

De La Salle Download



January - July 2020 Edition



Headteachers Notes - July 2020

As we end what has been the most unusual year we have seen in recent history, it seems impossible that a whole academic year has passed since me starting here last September. I want to start by conveying a heartfelt thanks to all stakeholders involved with the school. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that all students receive the best possible remote education and that we have been able to open to those who needed to be in. Governors have supported the school by working closely with me to ensure we continue to meet the needs of all. Parents have supported young people at home with their learning, often in challenging circumstances and the young people have been exceptional in all that they have achieved at home. I really cannot thank you all enough.

We are still busy making the final preparations for our reopening to all students in September. As soon as these plans are final, I will of course share all details with you. I expect to be in a position to share these details with you in the final week of July at the very latest.

As you flick through the pages of the wonderful achievements of our students from the last two terms, I hope it will remind you of the fantastic family we are here at De La Salle. I hope that over the summer break you are able to enjoy some time of rest and recuperation before we start again in September.

I look forward to welcoming Year 7 and 11 back to school on Friday 4th September 2020 with the full school returning on Monday 7th September.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy summer break.

Mr Norris

Reminder to all Year 7, 8 and 10 Students

"Reminder to Year 7, 8 and 10 students and parents that you will be receiving your annual school reports in the post over the next couple of weeks. The reports are based on the academic progress made from September 2019 to March 20th 2020. The attendance percentage on the report, and comments from Form Tutors and the Head of Year is also based on this period. The reports do not reflect the overall progress that the students may have made had school carried on in the normal way until July."

Mr. D. Fogarty - Assistant Headteacher



'Why not languages?' event, Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics Faculty, University of Cambridge, 15 January

Report by Rebecca B

I very much enjoyed the trip to Cambridge that I feel so grateful to have experienced it. It was intriguing, interesting and informative and I enjoyed every second. We started off with an extremely informative and detailed presentation about why learning languages is so important, and its many benefits, such as boosting confidence and social skills. We got to ask Cambridge students questions and listen to their varied experiences of studying abroad, and studying languages at Cambridge University and their daily life and costs of study. We also learnt about how languages can help you to get a job and this took place in one of Cambridge's lecture theatres.

Then we had a detailed tour of Queens' College with amazing buildings, seeing the Library, student rooms and gym and the overall campus.

I really enjoyed my visit and hope to return soon. What I took away with me is with hard work and dedication, you can achieve absolutely anything. It makes me more determined and motivated to get to where I want to be!



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Readers are nice people – strange but true!

How apt that, in the same week as World Book Day, a survey has shown that readers are nicer (yes, really!) because they are more inclined to feel and show empathy. There are lots of reasons to read, but that has to be my favourite! On World Book Day, I thought about how books have influenced me over the years, and felt that reading had helped improve my understanding of people from cultures and eras very different to my own.

I also thought about how things have changed – when my children were little, we had a stack of Enid Blyton and Roald Dahl cassettes in the car for long journeys and now my great nephews and nieces download audio books on their iPhones before travelling! I admit to having 'borrowed' a full set of Michael Morpurgo audio books when we travelled to Wales recently and, oh boy, did it make the journey fly! We needed a lot of tissues though.

My recommendation this term is *Anne of Green Gables* by L M Montgomery. One of a good selection of classic children's fiction in the school library which never lose their magic and are a great preparation for reading pre-20th century fiction in the Upper School.

A novel which allows you to accompany the heroine, Anne Shirley, on her journey into adulthood and thus to enjoy, empathise and laugh at her experiences.

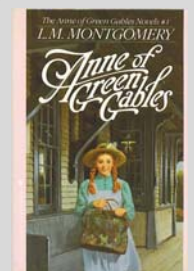
Set on Prince Edward Island in the early 20th century, the story includes elements of escapism – life then was slow and people (on the whole) cared about each other – but includes ideas which will be all too familiar to the 21st century reader, such as friendship, success, popularity, romance and teenage angst.

