



De La Salle  
School

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9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Parental Update 14

A very chilly week in school, with temperatures falling across the country, saw us following an old headteacher's advice to me of keeping warm by keeping busy. Lots of 'behind the scenes' work is taking place with staff completing Year 11 reports, data drops for students and the various checking processes these require taking place.

For the students, some Year 10 scientists took part in a Polymers Masterclass (no I don't know what that is either), we had a fantastic science fair for Year 7 (more later), Christmas Jumper day and our final set of Year 8 retreats. Looking ahead to next week, our Year 10s have their photography exam, we have our School Rock and Roll Show and then finish the week with our pensioner's party.

Finally, as this term draws to an end, we are keen to seek your views on how we are doing. To help with this, we have our termly **Big Ask**. This can be accessed with the following link (it will only take you 5 mins to complete): <https://forms.office.com/e/XGdBH7HXE5> The Big Ask will close at 3pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### Whole School Focus: Strep A (or Group A Strep / GAS)

I realise there is a lot of coverage of this in the press at the moment and, understandably, concern amongst families with younger children, particularly with vulnerable family members. Though we have not had any cases in school and it is more serious for younger children, I thought it worth sharing some key information that you may find useful.

#### What is Group A Strep (GAS)?

Group A Strep is the name of a bacteria that most commonly causes throat infections, skin infections / Scarlet Fever. It is also able to cause more serious infections, but this does not happen very often. Across the country we are seeing four times more Scarlet Fever cases than we usually do for this time of so it important to be able to recognise the signs and symptoms of Scarlet Fever.

#### Signs & Symptoms of Scarlet Fever

The symptoms are the same for children and adults, although scarlet fever is less common in adults. Scarlet Fever most commonly happens in children aged under 10 years old and it can be treated with antibiotics.

The first symptoms of Scarlet Fever are the same as those caused by viruses that commonly cause infection at this time of year and they include: sore throat, headache, fever (may be 38.3°C (101°F) or higher), nausea & vomiting. At this stage of the infection Scarlet Fever is hard to diagnose unless your child had been in contact with another child who has already been diagnosed with Scarlet Fever. And not every child will get all the symptoms, some people don't get any symptoms.

12-48 hours after the initial symptoms a fine rash may appear first on the chest and tummy and then it spreads quickly to the rest of the body. When you feel the rash, it feels rough like sandpaper. This rash appears pink or red on white skin and may not be as obvious on someone with brown / black skin.

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

It is common for children with Scarlet Fever to have a white coating on their tongue that peels off and then the tongue appears red and swollen. If your child's skin is pale, they may also have red cheeks. Symptoms can also include swollen lymph glands.

#### When should I contact my GP / NHS 111?

Scarlet fever is very easily spread. Check with a GP before you go in. They may suggest a phone consultation.

- Contact your GP as soon as possible if your child has symptoms of Scarlet Fever or are feeling unwell and have been in contact with someone who has scarlet fever.
- Let your GP know if your child does not get better in a week (after seeing a GP), are ill again, weeks after scarlet fever got better as this can be a sign of a complication, such as rheumatic fever.
- It is also important that you let your GP know if your child gets chickenpox at the same time as Scarlet Fever

You should also contact your GP / NHS 111 if as a parent, you feel that your child seems seriously unwell. You should trust your own judgement. Contact your GP / NHS 111 if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

If it is Scarlett Fever your GP may prescribe antibiotics. Antibiotics will shorten the length of time your child is infectious (can pass the bacteria onto someone else) and can help to reduce the chance of them developing a more serious infection. Your child can return to school 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment for Scarlet Fever if they are well enough and their temperature has settled. It is important that they continue to take all their antibiotic treatment even if they start to feel better.

#### When should I call 999 / go to A & E?

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes or your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

#### Should I let anyone else know if my child has Scarlet Fever?

You can spread scarlet fever to other people up to 6 days before you get symptoms until 24 hours after you take your 1st dose of antibiotics. If you do not take antibiotics, you can spread the infection for 2 to 3 weeks after your symptoms start.

If your child attends a baby-sitter with other children, a nursery / school it would be helpful to tell them that your child has Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever is a notifiable disease in England and Wales. This means health professionals must inform local health protection teams of suspected cases.

#### If me or my child is diagnosed with Scarlet Fever, what can I do to stop spreading the infection?

##### **DO**

Encourage them to wash their hands often with soap and water.

Use tissues when they cough and sneeze and bin it afterwards

##### **DO NOT**

Share towels, bedding, cups and cutlery before washing them.

Allow them to mix with other children if possible until 24 hours after they have started their antibiotics

**Where to get more information?** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

## **Discriminatory Language**

I wanted to follow up my message two weeks ago regarding Discriminatory Language. A reminder that this is derogatory language that is homophobic, misogynist, disablist, sexist, transphobic or involves any other form of discrimination. As I mentioned two weeks ago, such language is very rare in school but, when it is heard, we have made clear the importance of staff and students acting to report it – to show that this is not acceptable. Whenever we have any reports of such language, we will always act upon them.

Once such language is reported, we take it very seriously, always with a view to re-educate those using it, including seeing the impact it has on others, alongside punitive measures depending upon the severity from detention, suspension and even police involvement where appropriate.

## **Science Fair**

I was fortunate enough to be asked by Mr Hughes to judge the Year 7 science Fair this week. I think this is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year and the standard of entries was the highest ever. Students had to produce models and information relating to the human or animal bodies. The results were:

- 1st Prize Bobby Ganson (7H - Human as organism model)
- 2nd Prize Olivia Miao (7B) / Sophia Meaney (7N) - (Red Panda)
- 3rd Prize Oliver Crosby and Liam Revill (both 7H - Giraffe)

A big congratulations also go to the other wonderful entries from:

- Riley Millar-Renshall
- Noah Hayton
- Harry Kernick
- Ava Carter
- Tilly Hughes
- Libby Irvine
- Michael Wright

## **Parking**

This time, our concern is with the Mill Brow entrance. This is a very dangerous blind entrance and bend, so can I ask that parents collecting children from that entrance, ensure they park well away from the school entrance to ensure that our students, and the passing motorists, have as clear a view as possible.

## **Homework Systems**

As was mentioned earlier in the year, much of our homework was being transferred over to, and is now being set on, Edulink with the resources being placed in TEAMS. The old system, Satchel One, will stop being used at Christmas.

## **Attendance**

There have been some green shoots of improvement in attendance, but much more is needed if we are to climb back above the national rates.

Since September:

- School attendance has dipped further this week to: **91%**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **91.8%**

## **Building Work**

The Eagle has landed! I am delighted to say that the floor is now well underway with the screeding being laid and currently setting (going off, firming up, solidifying – I am sure one of those phrases is the correct technical term). Once this is ready, the vinyl surface will be laid and, apart from a coupled of final small pieces of work, the job will be finished. Woohoo!

**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.

Mon 12th: Football Beyond Borders (Year 8)

Tue 13th: School Show (primary school performance)

Wed 14th: School Show Night 2 (doors open 6.30pm for 7:00pm start)

Thu 15th: School Show Night 3 (doors open 6.30pm for 7:00pm start)

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 I mentioned, it has been a chilly week this week, and this morning (Friday) made even more interesting by a sudden shower of rain that has immediately frozen over. In order to try and ensure the site was safe for students, we needed to re-grit the whole external area. This is quite some task, and being short staffed today and ever happy to muck in, I joined Glen and Mike from our site team, to get to it.

After about 10 minutes, and both of them watching my grit scattering technique with a look somewhere between interest and puzzlement, Glen suggested I may have other more pressing matters to deal with and that the two of them could manage. I can take a hint when it is given!

Have a good weekend.

**Andrew Rannard**

Headteacher

# 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



Amol Rajan finds out How to Crack the Class Ceiling: In between visiting an east London secondary school where students are encouraged to apply for sixth-form scholarships at expensive private schools, Rajan meets two graduates, Chris and Adnan. Chris is from Hull and believes he has the wrong accent to secure a Civil Service career, while Adnan, a hotel porter's son from London, is coached for his interview at Lloyd's of London. It still seems that received pronunciation is key to career enhancement, and Rajan also explores accent bias within the law. Find out more and watch [here](#).



Vogue are excited to launch Career Secrets – a short-form video series led by fashion industry experts that will help you take the next step on your work/life journey. [Click here to read more.](#)

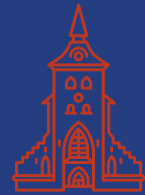
OpenLearn

OpenLearn is the FREE learning platform of The Open University and this collection of content is designed to help you as you embark on your career, be that providing some ideas as to what that career might be, or helping you get started in your chosen field. Take a look at the FREE courses and guides to help get your career started. [Click here to read more.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF  
EXETER

Join staff from the University of Exeter for a session that provides information and advice about Accommodation at University. This session runs on 14th December from 6-7pm. [Click here to register.](#)

## JOB OF THE WEEK



Heritage officers support teams to take care of buildings, monuments and places valued for their cultural and historical importance. You can earn £18,500 to £48,000 per year and expect to work 37 to 40 hours a week. There will be 3.4% more Heritage officer jobs in 2026. [Click here to read more.](#)

## LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

To find out how the High Streets and shopping spaces in our area have changed since the beginning of the pandemic, type in your postcode [here](#).

How do you think the changes in our high street will have affected job roles in our area?

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

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER



## OPPORTUNITIES



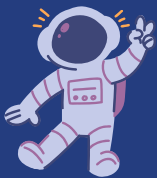
Medic Mentor's Summer School programme is the largest and most well established personalised mentoring programme in the UK for prospective Medical, Dental and Veterinary applicants. From its starting in 2015, the summer school programme has expanded almost exponentially and for our most recent Summer School 2022 cohort, there were over 650 applicants. [Click here to read more and scroll to the bottom to apply.](#)



Want to learn how to code using Minecraft? The BYJU'S FutureSchool program teaches the fundamentals of coding: logic, structure, sequencing, and algorithmic thinking. You can register for a free class [here](#).



"If you design technology with disabled people in mind, you design technology better for everyone." This was the sentiment from Google as it opened its first UK research and development centre dedicated to making tech to help people with disabilities. [You can read more here.](#)



Want to know what it is like to be an astronaut? How are they recruited? From 23,000 applicants, how do they decide? [Check out this article from Kevin Fong.](#)

Free virtual Taster Day with Deloitte! On the day you will get to learn more about Deloitte as an organisation and the Early Careers Programmes that they offer! What will I get out of it?

- An insight into what programmes Deloitte offer.
- A certificate for attending the event to put on your CV.
- A chance to network with potential employers.

[Click here to read more and register.](#)



The Apprenticeship Academy is a 6 week programme that provides students in Year 11 and 13 with everything they need to know to find, apply for and interview for apprenticeship opportunities in the UK. The next sessions start in February 2023. [Click here to read more and sign up.](#)



## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"Jaguar Land Rover is unique in the global automotive industry. Designers of peerless models, an unrivalled understanding of the future luxury needs of its customers, emotionally rich brand equity, a spirit of Britishness and unrivalled access to leading global players in technology." You can read more about Jaguar Land Rover jobs [here](#).

## UNI SPOTLIGHT



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

"Why choose Liverpool? It's an important question. And there are thousands of answers.

There's our global outlook for a start, and our spirit of originality. Our warm and welcoming environment and the incredible city we're such a big part of."

You can read more about University of Liverpool's courses [here](#).

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