



De La Salle
School

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

13th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 16

Our first full week of 2023 has continued in positive fashion with our attendance continuing to rise, standards of uniform being strong, our first face to face parents' evening since 2020 which was very positive and well attended and, during her visit, our School Improvement Partner, who regularly visits dozens of schools, not only recognising the improvements to teaching and learning but commenting on how calm the school was and that our students' behaviour in lessons and during social time was exemplary.

This week also saw the North West Lasallian Educators Gathering (see later), parental meeting for the Iceland trip, flu vaccinations, Duke of Edinburgh (Year 10) parental meeting as well as footballing success. Whilst looking ahead to next week, we have Year 11 mock interviews, our Year 9 Parents' Evening, our Year 7 Harry Potter House Quiz and our Ski Trip sets off to Andorra.

Whole School Focus: Sacrament of Confirmation

The Catholic Church has seven sacraments: Baptism, Reconciliation, Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick. These sacraments mark key points in an individual's journey deeper into the Catholic Faith.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the sacrament where we receive the Holy Spirit and grow closer in our relationship with God. This is often seen as the moment that a young person confirms their faith. In our Archdiocese, it is currently offered to young people in Year 8 and above.

I am sure many of you recall being confirmed whilst in secondary school. For a long period, the work and preparation for this was done in secondary schools. Arrangements for Confirmation were changed and the organisation was taken on by the Archdiocese. Now things have changed again and it is delivered as a partnership between schools and the Archdiocese.

The attached letter provides details of how the process will work for those who wish to continue their journey in the Catholic faith, and receive the sacrament.

Please take the time to read the attached information then, if your child is in Year 8 or above, you can register your child for the sacrament at <https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/> registration must take place before the **17th March**.

Nut-Free School

Can I remind all parents that we have a number of students with severe nut allergies and, for their protection, we are a nut-free school. Our catering team are very good and ensure we are compliant with our allergy-based information and requirements. Could I ask you to be vigilant that any food you send in with your child does not contain nuts?

Football Success

We have recently had two of our football teams successfully progress in their Cup Competitions. Firstly, our Year 11 boys beat St Cuthberts 7-0 last week. The whole squad were outstanding, managing and organising themselves maturely, playing some lovely football. Spectators were well

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

behaved, and everyone's support was appreciated. Stand out players - Joseph Gardener and Cole Livesey - organised the team and led by example.

Then this week, our Year 9/10 girls progressed through to the semi-final of the St Helens Town Cup. They played so well in horrendous conditions, winning 1-0 against a strong Sutton Academy side with a great goal from Kitty Coaley. Player of the match was Tilly Holloway.

Accompanying Letters

Alongside this week's update and Careers Bulletin, I have attached two important letters for parents. One relates to our Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). This is a letter we send annually to inform you of your right to withdraw your child from these lessons. The second is relating to the Sacrament of Confirmation (as outlined above).

Year 11 Prom

Prom has been provisionally booked for Friday 23rd June at Saints stadium. This is invitational only and will rely heavily on your child maintaining positive attendance to school, punctuality to class and behaviour/attitude for learning. For the vast majority of our students this what they do every day, but we would recommend parents not committing to prom-related expenditure until students have received their invite.

Girls' Football Survey

Our 'Barclays Games Changer', Izzy, would like to get the views and opinions of girls at our school on their participation (or lack of) in football both in school or with clubs. She has produced a short survey and would appreciate if you could complete it with your daughter. The survey can be found at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5FujlyGohJOf8MnVirfZYgYy5b_4beeARRBF1crvx73we2w/viewform

The information will help her to look at new ways of engaging more girls in football across St Helens.

How to Help Your Child Make Better Notes

We're excited to announce that we are working in partnership with Elevate Education which will provide free access to their first webinar of the Spring Term taking place on Tuesday 17th January. Elevate Education works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you will learn how you can help better support your child at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school:

Tuesday 17th January (6:00-7:00pm): How to Help Your Child Make Better Notes, here's what they will be covering on the night:

- The most effective way to structure notes
- The 3 levels of acquiring knowledge and how to implement this with your child at home
- The power of deliberate practice and the fastest way for your child to improve their marks

Click [here](#) to register for free

Attendance Data

Our return to school has seen a welcome jump in our attendance, hopefully reflecting a longer-term improvement. This has resulted in us moving to within touching distance of the national picture. Hopefully this time next week we can be above it.

