



De La Salle
School

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22nd November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 11

A very busy week in school as the Year 7 and 10 assessment window continued, with Cowley 6th Form in to talk to our Year 11s, we had 90 Year 10 and 11 students go to the theatre with the English department, some of our Year 8 and 9 Reading Buddies went to support students in St Teresa's Primary school, we had a wealth of sporting fixtures and practices, we held the fantastic Your Future event (see below), held our GCSE Awards evening (see below) and the PE department hosted staff toast club!

Looking ahead, next week is a formation Week, our Hospitality and catering students begin exams, we are hosting the 'YOUTH29' Respect Conference, some Year 11 students are going to the National Apprenticeship Show, we have an urban farm workshop, a Year 11 Geography fieldtrip, our Year 11 Parental Information Evening, Governors Catholic Life and Culture Committee meeting, a visit to the War Museum for some Year 7 and 10 students and training for our Year 8 Anthony Walker Foundation Ambassadors. This is on top of all the usual school activity, events and clubs.

Whole School Focus – Your Future Career Event

Long serving parents will recall that every year we have the Your Future Career Event. This year's event took place yesterday morning in the school Sports Hall.

This involved over 50 visitors, representing a wide range of organisations: colleges, public bodies, large and small employers etc setting up display stands in the Sports Hall. Years 9, 10 and 11 were able to spend a whole lesson each going around speaking to our guests. The students were also provided with postcards that they needed to get stamped to ensure that they covered a wide range of sectors and guests.

This is a truly remarkable event and the positive atmosphere is great – as is the feedback from the students and the exhibitors. It is far more preferable to other approaches we had taken in the past, and encourages a sense of enquiry from the students. The contributors I spoke to felt that the students asked far more questions and showed far greater interest than when they have previously done this with parents.

A real success and something we will look to do again next year. Many of the visitors also asked me to mention to parents how mature and thoughtful the students were! A big thank you to Mrs Scully and Mrs Moran for arranging this.

GCSE Awards Evening

Last night we had the wonderful joy of celebrating the successes of our Class of 24. A great turnout of staff, families and students listened intently to our guest speaker, ex-student, Ines Bonati. Ines spoke of her journey through school then afterwards, sharing her challenges and inspiring our ex-students with her attitude and resilience in overcoming those challenges. We were also entertained by our choir and cast of Annie (see later for ticket details) who were fantastic. Then came the main event, the student awards. As well as all students receiving their hard-earned GCSE certificates and the subject awards we also had our Lasallian Awards (see below).

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

The Lasallian awards went to:

- Head Student Award: Beth Perry and Dona Bijou
- Lasallian Award for Academic Excellence: Victor Wlodarz
- Lasallian award for Progress: Grace Daley
- Lasallian Award for Sporting Achievement: Zoe King
- Lasallian Award for Resilience: Olivia Speakman
- The Jessica Ferguson Award (for spirit and determination): Matthew Smee
- Lasallian Animate Award: Heleina Ballesteros
- Lasallian Award for Determination: Isabel Jones
- The Brother Alban Memorial Award (for devotion to the school): Heidi Bayley
- The Brother Hilary Cup (our oldest trophy for 'special merit and outstanding service to the school): Evie Foster

Well done to all who supported the event and congratulations to all our stars of '24! We wish them well for the future.

Academy Update

As you know, we will academise on 1st December, but as that is a Sunday, the 2nd Dec will be our first school day of academisation. Our new Multi-Academy Trust, the Laetare CMAT, held interviews last week for a new CEO, but did not make an appointment. In the interim, they have asked Andy Bridson, who has been acting CEO, to continue in that role, and we are delighted he has agreed.

Andy will be in school on that Monday morning, along with Br Sean, on behalf of the Lasallian Brothers, and Sam Murray our Chair of Governors, as we enter the next, new and exciting phase of our journey as a school.

PTFA

We recently re-launched our Parent, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) earlier this term and it was lovely to see some new faces. Please consider whether you could give some time to supporting the work of the PTFA. There is no commitment to attend every meeting. It really is a great way to support your child's journey through De La Salle. The next meeting is 6:00pm on Wednesday 27th November.

Raffle Prizes – A Request

We have a range of events, including the Pensioners' Party, where we are looking for suitable raffle prizes. These could include bottles (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), toiletries, chocolates, gift sets etc (we are only looking for new items, not used). If you have anything that you could spare, these can be handed in to main reception.

Sporting Activity

Another busy week for our students in sport and PE. Year 8 basketball festival at Hope Academy, supported by Year 11, Harry, who passed on his coaching experience. Player of the match: Charlie Braniff. Also a quick mention for last week to our Year 7 and 8 boys competed in the county CVL festival and did so well.

Two messages from the Local Authority:

1. Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

The winter Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) will be running from Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025 for all eligible children, young people and families. The activity bookings links will go live on Tuesday 3rd December at 1.00pm for families to book their Winter activities, please note that activity places are subject to availability. We would like to ensure that as many eligible families take this offer up over the Winter to remove some of the financial burden to families who may already be on the brink.

Please see below the link to the HAF webpage with all of the information about the Winter programme. [HAF Winter Programme 2024 - St Helens Borough Council](#)

2. St Helens Santa Dash

This year's St Helens Santa Dash is taking place on Saturday 7th December at 11am in Victoria Park, City Road. Entry is £5 for adults, £2 for 5-18 year olds and free to under 5s. Further details on the event, including how to book, are on the attached flyer.

Important Payment information regarding ParentMail Shop (repeated item)

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.

Annie (repeated item)

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 25th – Fri 29th: Formation Week 3

Mon 25th: YOUTH29 Conference

Tue 26th: Year 11 National Apprenticeship Show visit

Tue 26th: Urban Farm Workshop

Wed 27th: Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip

Wed 27th: Governors Catholic Life and Culture Committee (5:00pm)

Thu 28th: Year 11 Parental Information Evening

Fri 29th: Anthony Walker Foundation Ambassador training (Year 8)

Fri 29th: War Museum Visit (students from Years 7 and 10)

Sat 30th: Annie Rehearsals

Mon 2nd: Academisation Day

Mon 2nd: Student visit to St John's House (where the brothers live)

Wed 4th: Mount Carmel House Mass

Thu 5th: Year 8 Parents' Evening

Fri 6th: INSET DAY: School closed

Wed 11th: Care Home visit

Wed 11th: Full Governing Body Meeting

Wed 11th: Performance of Annie

Thu 12th: Christmas jumper day

Thu 12th: Flu Vaccinations mop-up session

Thu 12th: Santa Dash in school (tbc)

Thu 12th: Performance of Annie

Fri 13th: Care Home visit

Fri 13th: School Christmas Dinner
Fri 13th: Year 10 Rewards activity
Tue 17th: 1719 Pensioners' Christmas Party
Tue 17th: Year 7 Rewards activity
Wed 18th: Year 11 Retreat
Wed 18th: Community Advent Service (evening)
Wed 18th: High Achievers Programme (Year 10)
Thu 19th: Student advent services
Fri 20th: School finishes at 12.10pm

And finally...we don't do duvets!

I mentioned last week about people not getting my cultural references anymore, and I have been surprised at how many other people feel exactly the same. I have had a week of various people mentioning their own examples of phrases which included:

- Bus fare home / keep out of the black and in the red, nothing in the game for 2 in a bed (Bullseye)
- Blankety Blank cheque book and pen
- Can I have a P please Bob (Blockbusters)

I also had it happen again on Saturday. With the cold weather coming in, Mrs R was keen for us to get the winter duvet out. For context we seem to only have 2 extremes: we have a summer duvet which has the thickness of tissue paper and offers no warmth or insulation at all. Then we have the winter duvet, which is the Geoff Capes (another cultural reference nobody will get) of duvets which, when underneath it, feels like someone has parked a steam roller on you.

Anyway, the winter duvet had been brought out and I was tasked with dragging it to the dry cleaners to be cleaned before we used it. Now some of you may remember a children's TV programme called Going Live! Which featured a duo called Trevor and Simon. Throughout the show they did various funny sketches (their Erasure spoof of Stop is worth Googling). One of the sketches was set in a dry cleaners when each week various guests came in as customers, usually ending with them asking if they do duvets? To which the shop owner became increasingly irate screaming "**we don't do duvets!**"

So, as I entered the shop and noted the woman serving was roughly my age, and with that sketch in mind, I made the joke "oh don't tell me – you **don't do duvets**" finishing the sentence with the mock anger of the TV sketch. She just gave me, what appeared a mix of puzzlement and fear and said, "no it's OK we do, luv." I just paid and left.

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher

Catholic Life at De La Salle



33rd Week of Ordinary Time



SOME STUDENTS AT THE MARY'S MEALS STALL DURING THE "YOUR FUTURE" EVENT.

The *Your Future Event* that is organised by our Careers team here in school is an event in the diary that we absolutely love in Catholic Life. It is an opportunity to network, find out new things, but most importantly, see the sparks of passion and interest in our young people as they explore the possibilities for their future. All called by God, our students start to think bigger about their future plans during this wonderful event!

This Week

The Catholic Life team had a wonderful opportunity this week to attend the Prayer and Liturgy Launch in Liverpool. This was a gathering for those in education who have responsibilities around the prayer life of our schools across the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

The day was to launch a new-ish document called the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. This directory informs a lot of our practice surrounding times of worship within our community. Quite often, events like this can turn into a lot of listening, some note taking and then an attempt to implement grand ideas into our own school.

This time things were different, we were guided through our day by Jo Boyce; a member of CJM music and one half of Boyce and Stanley...if you don't know who they are, you need to ask us from some tips on your playlists!

We, as a team, had time to reflect and pray through the document, really creating a space to see how we can best use this document to meet the needs of our own school community.

We continue to develop our provision around prayer.

Your Future

Each year, our careers team pull together an incredible day for our students to meet a wide range of colleagues from local organisations and businesses who are able to discuss employment opportunities, apprenticeships, college applications and university pathways. A new addition for this year was voluntary experiences and, of course, we saw an opportunity to promote our Catholic Life within the event through this avenue. We were joined by VIDES UK, Mary's Meals and SVP who shared so wonderfully with our students. A particularly lovely moment was when some of our older boys went to visit the Mary's Meals stall to make it known that they had participated in a charity football match for the organisation just before half term.

Opportunities

Today we have had a ParentMail sent home to promote FLAME. This event takes place every 2-3 years and is designed to bring young people from our country together. Over 10,000 young people will be in attendance and we have a nice chunk of tickets this year to join in the celebrations once more! More information can be found on the letter via ParentMail. Please do get your expression of interest in asap so we can move forward with allocating places for the event.

We have also shared a ParentMail for our Year 10 St Cassian's Retreat that will take place in January. This is a retreat that we offer every year and it is always so enjoyable to return to our home from home to connect with our Lasallian family.

Year 11 have an opportunity to take part in a mindfulness day ahead of Christmas. This will help students to realign themselves before the big run-up to the GCSE season. During the day students will have mindfulness and relaxation sessions as well as an introduction to some mindful revision to keep our focus on their next steps.

Our Next Theme

Next week is the 34th and final week of Ordinary time for this year. 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; **Christ the King** as bring this liturgical year to an end. The feast of Christ the King is also known as World Youth Day, a real celebration of the gift of the children in our lives. SLT will be leading us in our weekly Prayer and Liturgy, and we will be exploring the words from **John 18:33-37**

Catholic Life team

Opportunities to look out for

- Year 10 Residential to St Cassian's Retreat Centre
- Year 11 Mindfulness Day
- FLAME
- Christmas Party (1719)

Student Spotlight

This week in form time Prayer and Liturgy, we were celebrating the positive contributions of young people all over our community who stand up and make a difference with their voice, our student spotlight goes to a student who was a big focus within our time of prayer: Heather, in Year 9, wrote a powerful and relevant email to our local MP about a topic that was incredibly close to home. The MP was moved by Heather's email and delivered a hand written letter to school in response. Well done Heather!

Pray for us...

Loving Father, you call people in your Church to become more like little children. Help us to be good examples in our thoughts, words and actions so that we can inspire others to be more like us. We pray today for children around the world who struggle to access their childhood in the same ways that we do, may you protect them and send adults into their life that can provide care and love.

St Helens Santa Dash



Saturday 7th December 2024

11am at Victoria Park, City Road, WA10 2UE

This fun event is for all abilities, you can run, walk, skip or jump with friends and family, round the 4km loop.

£5 for adults / £2 for ages 5-18 / U5s free of charge.

Every paying participant will receive a hat to wear on route, plus a medal when you finish. All profits will go to the Mayor's Charity: The St Helens Young Carers Centre.

For full details and to book your place scan the QR code below or visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/sports-events

For further queries, contact 07707 144742
email markhurst@sthelens.gov.uk



active
St Helens



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

There are two important events that take place in November that we haven't had chance to highlight in our newsletters (it's been a busy month with Green Careers Week and Discover! Creative Careers Week).

On 2nd November, we celebrated International Day Against Violence and Bullying. From Monday 11th - Friday 15th November, we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week 2024 with the theme: Choose Respect.



From playgrounds to parliament, our homes to our phones, this Anti-Bullying Week key message is to 'Choose Respect' and bring an end to bullying which negatively impacts millions of young lives. To learn more about the Choose Respect theme, you can watch this video from Anti-Bullying Alliance.

You have learnt a lot about bullying throughout your time at school. But did you know that school isn't the only place where bullying is reported? Unfortunately, bullying also happens in some workplaces. Of course, there aren't teachers in workplaces for you to speak to so... What do you do? Within businesses, there are a team called "HR". This stands for Human Resources and, generally speaking, they look after everything to do with people. This can be hiring people but also making sure current staff are happy within the workplace. You can read this guide to HR to learn more about what they do.



It also helps to know your rights within the workplace. You can read this guide to learn more about your employee rights, what you are entitled to and what you are not. Student Job have made it super easy for you to understand all that legal jargon so you can learn the key information you need to know.



Here are some Anti Bullying Week video resources that you might find useful: Trolling and Cyber Bullying, My Troubled Mind - stories about mental health, L8R Youngers 3, Coping with being bullied and Your Body, Your Image.



JOB OF THE WEEK



HR Manager

An HR Manager oversees HR practices, processes and strategies. Their duties include overseeing the recruitment process, planning and implementing training programs for staff and ensuring that employees follow best practices and company policies. Watch the video to learn more about working hours, salary and qualifications needed.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The number of HR professionals in the UK has grown by 42% in the last decade, which is four times faster than the general workforce. The HR provision industry is in a growth stage, with revenue projected to reach £2.2 billion over the next five years.

Source

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

CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



On 4 November 2024, the government announced that uni tuition fees will rise in 2025. We know that may be a cause of anxiety for applicants, so Uni Myths Busted have teamed up with the student money experts at Save The Student to explain it all. [Read their guide to the increase in university fees here.](#) You can also [read more information on the UCAS website.](#)



The [Multicultural Apprenticeship Awards](#) aims to showcase talent and diversity within multicultural communities through the celebration of those working hard to overcome adversity to achieve their goals through apprenticeships. The awards highlight the achievements of apprentices and the contribution of employers and learning providers who have assisted them along their journey. You can read the [Winners of The Multicultural Apprenticeship Awards 2024 here.](#)



Having a mentor is a great way to get personalised support and advice when it comes to your future. There are lots of organisations that exist to help you to find a mentor. Here are a few, please read the criteria as they vary from one organisation to the next; [Medic Mentor](#), [Big Sister](#), [One Million Mentors](#), [ScreenSkills](#)



You can also find a mentor from your personal network. [Here is guidance from the National Careers Service](#) on how to find a mentor and make the most of mentoring.



Think Tank is a series of interdisciplinary webinars that tackle some of the pressing national and global issues being faced today. They are bought to you by Goldsmiths, University of London. The next session takes place on November 20th from 15:45 - 16:45, the topic is The Right to Protest in the UK & Beyond. You can [read more and register here.](#)



Queen Mary's University is pleased to provide a series of webinars and student panels to support you with your journey to higher education. [Read more here](#) and sign up to the ones you're interested in.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"We want all our people to feel valued for the role they play at British Airways. That includes all our emerging talent. It's why our graduates and apprentices get the same benefits as our other colleagues, right from the day they join. If you have the passion and the ambition, then we have the experience to help you embark on a thrilling career in aviation."

Read more about [British Airways Careers here.](#)

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Throughout our history, we've fostered social justice and improved lives through academic excellence. And we continue to live and breathe this spirit today. Explore our diverse range of programmes and make your brilliant breakthrough at the only campus-based Russell Group University in London."

Read more about [Queen Marys courses here.](#)

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