The heroine is adopted by an elderly couple who are struggling to cope with their farm. Anne's placement was the result of an error – they had asked for a teenage boy – but they are enchanted by Anne by the first evening (as the reader is.) Anne is no Pollyanna; she has an uncontrollable need to be honest at all times – but her insatiable romanticism, wild imagination and infinite capacity for affection make her an appealing and unforgettable heroine. Recommended for: Years 7-8.

If you enjoy this, you might also enjoy *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott and *What Katy Did* by Louisa May Alcott.

Happy reading!

Mrs. A. Smith - One to One English Tutor



Jack Petchey Award Winner for January

Jess W

Jess was nominated for her contributions to dance both inside and outside of school in particular her work with students who struggle due to disabilities.

Every month a student from a different year group will be nominated for their outstanding efforts and going above and beyond to achieve.

Mrs. N. Isaacson - Jack Petchey Coordinator



The Brilliant Club Graduation Trip

Twelve Year 9 students were chosen at the start of the year to be part of The Brilliant Club and take part in the Scholars Programme. The idea behind the programme was to inspire more students to aspire to go to highly-selective universities and give them the skills to help them continue on that path in the future. Over two terms they have completed seven tutorials with a PHD tutor on the subject 'What is News?' They had various assignments to complete as they went along and finally had to submit a university style essay that had to be 1500 words. I am happy to say all students were successful and passed with either a 1st, 2:1 or 2:2.

On Thursday 6th February, The Brilliant Club went for their Graduation visit to Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge where they were given a tour, told all about university life at Cambridge and finally there was a certificate presentation where all were called up to accept their certificates for graduating the programme. It was a lovely day and feedback from students has been very positive.

Miss. C. Burling

Lead Teacher of the Brilliant Club

Make Happen In-School Coordinator



Bletchley Park

6th February – The IT Department took 30 Year 9 students to visit to Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes - *Bletchley Park once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers*

“On the 6th of February we went to Bletchley Park. It was a great day out! The D-Day tour was helpful as we watched a short film which told us a lot about D-Day and how the messages were written during war. We also got told about the Enigma machine and the Bombe machine. We also had a workshop where we got to see how an Enigma machine worked and what it did during the war. The



Bombe machine was a big piece of equipment and helped Britain crack codes in less time. In my opinion it was a useful and amazing day out.” – Mya

“I think that Bletchley Park was a really cool experience” - Pius

“It was a very inspiring experience and it was very exciting to see the place that helped England to win the war” - Jaiden

“We found out how the Enigma machine works and got machines to work on.”- Tami

I enjoyed Bletchley Park and would like to return” - Kenny

Thank you to Mr Butler for accompanying the visit.

Mrs. F. McCallum & Mr. J. Sains IT Dept



Jack Petchey Award Winner for February 2020

Jessica L



Jessica L has been nominated for the Jack Petchey Award for February due to the numerous time and commitment she gives in aid of helping others as well as developing her own personal skill and achievements.

Jessica volunteers and gives up her time outside of school. She has spent time raising money for ‘Children in Need’. She also has a long standing commitment to a number of clubs outside of school such as football, basketball and scouts.

Mrs. N. Isaacson - Jack Petchey Coordinator



Enterprise Day

The Enterprise Day was pretty cool. I learnt a lot, especially from the Apprenticeship / NHS lady, because she explained a lot instead of doing an activity.

Saryiah S

I found the Enterprise Day a great way to understand what paths I can take after my GCSE's and it gave me a slight insight in what I could end up doing.

In the engineering session I learnt about team work and we were taught a lot about thermal cameras. The construction workshop showed me that a lot of work goes into planning and building. The NHS work show was where I gained the most information because I learnt a lot about apprenticeships and what I could become if I took a medical path.

