



De La Salle
School

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30th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 5

By far the busiest week of the year so far in school, with lots of activities taking place including: well attended Year 10 and Year 11 Information Evenings, two Year 9 trips to Snowdonia, two more ski visits to the Chill Factor, our Year 7 Freshers' Fair, celebrated European Languages Day, had our first Full Governors Meeting, our final two Year 7 retreats and our Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Looking ahead to next week, many more activities coming up, in particular, our Open Evening which will run from 4.30pm to 7.30pm on Thursday 6th October.

Whole School Focus: Social Media

Like most schools, we now have a considerable presence on social media. Most of it is on twitter including:

- Main School Twitter Account: @DLS_StHelens
- Headteacher School Twitter Account: @DLSHeadteacher
- Sam our Chaplain: @cantillon_sam

And our departments:

- English: @DIsEnglish
- Maths: @MathsDIs
- RE: @DLSREDept
- Geography: @dlsgeography
- History @HistoryDIs
- PE: @DLSPEDept
- Art: @ArtechDIs
- Science: @ScienceDLS
- DT: @DLSDT1
- MFL: @dlsml
- Performing Arts: @DIsperformingA

We also have our school Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/delasalleSH/>

Successes

I will try to avoid becoming the St Helen's Star, but some notable successes this week include:

- Finn Labong in Year 11 becoming the UK number one for 15-17 year olds in taekwondo.
- Jude Riordan in Year 7 (who plays Sam in Coronation Street) being nominated for the Favourite Young Performer at the TV Times Magazine Awards. You can support Jude at <https://www.surveymechanics.com/s/tvtawards2022>
- And of course, it is also worth mentioning the success of St Helens RLFC on their win at the super league Grand final on Saturday. Saints beat Leeds 24-12 in what was their 4th consecutive win and the 3rd consecutive win for Kristian Woolf, Head Coach and one of our parents. (I may have had some help with the Saints facts and figs).

Though I won't normally mention individual successes in the weekly updates, I am very happy to include them in our half termly newsletter on Sway. (New parents, you are in for such a treat, as if these weekly messages are bad enough the newsletter can be dozens of pages long!)

Open Evening

As I mentioned earlier, this Thursday (6th) is our Open Evening. **Students will finish at 12.10pm** on the day to allow staff time to prepare the school. A big thank you to those students who have been asked to stay behind to support the evening. Please pass on details to any prospective parents who might be interested in attending. The evening will run from 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Alder Hey Road Gate

In the morning, this gate is closed promptly at 8.30am. If students are being dropped off after this time can they be taken around to Mill Brow entrance. Following a complaint from neighbours, could I also ask that parents don't beep their horns to get the caretaker's attention to come back and re-open the gates.

Parent Governors

A big thank you following my desperate plea last week. We have now received some nominations and we will be in touch with those parents next week.

Parental Information Evenings

A big thank you to everyone who attended these. These were put in place in response to feedback from you, through the Big Ask, saying you wanted to know more about the year ahead and what your child will be studying. We hope you found them useful. All the information is available on our website at: <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/parents/parental-information-evenings-2022/>

Building Work

Not a lot of work going on at the moment, beyond a small amount of bricklaying around the perimeter and where the new dining room will join the main building. Whilst the cherry picker has been in action in order to strip back the external roof canopy in preparation for the lighting being installed. These feel like the final preparations ahead of the main steel structure being delivered in the next couple of weeks.

Forthcoming Events (dates in **bold** indicate a change to normal finish times)

I have tried to list all the key events running up to half term. Some are additions to the document I sent at the start of the year as more events are added.

W/B 3rd Oct: Assessment window (Year 9) /Year 11 mock exams (practical subjects)

Tuesday 4th: Year 9 ski trip lessons (group 2) 1.30 – 7pm

Tuesday 4th: Year 11 Apprenticeship Assembly

Wednesday 5th: Year 9 ski trip lessons (group 2) 1.30 – 7pm

Wednesday 5th: performance management meetings

Thursday 6th: OPEN EVENING 4.30 - 7.30pm - students finish at 12.10pm

Friday 7th: Year 11 Carmel College Assembly

W/B 10th Oct: Year 11 Mock exams

Tuesday 11th: Yr 9 ski trip lessons (group 3) 1.30 – 7pm

Wednesday 12th: Governors Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development Committee (5:00pm)

Wednesday 12th: Yr 9 ski trip lessons (group 3) 1.30 – 7pm

Thursday 13th: BBC 'Tell Your Story' Roadshow (years 7-10)

Sunday 16th – Wed 19th: 1719 Society Visit to Rome

Tuesday 18th: Yr 9 ski trip lessons (group 4) 1.30 – 7pm

Wednesday 19th: Yr 9 ski trip lessons (group 4) 1.30 – 7pm

Wednesday 19th: Governors Personnel Committee (5pm)

Thursday 20th: Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 pastoral meetings 2pm to 4pm (online) students finish at 1.30pm

Friday 21st: school closes for half term (3pm)

And finally...

I mentioned on twitter last week about spending 25 mins having to connect our new tumble dryer to the WIFI, and our increasing dependence upon the internet (I now seem to get more phone messages from it when it has completed its cycle or if it needs the 'fluff' drawer emptying, than I get from anyone else). So, in an attempt to go old school, I recently treated myself to a record player – a proper retro Bush/45-33-75 rpm/stylus arrangement, much to Mrs R's annoyance.

At first, I was pilloried by the family as to why I didn't just ask Alexa to play any specific song. They scoffed at my comments about depth of sound, the crackle before a song played and the joys of listening to an album in the order it was intended. Then twice this week, I have come in to find both sons sat listening to an album they would never have previously heard. A little victory - I was so pleased, I almost texted the tumble dryer to let it know.

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher