



De La Salle  
School

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Headteacher: Mr. A. Rannard BA (Hons) NPQH

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Parental Update 8

As we draw to the end of the first half term of the academic year, we can look back at a very busy and productive start to the year. Despite the major building works, there have been lots of trips, events, clubs, activities, guest speakers, discussions, lessons, laughter, tears and everything in between – and that is just the senior leadership team!

The next half term doesn't look quite as packed, but is the key half term for driving student learning and progress in subjects, finishing with Advent and Christmas preparations (and hopefully the completion of the building work).

#### **Whole School Focus: our HOPE (Help Other People Eat) campaign**

With the cost of living crisis hitting homes all over the UK, supporting our local community is now more important than ever. As members of a Lasallian family, we're encouraged to find the need in the local area and then respond accordingly.

We've heard foodbanks are struggling to cope under soaring demand and so we want to do something about it. We're building our own 'foodbank' stock, to support families within our own school community and then the wider community too...but we need your help to do it.

We have a wonderful group of SVP Youth students who are dedicated to the running and upkeep of our Foodbank stock in school, and this is what they're asking of us;

*Please can you donate essential food items that will support our local community. We want every form class to bring in enough food to complete a hamper each. That would be forty families who receive some support during this difficult time. We would really like to help more families than that so please give anything that you can.*

Any donations can be brought to the Chapel, or dropped to Student Services (students will find collection boxes in these areas) and will be distributed to families in time for Christmas. Any help appreciated, or if you are a family in need, maybe we can help you.

#### **De La Salle Reads**

Autumn is one of the best times for reading: sitting back on a cold wet day, with a brew and a good book. With that in mind, I have attached this month's De La Salle Reads full of book suggestions, reviews, competitions and much more.

#### **Behaviour and Rewards**

This half term we have been reviewing our behaviour policy and approaches, in order to develop a clear graduated approach to behaviour. The vast majority of students are very well behaved all day, every day, and the graduated approach will ensure much greater clarity and consistency in how we are addressing behaviour in a proportionate way with appropriate support and sanctions. It is intended that, once this has been implemented, then a similar process will be implemented for rewards. I am very conscious that students gain achievement points and, though these are recognised and celebrated, we have more work to do on our rewards systems.

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

## Attendance

Sadly, we have now dipped just below the National Average for attendance, largely down to an increase in sickness last week.

Since September:

- School attendance is: **92.39%**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **92.4%**

We need to try to get our figure up towards 97%. Together we can achieve this.

## Vaping

After speaking with other headteachers in St Helens and across the Archdiocese we are all starting to see the emergence of vaping as the new trend. These vapes are cheap and relatively easy for young people to get hold of. At the moment the NHS says the long-term dangers of vaping are unclear as they contain potentially harmful chemicals.

In school, we are very vigilant and confiscate any vapes that we may discover. We would encourage parents to also be observant for the tell tale 'steam' or often fruit flavoured smell that they produce. These are addictive and potentially dangerous to the long-term health of our young people.

## Saints Foundation

You will receive a separate email of flyers advertising activities for families over half term. These are being run by the Saints Foundation. Booking details are on the flyers or below:

- Autumn RL camp <https://buytickets.at/saints/780844>
- Girls RL Dev camp <https://buytickets.at/saints/781067>
- Halloween Party <https://buytickets.at/saints/781713>
- Cheer camp <https://buytickets.at/saints/781624>
- Baby and Toddler Halloween party <https://buytickets.at/saints/781751>

## Building Work

Wow, wow, wow! The main steel pillars are now in place and so too is the aluminium frame that will house the glazing. After weeks of what looked like little progress, the whole frame etc has shot up. All is still on track and the glass was delivered yesterday. I have tweeted some update pictures.

## Uniform

Can I make my half termly plea to ensure that your child has the appropriate school uniform, including footwear, when they return after half term? If you are struggling financially, please contact us as we have a stock of really good quality, clean 'second hand' uniform. Thank you, in advance, to the vast majority that already do ensure this.

## 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.

### **Half Term**

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

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

Tuesday 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>)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**And finally...**

The new stage of our building work has meant a new group or gang (I couldn't find what the collective noun for builders is, though I did discover that it is a tantrum of decorators) of builders working on site. I am not sure the new builders are used to working in schools and particularly our Quad which amplifies even the slightest noise – Mr Hale's whisper can sound like a declaration of war.

Sadly, after the first hour of Radio 2 and their very game efforts at singing along to the songs, we had to raise the matter and put an end to it. This has led to good and bad news: the bad news being that they have replaced the singing with some new and even louder power tools, but the good news is 9T maths scored 24 points on yesterday's Pop Master.