Codie P

During our Enterprise day I learnt a lot about different apprenticeships and what different apprenticeships there are. In the Leonardo group we learnt about teamwork and looked at the use of thermal cameras. In the Anderson group we learnt about construction and different types of construction. In the NHS group we learnt about apprenticeships and jobs in the NHS. Overall I enjoyed the workshops and it gave me insight of higher education and more.

Ellie M

Enterprise was amazing. I had learnt so many fun facts I never knew and played some fun games. First I went to the NHS, we made a chatterbox to see what jobs we could get, we also learnt how much each job pays. Then I went to Leonardo, this was so cool! We looked at a thermal camera that can detect heat, we saw all of the heat differences between our hands and faces. We could even see through a plastic bag! However the camera could not see through glass, so everyone's glasses were black! Then I went to Andersons, this one was great fun! We made our own villages, we had to be careful with our money and had to keep up with calculations, this one was my favourite. Overall enterprise was so helpful and fun, it also showed me more available jobs out there!

April S

Dear Enterprise

Thank you for giving us a good experience of what you do. In my opinion Leonardo was the best because they let us use an £8000 camera and did some mind skills. These options were a good thing to do and if you wanted the NHS you had a talk about it and the apprenticeships. Andersons was a good option to go for because you got to look at how houses are laid out. So many people liked those options and many of them had apprenticeships. It is all personal preference what you want to do when you're older, so many people were very interested that they could learn about what they want to do.

Oakley L

Mark Massey

Year 11 had a visit from a photographer called Mark Massey, he discussed his new project photographing real 'Essex Girls' as a series of portraits, in order to challenge the pejorative, stereotypical portrayal.

Mark is based in Southend, he takes photos of people from all different areas and backgrounds and explains their story behind the photo. Mark has made this new project to 'challenge stereotypes'.

By having a visit from Mark Massey it has shown how someone has set up an independent project. It also shows how people on the outside work.

11C Photography, Kyla L



Student Profile Taylor V Year 11



My interest in Extinction Rebellion started when I realised the state we have got ourselves into, corrupt politicians, companies ruining later generation's future for profit and the issue our society has with want over need. It is easy to feel powerless with large issues like this, but XR gave the people a voice through non-violent protest and civil disobedience. My first experience with the group was in October of 2019 when XR occupied Trafalgar Square. The experience was unlike what I expected, as the protest atmosphere felt more like a street party of environmentally conscious folk than the riots the media had me prepared for.



I was interested in capturing the true nature of the Extinction Rebellion movement to share it with as many people as possible, even if I could change just a few peoples minds about the group, it would be worth it. I photograph the faces of XR, to show the individual people who make up this movement and also try to show the excessive amount of force used against peaceful protesters, whether it be the thousands of arrests made at the October protests or the rows and rows of police that occupy the outskirts of every demonstration.



Taking photography as an option taught me how to better express what I want to put across through different ways of presenting my work, it also gave me more of an excuse to get out and follow my photography and to make it more than a hobby. I have

always been interested in street photography and the more gritty run and gun style of photography so focusing on the XR movement in my work just made sense. Once I finish De La Salle, I am going on to study film and media production, where many of the skills I have learnt will be transferable, although I still hope to continue photography alongside my studies.

Taylor V



PE Results Update - March 2020

Training for all these sports has been ongoing and the participation for all the sports has been fantastic. As part of our KS3 curriculum the department runs an extra-curricular participation competition. If a student attends a certain number of clubs, they get a certificate: Bronze = 20 sessions, Silver = 45 sessions and Gold = 70 sessions. If a student attends more then it goes to a bronze, silver and gold badge instead. All the information for this can be found on the board in the corridor leading to the PE room.

