



27th January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 18

Our skiers set off last weekend for a week's adventure on the slopes of Andorra, a big thank you to the staff and parents for your support in helping this to happen and we wish them a safe journey home this weekend. Elsewhere, our assemblies have focused upon Holocaust Memorial Day, we had valiant but unsuccessful efforts in the girls' Year 7 football and the Year 11 boys' football, a Finance and Premises Governors' Committee, our Year 11s are building up for their mock exams and the rest of the school continues to enjoy the extra space from the dining rooms.

Looking ahead to next week, our Year 9 assessment window opens, we have the DoE Year 9 parental meeting, our Presentation Evening (for last year's Year 11) and of course the disruption, on Wednesday, of a national teachers' strike (information regarding this was sent out separately).

Whole School Focus: Big Ask Feedback Part 1

Across the whole Big Ask (142 parental responses), the vast majority of parents say they are happy with the school with our overall average rating being 3.9 stars (out of 5), though this is down slightly on last year's rolling average of 4.1. The main theme in the parental comments is one of thanks and praise for the staff and the school, which is lovely but, as always, to improve it is the concerns you raise that need to be looked at.

The first section of the Big Ask focusses upon leadership and management.

Q#	Question	Autumn 22 (out of 5)	Change compared to avg of previous year
1	The school has a clear mission, vision and ethos	4.23	-0.2
2	The school makes effective and timely decisions	3.91	-0.4
3	The school ensures everyone is on board with the improvements being made.	3.91	-0.3
4	The school communicates effectively	3.92	-0.5
5	Governors at the school are effective.	3.41	-0.4
6	The school challenges itself to be better	3.99	-0.5

Key points from your responses:

- The responses remain positive (around the 4-star level)
- They are down on last year's feedback, which is a concern (but so too was the number of responses (142 compared to 267 last year).

- The lower score around effective governance is interesting, though through the comments it is clear this is the result of parents not knowing about our governance. Last year the sway had a section on governance which I will look to re-introduce.
- Communication:
 - Some very positive messages about the speed, frequency and quality of the information (13)
 - Some concerns around how we keep parents updated on their child's progress (4)
 - Communication around homework (8)
 - Examples where communication hasn't happened or is slow (3)

As with all of your feedback, we listen and look to act on the valid issues you have raised in order to make the school a better experience for everyone. Next week's section will focus upon the Quality of Education section of the Big Ask.

Uniform and Lateness to Lessons

As always, the vast majority of our students come to school in full uniform and arrive promptly to lessons, and we thank them for being Lasallian in their attitude. Sadly, a small minority don't always do this. Following the great success of our approach to mobile phones which are no longer an issue in school, from Monday, we are tightening up on uniform issues and lateness to lessons.

Just to ensure we are all on the same page, we will focus upon jewellery (including earrings and rings), rolled up skirts and shoes (especially training shoes – sports brand shoes are considered training shoes). Likewise, we will be recording any lateness to lessons, picking up students who are 5 minutes or more late to a lesson (even my aged joints can get around the building twice in that time), which we consider to be truanting. As with the phones, your support helps us to maintain our standards.

Parent Evening Survey

Thank you to the 396 parents who answered the survey regarding Parents' evenings. It was not only encouraging that so many people answered the survey, but also that there was a fairly balanced spread from across all the year groups. The results are below:

Question	Online	In person	No preference
For the main subject parents' evenings (where you speak to your child's subject teachers) would you prefer them:	122 31%	250 63%	24 6%
For the pastoral Parents' Meetings (where you speak to your child's form teacher) would you prefer them:	164 41%	189 48%	43 11%

There were plenty of comments as well, which we are currently going through. Over the next week or two we will look at what the key messages are and explore a solution that tries to meet the issues raised in the survey.

Strike Action

As I wrote earlier this week, the NEU teaching union will be holding the first of a series of planned strikes in schools. The first strike is Wednesday 1st February. School will be closed to all students except vulnerable students and those Year 11 doing their Art mock GCSE. I apologise for the disruption this may cause families. We are still awaiting guidance from the LA on Free School meals vouchers.

Year 7 Girls' Football

Congratulations to our wonderful Year 7 netballers who battled hard against a tough Rainhill team. They unfortunately lost out on a place in the final. Goals scored by Hannah, Izzy and Lottie. Players of the Match Eden and Hope. Well done girls we are very proud of you. (Mrs Hart and Miss Heffey)

Year 11 Boys' Football

Our Year 11 boys lost 1-0 to a strong West Derby team. The lads worked hard for the duration and had a couple of chances to sneak an equaliser, but unfortunately ran out as runners up. Thanks to those who came to show their support and we wish West Derby well in the next round.

Attendance Data

Our attendance continues to rise and the national figure stood still last week so we are now within 0.1% of the national figure so let's hope the national figure doesn't spring back again! (This is starting to feel like my weight loss efforts which midweek see great success only to fall away again at the weekend!)

September 2022 – 20th January 2023:

- School attendance **90.8% (up 0.1%)**
- National Secondary Attendance is: **90.9% (unchanged)**
- Gap: **-0.1% (narrowed by 0.1%)**

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

Mon 30th: Year 9 Assessment Window opens

Mon 30th: Year 11 Mock exams (practical)

Wed 1st Feb: DoE Meeting (r 9) 5pm

Thu 2nd: Presentation Evening (7pm)

W/B Mon 6th: Year 11 Mock exams

W/B Mon 6th: Iceland Trip

Wed 8th: Governors Personnel Committee (5pm)

Fri 10th: Finish for Half term (3pm)

Half Term

Mon 20th: INSET Day (students do not attend)

Tues 21st: Students return

Thu 23rd: Year 10 RSHE Drop Down Day

Mon 27th: Year 8 assessment window opens

Wed 1st Mar: Governors Behaviour Attitudes and Personal Development Committee (5pm)

Sat 4th / Sun 5th: Year 9 DofE Training Walk

Mon 6th: Year 10 Assessment window opens

Fri 10th: SpringFest (Years 7 and 8)

Wed 15th: Performance Management Meetings

Wed 15th: Governors: Finance and Premises Committee (5pm)

Thu 16th: Year 10 and 11 Theatre trip (evening)

Tue 21st: LJMU Science Lesson (period 3)

Tue 28th – 1st Apr: Shakespeare's Italy Trip

Wed 29th: Full Governors Meeting (5pm)

Wed 29th / Thu 30th: Spring Concert / Music Showcase (evening)

Fri 31st Mar: school closes for Easter (3pm)

Easter Holidays

And finally...

I have been trying to tweet out regular updates from the skiing trip throughout the week. Mrs Mulhall has provided a wealth of pictures and video of the trip. Sadly, on Wednesday, the Rannard family internet was down. As you can imagine, news of the internet outage has not gone down well with my eldest (fortunately the youngest is away at uni) whilst Mrs R didn't react well to my rhetorical question of 'how will Instagram cope without her input?'

However, I was soon eating humble pie when trying to tweet the latest ski updates – with my single bar of 4G struggling to cope with the demands of high-quality ski pics – I had to resort to standing in the front garden waving my phone around (I am not sure there is any scientific evidence this has any effect) just to get the update done.

A day later, still no internet, and I am currently sat, Thursday evening, in my mum and dad's kitchen (no mum I still don't want another cup of tea or anything to eat x 10) typing this update and awaiting more ski pics. On the plus side, I haven't heard from the tumble drier for a few days now.

Have a good weekend,

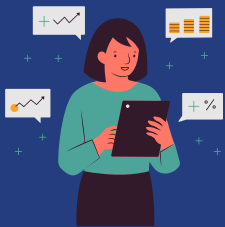
Andrew Rannard
Headteacher

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



"Our Apprenticeship programme at SJP is a brilliant way to kick start your career once you have completed your A-levels/BTEC triple award or equivalent. Candidates must hold GCSE Maths and English at a C/5 grade. We have a huge variety of opportunities around the business including Risk, Investments, Private Clients, Property, Finance and more. You are able to study whilst you working, completing a level 3+ qualification, with opportunities to further study once completed the programme. Apprentices are paid £18,155 and are hired on a permanent contract." St James's Place have opened their apprenticeship applications. You can read more about their roles here:

- [Regulatory Authorisations Vetting Apprentice](#)
- [Actuarial Technician Apprentice](#)
- [All roles](#)



Centred around the theme of 'Developing character for the future', your students will get the chance to hear directly from AFC student alumni, Junior Soldiers and instructors about life at AFC Harrogate, how to build character, core skills and develop self-confidence. [Click here to watch the video from the British Army.](#)



Do you love making music? Are you passionate about shaping and diversifying the music industry? [Digit Music](#) are looking for 10 enthusiastic young music lovers interested in working with us to shape our future programme. You must be able to commit to 2 hours monthly from Feb - July 2023. For more information, contact learning@digitmusic.co.uk.

JOB OF THE WEEK



Directors of photography (DoPs) manage lighting and camera crews on TV and film productions to create the right look and feel for images. The annual salary is £21,000 to £35,000 and expect to work 39 to 41 hours a week. There will be 0.7% more Director of photography jobs in 2027.

[Click here to read more.](#)

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Academics at the London School of Economics' Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment found the proportion of green job openings being advertised in the UK "declined significantly" after 2012.

[Read more here.](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Are you considering a career in the transport industry? Train'd up are a national specialist apprenticeship provider, you can read more about their programmes and current apprenticeship vacancies [here](#).

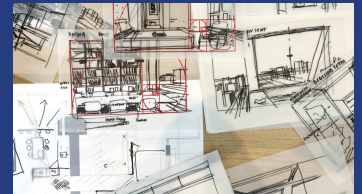
As the world recognises the importance of more efficient transport the future of rail is bright! London North Eastern Railway operate the East Coast main line and are focused on innovating the industry. If you're intrigued by a career in rail there's no better place to learn about all the different sides of the business like digital and communications, operations and technology. Full steam ahead for your career! [Read more here](#).

Interested in the business of housebuilding? Then the Destiny programme with Countryside Partnerships could be perfect for you... Countryside Partnerships is one of the UK's leading housebuilding organisations and they're offering you the chance to take part in a four-week virtual work experience spread over five hours of work. You'll learn about Countryside themselves, their values, culture and purpose, how Countryside Partnerships develops communities and how you should market yourself if you want to work in housebuilding. Take the first step towards a Countryside career with this programme. [Read more here](#).

Law isn't quite as glamorous as a lot of the TV shows make out, but it's definitely more interesting! During this free two week virtual work experience programme you will meet a range of industry professionals from various legal areas of law who will give you an overview of their experiences and you'll get the opportunity to ask a whole load of questions. [Read more here](#).

Think you've got what it takes to run your own business? In this business management virtual work experience programme you will be walked through all areas of what makes a successful business from IT infrastructures to HR employment policies. [Read more here](#).

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



"Foster + Partners is a British architectural, engineering, and integrated design practice founded in 1967 as Foster Associates by Norman Foster. It is the largest architectural firm in the UK with over 1,800 employees in 16 locations worldwide."

You can read more about their careers [here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT



"Universities are so much more than degree-awarding seats of learning. They are drivers for economic innovation and advancement, catalysts for social change and champions of cultural development."

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

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