

Easter Newsletter from the Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Spring is definitely here as the sun shines, the trees blossom and the birds welcome us with heavenly song each morning. The days are longer and even our TY students have been busy planting flowers in the school garden with Horticulturalist Dympna Kirk.



For our exam years Spring time means more daylight hours to revise and study for the fast approaching State Exams. I know it's the last thing your 3rd Year or 6th Year son might want to do during the holiday season, but this is a crucial time and the investment in study now will pay dividends with better exam results in August and September. If they put in the work now and for the rest of the academic year they will be able to have a carefree and enjoyable Summer Holiday. Switching off mobile phones and a balance between study, exercise and social time is advised. I also want to remind the rest of the year groups that we have a very short Summer Term this year and that Summer Exams will commence on Friday 24th May, so it is advisable that all students do some revision and preparation during the Easter Break. As ever I want to remind families that After School Study runs each day for three hours after school.

School Building and Facilities

Over the past number of years we have raised considerable funds to improve the facilities of the school. We have upgraded the Library, the Library Wall, Toilet Facilities, Computer Room, Conference Room, Assembly Hall, Canteen Kitchen, Music Practice Rooms and have introduced an Accelerated Reader System. We take great pride in the fact that all of this was achieved because of the combined hard work of all those in the school community, staff, parents and students.

Alongside the fund raising efforts we have been knocking on the doors of the Department and of our local politicians to help us with our School Development Project. So it is with great delight that I can let you know that this term we have been granted €311, 000 to replace the Art Room in the College. Plans are already underway and the hope is to start work later in the Summer Holidays with a view to having a new Art Room ready for our return after Christmas. Unfortunately our request for Emergency Funding to resurface the school yard was unsuccessful but we have plans to reapply under another scheme. So fingers crossed we will have better luck next time! In the mean time we will continue to work together to fundraise as much as we can to improve the school and its facilities for your sons.

Fund Raising – De La Salle Day Draw

On May 17th we are holding our De La Salle Day Draw and plan with the funds we raise to invest in new canteen furniture for the Assembly Hall and also to provide some new furniture outside which can be enjoyed on sunny days.

Your son has been given a book of raffle tickets. In this pack there are five raffle tickets, each costing €5. **We are asking that every student in the school sells at least one book so please support DLSC by ensuring that happens.** We also have incentivised our students. Once they sell four of the tickets they can sell the 5th ticket and keep the €5 or they can put their own name on the ticket at no cost and put it in the pot.

Thank you as always for your support and we look forward to celebrating another successful school raffle on De La Salle Day 2019.

Annual De La Salle Day Draw
May 17th 2019

Ticket Number **5630**

TICKETS €5

In aid of our School Development Fund

1st prize
€500 CASH

2nd prize
2 x tickets to IRELAND v WALES 2020

3rd prize
€200 Supervalu Voucher

OTHERS INCLUDE
2 Glenside Vouchers - €100 each
2 Supervalu Vouchers - €150 each
Howard's Way Meal for 2 with Wine
Signed Rugby Ball
Signed Irish Rugby Jersey

Annual De La Salle Day Draw
May 17th 2019

RECTA SAPERE
DE LA SALLE

RECTA SAPERE
DE LA SALLE

Purchaser:
Tear off this card and keep it safe

I would like to also thank Supervalu, The Glenside, Howards Way and all our local sponsors for their ongoing support and generous donations to all of our fund raising initiatives throughout the year.

Fund Raising – Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Thank you to parents and members of the community who generously supported the recently held bag packing fund raiser in Supervalu. The monies raised will help fund four students to attend the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in September where

they will act as helpers for the pilgrims. Our TY Students were also out on Daffodil Day helping to raise vital funds for Cancer Research.



IT Grant

We also received more good news with regard to IT funding before the Easter Holidays. We now have an IT grant of €19,000 and we have a plan to invest it in two Portable Rechargeable Laptop Trolleys each housing thirty Chromebooks, one for each of the main school buildings. We are also going to purchase two digital video cameras for the school, in particular as a resource for teachers and students when carrying out Junior Cycle CBA tasks. This investment in IT equipment is part of our Digital Strategy Plan to promote the use of IT in the classroom and to improve the learning environment for our students. Mr Byrne our IT Coordinator is currently sourcing best deals for the school.

Whole School Evaluation - MLL

We had a visit from the DES Inspectorate for a Whole School Inspection- Management, Leading and Learning (WSE MLL) at the beginning of the term. They were particularly impressed with the behaviour of students and acknowledged the hard work of the Board of Management, Senior Management, Staff and Students. They also noted the strong Pastoral Care System and the wide variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities on offer to our students. We welcomed their advice and support and a strategic plan is being put in place to address the recommendations. I would like to thank all parents who completed questionnaires which informed the report. This report is now available on the DES Website.

Showcasing Music and Talent in DLSC - Talent Show

One of the areas we plan to develop and strengthen in DLSC is the Creative Arts. We want more musicians, bands, singers, artists, writers, dancers, actors, and comedians etc. to emerge and develop their talents throughout their school years with us. So as a first step I am delighted to announce that we are hosting our first ever **Salles Got Talent on Thursday 9th May in the Assembly Hall at 7pm**. This show is being organised by staff and our 6th Year Prefects. Auditions have been held and the committee assure me that it will be a great night of entertainment. There is also a rumour that there may be some surprise guest performances happening on the night! We would love everyone to come, support and encourage our talented students. It will be a great night of fun and entertainment. More details to follow! Special thanks to Eoghan O' Neill, Ms. Plunkett, Ms Mazzucato, Mr Kirwan and Adam Dunne 6th Year Prefect for all their hard work on the organising committee.



Speaking of talent, the staff and students would like to congratulate a 6th Year student Peadar Kelly and the DIT Senior Horn Group who won the Anchor Cup recently at the 2019 Feis Ceoil.



Parent Teacher Meetings

Fifth and First Year Parent Teacher Meetings were also held in January. It is important that parents/guardians attend these meetings as it is an opportunity to meet with your son's teachers to discuss his progress.

Junior Cycle Updates

It is a busy time for Junior Cycle students as they study for exams and complete their projects and Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs). Woodwork and DCG projects are completed as the deadline was the Friday before the holidays. CSPE and RE projects will be finished and submitted in the coming weeks so please encourage your son to complete his to the highest standard.

A Junior Cycle Information Evening was organised earlier in the term for 2nd year parents and students. If you were unable to attend Mr Chambers (Junior Cycle Coordinator) has sent parents an email with the following attached documents which will help you to understand the changes taking place at Junior Cycle:

- Presentation explaining the changes to the Junior Cert/Cycle.
- Key terms explained.
- Junior Cycle Information Flyer for Parents.

Further information is available on the Junior Cycle website www.jct.ie.



Staff CPD

The ongoing professional development of staff continued this term with teachers attending a Cluster New Junior Cycle Training Day for their second subject. They also received follow on training in the area of Differentiation and on the new model of SEN

Special Needs Provision in schools. Congratulations to Mr Brennan, Mr O' Reilly and Ms. Mc Dermott who completed the Le Chéile Middle Management Course this term.

Guidance Department Update – 6th Years

It has been a busy year for Ms Franklin in the Guidance Department, especially advising and supporting 6th Year students as they make decisions about college, apprenticeships and careers.

Guest Speakers were invited from various Universities, Colleges, Institutes of Technology and DDLETB to make presentations to 6th year students and students were facilitated to attend Open Days of interest to them from November on.

In January Central Application Office - **CAO Information Evening** for Parents and Students took place, providing information on the CAO application process, 3rd level entry requirements, CAO offer process, HEAR & DARE access routes and the SUSI Student Grants Scheme. By the 1st February students had made their applications to CAO and from February to April some students engaged in the application process to the Higher Education Access Route – **HEAR** and the Disability Access Route to Education – **DARE**. **Please remember that the SUSI Grant Application opens on 25th April 2019 and the CAO Change of Mind reopens on 6th May 12.00 and remains open until 1st July @ 17.15pm**

On the 23rd March some of our sixth year students attended the **Ireland Skills Live** event in the RDS. The event is part of a Government strategy to promote skills in apprenticeship, traineeship and graduate courses and to encourage positive engagement with career choices that provide learning and earning potential from the first day of registration.

A special word of thanks to Ms Fiona Burke(ETB Training Centre, Loughlinstown) who came to the school recently to offer support and information to students who are interested in pursuing apprenticeships.

Subject Choices – Transition Year

The Differential Aptitude Tests for Guidance (DAT's) took place for all TY students in March. Students received individual feedback on their results. This information can be useful in Subject Choice Selection for the Leaving Certificate and for Career and Course Choice for Third Level.

At the beginning of March all Subject Teachers made presentations to TY students in order to give them an overview of the subjects and the programmes covered in 5th and 6th year. Students found this very useful in helping them to make their subject choice decisions. On the 28th March **Subject Choice Information Evening** took place for all TY students and their parents. Final Subject Choice decision for Fifth Year 2019/2020 was made by all TY students by Friday 5th April.

Literacy News - Accelerated Reading Program Update

35,962,029 words! This is how many words our students have read through our Accelerated Reader Program this year. We are increasing our students' literacy levels more than ever before and with this will increase their ability to access the curriculum and the world around them. Just recently, we awarded seven students who became members of the exclusive Millionaires Club and have this year read over one million words. While this is a commendable feat, our aim is to get all of our students reading at the level that is right for them and therefore improve their relationship with reading and the joys that can be experienced from being engrossed in a book. Our newly refurbished library is now a hub of activity for the whole school but is also a place of silence and learning where every day you will find classes sitting together quietly engrossed in their chosen book. We will continue to improve the literacy levels of all of our students and with it they will continue to reap the joys of the written word.



Wellbeing Week

Wellbeing week took place in February thanks to the planning and coordination of the teachers on the Wellbeing Committee. Random Acts of Kindness, Mindfulness Colouring Practice, An Anti- Bullying Workshop, 1st and 2nd year Football Blitz , Mixed Year Groups Tug of War, and a Multi- Cultural Day were some of the enjoyable and interesting events held during the week.





Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge followed in March –time to celebrate our national language and culture on the run up to St Patrick’s Day. Students took part in table quizzes and had some outdoor fun taking part in the Poc Fada and the GAA Football Match. Mr Chambers and members of his Trad Group very kindly gave of their time to treat students and staff to a thoroughly enjoyable Traditional Music session and workshop. 6th Years also had the opportunity during this week to attend an Irish Show in Axis Theatre in Ballymun.



Literacy & Numeracy Week

Literacy & Numeracy Week was held in April - a week to highlight the value of literacy and numeracy skills. Throughout the week the English and Maths Department set literacy and numeracy tasks and riddles for the students to master. Each day, time was set aside for students to Drop Everything and Read and students came together in the library at lunchtime for the Write a Story Challenge. The Debate Club also hosted a most enjoyable Student/Teacher Debate with the motion School Destroys Creativity. The teachers who were proposing the motion were victorious but there were strong arguments and eloquent speeches from every member of both teams. Well done to Ms. Tully and Harvey Tsondai (6th Year) who were voted the Best Speakers on the day!



The week ended with TY, 5th and 6th Year students attending a most enjoyable spoken word/rap experience from MissElayneous.



Congratulations to 5th Years Jack Brady, Jack Kenny and John Loy who were winners of the lunchtime Literacy and Numeracy Quiz and to Patrick Riordan (6th Yr), Jack Brady (5th Yr), Dominic Lagura (TY), Omar Mohammed (3rd Yr), James Lawlor (2nd Yr) and Brendan Mc Garry (1st Yr) winners of the writing competition.



Active School Week

The month of May will see our PE Teacher Mr O' Neill host the Annual Active School Week. This year the Irish Wheelchair Association Sport has been chosen as our charity partner for the week. The week is packed with different activities giving our students, staff and even parents the opportunity to try new activities. **On Thursday 2nd May at 11.15am - 12pm: there will be an Aerobics Class for Parents. This is for all parents, from complete novices to aerobic experts. Please come along for some physical exercise and a lot of fun!** For updates please follow @DeDepartment on Twitter.



De La Salle College Active School Week 29th April – 3rd May

Events include:

Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, Aerobics Class for Parents, Mind & Body Class for Teachers & 6th Years, Special Needs Tag Blitz, Parkrun Sign-up & League, Surf & Sandboarding Trip, Local Club Information, Penalty Shootout, Multi-Year Tug of War, Healthy Snack Tasters, Tracksuit/Shorts Day, 60km School Run, Whole School Challenge, Sports Day

Sports Program Update

This year more training sessions have been held and games played than the school has done in many years. We are delighted with the introduction of the mandatory 1st Year Sports Program. We are building our sports portfolio and with it the well-being and character of our students. Badminton has had huge success reaching finals at different age groups and in particular our U19's winning the Dublin finals. Basketball similarly reached an all-Ireland final losing in a closely fought game to Newry High School. Our much anticipated Football Season has kicked into gear with games already played against St. Benildus, St. Tiernans and still further fixtures to be played in the remaining term of the year against St. Gerard's and St. Declan's. Thus far our 1st Year side has represented the school well and we look forward to our Senior and Junior sides doing the same. Our Athletics Season is also starting up and we wish our athletes the best of luck in Santry in the coming weeks. Rugby continues to grow in the school and in particular with our younger students. Over ten of our current 1st Year players are involved with the Leinster Metro Development Side and we look forward to seeing them grow and represent the school over the coming years.



Sport Ireland in its recent research into the levels of activity and sport in secondary schools made one recommendation. **INCREASED PARTICIPATION.** This is exactly what we are doing - more balls being passed, more shots being taken, more miles being run, more friends and memories being made. We will continue to develop our sports program and with it the character and well-being of our students.

School Tour to Berlin and Krakow

On March 3rd, teachers and TY and 5th Year students flew to Krakow, Poland. In Krakow they visited the Wieliczka Salt Mines where they descended 315m below the surface to learn about how the mines worked, its historical purposes and how it has been preserved by restoration projects. This was followed by a trip to the Concentration Camp of Auschwitz Birkenau. There they met with a Holocaust survivor who gave them an insight into how this brutal event in history affected both people inside and outside

the camp. They also visited the Main Square in Krakow, which is one of the largest medieval town squares in Europe and had great fun in Park Wodny Water Park. The group then travelled to Berlin to see the many famous attractions -Museum Island, The Brandenburg Gate, remains of the Berlin Wall, The Reichstag and Berlin Zoo. I have no doubt this was a trip of a lifetime for many of our students and want to express my gratitude to Ms Jordan, Mr Cronin, Mr Forde and Mr Brennan for their organisation and management of the trip.



Other School Trips

This term the 5th year Geography group had a very productive and enjoyable day when they went to Kippure Adventure Centre in Wicklow. They went there in order to do their fieldwork investigation which must be completed as part of the Leaving Certificate Geography Course. A very productive, fun but wet day was had by all!



The First Years enjoyed a great day out with their History teachers when they were taken to Dublinia to learn about Viking Ireland. The Transition Year students paid a visit to the very interesting Epic The Irish Emigration Museum and famous Croke Park Stadium. The rugby coaches treated the rugby teams to an end-of-season trip south, to see a Munster game and to be put through their own paces at Fota Adventure Centre. A huge thank you to all the teachers involved in organising these enjoyable and educational events for the students.





Ethos News – Le Chéile

In February Le Chéile celebrated their 10th Anniversary AGM in Athlone and members of the Board of Management, Staff and Students were in attendance. DLSC was proudly represented by Ms Mazzucato, one of the Le Chéile Student Support Teachers and our Fifth Year Mentors, Jack Brady and Robert Gay who participated in the student workshops and the Liturgical Celebration.



Ethos News – La Salle

As you already know this 2018-2019 Academic Year is a very special year for all De La Salle Schools around the World as we are celebrating the Tercentenary of the death of John Baptist De La Salle.

We were very proud of the group of our Lasallian First Years who took part in the Lasallian Competition in Castletown with some great projects and videos on the De La Salle Then and Now theme. On the 6th April, a group of staff and students went to Knock where they were joined by representatives of all the De La Salle Schools in Ireland for a very special Tercentenary Celebratory Liturgy.

Indeed the celebrations are not over yet! The Animation Team in DLSC is also planning a week- long series of events culminating with the De La Salle Day Liturgy on May 17th and the great tradition of an Ice-Cream treat for afters! We look forward to welcoming back all the staff on retirement and friends and supporters of DLSC. It promises to be a very special week in the College and the team will keep you posted!



Community Links

The school is delighted to strengthen links with the local community and this term our TY Students have not only completed their Sports Coaching Module in the local primary schools but they also ran a Coding Programme with the primary students in the Good Shepherd Primary School. TY also introduced a new initiative to their programme of events this year when they facilitated a computer course in the school, for men as part of the SHEDs Programme. These projects were a great success and very well done to all who were involved.



Community Links – Primary Schools

This term we also welcomed the teachers and students from local Primary Schools into DLSC to have an experience of a day in Secondary School. Students got an opportunity to do experiments in the Science Lab, learn some French in Language Class and to make and paint a wooden money box in with the Woodwork Technology and Art Departments. A huge thank you to all the teachers involved in the planning and hosting of the events and also to the 5th Year Mentors who welcomed the younger students and were great ambassadors for the school.

Community Links - Past Pupils

As part of our School Development Plan we are looking to build closer ties to the Past Pupil Community, starting with a Past Pupils Section in this newsletter and the Student Publication Sallemenac. We will rely on past pupils to contribute to these sections of the two publications. If you have any news of relevance to the past pupil body we ask you to email it to newsletter@delasallecollege.com. Items of interest might include reunions, deaths, special or outstanding achievements etc. Our TY Media Team is very interested in doing Past Pupil Profiles -a way to encourage and inspire our current students. We want to build up our data base so please do not hesitate to reconnect and make contact with the school. This was and always will be your school!

De La Salle Palmerston win the Spencer Cup

Congratulations to De La Salle Palmerston FC Senior XV on their recent victory in the Spencer Cup final, the team was made up of several past pupils including Matt Curran who captained the side. It was no doubt an honour for the current President of Leinster Rugby and fellow past pupil, Mr Lorcan Balfe, to present Matt with the cup.



The Student Council

The Student Council have had a busy this term. Under the guidance of Mr Chambers they have held regular meetings and a number of Lunchtime Student Clinics to find out the issues and priorities of the student body. This year they have met with the Inspectors from the DES, the Board of Management and with Senior Management to discuss their plans and issues. It has been a pleasure to work with such a positive and forward thinking group of students and as a result of their efforts Soccer is now a sport

on offer to students in DLSC. Their vigilance has also ensured that we have tested the drinking water and replaced the access to drinking water in the school yard. Toilets are now monitored on a regular basis each day by the Caretaker to ensure that hygiene and safety standards are maintained. Also as a result of a generous donation to the school, the student council will work with staff to decide on new books for the Library. They have also been a part of discussions in relation to the purchasing and fundraising for outdoor and canteen furniture. I know the Board, Mr Kirwan and I look forward to working with the Student Council on many projects together into the future.



The Parents' Association

As always our Parents' Association have been hard at work. This term they provided refreshments on the Junior Cycle Night for 2nd Year Parents and are part of the committee preparing for our first ever Salles Got Talent Show. They are also helping to promote the DLS Day Fund Raising Draw, as well as preparing for the Sixth Year Graduation Night.

We will be losing some very dedicated and long standing members of the Committee this summer as their sons will be graduating in May. The Parents' Association is looking for new members. The school works very closely with the Parents' Association and we need a strong vibrant Parents' Association so we can continue to work in partnership to make DLSC the best school it can possibly be. Please contact Reception for more details.

School/Home Communication

This Easter Newsletter is the third newsletter of the year. Please let Reception know if you did not receive a copy of the Midterm and Christmas Newsletters. I also hope you all enjoyed reading the second issue this year of our Student Publication - Sallesmanac – a School Magazine which was emailed to all families earlier this month. Well done to Mr Boyd and the TY Media Team who put it together.

I hope all families have usernames and passwords for VShare and are able to access your son's school reports and profile of attendance and behaviour. **The school must have up-to-date addresses, mobile numbers and email addresses** as we regularly

text and email you throughout the year. Please contact your son's Year Head if there are any problems with these forms of communication.

For ongoing up to date information on what is happening in the College please follow our Twitter page **@DeLaSalleCtown**. This is updated on a regular basis and captures the many activities and events that take place in DLSC throughout year. We are also in the process of upgrading the school website www.delasallecollege.com and hope it is ready for launching at the beginning of the new school year!

A lot to read I know!! There is so much going on in De La Salle College it is impossible to capture in a few words. I hope you find the newsletter informative and that it pays homage to the great work of the DLSC Community – students, staff, parents and the local community. Thanks again for your support and generosity. I wish you and your family the blessings of this Easter Season. Enjoy the rest of the holidays!

Yours sincerely,

Siobhán Foster

Principal