



De La Salle
School

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10th July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 36

A much shorter and earlier update for two reasons – firstly, I am writing this Wednesday afternoon as I am at the ASH Conference Thursday and Friday, and secondly, I am focusing on the larger end of term newsletter.

This week, was another belter, with many trips and activities, including our Year 9 residential to good old Colomendy, the outgoing 1719 Trip to Rome, several of our staff visited St Joseph's Teaching School in Stoke (one of our new Laetare family of schools), final full governors meeting, diversity conference for Year 10 MVP mentors and tomorrow our Year 8 Belgium trip sets off.

Strike Action Cancelled

We are delighted that the remaining strike action affecting our bus services has now been cancelled and services should be running normally until the end of the school year.

Uniform Next Year

Just that annual reminder to ensure that any uniform items that you buy over the summer are compliant with the school's uniform expectations. These can be found on the school website: <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/school-life/uniform/>

It includes specific guidance on shoes (as I explained to Year 6 parents - in short if you are unsure about a shoe then it will almost certainly not be an acceptable shoe!).

Can I also remind you that students should not wear anything under their blazer except their school shirt and optional school jumper – no hoodies, tracksuit tops etc

Wider Standards

Again, ahead of next year, please remember students are not allowed jewellery, false eyelashes, false nails. No ear or nose piercings, nor plastic retainers or plasters. So please don't get your child's ear's pierced just before returning to school.

Toilet Refurbishment

As I mentioned last week, we are refurbishing our main toilet block, which means reduced toilet capacity across the school. Students can still access toilets throughout the day, expect for short periods when they are being cleaned i.e. straight after break and lunch.

Office/Reception closure

On Monday 15th July, we have a staff meeting regarding academisation, this will involve all school staff. As a result, the Main Office/Reception will close earlier at 3.10pm.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a priority. Please continue to do all you can to ensure your child attends school every day.

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

Latest attendance data from 4th September to 5th July:

- DLS Attendance: **91.7% (unchanged)**
- National Secondary Attendance: **91% (up +0.1)**
- Difference: **+0.7% above the national (unchanged)**

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

Sat 13th – Wed 17th: Year 8 Belgium Trip

Mon 15th: Sports Day (pm)

Fri 19th: School finishes for summer: students finish at 12.10

Mon 22nd and Tues 23rd: INSET DAYS

And finally... They are tough up North

Last weekend I was fortunate enough to accompany 13 of our students to the annual Lasallian Camp at Kintbury from Friday to Sunday, and when I say camp, I mean camp – tents and all. We left glorious sunshine here in St Helens and arrived Friday afternoon, to an already wet and soggy, Kintbury. Fortunately, Stan had driven ahead and put up some of the tents, but I still had mine to do in the rain. 30 minutes later, with some assistance, it was done and I consoled myself that the weather was forecast sunny for the next 2 days (which turned out to be wrong).

All was good on the Friday, apart from the raining getting heavier and heavier. So much so, that contingency plans were put in place for all those camping to move indoors. The plan being for the boys from several schools to share one large room, sleeping on the floors and the girls on the floor in another large room – whilst staff slept on the floors in nearby rooms.

Now I don't know if it was the inner-Bear Grylls in me, or the fear that several schools sharing a large room overnight would be a nightmare (vision of a Lord of the Flies experience with some chunky lad from DLS Basildon being chased around the room carrying a conch), but I ventured back out, into the pouring rain, to check our tents – which (owing to their quality and Stan's expert setting up) were intact and dry inside.

I discussed the matter with our school staff and the students – all were agreed that we would be better off camping, even in the rain. So, we shared this with the centre staff and other schools, then, as we headed out into the heavy rain, I was moved by the round of applause we received from all the other schools for our bravery and hardiness. I don't think I have ever been as proud of our school! Though it would be fair to say that pride had somewhat subsided by 4am when the rain was battering down on my tent!

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher