



De La Salle  
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10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Parental Update 14

A chilly start back after what I hope was an enjoyable Christmas period for you and your family. Now we enter a new year accompanied by all the usual good intentions, hopes and resolutions – whatever yours are, I wish you well in achieving them. In that spirit, a new year is a good point to go back to basics and refocus upon our school mission statement which I share below.

The reality of being back in school this week has been very frustrating with the start to the new term considerably disrupted because of the weather and having to close Thursday and today – as I said yesterday, this is not a decision taken lightly.

In school we still managed to complete most of our Year 11 mock practicals and most of the Year 8 retreats. Looking ahead, from Monday, we have the Year 11s doing their full mock GCSEs (parents should have received the revised timetable), we also begin the Year 9 assessments (again the timetable for these have been sent out to students). We also have a Shakespeare Schools' Festival Workshop taking place and the Governors' Quality of Education Committee will meet.

### Whole School Focus – Our Mission

Though we have academised and are proud to be part of the Laetare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, our school mission remains the same. So, I think the start of a new year is a good time to remind parents, staff and students of our Mission. This sets out the school we are seeking to become – what we are trying to achieve. We use this as our guiding star (well it has just been the Epiphany!) to set our direction in our policies, systems and daily way of life. The mission below is unique to our school and was written shortly after my arrival in 2017/18 based upon work we did with staff, governors, families and students.

#### Our Mission:

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

We are a Catholic community of staff, governors, students, Brothers and families enriched by our Lasallian heritage, traditions and values. Our mission is to work with all in our family community to:

- See each person in our community as an individual with their own talents, needs, hopes, dreams and aspirations
- Provide a holistic education that challenges each of us to achieve our potential and become the person God intended us to be: spiritually, morally, academically, physically and socially
- Walk side by side with our students to help them grow into confident, independent, kind, respectful and tolerant adults, with a strong sense of social responsibility, ready to make a valuable contribution to the world of tomorrow
- Create a safe and supportive environment where those of all faiths, and none, can explore, share, discuss and celebrate their spirituality

It is important that, as a community, we keep this mission close to our hearts and alive in our daily work.

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

## Year 11 Mocks and Year 9 Assessments

As I mentioned at the start of this update, next week we get into full swing with our Year 11 mocks and the Year 9 assessments. Both of these are important and students should have received revision materials and support for their preparation. In addition, parents and students can access the Year specific revision and independent study materials that we shared during the information evenings. All of these can be found here: [Revision and Independent Study](#)

## Term Dates

This is the time of the year that many families start to look at booking their holidays. Obviously, we are keen that students are not taken out of school for holidays. So, to help avoid this, I have provided our term dates for the rest of this year and the year after.

Please note that by having 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of July as Training days, this provides families with the opportunity to start any holidays from afternoon of Fri 18<sup>th</sup> onwards, and potentially cheaper flights and offers.

### Spring term

- Re-opens - Monday 6th January
- School closes for pupils - Thursday 13th February
- **Staff Training Day - Friday 14th February**
- Re-opens - Monday 24th February
- School closes - Friday 4th April

### Summer Term 2025

- Re-opens - Tuesday 22nd April
- **Bank Holiday - Monday 5th May**
- School closes - Friday 23rd May
- Re-opens - Monday 2nd June
- **Staff Training Day - Friday 27th June**
- School closes for pupils - Friday 18th July (12.10pm)
- **Staff Training Day - Monday 21st July**
- **Staff Training Day - Tuesday 22nd July**

## 2025/26 (There are still the INSET Days to be added) - Autumn Term 2025

- School Opens - Wednesday 3rd September
- School closes for pupils - Friday 24th October
- Re-opens - Monday 3rd November
- School closes - Friday 19th December

### Spring Term 2026

- Re-opens - Monday 5th January
- School closes for pupils - Friday 13th February
- Re-opens - Monday 23rd February
- School closes - Friday 27th March

### Summer Term 2026

- Re-opens - Monday 13th April
- **Bank Holiday - Monday 4th May**
- School closes - Friday 22nd May
- Re-opens - Monday 1st June
- School closes for pupils - Wednesday 22nd July

## Year 8 Retreats

This week, our Year 8 students have been taking part in their retreats. These have taken place in school and are held in half year groups, with students breaking off into form groups for some sessions. There have been a range of activities taking place with the theme of 'Doorstep Moments'. This is particularly relevant to our Founder, St John Baptist de la Salle, whose work was inspired by a meeting with Adrian Nyel on a doorstep. For us, this is an inspiring example of how

lives can change when we're open to meeting new people and learning what meeting them can do for us.

### **Poppy Appeal certificate**

Over Christmas we received our certificate from the Royal British Legion thanking our staff and students for raising over £130 through our Poppy appeal in November. Well done all for supporting such a good cause.

### **Request for Interviewers**

The careers team are organising two 'Mock Interview' evenings for all year 11 students. The interviews will take place **on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th January 2025** between 3.30pm – 5.30pm. Mock interviews will all be face to face, in the school hall. Students have been working on their CV's which will also form a part of the interview process. We are looking for prospective interviewers, so if you would like to be involved in this event by volunteering on one, or both evenings, or would like some additional information, please email [delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk)

### **Upcoming Events**

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – Fri 24<sup>th</sup>: Year 11 mock exams

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – Fri 24<sup>th</sup>: Year 9 Assessment window

Wed 15<sup>th</sup>: Governors Quality of Education Committee (5pm)

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> – sat 25<sup>th</sup>: Year 9 Ski Trip

Thu 23<sup>rd</sup>: Year 10 HAP Study Skills Workshop

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> – Wed 5<sup>th</sup> (Feb): Year 10 Retreat

Tue 28<sup>th</sup>: KS3 Writer's Workshop

Wed 29<sup>th</sup>: Governors Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee (5pm)

Feb

Fri 7<sup>th</sup>: Year 10 travel and Tourism trip

Wed 12<sup>th</sup>: Governors' Catholic Life and Culture Committee (5pm)

Fri 14<sup>th</sup>: INSET Day (students do not attend)

Half Term

### **And finally...Kylie meets Tron**

With the school closure, I have been working from home this week, which I know many people do and love, but I absolutely hate. Far too many distractions, forgetting to put the heating on, sitting at the kitchen island on the world's most uncomfortable stool and Mrs R thinking that it is her I am working at home for – "Can you just pop and get this, do that, clean the other" etc.

The other thing is answering the door every 5 minutes for another Amazon or Next delivery. Lots of returned Christmas presents being replaced!

One present I would like replaced is the new infra-red face mask that Mrs R was given. Apparently, it has major rejuvenating powers to make you look 10 years younger – I am sceptical to say the least. However, Mrs R is a believer and now, every night as I am getting ready to drop off to sleep, she puts on this visor like face mask with what appear to be almost neon like stripes. Think of a cross between those worn in Kylie's 'Can't Get You Out of my Head' video and something from the film Tron (I know – a real mix of cultural references again).

Now bearing in mind that previously, me breathing slightly louder than normal was cause for a verbal warning, Mrs R just drifts off to sleep, whilst I have to face the other way to avoid being lit up like a dancer in a 1990s Euro Pop Club (think The Hitman and Her or Mr Smith's nightclub).

Have a good weekend.

**Andrew Rannard**

Headteacher

# 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

We know it's the first week back and February feels AGES away... However, we want to bring your attention to the fact that 10th-14th February is National Apprenticeship Week. This is one of the biggest events in the careers calendar.

We will share more information with you about specific events the week before the event. But, for now, these are some of the things you can do if you're keen to learn more about apprenticeships and make NAW2025 a really impactful event for your career knowledge, growth and future planning.



Here are the events that are already listed for the week, you can already register to as many as you'd like. Some are broad and about apprenticeships in general whereas others are specific to certain industries/employers.



You can also find events directly from employers and education organisations by searching #NAW2025 on social media platforms.

**GIVEAWAY**

The week is run by a company called CareerMap who are giving away a range of prizes during the week (including a MacBook Pro and JustEat vouchers!).

You might be thinking, "Ok, great... But I don't really know much about apprenticeships at the moment!". Here are some of the questions you might have:

- What is an apprenticeship?
- Is an apprenticeship right for me?
- What do the different Apprenticeship levels mean?
- Should I go to university or do a Degree Apprenticeship?
- How can I educate my parents/carers about Apprenticeships?
- How do I apply for apprenticeships?
- What support is there for me if I have additional needs?



If you have any questions or need support, please contact [moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk)

## JOB OF THE WEEK



### Geneticist

A Geneticist is a scientist or physician who studies the science of genes, heredity, and variation in organisms. They study how genes work in humans, animals, plants, and microbes, and how they are passed on.

Watch the video to learn more about how much you could earn, working hours and pathways into the industry.

## LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

Apprenticeship starts were up by 0.7% to 339,580 in academic year 2023/24, compared to 337,140 reported for the previous year.

Under 19s accounted for 23.2% of starts (78,930) in 2023/24.

Source

# CAREERS NEWSLETTER



## OPPORTUNITIES

If you already know that you want to follow the university route, you can find lots of events using [UniTasterDays](#).

The [Met Office work experience programme](#) consists of two distinct phases. The first is an online work experience. This stand-alone programme is available to all UK-based students aged between 13 and 18, and all who register are guaranteed a place. As part of this programme, you'll explore typical roles in the Met Office through a series of videos, projects and webinars. Following completion of the online programme, you can apply for a second phase of work experience - a two to three day in-person placement, for which limited places are available.



EquityEd has been started by current university students who want to make the education pathways beyond Sixth Form more accessible to everyone. "At EquityEd, we bring the opportunities directly to you. We want to make sure that all opportunities are accessible to all state-school students and not gate kept by a minority. Gain access to opportunities for Secondary, Sixth Form, & College students from top institutions and organisations starting today by [using our website](#)."



"At Rolls-Royce, we want you to be at your best. That's why we've created [two comprehensive preparation guides](#) to help you know what to expect when it comes to applications, interviews and Assessment Centres. Whether you're applying to a Rolls-Royce Early Careers programme or elsewhere, these guides can give you a helpful insight into the recruitment process. So, you can feel ready and confident for the journey ahead."



"The [National Apprenticeship & Education Events](#) are designed to inspire school & college leavers, and other young adults, to discover more about career and further education opportunities. Our events bring together thousands of Students aged 15+ from schools, sixth forms & colleges, parents, guardians & individuals together with Top UK Employers, Universities, Colleges & Training Providers. Our events provide those all-important face-to-face conversations in a fun and interactive setting."



## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"You'll not only play a part in powering, protecting & connecting people everywhere, you can expect all the training and qualifications you need to progress yourself. Getting your ideas noticed and gaining the support to develop your skills and knowledge. Step into a friendly, welcoming environment: a place where you can be your best & feel like you belong."

Read more about [Rolls Royce Careers here](#).

## UNI SPOTLIGHT

"The University of Manchester is a centre of teaching excellence, world-class research, outstanding student experience, and social responsibility. Part of the prestigious Russell Group of universities, it's institutions like ours that have the greatest responsibility to act as the world faces big challenges. Together, we face this head on."

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

If you have any questions or need support, please contact [moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:moranh@delasalleschool.org.uk)