September 2022 – 6th January 2023:

- School attendance **90.6%**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **90.8%**
- Gap: **-0.2%**

Building Work

After several long months and huge disruption to school life, I am delighted to say that the building work is now complete and that, from Monday, we will be back to normal operations. It has been incredibly challenging to have this building work taking place but staff and students have been really accommodating which helped things run as smoothly as they have done.

This will mean that students will have a much larger dining space and, as mentioned previously, we will be expecting students to remain in the dining room, sat with their friends.

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

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' Evening – this will be in-person not online (compressed day – school closes at 1:30pm)

Sunday 22nd – 27th: Ski Trip away

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

Wednesday 25th: Governors: Finance and Premises Committee

Friday: 27th: End of Year 7 Assessment window

W/B Monday 30th: Year 11 mocks (practical subjects)

Monday 30th: Year 9 Assessment Window opens

Thursday 2nd Feb: Presentation Evening (7:00pm)

W/B Monday 6th Feb: Year 11 Mock exams (all subjects)

And finally...

Firstly, Peter Kay was very good on Friday, not his top level, but still very funny. The next day, I was back in school for the North West Lasallian Educators Gathering. We have hosted this now for 10 years and was initially targeted at Lasallian educators in the North West. More recently the event has grown and this time, as well as some of our own staff, we had over 30 representatives from Manchester, Stoke, Ireland, Malta and Belgium.

It was a really enjoyable occasion which involved some formation around our role as Lasallian Educators, prayer, group activities and sharing of good practice. As part of this, Mrs Rooney and Sam presented the 1719 Society with Grace, Jack, Eleanor and Noah giving up their Saturday morning (and their parents too – thank you) to come and present around the work they have done so far this year. The other schools were genuinely amazed by the students' authenticity, passion, commitment as well as the quality of their work. We expect to see many more 1719 Societies popping up across the district soon (though we will always have been the original!).

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher

Re: Sacrament of Confirmation

Dear parent/guardian,

The archdiocese of Liverpool is inviting young people in year 8 (and above) to the sacrament of confirmation.

Confirmation is a sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger and more perfect Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The preparation for the sacrament will begin in school with an introduction to the sacrament from Animate, the archdiocesan youth ministry team.

Alternatively your child may be asked to watch four short introductory videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/AnimateYouth> Playlist - 'Confirmation Called ...'.

Year 8 pupils will then study the subject of confirmation in their RE classes.

After the registration deadline has passed your child will be invited to preparation sessions in your local area (parish / deanery).

Following these local preparation times young people will be invited to be confirmed.

If your child would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation this year it is essential they register online at:

<https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/>

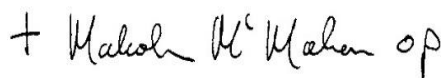
Registration must take place before the 17th March.

Please complete the form that can be accessed through clicking the button at the top right-hand side of the webpage ('Register for Confirmation'). If you are unable to do this at home please inform the school chaplain who will be able to help.

When a young person has registered they will be contacted by your local confirmation co-ordinator who will take you through the next steps of the preparation process.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr Simon Gore on s.gore@animateyouth.co.uk Or your parish priest.

Yours sincerely,



Archbishop of Liverpool





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12th January, 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RHSE) at De La Salle

Government guidelines outline that, from the age of 11, it is compulsory for all schools to provide an RHSE curriculum.

At our school, we believe that it is important to provide our students with a thorough and balanced curriculum, including age-appropriate information about sex and relationships.

The details of what will be taught to the various year groups is detailed in the school's RSE and Health Education Policy, which can be accessed on our [school website](#), or in hard copy via our school office.

Though schools must provide RHSE for students from the age of 11, up until the age of 19, only aspects of the science national curriculum are compulsory for students to learn. Therefore, as parents, you are entitled to request that your child be removed from sex education lessons up to and until three terms before they turn 16-years-old. After that point, if your child wishes to receive sex education, the school will make arrangements to provide them with sex education during one of those terms.

Requests for withdrawal should be submitted in writing to myself, the Headteacher, who will discuss this with you and your child's teacher, and determine an appropriate substitute for these lessons. In most instances, children will be provided with self-directed reading or exercises which they can complete under the supervision of a trainee teacher.

It is important to note that we will always highlight any Catholic teachings as appropriate throughout the curriculum to ensure our students are aware of a range of viewpoints.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's participation in these lessons, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's class teacher to discuss these.

Yours faithfully

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



Chris Scott has worked in the recorded music business for nearly 20 years and is the General Manager at Domino Recording Company, home to artists such as Arctic Monkeys, Wet Leg, Franz Ferdinand, Hot Chip and Jon Hopkins, amongst others. [Click here to watch his broadcast and learn more about his career.](#)



Sandra Garlick MBE, Head of HR, Legal & Compliance & Safeguarding at Coventry City Football Club discusses her career working in the sport industry, but not as a sports person. [Click here to watch this broadcast and learn more about her career.](#)



Oluchi Ikechi-D'Amico, Partner, Head of Strategy & Transactions APAC, Capital Markets, Ernst & Young Parthenon. Founder of 'Fully Bossed for an exciting talk that is part of this year's Black History Month – Time for Change: Action Not Words'. [Click here to watch this broadcast and learn more about what it's like being a black woman in tech and the importance of empowerment and change.](#)

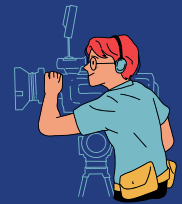


Paul Williams, one of the producers of the BBC TV series The Green Planet with Sir David Attenborough discusses his experiences of working on the series. From filming in deserts to tropical rainforests, meet some of the world's most fascinating, weird and wonderful plants, and discover more about how we can protect plants, and the animals and ecosystems that depend on them. [Click here to watch.](#)



Learn all about how sustainable skills can help your career pathway and the planet in this panel talk by the World Wildlife Fund. [Click here to watch.](#)

JOB OF THE WEEK



TV and film directors lead the creative and technical production for cinema and television. The annual salary is variable and expect to work 39 to 41 hours a week, this could be evenings and weekends. There will be 0.7% more director jobs in 2027. [Click here to read more.](#)

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The Census 2021 topic summaries are available online now.

The census happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

[You can read more here.](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Robyn Grew, President and General Counsel of MAN Group will be speaking about what it means to be a supportive ally, what Pride means to her and the work she has done to support Man Group's LGBTQ+ Network "Pride@Man". [Click here to watch this broadcast.](#)



The Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, speaks to students at Sheffield Park Academy on the importance of work experience and the options available after leaving education. Nadhim also shares challenges he has overcome and life advice. [Click here to watch this broadcast.](#)



Bola Sol is a Mathematics and Finance graduate who found passion in women coming together to discuss money matters. Watch this broadcast to learn how to have conversations about money, how to budget and save money as well as learning practical tips and straightforward advice on building a relationship with money. [Click to watch this broadcast.](#)



Hear from one of the world's leading VFX companies! Our panel from ILM share the magic behind the work they do and their top tips for getting into the industry. [Click here to watch this broadcast.](#)



Two years after her novel *Girl, Woman, Other* made her the first Black woman ever to win the prestigious Booker Prize, Bernardine Evaristo returned to Eltham Hill School, the secondary school she attended as a girl, to inspire and engage the current generation of students. In conversation with YouTube visionary, Vee Kativhu, she discussed resilience and the importance of not giving up. [Click here to watch this broadcast.](#)



Nicolas Cary, a serial entrepreneur, and lifelong technologist shares his predictions for the future for the Cryptocurrency, Blockchain technology and how companies use blockchain.com for cybersecurity. [Click here to watch this broadcast.](#)

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



Penguin
Random House
UK

"We recognise that one size doesn't fit all, and our variety of learning and development opportunities reflect that! From courses to coaching, we invest in your growth in whatever form that may take."

You can read more about Penguin Random House jobs [here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT



"Lancaster University has partnerships worldwide, including strategic teaching partnerships in China, Germany, Ghana and Malaysia. These enhance our students' global experience and promote collaboration on world-leading, transformative research." You can read more about Lancaster University's courses [here](#).

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