Have a good weekend,

**Andrew Rannard**

Headteacher



# DLS READS!



DLS Reads!

Newsletter

Isn't autumn the best time to read? There's nothing nicer than curling up on the couch with a good book and a hot drink while the wind and rain batter the windows and golden leaves swirl by. This month is Black History Month so check out this season's great new books. The 31<sup>st</sup> brings Halloween and we have lots of spooky suggestions for you, while Non-Fiction November focuses on Communication: spoken, written and even non-human! Enjoy and Happy Halloween!



## Picture Quiz!

Which classic horror is this?



## New for Autumn!



A compelling mix of Caribbean folklore and the story of a boy's overwhelming grief create extraordinary tension in this creepy ghost story set in Jamaica.



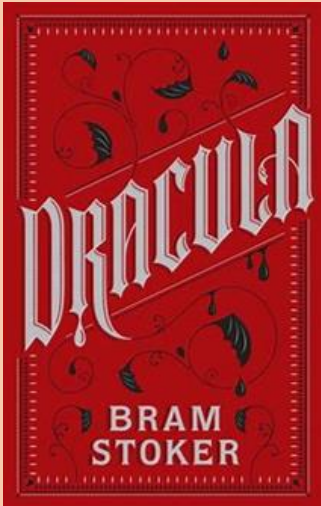
A joyous collection of stories and poems celebrating Black voices, with universal appeal. The perfect gift for any child ready to dive into a variety of voices and situations.



# TRY A CLASSIC!

Dracula is a classic and genre-defining tale of horror from famed author Bram Stoker. This novel contains the chilling tales of those that encountered the monster Dracula on his quest to emigrate from Transylvania to England, as he seeks to spread his undead curse to the innocent. Worshipped by madmen and feared by the sane, this is the story of the Count Dracula. Experience the myth that has brought fear to generations—the timeless tale about the beast with the face of a man.

“A little after midnight came a strange sound from over the sea, and high overhead the air began to carry a strange, faint, hollow booming.”



Age 13+

## Book of the Week Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children By Ransom Riggs



**A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of peculiar photographs.**

As the story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its decaying bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that Miss Peregrine's children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow - impossible though it seems- they may still be alive.

**Also available as a graphic novel!**

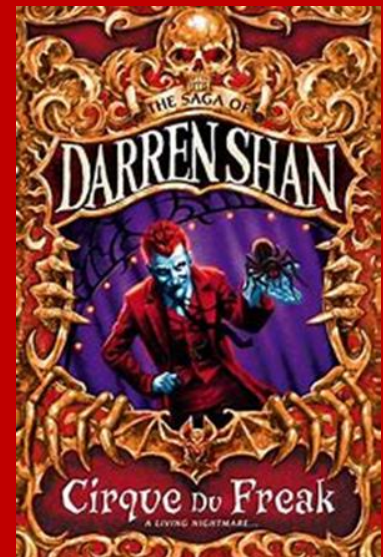
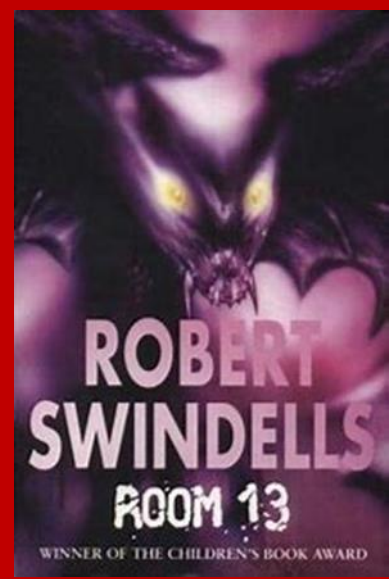
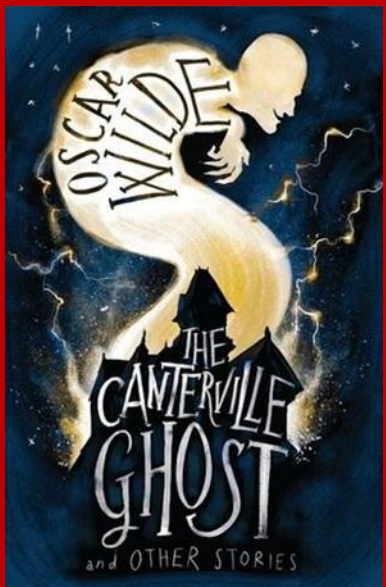
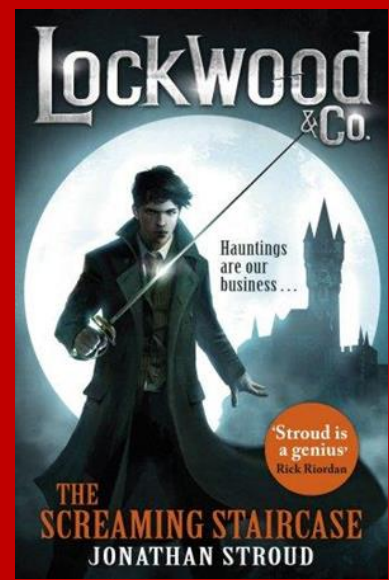
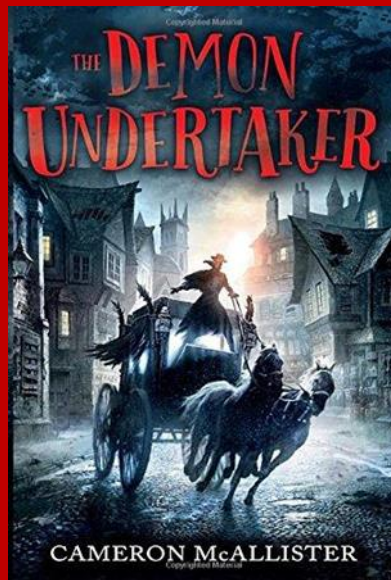
Look inside!



