



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

14th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update 19

The final week of this half term has been just as busy as usual: we have had several HAP events and visits, Kooth assemblies (a safe space for young people to receive support), performance from our students at the Shakespeare Schools' Festival at Playhouse North, a full week of fixtures and sporting practices, distribution of our Year 9 assessment grades, charity football match, Valentine's Day cake sale/card making and finishing today with a staff development day.

As we look at the week ahead, I hope you and your family are able to spend some quality time together and make the most of the half term break.

With today's update there is:

- Weekly Careers newsletter
- College flyers

Whole School Focus – The Halfway Mark

So as the half term draws to an end, and we all look ahead to whatever joys we have planned for our week off, it is worth looking back at the first half of this academic year. We started the year with our school improvement theme of being **Ready to Learn. Empowered to Teach**. The focus of which was ensuring a consistency in our standards and expectations of student behaviour and how it was managed, alongside upskilling our staff to not only be better practitioners, but also aware as to the research behind what makes effective teaching.

It would be fair to say, there have been huge challenges that we have had to face, most of which are common across schools nationally: struggles with recruitment, increasing levels of SEND need, student mental health issues. There have also been those challenges specific to us here at DLS – most notably the academisation process.

Nevertheless, we have arrived at the halfway mark with the school in a better place than when we started the year in September, notably: the ongoing development of our teaching through the Science of Learning Programme for staff, the development of our SEND provision through our Thrive groups, our expanded Student Support staffing teams, work on improving the fabric of the building, restructuring and streamlining of our governing board, starting our switch to non-teaching pastoral teams, revamping our extra-curricular offer and improving the Catholic Lie and Ethos across the school.

Looking ahead to the next half of the year, our focus will be on the final stages of Year 11 GCSE preparation, supporting our Year 9 in their options choices, preparing and staffing our curriculum and timetable for next year, celebrating our Year 11 students' successes, welcoming our new intake students after 1st March School Places Day as well as everything else that goes into running a multi-million-pound organisation with almost 1500 people in it.

STEM Champions

Congratulations to our Year 8 students who took part in the recent IET Faraday Stem Challenge which was held at Dixons Academy in Fazakerley. Our team of Nyomi Adepetun, Matthew Allen, Jessica Cottam, Evan Feeny, Lara Goodwin and Tess Mullen saw off fierce competition from 4

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

other schools to run out winners of this round. We now wait to hear if they have made the National Final.

Shakespeare Schools Festival

Each year we take part in the Shakespeare Schools' Festival. This involves our students working on an abridged version of a Shakespeare play. They then have rehearsals in school, including a half day workshop with a creative consultant who provides input and advice on their performance. Then the students go to the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot for a dress rehearsal and evening performance along with 2 other schools. Our students this year performed the Winter's Tale, as the first of the 3 schools. The large cast performed brilliantly in the confined Playhouse stage, with the essence of the original text being brought poetically to life. Feedback from the judges was equally wonderful celebrating their characterisation and storytelling.

Lateness

Parents should have received an attendance newsletter with important information regarding all things attendance. One key piece of information, that parents should be aware of is the **registers close at 9 and anyone arriving after 9 will get an unauthorised absence**. Previously they closed at 9.30 but will change after half term to bring us in line with national guidance.

Year 9 Assessment Results
















Today we gathered our Year 9 students to provide them with their individual assessment results. Like a mini-version of last week's Year 11 mock results, the aim is to help raise the profile of these results with the students and support them focussing upon what they mean for their future. Mr Hale, who organised the event, said it went really well and opened up lots of discussions between the students themselves and also with the staff. Based on its success, it is something we will also look to do with our Year 8s later in the term.

Sporting Updates

Another busy week of fixtures and practices this week, including our Year 11s progressing in the Town Rugby Cup with a 36-8 victory over Rainhill, with POM being Lomax. Tonight, we have fixtures of Yr 8 netball and Year 10 football. Good luck to all the teams.

MUGA

At lunchtime, by far the most popular activity is football on the MUGA. It is great to see so many young people wanting to burn off that energy. However, its increased popularity has meant that we have had to introduce a rota system to ensure that the space remains safe for all those taking part. The current rota is below:

Year Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11					
10					
7					
8					
9					

Laetare CMAT Updates

At today's staff development day, we are being joined by Andy Bridson (our CEO) and Kieren Done (our CFO) for the morning sessions which are focusing upon Connecting to our Mission

Statement and staff training from the Anthony Walker Foundation. Then at lunchtime, the chair of the Laetare CMAT Directors, John Waszek, will be in to meet and greet with staff.

College Open Days

Below are the details of upcoming college open days.

- Cronton Sixth Form Exclusive Year 10 Open Event on Tuesday 25th February 5.30 – 7.30 pm.
- Riverside College open event on Tuesday 11th March (flyers attached)

Year 8 Families – DfE Programme (reminder)

The DfE are running an initiative called [Growing Up in the 2020s](#) and have informed us that one or more of our Year 8 students has been selected – though not provided details of who they are. This is a new national study of young people in England attending secondary school, and their families. By following young people and their families over time, the study aims to provide a contemporary understanding of how young people's school, home life and relationships shape their attainment, wellbeing, and post-16 destinations. The study focuses on the opportunities and challenges facing young people during an important time in their lives and when the effects of the pandemic are still being felt by some. Those involved will be contacted directly.

Upcoming Events

Mon 24th: School re-opens (usual time)

Tue 25th – Thu 27th: year 9 Vaccinations (and yr 10 catch up)

Tue 25th: Cronton and Riverside College Interviews (yr 11)

Mon 3rd – Fri 14th: Year 8 Assessment Window

Tue 4th: Year 10 Healthcare and STEM Skills Show educational visit

Tue 4th: Year 8 Think Fast educational visit

Wed 5th: Ash Wednesday Services

Thu 6th: Year 9 Options Evening (provisional date dependent upon rostra seating being fitted)

Sat 8th and Sun 9th: Year 10 DofE day walks

Tue 11th: Year 8 Think Fast educational visit

Thu 13th: Yr 9 Parents' Evening

Sat 15th: Flame festival educational visit

Sat 15th: Mock Magistrates Competition

Wed 19th: Blood Brothers visit (yr 10)

Thu 20th: Aspire Liverpool EV (yr 10)

Thu 20th: Song Writing Workshop (yr 9)

Fri 21st – Sun 22nd: Faith Formation EV to Carfin Grotto Glasgow (yr 9)

Sat 22nd – Sun 23rd: DofE Bronze Expedition (yr 10)

Wed 26th: Experience of the Workplace EV (yrs 8 and 9)

Wed 26th: Local Governing Board Meeting (5pm)

Mon 31st – Fri 4th: Big Lent Walk

Mon 31st – Fri 4th: Shakespeare's Italy EV (yr 10)

Tue 1st – Thu 3rd: Yr 8 Careers Insight Days

Thu 3rd: Peripatetic Music Concert

Fri 4th: School finishes for Easter (3pm)

And finally...Traitors

Firstly, no – my flight didn't happen again last week – another weather cancellation. I try again on Tuesday next week. I might share my upcoming dates so that you can use them to know when the bad weather will be coming!

Elsewhere over the past couple of weeks, Mrs R has been very excited as the staff in her school have all been playing Traitors (as in the TV programme game). This isn't something I watch, but Mrs R loves it and has been giddy with the various twists and turns this week.

When she mentioned it, on the day it was starting, I said she had nothing to worry about as I thought she was one of the most devious and conniving people I knew. Even when I added “*I mean that in a good way*” she didn’t real take it as a compliment.

Nevertheless, it has been fun to watch the twists and turns as Mrs R started out as a faithful and, avoiding being killed off or banished, she had identified 2 traitors very quickly. Then on one of our evening walks, her phone went with the message that she had been recruited as a traitor. It was like watching a child on Christmas morning she was that excited.

As each day has gone by, step by step, she avoided detection, sowed seeds of doubt about others and reached the final. In a nerve-wracking final firepit (apparently the thing that happens at the end) there were 4 left 2 faithful and 2 traitors. After the first round of votes: Mrs R and one of the faithful both had 2 votes each. Both were allowed to make a short statement and Mrs R’s Machiavellian skills came to the fore. First one faithful, then the other were voted off – leaving Mrs R and her fellow traitor as victors – or as I pointed out – the two most devious and conniving!

Have a good weekend,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher

**Riverside
College**

Widnes & Runcorn

Year 10 Open Event

**Tuesday 11th
March 2025
5pm - 7pm**



CRANTON
SIXTH FORM
COLLEGE

Year 10 Open Event

Tuesday 25th
February 2025
5.30pm - 7.30pm


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

2024

2020



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 APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025

Happy National Apprenticeship Week! We hope you enjoy any of the events that you have signed up for. It isn't too late so check out [the events list here](#) and register for anything you're interested in.



This [Rapid Read bundle](#) has been created for teachers, students, parents and carers, employers and anyone looking to expand their knowledge of apprenticeships and other vocational routes. This bundle contains a range of quick-read information on Apprenticeships, T Levels and much more!

There is also a [collection of rapid reads](#) for SEND learners that offer guidance on finding an inclusive employer, application support, functional skills and the types of on-programme support available for apprentices with additional needs.

You can use the Amazing Apprenticeship's "[Meet the Employer zone](#)" to learn more about different employers, what apprentices they look for and how their recruitment processes work.

If you're not sure where to start with Apprenticeships, a good place to begin your journey is with [these online quizzes](#). You can test your knowledge on apprenticeships, guess the apprenticeship being described and learn about apprenticeship standards by matching them to their descriptions.



Quiz

The [Apprenticeship Arcade](#) provides a suite of games offering an interactive and fun way for you to explore and learn about apprenticeships. You can access all the games under the title "For Students to Play Independently".

Parents and Carers can [read and subscribe to this magazine](#) to stay up to date with the latest Apprenticeship news.

LATEST
NEWS

JOB OF THE WEEK



[Graphic Designer](#)

A graphic designer uses art and technology to create images and layouts that communicate ideas. They may work on websites, printed pages, and other marketing materials.

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

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

There are around 25,000 apprenticeship vacancies available online at any one time.

Most apprentices start work between the ages of 19 and 24 compared to 15 and 17 in 1914.

[Source](#)

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

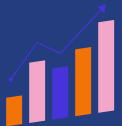
CAREERS NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITIES



Each year, Leonardo seeks to attract enthusiastic people to join one of their [highly regarded apprenticeships programme](#). They are a large employer of engineering, business, and cyber apprentices in the UK, with over 400 graduates and apprentices in training at different facilities across the country.



This [informative blog](#) highlights some of the key trends and developments in the job market this year, including a surge in demands for tech skills and the importance of soft skills.



This [useful UCAS guide](#) explains the process once UCAS receives an application, covering aspects such as types of decision the universities can make, replying to offers and important dates.



The [January post from the FutureSmart Careers blog](#) is packed full of useful information for those interested in a career focused on space exploration. It highlights the huge range of different careers within the sector, companies that offer apprenticeships and podcasts, MOOCs and other resources to help you find out more.



The University of Derby has teamed up again with alumnus, educational expert and well-known Gogglebox star, Baasit Siddiqui, to launch this year's competition [Get Ready to Podcast 2025](#).



Volunteering abroad is a great way to combine travel and giving something back during a gap year; you can connect with a community and a new culture while contributing to projects that support people and the planet. [This article outlines some of the best countries in which to volunteer in 2025.](#)



Brixton Finishing School offer a range of [FREE online courses](#) designed to upskill you and teach you more about the creative industries. Their courses allow you to explore the many types of roles on offer and learn from industry experts and employers.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

“Leonardo is a global industrial group that builds technological capabilities in Aerospace, Defence & Security.

The company plays a prominent role in major international strategic programmes and is a trusted technological partner of governments, defence agencies, institutions and enterprises.”

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

UNI SPOTLIGHT

“Leaders in politics, business, and academia require knowledge that goes beyond the limitations of our current higher education system. Help create a new university focused on empowering students with the knowledge and skills necessary to tackle social and global issues head-on.”

Read more about [The London Interdisciplinary School's Courses here.](#)

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