



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

13th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 2

The second week back continues our positive start back to school, though the weather seems to think we are fully in autumn. The Year 7s are finding their feet quickly and have now completed the full 2-week cycle of their timetable. They have now also completed their baseline assessments to help identify any gaps in knowledge, we met with parents of those Year 11 completing the DofE Award, we had a visit from an ex-student, Aiden, who is studying languages at Oxford, to inspire our young linguists and, of course, our Year 10 and 11 language trip to Barcelona.

Looking ahead to next week, we have our Year 8 Information evening (see later), our Barcelona trip returns, the Data Drop for Year 7 Baseline information opens, we have Day of Prayer for Global Peace on Friday and, as part of our investment and development of staff, half of our first of two Middle Leader Conferences.

I have a correction to make to last week's update, when I said that parents could see what foods their child had bought on Edulink – though you can see their balance and how much they have spent, this is no longer the case that you can see the items, so apologies.

Whole School Focus – Rewards

Last year we spent considerable time developing our behaviour management system (the C-System – which I will cover next week). Work on this took place from Autumn through to May half term – valuable work that has helped set us up well for this year with a strong taught curriculum and behaviour system based upon our 5 Core Schools Values.

However, in the summer term, we then turned our attention towards rewards, with Mr Hale leading our work on this. We were very conscious that this was something we could do better recent years and we are keen to improve considerably. Lots of research and various trials later, we are close to rolling the system out fully – we just have a few more systematic issues to address.

The new Rewards System, like the sanction system, is based upon our 5 Core Values:

- Respect
- Compassion
- Belong
- Faith
- Challenge

So, our first task was to increase the opportunities for Star Points being awarded as outlined below:

- a. At the start of the day, all students who are present at form, should be allocated a Belong Star Point (Belong1), for being in school (we are exploring how we can have these automated to remove previous inconsistencies if a member of staff doesn't award the points i.e. supply).
- b. In every lesson students can be awarded star points based upon any one of these Core Values gaining from 1 to 4 points depending upon their work, behaviour or action i.e. producing improving work might lead to an 'Challenge1' whilst a very high quality piece of work might lead to 3 Challenge Star Points – Challenge3 etc.

- c. In addition, teachers have been asked, if appropriate, to identify a student who has performed particularly well to receive a 'Lesson Merit' which would be 4 Star Points in a relevant Core Value.
- d. Star of the Week – this is something we already had in place.
- e. Star of the Half Term / Term

Secondly, despite a lot of awards to students last year, we know many parents remained unaware of these, mostly as, like my two sons, many young people don't talk about school when they get home, or have left any certificates in school, in their bag next to that ageing banana. To help address this, we are starting to use Edulink to inform parents: obviously you can already see the points, but we are now starting to use digital certificates and letters to parents and students directly.

In terms of student recognition, we have now calendared specific half termly assemblies to recognise student achievements for the following:

- Star of the half term
- Subject Stars
- 100% attendance
- Cumulative Star Awards
- Star Badges (see below)
- Zero behaviour points
- Star out of School

We have also installed a large media screen in the dining room that will be used predominantly for rewards: sharing and recognising high quality work, good behaviours and going above and beyond in our Core Values.

Finally, we know how much students love a badge, so whenever a student achieves 100 Star Points in a single Core Value, they gain a Star Badge. When they achieve 100 in another core value, this badge is swapped for a 2-star badge etc.

Obviously, it is early days for the rewards, work remains ongoing to embed this new approach and there will be changes and 'fixes' along the way, including looking to link them into the House System. However, I hope this gives you a flavour of the system and direction of travel for rewards.

Information Evenings

These are evenings where we provide information and guidance to parents on how best to support your child. We have run these for two years now and had very positive feedback from parents (88% of parents said they felt more confident supporting their child with revision and 87% that they had a better understanding of what to do to help support their child).

The evenings will take place at the following times:

- **19th September – Year 8** (Year 9 parents also invited but this will be a repeat of the information you had last year) 6:00pm – 7.30pm
- **15th October – Year 7** (6:00pm – 7.30pm)
- **16th October – Year 10** (5.30pm – 7.30pm)
- **Year 11** meeting will take place in November (date tbc)

Sensory Hive Whiston (for Parents of children with SEND)

The Sensory Hive is a not-for-profit organisation in Whiston that offers a variety of activities within a fully inclusive and safe environment for SEND parents and children/young people. Currently they offer open sessions every Thursday afternoon for ages 4-10 (4.15-5.15pm) then ages 11-17 (5.30-6.30pm)

Each session allows for an hour play in the sensory gym (like Ninja warrior). The gym has been designed specifically to provide sensory input and allows opportunities for vestibular, proprioceptive, tactile and visual input. There is also a huge trampoline. There is a fully interactive immersive room available to use during these sessions also. The centre is wheelchair accessible and fully equipped to meet needs with hoist, changing room with bed and separate disabled toilet.

The charge is £10 per child & parent, it is fully inclusive, flexible and a lovely safe, quiet space- you do not need to have SEND to access these sessions.

The centre has an onsite coffee shop and is equipped for birthday parties. If you look on their website you can see a variety of activities that they offer such as SEND football and Sensory Bumblebees for pre-school children. This Saturday the Hive is welcoming a sensory barber to the service; parents can book an appointment directly through the sensory hive booking link and children can have a haircut for a nominal charge.

The centre can also support with Sensory Integration therapy and assessment however this is strictly on a referral basis and currently has a long waiting list. You can find out more information about this from Virtual Schools Network. Further details can be found through the link: [Specialist Sensory Integration Centre | The Sensory Hive | Whiston](#)

Ensemble Timetable

Attached with today's update is the Music Service Ensemble provision. This highlights all the music service groups and activities that your child can access outside of school.

Water Bottles

It is great to see so many students now coming into school with refillable water bottles. Can I ask, if your child doesn't have one, to provide them with one and remind them to bring it in every day. Students can also buy discounted DLS water bottles at Student Services for £1 – with free labelling. Students can currently buy flavoured carton drinks, though these are proving problematic with the litter they create – we are reviewing whether to continue selling these.

Parking

Once again, I have to mention the parking of a minority of parents outside of school, especially at the end of the day. This is just plain selfish to put the convenience for your child above the health and safety of all our other children. PLEASE PARK WELL AWAY FROM THE SCHOOL GATES!!!!

Year 7 Retreats and Welcome Mass (reminder)

Our Year 7 students will soon be having their retreats. The theme: Touching Hearts - helps students to understand that at the core of our mission here at De La Salle we are each called to reach out and create heart to heart connections with those in our community. These will be taking place on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th October for the JOHN forms, and Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th October for the BDLS forms.

At the end of that week on Friday 11th October we will be having a Year 7 Welcome Mass at 2:00pm in the Main Hall, parents are welcome to join us - arriving via the Mill Brow gate and the De La Salle grey gate on the right (please be aware we have very limited parking in the school). We are looking for a parent to read a bidding prayer if anybody was interested too! Let Sam, our chaplain know if you want to volunteer: CantillonS@delasalleschool.org.uk

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

September:

- Wed 11th – Sat 14th: Year 10 and 11 Barcelona Trip
- Thu 19th: Year 8 (and Year 9 parents also invited) Information Evening
- Fri 20th: Lasallian Day of Prayer for Global Peace
- Mon 23rd: Fri 27th: Formation Week
- Wed 25th: Full Governors Meeting (5pm)

October:

- Wed 2nd: Open Evening (school closes at 12.10pm)
- Fri 4th: Lasallian Day of Prayer
- Mon 7th – Thu 10th: Year 7 Retreats
- Fri 11th: Year 7 welcome Mass (2pm)
- Tue 15th: Year 7 Information Evening for parents (6pm – 7.30pm)

- Wed 16th: Year 10 Information Evening for Parents (5.30pm – 7.30pm)
- Thu 17th – Sun 20th: Year 11 retreat to Kintbury (St Cassian's 50th Anniversary)
- Mon 21st – Fri 25th: Formation Week
- Tue 22nd: Flu Vaccinations – all year groups (for those with consent)
- Thu 24th: Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Fri 25th – Sun 27th: Year 11 DofE Expedition
- Fri 25th: Finish for half term

And finally . . . Servant Leaders

I regularly speak to our staff and student leadership groups about the importance of being servant leaders – putting your service to others above all priorities and privilege. It follows our Founder, St John Baptist de la Salle's example, and it is something I believe really strongly in being central to a Lasallian School.

I mention this as it gives context as to why, since the start of term, I have been in the dining room at lunchtime helping scrape and clear away plates and trays. After the mental stresses of headship, it is actually something I quite enjoy – apart from Wednesdays when meal of the day is roast dinner – I swear you could grout a bathroom with that mashed potato!

It is a great time to speak to the students and any passing staff. Many of whom will make a joke about my 'new job' or 'you can come to ours and do that' or 'do you do that at home?' I will usually laugh and reply that all those years at university are finally paying off. However, when I said that earlier this week to a member of staff (who shall remain nameless), in all seriousness, "What course was that you did at uni?"

This left me slightly speechless and wondering what such a course they thought took place at universities – some sort of Bachelor of Science specialising in dish, cutlery and tray hygiene? Or a Masters in Meal Clearance and Mashed Potato Studies?

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher

MUSIC SERVICE ENSEMBLES AT ST HELENS TOWN HALL

2024 - 25 FREE!

TUESDAY...

ROCK & POP BAND

4.30PM - 5.50PM

WEDNESDAY

**WIDER
OPPORTUNITIES BAND**

4PM - 5PM

WEDNESDAY

**INTERMEDIATE
WIND BAND**

4PM - 5PM

WEDNESDAY

**INTERMEDIATE
STRINGS**

4PM - 5PM

WEDNESDAY

MUSIC THEORY CLUB

4PM - 5PM

WEDNESDAY

**YOUTH WIND
ORCHESTRA**

5.15PM - 6.30PM

WEDNESDAY

SINFONIA

5.15PM - 6.30PM

WEDNESDAY

MUSIC THEORY CLUB

5.15PM - 6.30PM



**ST HELENS
COUNCIL
MUSIC
SERVICE**

INSPIRING MUSICAL CREATIVITY

FOR EVERY CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON WE WORK WITH



@sthelensmusic



@sthelensmusicservice

**01744
677946**

musicservice@sthelens.gov.uk

**SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW TO JOIN AND
REGISTER TODAY**

