



De La Salle
School

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26th April 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 26

This half term is a funny time of year in schools – the Year 11s are now fully focussed upon their GCSEs, the final Parents' Evenings have now taken place and we enter into the teacher transfer window. This is where most teaching jobs are decided and, as headteacher, you await that fateful knock at the door from one of your star teachers to tell you they have seen a great job promotion at another school!

Looking ahead to next week, we have a construction simulator onsite for our students to experience (yes I will be first in there!), we have GCSE PE moderation, the Spanish speaking exams take place, we have Governor Quality of Education Committee and our U13 girls play Tadcaster Grammar School in the National Cup.

Whole School Focus – Independent Learning and Revision (from Mrs Greensmith)

Thank you to our parents/carers who completed the independent learning and revision survey. It is great to see how the work we have done in this area has supported many of our parent/carers and families. There were some queries and suggestions which arose from the survey some of which I have endeavoured to address below, whilst others require more time to digest and plan for as a school.

- Structured revision resources which give instant feedback - where these are available links to them are on the school website as well as on our guide to how to revise which can be found here; [Parental Information Evenings 2023 \(delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk\)](https://delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk)
- Guides on how to get on some of our online platforms are also found in the same place.
- Links to past papers and mark schemes are also found in the same place.
- Personalised revision plans - pupils are supported with this through form time and the pastoral team.
- Finishing courses sooner in Year 11 is difficult as there is so much content to cover before exams start. Many schools find this a challenge. One of the benefits of being an independent learner and developing revision skills early on in school life is to help with this.
- Key documents and information for courses at GCSE are on the school website here; [Curriculum \(delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk\)](https://delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk). As there are so many documents across subjects it isn't possible to print these off on paper for every pupil. Other information can also be found on Teams.

If you require any specific support or advice with independent learning or revision please contact the year team, subject teachers or Mrs Greensmith.

Parent Forum

All the parents who offered to be part of the Parent Forum should now have had an email message letting you know that you have been added to a TEAMS group called DLS Parent Forum and providing you with a link. If you signed up to be on the forum and have not received your message, please contact the school and mark for the attention of the Agilisys team.

Beat the Students

A reminder that each week I will include a few questions from a subject which would be tackled by our Key Stage 3 (Yrs 7-9) students. You can pit your wits against your child and see if you still remember the skills and knowledge you learnt at school.

This week, we move to music. Can you answer the following questions?

- a) **What does MIDI Stand for?**
- b) **'Tala' corresponds to what in western music?**
- c) **What is a 'round'?**
- d) **What is 'pitch'?**
- e) **What is 'tempo'?**

Answers at the end of the update.

4th Emergency Service

Schools are often described as the 4th emergency service, and it can often feel like that, and we are happy to support our students and families. However, over recent weeks we have seen a number of incidents where students have contacted individual members of staff over the weekend or late at night on TEAMS or by email regarding very serious incidents i.e. an injury to another student. Fortunately, these were picked up and managed by the staff involved, but I am sure you will appreciate that this isn't appropriate.

We have spoken to the students and informed them of the various emergency services they can contact of a weekend or late at night if they need help, it would be great if you could also speak to your child about what to do in emergency situations outside of school.

E-Safety Alert

We have been alerted by the Local Authority of concerns around a Tik Tok account who has been messaging young people to try and meet up with them.

The account is: @jay_jay123485 (name on the account is Jayden)

Please can I ask that you remain vigilant and support your child in keeping safe online and reporting any concerns. I can confirm that Police have been informed.

Mixed Sporting Success

This week was a strange one of our sporting teams. Our U13 girls' football are in the National Cup but their game against Tadcaster Grammar School was postponed as nobody turned up at Ruskin Drive to open the pitches for us. Fortunately, the game was not forfeited but we now have to play them away on Thursday 2nd May.

Our Year 11 Boys Football sadly lost the semi-final of the Merseyside Cup to SFX in Liverpool. The lads were the better team and had a missed penalty, but sadly lost 3-0.

Meanwhile our Year 11 rugby players shone in a 32-6 win over St Augustines. On an evening where we had sun, rain and hailstone DLS proved themselves both masters of the conditions and of their opposition coasting past an initially spirited St Augustines side. Excellent build up play, strong in defence and clinical when getting the ball over the whitewash. Player of the match went to Aaron King for his hard yards and whistle to whistle performance in tough conditions.

Student rewards

Additional Awards go to:

- Lasallian Star: Ellis Butler
- Top Star point winner: May Roberts
- £10 voucher: Charmaine Swift
- Star Outside of School: Sonny Wilson 7J - Sonny completed a 100ft charity Abseil this week. It was down the Main Stand of Anfield Stadium and individually, Sonny raised more than £510 for

his chosen charity! The charity: Friends, Play for disabled children. The team of 16 raised over £4500!

Attendance

The start of term has seen a much more positive picture with our attendance, let's keep this up! Attendance continues to be a priority. Please continue to do all you can to ensure your child attends school every day.

Latest attendance data from 4th September to 15th March:

- DLS Attendance: **91.5% (up +0.1)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91.0% (unchanged)**
- Difference: **+0.5% above the national (up +0.1)**

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

Sat 27th: GCSE Drama Students in School

Mon 29th – Fri 3rd: Construction Simulator on site

Tue 30th: GCSE PE Moderation

Wed 1st: Governors Quality of Education Committee 5:00pm

Thu 2nd – Fri 3rd: Spanish Speaking GCSEs

Fri 3rd: Lunchtime event - Make your Own Kind of Music (Sam Cantillon)

Mon 6th: Bank Holiday

Mon 6th – Thu 9th: Year 9 Lasallian retreat (14 students)

Tue 7th – Fri 24th: Year 10 Mock Exams

Thu 9th: Scholars Programme Graduation

Mon 13th: Start of full GCSE Exams

Mon 13th: 1719 Society Interviews lessons 3 and 4

Wed 15th: Governors Behaviour, Attitudes and Personnel Committee (5pm)

Fri 24th: Finish for half term (3:00pm)

Beat the Students Answers

So how did you do? Here are the answers for this week:

- a) What does MIDI Stand for? Musical Instrument Digital Interface**
- b) 'Tala' corresponds to what in western music? It illustrates Metre**
- c) What is a 'round'? Where many voices sing a repeated tune at different times**
- d) What is 'pitch'? a way of describing how high or low a note sounds**
- e) What is 'tempo'? This is the pace or general speed of a composition**

And finally...The Chuckle Brothers (to me... to you)

One of the many positives about being a headteacher in St Helens, is the relationship I have with the other headteachers. We are all part of ASH which is the St Helens Association of Secondary Headteachers (I know that should be SHASH but it isn't), every authority has such an organisation (Liverpool have LASH, Sefton have SASH etc). The work of ASH is really focused on what we can do collaboratively for the greater good of the children of St Helens – and there is some exciting news coming soon about Secondary School Awards.

Each of these organisations are run quite formally with the usual roles of Chair, secretary, treasurer etc. I am the secretary for ASH and Mr Young, at Rainford, is the Chair. As a result, we meet fairly regularly regarding the work of ASH and planning meetings etc. This is an easy relationship, as we have known each other for years, having worked closely with each other as deputies in Liverpool schools.

Our latest meeting was this week, in preparation for the next upcoming ASH meeting. At this time of year, we all find our diaries becoming packed for lots of reasons, so we were only able to squeeze in a 45-minute meeting.

So Wednesday saw me racing up (within the legal speed limit obv's) to Rainford, having been held up slightly at school. I felt God was on my side as I was able to get in to a parking space and got to

reception with 1 minute to spare. This was spent doing the usual laborious digital school signing in (name/car reg/company/star sign/who are you visiting/shoe size/smile for the photo/are you happy with your photo? etc).

Unusually, I was left sat waiting for a few minutes, thinking Mr Young must have a meeting that overran. After about 10 mins I heard the receptionist on the phone saying “yes he is here sitting in reception”. I thought nothing of it, until she opened the glass partition to say “I’m sorry Mr Rannard, that was De La Salle calling, just to let you know that Mr Young is at your school’s reception to meet with you.” Oh, the embarrassment!

Fortunately, Mr Young was able to make it back to Rainford in 8 minutes, and sheepishly the pair of us were able to get the work done in the remaining 20 minutes! As Mrs R regularly questions – whoever put you in charge of anything?

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher

Student Rewards

This week's Lasallian Star Awards go to (apologies I have had to complete this earlier than normal so not all Year awards are included):


Form Class	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
J			Simon Critchley		Veronika Pasko
O			Tyler Postlethwaite		Brody Clarke
H			Tilly Barrow		Riley Gauchwin
N			Alisha Kenneally		Layton O'Brien
B			John Manu Thomas		Alexa Varkulis
D			Reece Gerrard		Michael Canavan
L			Evie Jones		Ruby Spoons
S			Scott Grimes		Melissa Goddard
Engagement			N/A	N/A	N/A

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




Interested in going to a Russell Group University? Make sure you don't miss our upcoming Meet the Russell Group webinars. Hear directly from representatives and experts from 22 of the 24 Russell Group Universities including Cambridge, Bristol, King's College London, LSE, and Manchester to get answers to all of your questions about applications, student life, personal statements, and much more. The webinars will cover topics such as; an Introduction to the Russell Group & Why to Study There, Personal Statements & Applying and Student Life. [Register here.](#)



[The Not Going To Uni Podcast](#): Explore the extraordinary journeys of apprentices who have chosen alternative career routes over traditional university paths. Join us as we dive into the inspiring stories of individuals who have embraced apprenticeships and other non-traditional avenues to success. Listen now on your chosen podcast streaming platform or watch on the Not Going To Uni YouTube channel!



In this fascinating Subject Spotlight, Dr Aminu Usman presents: [Computer Science: Is Generative AI the Problem or the Solution?](#) It's a thought provoking journey. Aminu thinks broadly about Computer Science, before presenting an interactive two-part activity that should stimulate your Computer Science senses! He finishes with a round up, thinking critically about everything we have discussed.



Join Dr Steffan Thomas as he [introduces you to the world of social media marketing](#). He explores the fundamentals of using social platforms to drive sales, tools and considerations businesses need to have when crafting a social marketing strategy, and the importance of always remembering the social in social media. You will have a go at crafting a social marketing strategy yourself, and receive some career advice on where a Marketing degree can take you!

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

JOB OF THE WEEK



This week's video focuses on the job role of a [Dermatologist](#).

A dermatologist is a medical doctor who specializes in conditions that affect the skin, hair, and nails. A dermatologist will examine a patient, order lab tests, make a diagnosis and treat the condition.

Watch the video to learn more.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

In the past few years, especially after the pandemic, a lot of businesses moved to the online space. This paved the way for various eCommerce businesses as most people turned to online shopping. As per the forecast period between 2023 and 2030, the eCommerce industry is growing rapidly with a 10.06% increase.

[Source](#)

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES

“At Fujitsu we are committed to developing our Early Careers Cohort, encouraging their passion to grow, and helping to develop their skills with their future career in mind.”

They have a range of opportunities to help you explore your future options. These include:



1

- virtual work experience: “Want to take your learning further? Explore our Digital Skills programme, a whistle-stop tour of all the skills you need to excel and stay safe in the digital world. Why not also try our WorkX programme, where you can discover the latest technology putting Fujitsu at the forefront of innovation.”

2

- sprints: “Sprints are short, video-led courses that allow you to complete a realistic task from an industry you’re interested in. Each Sprint will introduce you to your mentor - an industry professional who will provide you with the information and advice you’ll need to complete the task. You’ll gain an insight into their role, and they’ll show you how they would approach the activity.”

3

- short sessions: “Ready to take your employability skills to the next level? Explore our Skills Sessions to discover more about the key skills you’ll need to take your career to the next level.”



Iain Earle presents: Esports Business Management: a whole new career at your fingertips! In episode 1, Iain presents an overview of Esports, thinks about Esports historically, culturally and economically, before analysing the relationship between Esports and Business Management. He moves on to explain what planning and pitching an event or tournament looks like, and provides an example pitch of his own, before looking at safeguarding in the Esports arena, providing a mini case-study on FIFA, and another mini case-study on War Thunder in episode 3. In the final episode, Iain gives an overview of excellent events promotion, before introducing an activity for you to have a look at and offering some potential career opportunities as a result of studying the HND Esports Business Management course.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

“As a Graduate or Apprentice joining Fujitsu you will be allocated to one of our Early Careers role streams, such as Software Development, Marketing, Finance, Consulting and Sales to name a few. Each role stream will provide you with the specific training, network and support you need to get off to a flying start in your careers at Fujitsu.

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

“We offer pre-degree, undergraduate and postgraduate courses in art, design, screen, communication, fashion, media and performing arts. Learn from expert tutors across an unrivalled number of subjects and courses at UAL.”

You can read more about University of the Arts London’s courses [here](#).

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