



De La Salle  
School

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14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Parental Update 7

This week has seen our Year 11 students starting their first set of GCSE mock exams, which they seem to have settled into well. Elsewhere, the Year 9 ski trips have continued, our staff had their Lasallian accompaniment session (providing some formation and companionship in their Lasallian development) and we had the BBC 'Tell Your Story' Roadshow in yesterday as part of the Corporation's 100 Year celebrations.

Looking ahead, after the second week of GCSE mocks, half term is rapidly approaching, but before that, more ski trips and the online pastoral meetings for Years 7-10. Remember students finish early (1.30pm) on Thursday, but normal finish time on Friday (3:00pm).

### Whole School Focus: House System

I realise things have been a bit quiet on the House Competition front, but this week we were able to make 4 great internal appointments as Heads of House. These are:

- Mr Singh (West Park Wonders),
- Miss Neill (Mount Carmel Crusaders),
- Mr Ashcroft (Team Champion) and
- Mrs Mayren (Notre Dame Raiders)

For new parents, the school operates a house system with each year group having 2 form classes in each house. During the year we run a range of competitions and activities that allow students and staff to compete and earn points for their House Team – just like in Harry Potter! Last year's winners were Team Champion.

So, with the new staff in place, look out for the upcoming competitions and events – hopefully something for everyone.

### Attendance

Post-pandemic, all schools are driving to raise the attendance of students in schools. You will have received, and continue to receive, communication from us about your child's attendance. I thought, however, it would be useful for you to share the wider attendance for the whole school, compared to national levels of attendance.

Since Sept:

- School attendance is: 92.57%
- National Secondary Attendance is: 92.2%

It is good that we are slightly ahead of the national figure, but we need to try to get our figure up towards 97%. Together we can achieve this.

## Steve Prescott Foundation

One of our Year 11 students, Koby Prescott, will today be ascending Kala Patthar in Nepal. This peak is just slightly higher than Everest Base camp. This isn't a tricky homework from Mr Cooper, but to help raise funds in his dad's memory: The Steve Prescott Foundation.

Koby, along with his mum, Linzi, and 10 others will be climbing the peak today after Koby, inspired by his mum and older brother, promised to also complete the challenge. If you would like to donate you can support Kobe and the SPF at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Linzi-kobyEBC>  
Good luck Koby!

## Careers Fair

De La Salle Careers' Fair will take place during the school day on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November. This is so all students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will have access to the employers and further education establishments. They will be guided around the stalls and will be supported in order to ensure that they carry out research on their chosen areas of interest

## Open Evening Follow Up

Following on from what was a really successful Open Evening last week, we have had a number of parents and children who have requested to come to the school for a visit as they were unable to attend last week.

Rather than arrange for a number of separate visits, we have arranged for anyone who wishes to come for a tour to attend on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm. Visitors will be welcomed by members of our 1719 society and guided around the school. If you are aware of any parents who missed last week and would like to come for a visit, please pass this information on to them.

## Building Work

A big week this week, as the steel for the main structure of the kitchen arrived on time. Things have now really swung into action with many sections already installed in just one day. Whilst on duty, I had the pleasure of being able to watch the builders using a strange machine (I tweeted a picture of The Spider) which is being used as a mini crane to lift the steel joists.

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

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

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> – Wed 19<sup>th</sup>: 1719 Society Visit to Rome

Tue 18<sup>th</sup>: Year 9 ski trip lessons (group 4) 1.30 – 7:00pm

Wed 19<sup>th</sup>: Year 9 ski trip lessons (group 4) 1.30 – 7:00pm

Wed 19<sup>th</sup>: Governors Personnel Committee (5:00pm)

**Thu 20<sup>th</sup>: Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 pastoral meetings 2:00pm to 4.30pm (online) students finish at 1.30pm**

Fri 21<sup>st</sup>: school closes for half term (3:00pm)

### Half Term

Mon 31<sup>st</sup>: School Re-Opens

Mon 31<sup>st</sup>: Football Beyond Borders (Year 8)

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Nov: Scholars Programme is launched (Year 10)

W/B 7<sup>th</sup>: Year 10 Assessment window opens (closes Fri 18<sup>th</sup>)

Wed 9<sup>th</sup>: Governors Finance and Premises Committee (5:00pm)

Wed 9<sup>th</sup>: Ski Trip Meeting (Year 9s) 5.30pm

Thu 10<sup>th</sup>: Your Future Careers Event

Mon 14<sup>th</sup>: Year 8 Assessment window opens (closes Fri 25<sup>th</sup>)

Mon 14<sup>th</sup>: Football Beyond Borders (Year 8)

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup>: Governors Quality of Education Committee (5:00pm)

Mon 28<sup>th</sup>: Year 11 Geography Field Trip to Liverpool

Mon 28<sup>th</sup>: Football Beyond Borders (Year 8)

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec: INSET Day – school closed to students**

**And finally...**

On Sunday, our 1719 Society head off to Rome as part of their Leadership Development Programme. They will be accompanied by Mrs Rooney, Mr Fletcher (history) and of course Sam, our Chaplain (I think my phone must be broken as I didn't receive my invite).

They are a great group of students who have already made a huge difference within school and this time away is a wonderful opportunity to grow together as a group, develop their sense and understanding of servant leadership and learn more about our Founder. We wish them well on their trip, and I will keep a bag packed and by the door, just in case my phone starts working again and the invite comes through.

Have a good weekend,

**Andrew Rannard**

Headteacher