wednesday 20th July	School closes (Students finish at 12.10pm)

And finally....

I am delighted that one of our former students, Sam Royle, will be captaining Saints in tonight's game vs Castleford. This is a wonderful achievement and we are very proud of Sam and wish him, and the team, the best of luck.

Enjoy the weekend.

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher