



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

8th November 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parental Update 9

I hope you had a wonderful half term break; ABBA Voyage was amazing and a bit more than the Jim Henson / Muppets show I was expecting. This first week back has been a relatively quiet one, but still had our parental ski trip meeting, our first meeting of the newly formed Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA), some of our SVP students taking part in a food poverty workshop at the Town Hall as well as the usual clubs and practices that we have.

Next week, we start with our in-school Remembrance Service (as we did last year, **students who are in any uniformed cadets, scouts etc are invited to attend on Monday in that uniform**), our Year 7 and 10 students enter an assessment window (see later), we have a Governor Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee. Then after that, things start to build up with our GCSE Presentation Evening, Your Future Careers event and a big English Theatre trip.

Whole School Focus – Academisation

As avid readers will be well aware, we are due to academise on 1st December. This will change the school from being a Catholic Local Authority Maintained School, under the Trusteeship of the Lasallian Brothers, to a Catholic Academy, still under the Lasallian Brothers but as part of the Laetare Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

When a school academises this can take many different forms – in some cases this can be a very radical overhaul: changing school name, changing uniforms, change of staff including headteacher, change of curriculum and change of many school systems.

However, we are fortunate that this is not the case for us. We will be joining a brand new catholic Multi Academy Trust, Laetare CMAT, which several religious orders, including our own Lasallian Brothers, have helped to create. Key to the vision of our new CMAT are its core guiding principles:

- Respect for Distinctiveness
- Collaboration for the Common Good
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity
- Equity
- Transparency

It is these principles that ensure our school remains 'our school' and not a number in the roll of a large MAT, whilst at the same time, provides us with the strength, economies of scale and access to external support, that anyone would want from a MAT. So there will be no tangible changes to uniforms, school names, staffing etc.

If you would like to explore the CMAT further, it now has its own website: [Laetare CMAT - Home](#) which is in its early days, but gives you a clear picture of the new family we are joining.

Catholic Life at De La Salle (Update attached)

Once again you will find the Catholic Life Update attached. We are also keen to capture the views of parents and students about Catholic Life in the school. We would be very grateful if you could spend a few minutes completing the short survey below. It will be really helpful for us in getting your perspective in knowing what works and what we need to improve.

Parent Survey: <https://participate.schoolsurveys.com/tWfbmbzp7nlKYOnl>

Rewards

This week we have held our rewards assemblies for all students which included the following for each year group:

- Form Star of the half term
- Subject Awards
- 100% attendance
- 97+ attendance
- Zero lates
- Zero behaviour points
- Copper awards for achieving the Copper Level of Reward Points
- Overall Star of Half Term for the Year Group

As well as their certificates on Edulink the students also received more tangible rewards including large chocolate bars and Amazon vouchers.

You can check how your child is getting on through Edulink where all reward points and any other subject or pastoral awards and certificates are posted.

Parental and Student Information

We have now held most of the Parental Information Evenings (Year 11 is later this month). All the information that was shared with parents can now be accessed by year on our school website. The links to the parental and the student information are below. These are great resources and I am sure will be very beneficial for you and your child.

Parent info: <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/parents/revision-and-independent-study/>

Student info: <http://www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk/students/revision-and-independent-learning/>

Important Payment Information regarding ParentMail Shop

Due to the upcoming academisation of our school on 1st December, we have had to temporarily suspend payments for items in our ParentMail school shop, as the contract switches over. This includes school trips, revision guides, music lessons and uniform. Payments for these services will resume from 1st December.

However, please note that **dinner money payments are not affected by this change and should continue as usual.** We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transition period. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Year 7 and 10 Assessment Window

Parents should have received separate communication regarding this assessment window which runs from Monday 11th Nov to Fri 22nd. Assessment timetables are available on Edulink; timetables can be found in the 'Homework' section and should be accessible for students and parents.

All students have been set revision tasks on Edulink and/or Teams and we hope you would encourage them to access this over the assessment fortnight to arrive as prepared as they possibly can. You will receive a report home following these assessments before the end of term.

Football Boots Request from PE

If any students have football / rugby boots that are no longer needed / no longer fit, the PE department would greatly accept donations to continue to support students who don't have them to engage in PE lessons. A lot of the boots that we have had over the past year have now come to the end of their lifespan and require replacing. This is something that we would always be willing to receive at any point of the year if any of our families are going to bin old boots at any point, please consider donating them so that we can continue to ensure all students are able to access all activities. These can be passed in to reception by parents or brought directly to the PE office by the students. Thank you for your support.

