



De La Salle
School

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1st December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 13

It has been good to have a week back in school and, in particular, to interact with our students, who never cease to make me smile and inspire me with their charm, humour and kindness, which in the depths of November, is always welcome.

The week was full of activity, with our Year 11 geographers visiting Liverpool, our Year 8 students starting their form retreats in school, our curriculum work continued within our Monday night meetings with every subject finalising their plans for the Year 11 lessons from now until the GCSEs, our MVP students had another formation session, some Year 7 and 8 students took part in a photography project and we competed in a range of sporting activities.

Whole School Focus: Lasallian Headteacher Conference

As you may know, I was away in Dublin last week at the Lasallian Headteacher Conference. This was our first full conference since the pandemic, and it was lovely to see old colleagues from Britain, Ireland and Malta. The 2 days include a range of meetings and events under the theme of One Lasalle: Transforming the World Through Education.

Br George's Keynote speech addressed the impact of COVID on young people using the research of the organisation, Springtide. His key messages were:

- The importance of the person in Lasallian education and our need to listen to and understand our young people.
- The fact that many young people don't really know a 'normal' their lives over recent years have been so disrupted for so long.
- That the pandemic is possibly the biggest formative influence on our young people ever.

In the GB section of the conference we discussed the future of Lasallian schools in GB, and were updated on the progress of the Laetare Multi Academy Trust which the brothers are exploring for its schools, which is progressing well.

In the school-based presentations, we heard from a range of schools on how they have reconnected with parents, staff, students and governors, with some really interesting approaches. I was privileged to have been asked to speak about student leadership, and so was able to share the wonderful work of our 1719 Societies over the past few years – something many schools seemed very keen to create.

All of these sessions were brought together and overlaid with some beautiful moments of prayer and reflection, led by our very own Mrs J Millea, who is currently on secondment with the Brothers Office of Mission.

Netball Success

Our wonderful Y7s netball team went through to the next round of the St Helens Cup after winning last night's match 8-2 against Rainford. Well done girls!

De La Salle Pensioner's Christmas Party

We are happy to announce that on Friday December 16th December at 2:00pm we are hosting a Christmas Party for pensioners in our wider community. It will take place in the main school hall from 2:00-4.30pm and will be led by our senior prefects the 1719. If you would like to attend or know somebody who might, please RSVP to: DLS_1719@delasalleschool.org.uk

Attendance

Hopefully we are coming to the end of the recent spate of flu-like illness that has really decimated our attendance across all years.

Since September:

- School attendance has dipped further this week to: **91.15%**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **92.5%**

Building Work

Much of the work is now completed and the onsite team have been tidying up ahead of the floor being laid. All still remains on schedule and we hope to have use of the space in the new year.

INSET Day

Just a reminder that tomorrow is an INSET day and the school is closed to students. School will re-open as normal on Monday morning.

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 January. Some are additions to the document I sent at the start of the year as more events are added.

Fri 2nd Dec: INSET Day – school closed to students

Wed 7th Dec: Full Governors Meeting (5:00pm)

Thu 8th: Year 8 Retreat number 3 (on site)

Fri 9th: Year 8 retreat number 4 (on site)

Mon 12th: Football Beyond Borders (Year 8)

Tue 13th: School Show Night 1 (details tbc)

Wed 14th: School Show Night 2 (details tbc)

Thu 15th: School Show Night 3 (details tbc)

Fri 16th: Pensioners Christmas party (2:00-4.30pm)

Wed 21st: School Closes 12.10pm

Christmas Holidays

Wed 4th Jan: School re-opens (normal time)

Thu 12th: Year 11 Parents' Eve (compressed day – school closes at 1.30pm)

Fri 13th: PSHCE lesson 3

And finally...

As well as the students, sometimes it is the strong support from my family that keeps me going. For example, as part of the Lasallian Headteacher conference, there was a keynote speaker, Br George van Grieken. Br George is renowned for his work on identifying what it means to be a Lasallian school. Indeed, his book, Touching the Hearts of Students is excellent.

In excitement last week, I tweeted "looking forward to Day 2 of the Lasallian Headteacher Conference. Highlight is the Keynote address from Br George van Grieken focussing upon the resilience and relevance of Lasallian education in a post-pandemic world." 20 mins later I had a message in the family WhatsApp from Mrs R with a picture of my tweet and the words – "Wish I was there". I am, very optimistically, going to assume she was being serious.

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher