



6th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 15

I hope that you and your family had a restful, happy and holy Christmas and wish you all a happy New Year. The start of term has been a good one, though weather related delays pre-Christmas meant our building work has pushed its completion back a week (see later). More generally, staff and students have returned in positive mood with uniform and attendance being much improved on the end of last term (though acrylic nails have been an issue for some students).

Looking ahead to the upcoming term, it is quite a packed schedule of events including Year 11 mock interviews, Year 11 and Year 9 Parents' evenings, our Ski Trip, Year 7 and Year 9 assessments, the final set of Year 11 mock exams, several governor meetings and our Presentation Evening (please see Forthcoming Events below for dates/times of these events).

Whole School Focus: Attendance

I am sure some of you will be getting 'attendance message fatigue' as we keep you updated on your child's attendance. I hope you understand that we are quite rightly expected to put great emphasis on attendance and I know some parents have raised questions such as "what about the part days for Parents' Evenings etc or for trips and other events?"

This is a fair question and of course, the least amount of time missed from school is the aim for all of us. With regards to early closures e.g. for Parents' Evenings, these are already factored into our curriculum planning, and in many cases, we still operate a 5-lesson day, just compressed and combining break/lunch so that only small amounts of time are lost for each subject. This minimises any impact upon student learning.

In contrast to this, an individual student absence will mean they miss the learning that other students are getting and, inevitably, need to catch-up outside of the lesson or risk falling behind. The impact of absence was felt very starkly, mostly as a COVID impact, in the summer with our GCSE results. The table below shows the attendance levels of our outgoing Year 11 students over the previous 2 pandemic years based upon their progress in the GCSEs.

Progress	Avg. Attendance 2021/22	Avg. Attendance 2020/21
2+ grades below expected	75%	87%
1+ grades below expected	82%	87%
Making Negative progress	85%	90%
Positive Progress	91%	94%
1+grades above expected	94%	97%

This makes the very stark link between attendance at school and progress in exams – those below 90% attendance for those 2 years making less progress than expected whilst those with 91%+ making above expected progress. This is why we make no apology for the high-profile push for attendance this year – it really does matter.

Parents' Evenings

The Parents' Evening season is approaching. Having listened to parental feedback, we have taken the decision to hold these in-person once again, whilst the pastoral meetings (with form teachers) will remain online. Details of the upcoming Year 11 and Year 9 meetings are below and information regarding bookings has already been sent out.

Homework Hackers – Parental Support Courses

St Helens Chamber of Commerce have launched a new training programme called "Homework Hackers" which will help parents get the skills they need in Maths and IT to help their children with homework.

Anyone aged 19+ living in the Liverpool City Region can access this course free, and learners can choose from 6 modules in either IT or Maths based on what they need. They have created a leaflet with all information and options on modules to view on their website here:

<https://www.sthelenschamber.com/startingpoint/free-short-courses-for-jobseekers/homework-hackers/>

With the choice of six, one-day modules in either Maths or IT, you can make sure that your skills are up to date and that you're ready to tackle any homework questions that come your way!

Maths modules include:

1. Place value
2. Fractions, percentages, and decimals
3. Perimeter area and volume
4. Statistics

IT modules include:

1. Online Safety
2. Digital wellbeing
3. Using digital devices
4. Digital Communication

These courses won't just help with homework but are useful in the workplace, and to help you make sure your children are being safe online too!

The first courses are enrolling in January with various dates are available, so please get in touch for more information on 01744 698800 or email adulteducation@sthelenschamber.com

The Big Ask

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Big Ask – we had 142 parental responses. We are reviewing the feedback and, over the coming weeks, I will be sharing the key messages and how we will respond to them.

End of Term Newsletter

A reminder that, in case you missed it, you can still access our end of Autumn term newsletter using the following link: <https://sway.office.com/orbfKv2EYTZVDfyh?ref=Link>

Attendance Data

The final week of term saw a drop in our overall attendance as seen below, though levels at the start of this term are looking healthier.

September – December 2022:

- School attendance **90.9%**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **91.4%**
- Gap: **-0.5%**

Building Work

As mentioned earlier, the cold weather prevented the external ramp work being completed, and the flooring being finished. I am delighted to say the ramp work has now been done and the flooring is currently being laid. We are hopeful the work will be completed Wednesday and then the site compound cleared so that by Monday 16th, the dining room will be in full use and the site open as normal.

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

Tuesday 10th: Iceland Parental Meeting (5:00pm)

Wednesday 11th: Flu Vaccinations for Year 7, 8 & 9 students

Wednesday 11th: DoE Parental Meeting (Year 10) 5:00pm

Thursday 12th: Year 11 Parents' Eve – this will be in-person not online (compressed day – school closes at 1.30pm)

Monday 16th: Year 7 Assessment Window Opens

Tuesday 17th: Year 11 Mock Interviews (3.30 - 5.30pm)

Wednesday 18th: Year 11 Mock Interviews (3.30 – 5.30pm)

Wednesday 18th: Extra Governors meeting (Academisation Update - 4.30pm) followed by QoE Committee

Thursday 19th: Year 9 Parents' Eve – this will be in-person not online (compressed day – school closes at 1.30pm)

Sunday 22nd – 27th: Ski Trip away

W/B Monday 23rd: Year 11 mocks (practical subjects)

Tuesday 24th: DoE Parental Meeting (Year 9) 5:00pm

Wednesday 25th: Governors: Finance and Premises Committee

Friday: 27th: End of Year 7 Assessment window

Monday 30th: Year 9 Assessment Window opens

W/B Monday 30th: Year 11 Mock exams (all subjects)

Thursday 2nd Feb: Presentation Evening (6:00pm)

And finally...

This evening I am lucky enough to be going to see Peter Kay in Liverpool. As you may appreciate these tickets were like gold dust, and involved me being set up with every digital device in the house (though not the tumble dryer, though it still keeps texting me), ready for the 10am release of the tickets. With all those screens and keyboards in front of me, I looked like a Poundland Jean-Michel Jarre.

Of the 10 devices I was logging in with, only 1 got connected to the site and after a very stressful 5 minutes of further waiting and entering my card details, the whole thing went blank for what was probably 1 minute, though felt like a week. Then at last – confirmation of the tickets which I forwarded to Mrs R in jubilation. Her response, when it came, was "Well done but could you not get any better seats?" My two-word response was sent after a deep breath – "garlic bread!"

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard

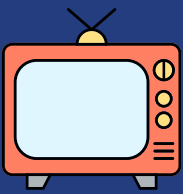
Headteacher

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



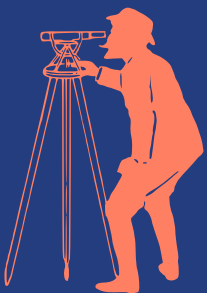
The Grierson DocLab scheme supports 12 successful applicants aged 18-25 & based in the UK taking their first steps in factual TV/documentary jobs. The deadline for applications is Fri, 24 February 2023 at 5pm. You can read more and apply here.



Are you considering becoming a pilot in the future? Then you need to know about TUI's Pilot Cadet Programme! Embarking upon the 19 month TUI Airline Multi-Crew Pilot Licence (MPL) Cadet Programme is an exciting opportunity for those with little, or no, flying experience. You'll complete your training and eventually join TUI as a Cadet Pilot flying the Boeing 737. You can read more here.



The Raheem Sterling Foundation have launched a new creative youth engagement and skills development programme with the National Portrait Gallery. The programme will give 30 young people from London the chance to learn a variety of skills and the knowledge needed to progress into future creative careers. It will aim to strengthen their sense of community and belonging as they explore themes from their own experiences and perspectives.



The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) is excited to provide you with the unique chance to learn more about the range of opportunities available within the surveying sector via digital mentoring! The portal also provides information about internships and work experience as well as, apprenticeship programmes. You can read more here.

JOB OF THE WEEK



Mental health nurses work in hospitals and the community, to support people with mental health issues. You can earn £27,055 to £40,588 per year and expect to work 37 to 38 hours a week, this could be evenings and weekends. There will be 5.3% more Mental health nurse jobs in 2027.

[Click here to read more.](#)

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Median weekly pay for full-time employees was £640 in April 2022, which is a 5.0% increase over the £610 in 2021.

Definition: The median is the midpoint in a given earnings distribution,

[Source](#)

If you have any questions or need support, please contact moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES

The Apprenticeship Academy registration is now open. If you're in Year 11 or 13 and would like to learn more about how to find apprenticeships, you can register for your place [here](#). Over the six weeks you will cover:



- What apprenticeship am I looking for?
- Where can I find apprenticeships?
- How can I write successful applications?
- What will the application process be?
- What to expect at interviews and assessments
- How to manage my applications

This is a fantastic opportunity to experience the spirit of tech giant Vodafone. Join Speakers for Schools for a first of a kind experience with the UK's top telecoms brand. Hear from experts across this titan organisation and learn about the future of telecom innovations, as well as potential careers and opportunities open to you. Takes place on 31/01/2023 from 4-6pm. Read more and apply [here](#).



Demystifying Apprenticeships: A twilight session for you and your parents... If you want to help your parents understand apprenticeships, this event will support you! Taking place on 2nd February from 7-8pm. Read more and apply [here](#).

Here are some resources where you can find out more about different universities, subjects and employers to help you plan your future:

- [UCAS](#) - this has all the UK university courses on, it can be overwhelming as there are a lot so use the filters to look at certain subject areas or geographical locations
- [Springpod](#) - there employer profiles allow you to read about different employers and their apprenticeship opportunities
- [UTD Subject Webinars](#) - From Accounting to Zoology - and 100's of subjects in between, these videos will help you to learn more about different subjects.



EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"Every day, our people support operations around the globe, protecting Britain's shores, developing world-class weaponry, and partnering with our international allies. Our success depends on our people – our Whole Force."

You can read more about Ministry of Defence jobs [here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT

**Kingston
University
London**

"Kingston University is leading the way with a major campaign highlighting the importance of skills for innovation and the vital role they play in driving a thriving national economy."

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

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