Now a major film



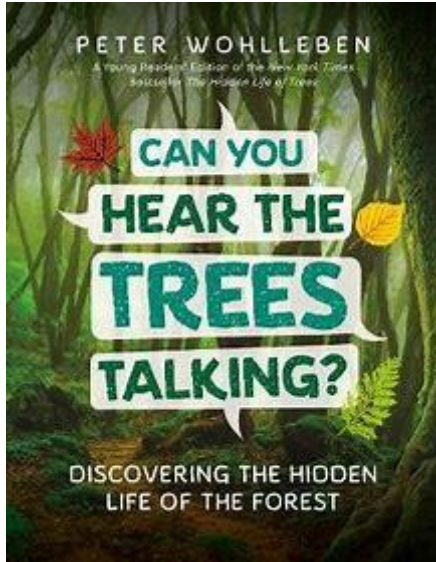
# Spooky Reads!



# Non – Fiction November

A round-up of some great non-fiction

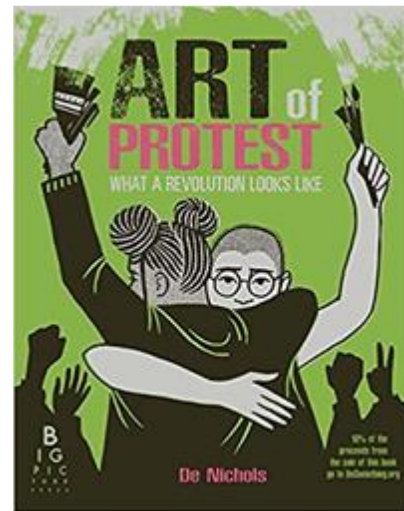
The theme of this year's Non-Fiction November is *Communication*.



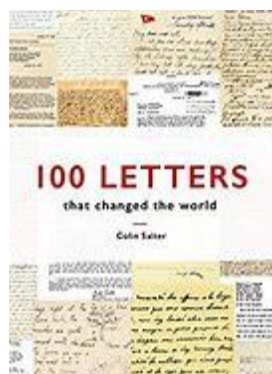
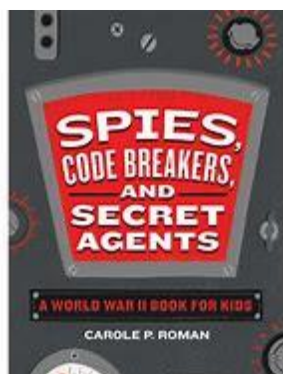
This young reader's edition of *The Hidden Life of Trees* introduces the wonderful life of the forest.



Fantastic practical guide to writing and creating your own comics.



An inspiring look at the history of protest art, with practical suggestions for getting your own voice heard through art.



# Competition!

Do you love reading? Do you have a favourite book that you would love others to read?

We are on a mission to become a school of fantastic independent readers and we need your help!

## How to Enter:

Think of a way to creatively promote your favourite book. You could make a poster with a review, front cover and pictures of characters or things that happen. You could draw these or use the computer.

You might want to create a collage or use artwork or photography to create your own front cover or mood board based on the book (include the title and author).

Another idea could be to film a trailer for the book, or create an edit with a soundtrack.

I'm sure you will have some very creative ideas!