Warrington and Vale Royal College (Dance Academy)

Alongside this update you will find information about an opportunity for Year 10 and 11 students to take part in a free 3-week dance academy, at Warrington and Vale Royal College. More details of the course, alongside information on enrolling, can be found in the attached flyer.

Homework Club

We have now started a Key Stage 3 (Yrs 7-9) homework club which takes place weekly on a Tuesday from 3pm and provides a calm space for students to complete any homework or additional studies that they have. The club is based in the school library.

Easy Fundraising

As a school, we have 269 supporters raising free donations for our school every time they shop online, and you can join in too! Sign up to support us on #easyfundraising and over 8,000 retailers will make a donation on your behalf when you shop with them. All the big names like Sainsbury's, M&S, Argos, Just Eat and many more are ready to donate at no extra cost to you. Every donation will help us! Plus, join today and they could win us a £300 donation:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/delasalle/13KFGT/s2s/ZdU7Z020/SE878/facebook/>

Annie

We are pleased to announce that our Christmas Musical Show will be the well-known and much-loved musical Annie. The show will take place on **Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December** (Starting at 6.30pm). Tickets are available at £5 and £3 for concessions.

The rehearsal schedule for those involved is below:

- Monday lunch – Band
- Tuesday lunch – Singers
- Wednesday after school Band (week A)
- Thursday lunch – full cast
- Thursday after school Band and full cast

I was able to witness some of the numbers as students performed them during the Open Evening, and they are brilliant – well worth coming along to.

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

- Mon 11th – Fri 22nd: Assessment Window for Years 7 and 10
- Wed 13th: Governors Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee (5pm)
- Mon 18th – Fri 22nd: Formation Week 3
- Tue 19th: Yr 10 and 11 Theatre Trip

- Thu 21st: Your Future Event (for Yrs 9, 10 and 11)
- Thu 21st: GCSE Presentation Evening (for summer GCSEs)
- Tue 26th: Yr 11 Apprenticeship show visit
- Wed 27th: Yr 11 Geography Fieldtrip
- Wed 27th: Governors Catholic Life and Culture Committee (5pm)
- Thu 28th: Yr 11 Parental Information Evening
- Fri 29th: Anthony Walker Foundation Ambassador training (Yr 8)
- Wed 4th: Mount Carmel House Mass
- Thu 5th: Yr 8 Parents' Evening
- **Fri 6th: INSET DAY: School closed**

And finally...It runs in the family

I remember as a child watching my dad, who was a senior director of housing in Liverpool City Council, trying his hand at DIY and bricking up the arch between our front and back room. In particular the fact that he didn't even take the carpet up, but placed the bricks directly onto the carpet. I remember thinking that was silly thing for an intelligent person to do.

Now I am convinced it is genetic, as last week, I watched as my eldest, the mechanical engineer, working on unblocking a u-bend under the bathroom sink. He had unscrewed the u-bend and after much effort had cleared the large clumps of hair (obviously not mine!) which led to a mini-flood of water, but he had a cup there to catch it in. All good, except the cup came close to filling, so, quick thinking, he tipped it into the sink above him – where he had just removed the u-bend. You can guess the rest.

Then a day later, we had trouble with our fridge which needed to be taken out and replaced – ordinarily easy, but it integrated within a fitted kitchen. Mrs R thought it best that we didn't go to the trouble or expense of an expert, so me and my son did it. As it was within the fitted kitchen, it involved a lot of fiddly effort to get to the plug, though a different cupboard. My sons had dragged the fridge out as far as they could and eventually reaching behind, there were 2 plugs: fridge and freezer, I just needed to unplug and drop the cable into the gap behind.

You guessed it, like that scene with the chandelier on Only Fools and Horses, I unplugged and dropped the wrong plug. It took a further 40 mins to recover it from behind the cupboards where it had jammed whilst the boys struggled to hold the fridge and Mrs R offered inspirational words of advice.

Have a good half term break.

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher

Catholic Life at De La Salle



31st Week of Ordinary Time



MVP STUDENTS PLANNING AHEAD OF THEIR NEXT SESSION

We've had a quiet but productive week here on the Catholic Life team! We've secured our transport for FLAME (details will be coming out for this event next week), ordered materials for our new classroom *Sacred Spaces*, hosted MVP here in Chapel and attended the FeedTheNeed event at St Helens Town Hall.

This Week

Our students always leave us super impressed when it comes to living out our ethos and mission. Students from across the school use their passions and skills to make a real difference to the community. We see this so often when our MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) group meet to discuss their previous and upcoming sessions. MVP students aim to make a positive impact on the Year 7 form classes that they support and often give their own time to plan activities outside of formal sessions, such as form time team building!

We saw students put their concern into action on Thursday as a number of our SVP students who organise the food cupboard attended St Helens Town Hall for the FeedTheNeed event ran by and for young people. Here we discussed food poverty and the hardships faced by families in the heart of St Helens. Students met the Mayor and members of the Youth Parliament to share their concerns and ask some hard-hitting questions.

This event has inspired our students as they prepare to hold their own conference here in school this month focused on Climate Migration and COP29.

HOPE 2024

We have launched our *Hope 2024* campaign again. This is a project we promote each year and as people of hope we aim to Help Other People Eat (HOPE). This year, we're asking form classes to collect £24. They can decide together if this money will contribute to our Mary's Meals collection or if it will be donated to our own school food pantry to support with our Christmas parcels for families in need. Either option will hugely support important projects.

Although we're going for a coin collection to support these two projects we will, of course, be extremely grateful for any donations of food for our pantry. Please consider if you're able to support in any way, it will be warmly received.

Sacred Spaces

We are so blessed in school to have a beautiful Chapel and a wonderful new Prayer Cabin for people of all faiths to find a comfortable and safe space to worship.

We believe that the presence of our students makes a space something sacred and special, with each young person being the face of Christ and a vessel for God's love to be at work in the world. We also recognise that for some people to enter into a time of worship, a visual aid can be beneficial.

For this reason we are making a real effort to create sacred spaces in each of our form classes to compliment our time of daily prayer. Many of our students will be used to this idea from primary school but it is something that we're keen to develop to help students connect with our pattern of prayer a little more.

Opportunities

Next week we will be launching two trips for students across the school. One is FLAME, a national gathering of over 10,000 young people and the other is a Year 10 residential to St Cassian's, our wonderful Lasallian retreat space and home away from home!

Our Next Theme

Next week is the 32nd week of Ordinary time. At this time of year we use the colour green within our displays and materials produced for times of prayer and liturgy. This colour is symbolic of growth and freshness. We use green to represent that our understanding of scripture, and our hope is always new, developing and fresh within our community.

The theme of our prayer and liturgy will be; **The Earth You Created** as our attention turns to COP29, a gathering for World Leaders focused on their commitment to tackling climate change. Chaplaincy will be leading us in our weekly Prayer and Liturgy, and we will be exploring the words from **1 Kings 17:10-16**.

Catholic Life team

Next week in Catholic Life

- SVP meeting after school on Monday 11th November.
- Fratelli Tutti and Faith Formation will take place on Wednesday 13th November.
- Day of Prayer on Friday 15th November.

We will hold our Remembrance Service on Monday 11th November

Student Spotlight

The students who attended the FeedTheNeed event in the Town Hall this Thursday were given an opportunity to speak their mind in the presence of the Mayor of St Helens. Here is a comment made by one of our students:

"The government should pay for people in low-income communities to have financial education resources"

Pray for us...

Loving Father, we think of the lives lost during the First World War and the conflicts that followed throughout history. We pray that, with your guidance, love and support, we might work towards creating a world where violence and suffering has no place.

WVR Dance Academy



Warrington
& Vale Royal
College



Grab your dancing shoes and join us for WVR Dance Academy!

Back for its second year, we are excited to welcome pupils from year 10 and 11 to take centre stage in our FREE 3-week dance academy!

Work closely with our award-winning expert dance tutor to hone your performance skills, boost your confidence and make new friends!

Based in our newly-refurbished dance studio and theatre, you will have the chance to work on a range of contemporary dance routines and jazz techniques designed to showcase your new skills.

WVR Dance Academy will run every Thursday, from 21st November to 5th December 2024, 5.00pm - 6.00pm* at Warrington campus.

Week 1

Contemporary techniques.

Introduction to 'Peaky Blinders' dance routine, inspired by famous choreographers Akram Khan and Hofesh Shechter.

Week 2

Contemporary techniques.

Continuation and rehearsal of 'Peaky Blinders' dance routine.

Week 3

Final rehearsal and take to the stage and perform.

Have your headshot taken for your professional portfolio.

*This session will run until 6.30pm.

"WVR Dance Academy gave me so much confidence to progress to the next step. I loved the opportunity to dance at a more advanced level and use the college's facilities!"

Charlotte, a former pupil of St Cuthbert's Catholic High School, absolutely loved the experience, and within just four weeks, she felt she had gained valuable skills. For Charlotte, discovering WVR Dance Academy was the highlight of her year 11 journey, and it played a key role in helping her decide to study dance at Warrington & Vale Royal College this September.



Spaces are limited, so register for your place NOW by visiting wvr.ac.uk/danceacademy.



Advanced
Creative & Digital
Skills Academy

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

National Care Leavers Week will run from: Monday 28 October - Sunday 3 November. The theme this year will be: All of Us, We are One. You can use the following hashtag on social media to find events, resources and useful posts; #NCLW2024.

National Care Leavers' Week exists for the public, professionals, carers, decision-makers and the media to come together, celebrate care leavers and raise awareness of the issues in the care system.



You can read this webpage to find out more about why someone might be taken into care, statistics about young people in care and answers to frequently asked questions.



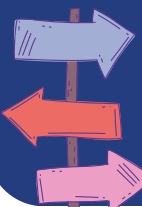
The Become Charity have a range of ongoing work and campaigns in place to highlight specific issues with the care system and try to drive change by raising public awareness, speaking to the people in power who can change laws and putting your voice front and centre so they can be heard. You can read more about these here.



There are several events happening to celebrate National Care Leavers Week. Some are online and some are in person. You can view them here.



If you are in care, or have experience of being in care in the past, there's lots of support available in higher education to help you with finance, accommodation, and settling in. You can read this guide from UCAS to find out more.



All of Us are a charity who run a community for estranged and care experienced students across the UK. Find friends who get it and allies to organise with. They have also produced an employment tips document which signposts you to other organisations who can help.

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

JOB OF THE WEEK



[Social Worker](#)

A children's Social Worker is a professional who works to protect children and improve the lives of families in need. They develop tailored care plans to support families to ensure children are being looked after in their homes.

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

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Between 2017-22, the care leaver progression rate into university increased from 12.64% to **14.18%**.

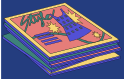
The progression rate of non-care leavers into higher education in 2022 was 47%.

[Source](#)

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Choices magazine is the ultimate parent and carer guide to apprenticeships & technical education! Amazing Apprenticeships have revamped our popular Parents' and Carers' Pack with a fresh new look, exciting features and loads of useful content.



Interested in shaping how companies connect with young people about careers? Take Not Going To Uni's quick 5-minute survey (only 8 questions!) and make an impact. Plus, you could be one of 3 lucky winners to score a £50 Virgin Experience Day voucher!



Are you wondering how to manage loan repayment and student debt? This article published on FE News is useful for those starting university this September or making future applications. It discusses types of debt, credit awareness, loan repayment terms, wise budgeting, and tracking spending.



Williams Racing provide work experience placements for students in years 10 to 13. The aim of the week is to help students understand the huge variety of jobs in F1 and help set out the routes and tools to get there. As racing online develops almost as fast as on track, this year we will also be running an Esports work experience week alongside our traditional F1 work experience.



If you're in Year 13 and are currently working on your university application, here are some resources that can help:

- [UCAS advice on Personal Statement content](#)
- [Complete University Guide 2025 league tables](#)
- [OpenDays.com](#) and [UniTasterDays.com](#) for all university open day dates
- [UCAS subject guides provide support with choosing courses](#)
- [UCAS subject tasters provide a way to try a degree before committing to it](#)



Next week, our careers newsletter will be focusing on Green Careers Week where we'll be sharing more information about how you can find out more about environmentally friendly careers.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"If you want to leave work every day knowing what you've done really matters, you're in the right place. Take a look behind the scenes of Britain's single biggest employer – the NHS. Whatever your skills, qualifications or interests, there is a career for you in the NHS and we are recruiting now. You could work directly with patients, in hospitals, an ambulance trust, or in the community. "

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"We are the university that comes to you! Ranked 16th out of 149 UK universities for student satisfaction - Times Higher Education. Arden University offers a range of courses to suit everyone. Take a look at our full list of course subjects and take the next step to flexible, online studying with Arden today."

Read more about [Arden University Courses here](#).

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