

Catholic Life at De La Salle

34th Week of Ordinary Time



3 OF OUR 4 PODCASTERS CHATTING WITH JESSICA DREW AFTER RECORDING

This week we have had Formation Week, as we do each month, and we started the week with the first of our Core Conferences led by SVP Youth. We started Tuesday and Thursday with Mass in St Teresa of Avila with form classes from Year 7 and 8 and today (Friday) Sam is out of school to meet with other Chaplains from across the Archdiocese.

This Week

Formation week is a big operation with groups from across the school being brought together for their own personal, spiritual and emotional development. Each of our students have very different missions in their lives and we love to offer them tailored and bespoke opportunities to learn more about themselves and the role they have within our school, the community and the wider world.

Through formation, our students develop and strengthen their sense of purpose and confidence in their ability to make change and do good in the world. This often paves the way for students to take leading roles on projects, activities and events that mean something to them...just like our Core Conferences!

Core Conference is a concept that SVP Youth discussed together at the start of this academic year. The students aim to take our Core Values and place them at the heart of themed conferences throughout the year. This week we have our Respect Conference; YOUTH29. This conference was all about respecting our environment and protecting our planet to the best of our ability.

Core Conference 1: Respect; YOUTH29

YOUTH29 was a huge success on Monday. We had Year 5 students from across our local primary schools join us for the day as we thought about climate change, discussed climate migration, took part in creative workshops and made pledges to do our little bit to protect our wonderful planet.

From start to finish, the conference was completely student led. Sam P and Joshua L hosted our conference and led us through the day clearly and effectively. Nicole R, Elijah H, Elspeth O' and Charlotte H took the lead on our interview with Jessica Drew and offered us an opportunity to ask questions about climate change and climate migration. James L and Laila T prepared and delivered a wonderful workshop for primary school students, they took old T-shirts and re-worked them, turning them into carrier bags and giving

them a new life. Molly C and Libby G helped us to close the day with a wonderful closing pledge. Many other SVP Youth students were small group leaders for this conference and helped people through conversations and discussions throughout the day.

Mr Odley, one of our student teachers in Geography prepared a wonderful workshop that gave students a platform to raise their voice and explore what they would prioritize if they were world leaders for the day!

Express Your Interest

Just a reminder that we launched the expression of interest for a number of opportunities last week. We have interest forms open for FLAME, Year 10 St Cassian's Trip and our Year 11 Mindfulness Day. Please be aware that the deadline for the expression of interest is **December 1st** so please do respond as soon as possible.

HOPE '24

You can see our poster on our socials for Hope '24. We're in desperate need of donations for our campaign this year. At the moment, donations have been very slow and our food pantry supply is running very low. We're asking form classes to bring in £24 and as a class they can decide if they'd like to donate their money to Mary's Meals or to our school food pantry for the families in our community who need it most.

Our Next Theme

Next week is the start of Advent, finally! At this time of year we use the colour purple within our displays and materials produced for times of prayer and liturgy. This colour is symbolic of anticipation, penitence, and spiritual preparation. It is a season of waiting and preparation for the arrival of Jesus into our hearts and lives.

The theme of our prayer and liturgy will be; **Advent**. The theme for the first week of Advent is all about hope. Next week our Prayer and Liturgy will be lead by Form Captains in each year group. They have worked so hard on preparing their resources, we can't wait to hear them!

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

All of the students involved in the Core Conference, YOUTH29 were absolutely incredibly and inspiring. The line of the day just has to go to Elijah from our podcast team. He wrapped up our interview with Jessica Drew (PhD student from Edge Hill) with:

"The way we see it, climate change is like a bully and what we need to do is stand up to it."

We're so proud of the young people in our school who are active citizens and making a real difference in our community!

Pray for us...

Christ the King, as we bring this liturgical year to an end, help our hearts to become ready to prepare a way for you during Advent. May we remember today that you were given as a gift to show God's love for us. Be near us and walk with us through the patterns of our lives.