**Please give your entries to your English teacher or to Mrs Henshaw.**



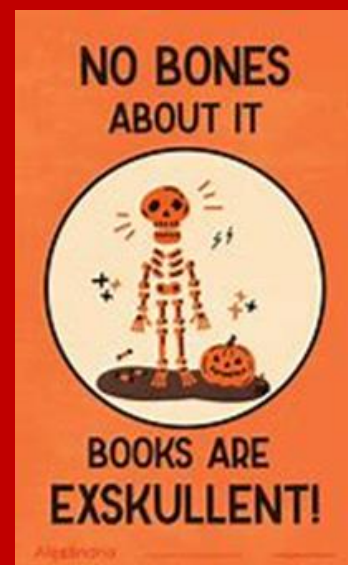
## Pay It Forward

Swap books in the Library with the 'Pay it Forward' shelves. Bring along books that you've read and see what you'd like to read next!

Thanks to Mrs Wilcock for this.

## Picture Quiz:

The answer is *Frankenstein* by *Mary Shelley*.





# CAREERS NEWSLETTER



This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

## OPPORTUNITIES



Green Careers Week is taking place from 7th – 12th November. You can read more about the week here. During the week, we will share lots of resources that you can use to learn more about green careers!



Do you want to explore the world of careers in the creative industries? This series from Speakers for Schools and ERIC will help students understand that the creative industries is more than acting, singing and drawing – it's an enormous sector with lucrative and futureproof jobs for everyone available. You can read more and sign up here.

We are so excited to announce that applications for our next intake of Pathway to Bath are open now! This award-winning blended learning programme could be for you if you are in Year 12 and meet one or more of the University of Bath Widening participation criteria. Pathway to Bath offers you the opportunity to;

- Complete your own project in a subject of your choice
- Attend a free 3 day residential at the University of Bath during the summer holiday
- Receive an alternative offer to study at the University of Bath.

Find out more about what this year's students thought in this video and head to the website to apply by 31st January 2023.

Check out the My Path YouTube channel for 2 minute videos about a huge range of careers. They upload a new video every week so subscribe and turn on notifications so you can look out for the career you'd like to learn more about.

**MYPATH**

## JOB OF THE WEEK



Secondary school teachers teach children from 11 to 16, or up to 19 in schools with sixth forms. You can earn £25,714 to £41,604 per year and expect to work 37-45 hours per week during term time. There will be 6.6% more Secondary school teacher jobs in 2026. You can read more about this here.

## LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

For the three months ending August 2022, the highest economic inactivity rate estimate in the UK was in Northern Ireland (27.8%) and the lowest was in the East of England (18.5%).

Source

If you have any questions or need support, please contact [moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk)

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER



## OPPORTUNITIES



Considering working in the fast-growing digital tech sector? Naureen Khan, Chief of Staff at TechUK, will be speaking about some of the exciting roles in her industry that you may never have heard about before and the work being done to close the gender gap in her industry. [Click here to register.](#)



Speakers for Schools and IntoFilm are partnering together for an online broadcast on the 2nd of November at 10am. The event will look to demystify some common misconceptions about the film industry and explore what it's like to be a female film critic. [Click here to register.](#)

Do you have some spare time during the October break? Here are some resources you can use to explore your career options:

- **Career Pilot** - Not sure where to start? This is the one for you! Click "start with you" on [the homepage](#) and you can then look at jobs relating to sectors, complete quizzes and work out your values & skills.
- **Prospects** - This [online quiz](#) is better suited for those in Sixth Form as it relates to 18+ options. It helps you to link your personality to different job roles to work out what you might enjoy after college/sixth form.
- **UniTasterDays** - As well as being able to search through lots of uni events, UTD have a HUGE range of [online webinars](#) about different industries and how you can access them.
- **Speakers for Schools** - All of the previous events that Speakers for Schools have run are recorded and saved in their [Broadcast Video Library](#).
- **Panjango Online** - This is an [online game](#) that allows you to explore and click into different workplaces to find out more about the different jobs that work there, what skills you will need and how you could access.



Have a great October break! See you soon!

## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

**Mondelez**  
International  
SNACKING MADE RIGHT

"We share a love for our brands with millions of people around the world.

Here you can help us develop new childhood memories for the next generation and play an important role in our mission to make the future of snacking even more tasty and nutritious."

You can read more about Mondelez jobs [here](#).

## UNI SPOTLIGHT



"Warwick is home to over 9,500 students from 147 countries. We offer a range of study options, including opportunities abroad, the Warwick International Foundation Programme, Summer School and English Language courses."

You can read more about their courses [here](#).

If you have any questions or need support, please contact [moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk)