



De La Salle
School

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27th September 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 4

A busy week has seen me out of school for almost half the week at a Catholic Headteacher Spirituality Day in the cathedral yesterday, travelling to St Joseph's in Stoke for our latest Laetare CMAT meeting, and leading sessions at this morning's middle leader conference. I am fortunate to have a strong senior leadership team who run things in my absence, but it is good to be back in school this afternoon.

Meanwhile in school, we held our first Formation Week, with lots of developmental opportunities for staff and students, we hosted the Catholic Headteacher Central Cluster meeting, had our first full governors meeting of the year, had young Oxford student, Iris, deliver an Inspire Me talk to our young geographers, saw staff working with St Josephs on Learning and Teaching and had St Helens College come and speak to our Year 11 students.

Whole School Focus – Form Time Reading

Our Touching Hearts time takes place 8.30am – 9.00am every morning, except the day of that year's Prayer and Liturgy Assembly. Across the rest of the week, students will have 2 lessons on our values from the Touching Hearts Curriculum (which will reduce down to 1 after half term), a session of extended worship and a form class reading session.

Form time reading follows the ERIC principle - Everyone Reads in Class. This does not mean that all children must read aloud - the teacher or a confident and able student should take this role. However, it does mean that all children must engage, listen respectfully and participate in discussions as directed by the form tutor.

The texts are provided to form teachers in the form of a PowerPoint containing all the information needed for that session. Each text will have a key word (word of the week) and this word will be explained at the start of the PowerPoint. Form teachers then take time on this slide and encourage their form to use this word in their written work or in discussion.

Each of the extracts are non-fiction covering topics that students will find interesting and relevant – so far including: Marta Viera da Silva's attempt to gain a gold medal with Brazil women's football team, an article suggesting teenage brains can't tell what's important and what isn't and, this week, on banned books and the issue around why they have been banned.

This is a new approach to extended reading with the aim of engaging students and encouraging more of an interest in reading / the real world around them. We would be keen to hear any feedback - positive or negative - so that extended reading becomes a meaningful and enjoyable form time activity.

Open Evening (Wed 2nd Oct)

On Wednesday, we will be holding our Open Evening for parents of students in Years 5 and 6. This is a very important evening, as we invite these families into school to see what our Lasallian community is about, and whether they would like their child to attend.

I am always keen that we present an accurate and genuine picture of our school, I see no point in presenting a false or 'perfect' image. However, as the numbers in the primary schools fall over the coming years, this, of course, makes it more important for us to have as many families as possible in to school to see what we have to offer.

In order to ensure the school looks its best and staff have their departments prepared, the school will close at **12.10pm on Wednesday 2nd October.**

Freshers' Fayre

Next Friday is one of my favourite days of the year as we will hold our annual Freshers' Fayre at lunchtime. This involves Year 7, and then Year 8, walking around the Main Hall to see, and sign up to, dozens of stalls for all the additional clubs and groups that the school runs at lunchtime and after school.

Lost Property

The Student Services desk in school now has a log to document items handed in, or items students have lost. Likewise, if families drop items off at school for their child to collect, these should be collected from Student Services by the child, not reception. Please contact shepherds@delasalleschool.org.uk for any queries.

Check Your Details on Edulink One

Please can you take 5 minutes to check that the details that we hold for you and your child are correct. These can be checked on Edulink One app or the website <https://delasalleschool.edulinkone.com>

- Click on Account Info to check your child's details
- Click on Medical to check your child's medical information
- Click on Contacts to check your contact information

If any of this information needs to be changed, please email open@delasalleschool.org.uk with details of the changes that are needed

Rewards Additional Information

Following on from my explainer on rewards in update 2, I have attached a document called Star Points Outline to help give some examples of the different types of rewards for each core value.

Drinks at lunchtime, Suspension of Carton Drinks

Sadly, the litter issues with the carton drinks has not improved and we are looking at no longer selling these at break and lunchtime. Initially this will only be a temporary suspension of sales for Tuesday and Wednesday, but could become permanent if things don't improve. This would bring us in line with many schools and mean students would need to have their own water bottles from Monday onwards, if they want to get drinks from the water fountains. If your child doesn't have one, can parents please 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 are also welcome to bring their own drinks in but can I remind parents that we do not allow them to have fizzy drinks or energy drinks.

Water Fountains

On the subject of the water fountains, I have been made aware of some nonsense on social media regarding them. To be clear, we have 4 of them (2 existing and 2 new), from the same company who specialise in installing and maintaining them in schools, universities, hospitals and sports facilities. They provide fresh mains water for the students and all have properly plumbed drainage, rather than drip trays. They are regularly checked and used daily by hundreds of students and staff, including me!

Information Evenings

Thank you to all parents and pupils who attended the parental support evening last Thursday for Year 8 and Year 9. It was great to see so many of you there and we hope you found it useful. A survey was sent out on parent mail to gather some feedback from you about the event. Thank you for completing this. The information from the event will be available on our website soon and a link to where it will be on the website sent out to you once it is available.

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) 6pm – 7.30pm
- **15th October – Year 7** (6 – 7.30pm)
- **16th October – Year 10** (5.30 – 7.30pm)
- **Year 11** meeting will take place in November (date tbc)

Year 7 Retreats and Welcome Mass (reminder)

Our Year 7 students will soon be having their retreats. The theme: Touching Hearts - helping 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 2pm in 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 is interested! 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)

October:

- Tue 1st: Cronton and Riverside College in to see Year 11
- **Wed 2nd: Open Evening 4.30 – 7.00pm (school closes at 12.10pm)**
- Fri 4th: Lasallian Day of Prayer
- Fri 4th: Freshers' Fayre for Year 7 students (Lunchtime)
- Mon 7th – Thu 10th: Year 7 Retreats
- Mon 7th – Thu 3rd: 1719 Society Retreat to Rome
- Tue 8th: Yr 10 Art Fieldwork Trip 1 (all day)
- Wed 9th: Yr 10 Art Fieldwork Trip 2 (all day)
- Wed 9th: Carmel College in to see Year 11
- Wed 9th: Governors' Quality of Education Committee (5pm)
- 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: Yr 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)
- Wed 23rd: Year 11 Reward Trip
- Wed 23rd: Governors' Personnel Committee
- Thu 24th: Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Fri 25th – Sun 27th: Year 11 DofE Expedition
- Fri 25th: Finish for half term

Half Term

And finally...Thank you Teresa and Sue

This week's end-piece is a genuine and much deserved thank you to two governors who have had to step down from their roles this year: Teresa Sims and Sue Jameson.

Teresa has been a governor for many years and became chair of governors following the school going into measures back in 2015. Throughout that turbulent time, she was a tower of strength for the school. Since I arrived, in September 2017, Teresa continued to offer her wisdom, support, challenge and humour. It is hard to overstate the impact she has had on helping to turn the school around over the past 8 to 10 years. As well as being a local councillor, Teresa was also governor at two other schools – living a true life of service to her community, for which we are all grateful.

Sue, with her financial background, provided much needed financial knowledge and experience to the governing body, helping to ensure the school remained on as solid a financial footing as possible. Her dedication and professionalism enabled her to always be well-informed and ready to offer guidance and challenge to myself and school leaders.

We are very grateful to both of them for their hard work and tireless commitment to the school (all unpaid!), and wish them both well as they start to take life a little more slowly.

Have a good weekend.

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher



Belong points are issued for taking part in extra-curricular activities, as well as displaying expected Lasallian standards relating to appearance , equipment attendance and punctuality.

Belong 1	AB1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wearing uniform correctly • Having full kit • Bringing in equipment to learn (pens, pencils etc) • Attending school (daily 1)
Belong 2	AB2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing the school in sports or other activity • Taking part in an extra-curricular activity • Taking part in a House Activity
Belong 3	AB3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching an attendance target • 97% attendance • Receiving a reward (Rewards • Assembly, Faculty/Department recognition)
Belong 4	AB4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having work or achievements displayed and celebrated (on screen or reward) • 100% attendance certificate • Postcard home

Respect points are issued regarding behaviour; when students behave in a way which exceeds normal positive behaviour

Respect 1	AR1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving attitude • Improving behaviour • Improving relationships
Respect 2	AR2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent positive attitude • Consistent positive behaviour • Consistent positive relationships
Respect 3	AR3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding positive attitude • Outstanding positive behaviour • Outstanding positive relationships
Respect 4	AR4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having work or achievements displayed/ celebrated (on screen or reward) • Postcard / email home • Achieving outstanding academic success

Challenge points are issued with regards to academic performance; when students attain academically either consistently work hard, or have made positive improvements. These are also issued for homework

Challenge 1	ACh1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing good quality homework • Working well in class • Improving attitude and classwork
Challenge 2	ACh2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing outstanding homework • Producing outstanding classwork • Consistently working to the best of ability
Challenge 3	ACh3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeding expectation in an assessment or exam • Exceeding expectation with homework • Exceeding expectation with classwork
Challenge 4	ACh4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having work or achievements displayed and celebrated (on screen or reward) • Postcard / email home • Achieving outstanding academic success



Compassion points are issued for showing a supportive and empathetic Lasallian nature, having a kind character and thinking about the needs and requirements of others, as well as providing help and assistance.

Compassion 1	ACo1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving empathy for others Improving relationships with others Improving listening skills and ability to follow instructions
Compassion 2	ACo2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently showing concern for others Consistently supporting others Consistently understanding the views of others
Compassion 3	ACo3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding concern for others Outstanding support for others Outstanding understanding of others
Compassion 4	ACo4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having work or achievements displayed/ celebrated (on screen or reward) Postcard / email home Achieving outstanding academic success

Faith points are issued for taking part in and achieving activities which highlight your Lasallian nature, performing positive deeds for the greater good of others within our community.

Faith 1	AF1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showing Lasallian qualities and expectations Supporting others in a Lasallian manner Presenting positive qualities and leadership skills
Faith 2	AF2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently showing Lasallian values and expectations Consistently supporting others in a Lasallian manner Consistently presenting positive qualities and leadership skills
Faith 3	AF3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively taking part in collective worship Actively taking a continued role in school community projects Actively taking in role in eternal community projects
Faith 4	AF4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having work or achievements displayed/ celebrated (on screen or reward) Postcard / email home Achieving outstanding academic success

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

October is **Black History Month**. This year's theme is "Reclaiming Narratives," and marks a significant shift towards recognising and correcting the narratives of Black history and culture.

This theme underscores a commitment to correcting historical inaccuracies and showcasing the untold success stories and the full complexity of Black heritage. It's about taking control of our stories and honouring our heroes while challenging the narratives that have often overlooked the contributions and achievements of Black individuals both in the UK and globally.

You can use the hashtag [#ReclaimingNarratives](#) on social media to find real life stories from people all over the world.



There is a dedicated space on the [BHM website](#) that showcases [all the related events](#) happening online and across the UK. From learning about afro hair to the black heroes of Mathematics, there is something for everyone.



If reading is more your thing than attending an event, this blog showcases [10 Books by Black British Authors You Should Read](#). How many have you already read? Which is next on your reading list?!



Another interesting and important topic when considering ethnicity is how the colour of your skin impacts you in the corporate world. In an ideal environment, it shouldn't. However, some companies are still working to improve their diversity and inclusion. You can read more using the [BHM's Diversity Dashboard](#) which includes interesting stories from employers such as [Coca-Cola](#), [West Yorkshire Police](#) and [the Army](#).



How many black male teachers teach you? Not many, right? That's because there is a lack of black males coming into the education sector. [Read more here](#).

JOB OF THE WEEK



[Building Surveyor](#)

Building surveyors evaluate the quality of buildings and offer advice on how to improve them. They are involved in new buildings, surveying existing buildings and the maintenance of buildings with historical or architectural importance.

Watch the video to learn more about working hours, salary and qualifications needed.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

A study found that 25% of Black professionals were interested in forming their own businesses compared to just 7% of white professionals.

Why do you think this is?

[Source](#)

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



In today's fast-paced job market, AI-driven skills are in high demand, yet many talented individuals lack access to the knowledge needed to leverage these powerful tools. [This program](#) enables individuals to confidently use tools like ChatGPT Enterprise and Azure CoPilots across various roles, opening up new career opportunities and ensuring they can contribute meaningfully in modern workplaces.



By answering [6 simple questions](#) right now, you can discover which types of careers are most likely to suit you and the website will then direct you to amazing work experience opportunities and inspirational talks to help bring your career ambitions to life.



Join Lynne Hugill from Teesside University as she explores [the world of fashion and fashion communication](#). The insight provides four sessions which cover;

- The relationship between fashion and identity.
- The specifics of sustainability in fashion and poses the question: is fashion destroying our planet?
- How technology has made a mark on the industry
- Why promoting sustainability is vital for the fashion designers of tomorrow

Lynne also offers some guidance of where the fashion industry is going, and tells you how you can prepare for the future of the industry.



Join Iyi Ogiehor as he explores [the dynamic world of modern banking and finance](#). He begins by introducing you to what banking and finance actually are, why it is important to study them together, and the current trends shaping modern banking and finance. Iyi then takes a deep dive into digital banking, exploring what it is, how it has developed and the key technologies that enable it. He also considers the impacts - both good and bad - of digital banking, and the role of regulation in this area. He then turns the focus to globalised finance, exploring how globalisation shapes banking and finance today, where it originates from, and the core principles that underpin it.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"Finding the right opportunity can be difficult, but we make it simple. No matter which area of the business you're interested in, we can help you find the role that's right for you. You just need the enthusiasm and drive to get the most from your experience. And if you do, there's no limit to how far you could go."

Read more about [PwC Careers here](#).

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"For more than 400 years discoveries and advances from the University of Edinburgh have changed the way the world is understood. Today, we continue to make our mark, with world-leading experts educating the pioneers of tomorrow. Choose to study at Edinburgh and you'll be investing in an education that will help you build a successful future."

Read more about [The University of Edinburgh Courses here](#).

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