



De La Salle
School

Mill Brow, Eccleston, St. Helens,
Merseyside WA10 4QH

Telephone: 01744 20511

Email: delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk

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

20th January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 17

It was another busy week in school with the highlights being the Year 11 Mock interviews (these were brilliant and the feedback from the employers and the students was so positive), a well-attended Year 9 Parents' Evening, Year 10 boys football success against Archbishop Beck, a really positive visit from the LA speaking to students and staff about behaviour and feeling safe in school and 2 governor meetings.

Looking ahead, this weekend sees our Year 9 ski trip set off (we wish them a safe journey and good skiing), a Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh meeting, a Finance and Premises Governor meeting and the end of our Year 7 assessment window.

Whole School Focus: Parents' Evenings – Your Voice

We are keen to listen to parental views regarding how we meet with you for Parents' Evenings (where you speak to your child's subject teachers) and for our Pastoral Meetings (where you speak to your child's form teacher).

In Person Meetings

Pre-Covid this was the way all meetings were held, and the way 2 of the Parents' Evenings have taken place this year. Parents book 5-minute time slots online before the meetings, then on the afternoon/evening you come into school and move between our two halls meeting the teachers in person. Most meetings are at or near the time allocated, though some overrun. The main positives of this system:

- Parents get to come into the school and see other parents
- Parents and staff get to speak to each other face to face
- There is no 'cut-off' to the meeting
- If you miss your slot, you can try to catch the teacher later on if they are not with anybody

Online Meetings

During lockdown we used an online system that provided 5-minute-long online meetings for you to discuss your child with their teacher. The main positives of the online system were:

- For many parents these were convenient and could be accessed from home or work
- if you have gaps between meetings you can carry on with whatever you were doing
- they provided greater privacy
- they are always at the given time
- there is no waiting behind other parents who are having a lengthy discussion with the teacher
- most people are now comfortable using this simple technology

The survey can be accessed here: <https://forms.office.com/e/t1Ett8Qiwg>

The deadline for sharing your parental views is **3:00pm on Wednesday 25th January**. Once completed we will look at the results and consider how we can best meet the needs of parents.

Energy and Other Drinks

Can I remind parents that students should only bring water in to school? We do not allow fizzy drinks, energy drinks or fashion drinks such as **Prime**. If these are brought in they will be confiscated and disposed of. Can we also ask that students **do not bring water in a Prime bottle**, again these will be confiscated and disposed of.

Year 7-8 Girls Cricket

DLS played 2 games winning one and losing the other narrowly by 2 runs. Overall, DLS will progress through to the Merseyside Comp as they scored the most runs in all the games. Everyone played fantastically well and it was a great all-round team effort. Special mentions go to Olivia Smedley for her two overs with several wickets and no runs conceded and Scarlett Ashton-Smith for her fielding efforts. (Mr Singh)

Year 10 Merseyside Cup

DLS progress into the quarter finals as they beat Archbishop Beck 7-2. Goal scorers included Adam Palfrey, Finley Kelsall, Reece Potter and Frankie Innelli. DLS came from behind to win convincingly. A special mention to Isaac Sams and Joseph Barrett for their hard work and communication skills during the game. Each member of the team played fantastically well, displaying great teamwork, effort and focus. (Mr Singh)

Term dates 2023/2024.

I know many parents will be looking ahead to the next academic year and considering holidays and other activities. To help with this, we have now finalised our term dates and INSET days for the next academic year. We will be following the St Helens' LA suggestions for term dates next year, so that we remain in line with the local primary schools, but we have noticed two slight differences to previous years which we want to make you aware of:

- Oct half term is a week later than usual (w/b 30th Oct)
- We come back quite late from Christmas (8th Jan)

The term dates for 2023/24 are:

Autumn Term

Mon 4th Sept: **INSET Day** (students do not attend)
Tue 5th Sept: Students start
Fri 27th Oct: Students finish for half term
Mon 6th Nov: Students return after half term
Fri 1st Dec: **INSET Day** (students do not attend)
Fri 22nd Dec: Students finish for Christmas

Spring Term

Mon 8th Jan: Students return after Christmas
Fri 9th Feb: Students finish for half term
Mon 19th Feb: students return after half term
Thu 28th Mar: Students finish for Easter

Summer Term

Mon 15th Apr: Students return after Easter
Mon 6th May: **Bank Holiday**
Fri 24th May: students finish for half term
Mon 3rd Jun: Students return after half term
Mon 24th Jun: **INSET Day** (students do not attend)
Fri 19th July Students finish for Summer Holidays
Mon 22nd and Tue 23rd: **INSET Days** (students do not attend)

New Dining Room

Our first week of the school year without building restrictions has been a joy and the new dining room is working well – it has been great to see students able to sit and chat whilst eating, rather than having to walk around with their food. There have been teething issues with Year 7 getting used to the external queueing and timings of lunch and also the speed at which the service is taking place, but we are working on these.

The additional benefit has been the massive reduction in litter around the school and outdoor spaces. The only losers are our large and surly colony of seagulls whose daily supply of leftover toast and sandwiches has disappeared.

We have also now returned to our rota system it applies to break and lunch but timings at the top are for lunch) which prevents any year group being last every day:

	1.10pm	1.15pm	1.20pm	1.25pm	1.30pm	1.40pm
Monday	Year 11	Front of Queue	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
Tuesday	Year 11		Year 9	Year 8	Year 7	Year 10
Wednesday	Year 11		Year 8	Year 7	Year 10	Year 9
Thursday	Year 11		Year 7	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8
Friday	Year 11		Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7

Accompanying Flyers

This week we have attached 2 flyers on behalf of the Local Authority regarding a parental support forum and support sessions.

Attendance Data

Our attendance continues to rise which is good, but so too does the national figure, remaining so close, but just ahead of us.

September 2022 – 13th January 2023:

- School attendance **90.7% (up 0.1%)**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **90.9% (also up 0.1%)**
- Gap: **-0.2% (no change)**

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

Sun 22nd – 27th: Ski Trip away

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

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

Wednesday 25th: Govs: 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 (7:00pm)

And finally...

Many parents have made some very kind comments about my weekly updates but a couple of parents have commented that they feel they are too positive or might not reflect the true picture of the school. I am not really sure how to answer or address this, as I generally cover the key things and a range of topics that have happened in the week and the reality is most of these are positive. I like to think I don't hide away from any issues, with topics this year including: discriminatory or harmful language, problems with attendance, parking, uniform issues, problems with the lunch money system, building work delays, recognition that we need to work on our rewards systems, mobile phones, anti-social behaviour, issues with the buses to name just a few.

The truth is that the school really is a nice place to work for staff and to learn as a student. Of course, there are issues – having 1200 teenagers in one place (not to mention 150 staff) then there

are falling out, people make mistakes, calls or emails might be missed and many other issues, but none of these are appropriate things I could or would share in my updates. There is also lots of mundane 'stuff' like the meetings I have in a week, doing X number of duties or the number of lessons, detentions, reward cards etc which don't really spike anyone's interest. I realise I am boring myself at this point!

I am keen, however, that if there are specific things you think should be in the bulletin please just let me know and, if possible, I will include them.

Have a good weekend.

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher



ST. HELENS PARENT CARER FORUM

For parents and carers of children and young people (from birth to 25) with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disability) in St. Helens

Forum meetings are a great way for you to meet other parents, find out about local services and share your views, so that local services meet the needs of your children and young people.

The forum is run by parent carers for parent carers

Thursday 9th February 2023

**Mercure Hotel St. Helens
Linkway West, WA10 1NG**

Daytime

10.00 – 14.00

Arrival from 09.30 for refreshments and a buffet lunch will be served at 13.00

Evening

18.00 – 20.15

Arrival from 17.30 for a light supper. Forum starts at 18.00

Parking is available at the venue. You need to log your car registration number at reception upon arrival.

IMPORTANT

***Booking is essential, please ring the Carers Centre on 01744 675615
or email info@sthelenscarers.org.uk***

***If nearer the time you are unable to attend, please cancel your place.
This will help us to keep costs down and continue to do what we do.***

Daytime Programme

- 09.30** Arrival and refreshments
- 10.00** Welcome
- 10.05** Sharon Fryer, Head of SEND & Inclusion at St. Helens Council
- 11.00** Break
- 11.15** Suzanne Rimmer (Head of Children's Health Commissioning NHS Cheshire and Merseyside) and Julie Hoodless (Designated Clinical Officer)
- 12.00** Workshop on what works well and what needs to change – give your views
- 13.00** Lunch

Evening Programme

- 17.30** Arrival and light supper
- 18.00** Welcome & Sharon Fryer, Head of SEND & Inclusion at St. Helens Council
- 18.45** Suzanne Rimmer (Head of Children's Health Commissioning NHS Cheshire and Merseyside) and Julie Hoodless (Designated Clinical Officer)
- 19.30** Workshop on what works well and what needs to change – give your views

At the end of each speaker, there will be time to ask questions and give feedback.

St Helens Local Offer

Information Day

For Parent Carers of Children and Young People with SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability) from birth to age 25

LA
Education
and School
Ageservices

Play and
Support
Groups

Early
Years
Services

Post 16
Services

Social
Care
Services

Further
Education
Providers

Health
Service
Providers

Local
Charities

Thursday 9th March 2023

Daytime: 10:30am - 2:00pm

Evening: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

At St Helens Town Hall, Victoria Square,
St Helens, WA10 1HP

No need to book!
Drop in anytime to
find out how local
services can support
you and your family



St. Helens Council



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



This dynamic series of seven short films follows a group of teenagers as they try out being an apprentice for the day in a variety of different jobs everything from a hairdresser to a dental nurse. [Click here to watch them.](#)

Check out these free workbooks from Thortify:



- Their [Reflective Journal](#) invites you into a deeper state of self knowledge and understanding through reflective writing.
- [Ground Yourself](#) is full of useful tools, soothing techniques and ideas to build your very own personalised grounding ritual. It aims to help you manage anxiety and overwhelm using grounding techniques, creative activities and helpful tools.



How many times have you seen 'excellent communication skills' listed as an essential requirement for a job or a course? We all spend a lot of time chatting on our phones – surely that means we're great communicators? Well, sometimes being a good communicator actually means keeping quiet, Stacey Dooley explains. [Read more and watch the video here.](#)

Success at School are hosting the following events in partnership with employers to help you learn more about their apprenticeship opportunities...



Interested in a career in Real Estate? Discover everything you need to know about CBRE, the global leader in commercial real estate through this interactive webinar. The webinar will give information on who CBRE are, what they do and the opportunities available for young people. [Register here.](#)

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

JOB OF THE WEEK



Insurance brokers use their knowledge of the insurance market to help find the right cover, at the best price, for their customers. The annual salary is £20,000 to £65,000 and expect to work 41 to 43 hours a week. There will be 3.9% more Insurance broker jobs in 2027.

[Click here to read more.](#)

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

AI is one of the fastest growing industries in the world.

Have you seen the newest tool in the AI world? ChatGPT is a chatbot launched by OpenAI in November 2022. [Read more and try it out here.](#)

How do you think this advancement will impact jobs?

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Register to attend a webinar hosted by the National Audit Office (NAO) where they will provide information on their successful Chartered Accountancy Training Scheme which is open to school and college leavers. The apprenticeship is a great way to earn a salary and gain a professional qualification combined with real work experience. [Register here.](#)



Rolls-Royce is solving some of the world's biggest technological challenges – and addressing some of society's most pressing issues – through the delivery of clean, sustainable power. And they need talented young people, with new perspectives and fresh ideas, to help them do it. At this virtual event, you'll find out how you can kick-start an exciting career and contribute to ground-breaking work as a Rolls-Royce apprentice. [Register here.](#)



The evolution of vehicles has never been more exciting. As a Jaguar Land Rover Apprentice you'll be starting your journey to a fantastic career with a team of pioneers. You'll enjoy practical experience. You'll work towards nationally recognised qualifications and develop knowledge and skills to build the cars of tomorrow. Join us for this webinar to find out more about Jaguar Land Rover apprenticeship opportunities. [Register here.](#)



Are you considering an Apprenticeship and would like to find out more? Come and meet some of EDF's Apprentices to hear first-hand about their experiences. As well as EDF Apprentices, we'll also have their Recruitment Specialists and Programme Leads to tell you about the type of Apprenticeships we offer and what the recruitment process involves. [Register here.](#)



Google is an American multinational technology company focusing on search engine technology, online advertising, cloud computing, computer software, quantum computing, e-commerce, artificial intelligence, and consumer electronics. This webinar will provide you with the opportunity to meet Google apprentices from different paths - and find out about their routes to doing an apprenticeship and working at Google. [Register here.](#)

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

OneTrust

"We are the fastest growing company operationalizing Trust across the world to make it a better place. Learn more about what it means to be OneTeam, and start a career that's uniquely unique. Our people are mission driven and don't settle for anything less than best." You can read more about OneTrust jobs [here.](#)

UNI SPOTLIGHT



University
of Exeter

"Exeter has world class facilities, which are attracting more researchers from top institutions. Plus, studying at Exeter gives the opportunity to live in one of the most beautiful places in the country - that's worth a lot as an undergraduate." You can read more about University of Exeter's courses [here.](#)

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