Certificates will be given out to the following students:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Aituajie W – Silver	Diya S – Silver	Tilly H – Bronze
Isabel F - Silver	Cydney T – Silver	Annmaria S - Bronze
Chloe O – Silver	Hilary L – Bronze	Temi A – Bronze
Abbie P – Silver	Beatrice P – Bronze	Princess W - Bronze
Anna A – Bronze	Evie M – Bronze	Finley W - Silver
Casie C - Bronze	Tire A - Bronze	Ash W – Bronze
Macie - May F – Bronze	Stella A – Bronze	Cyprian I – Bronze
Bliss O – Bronze	Keira T - Bronze	Eromosele A – Bronze
R W - Bronze	Efe A – Bronze	Jaiden O - Bronze
Callum T – Bronze	Emmanuel O – Bronze	Kelly E – Bronze
Daniel B – Bronze		Coffey B – Bronze
Eric T – Bronze		Laolu C – Bronze
Esosa A – Bronze		Lucky E – Bronze
George M – Bronze		Prinna L – Bronze
Harrison J - Bronze		Romaine N – Bronze
Hayden W – Bronze		Tami A – Bronze
Jack K – Bronze		Tyler D - Bronze
Kingsley S – Bronze		
Kojo B – Bronze		
Thomas T – Bronze		
Vinnie T – Bronze		
Wisdom I - Bronze		

Girls Basketball Results:

Year Group	Opposition	Score	Player of the match
7	Beauchamps	WON 32-12	Anna A
7	Billericay	LOST 18-22	Chloe O
7	Mayflower	LOST 28-34	Isabel F
U14	Academy	DREW 22-22	Tilly H
U14	Billericay	LOST 13-32	Annmaria S
U14	James Hornsby	WON 18-16	Stella A
U14	Mayflower	LOST 5-58	Princess W
U16	Billericay	LOST 27-38	Dorlane B
U16	Mayflower	LOST 5-30	Abigail W
U16	Woodlands	LOST 13-40	Jess L

Essex Cup Netball Update

Both the U14 and U16 team got through to the last 16 of the Essex Cup Plate.

The U14 team played against Notley High School and were narrowly beaten 21-9. This was such an exciting game and it was goal for goal for most of the match but unfortunately Notley pulled away in the last 5 minutes. Our girls played really well and congratulations to Princess Williams who was nominated player of the match!

The U16 had a very difficult match against Frances Bardsley. We ended up losing 45-15 but our girls worked hard throughout the match and the scoreline does not reflect how well our girls played. This was also the last time the U16's played together as a team. Miss Rothwell and I would like to thank the girls for their hard work and dedication over the last 5 years to the team and hope that some of them do continue to play netball when they leave De La Salle.

BOYS FOOTBALL RESULTS

Year Group	Opposition	Score	Player of the match
7	James Hornsby	Won 56-3	George M
7	Billericay	WON 28-20	Kingsley S
7	Beauchamps	WON 26-12	Kingsley S
7	Mayflower	WON 36-20	Wisdom I
8	Beauchamps	WON 26-12	Kinsley S
9	Beauchamps	WON 32-13	Malachy O
Seniors	Mayflower	WON 32-20	Tolu K

BOYS BASKETBALL RESULTS

Year Group	Opposition	Score	Player of the match
7	Beauchamps	LOST 3-0	Iwo S
8	Beauchamps	LOST 10-1	Euan N
8	Billericay	DREW 3-3	Alfie D
8	James Hornsby	DREW 2-2	Max R
8	Mayflower	LOST 6-0	Alasane D
8	Woodlands	LOST 3-2	Nahry T
9	Academy	WON 8-6	Keane B
9	James Hornsby	WON 7-1	Cyprian I
Seniors	James Hornsby	WON 5-1	Harry P

What a fantastic basketball results Boys! Well done and keep up the good work!

District Swimming Gala

Just before February half term we entered the District Swimming Gala. We took a team of 14 swimmers over the Sporting Village to compete and we came back with 7 medals!

Congratulations to the following medal winners:

Cont'd.../

Year	Event	Name	Position
7	Boys Backstroke	Kingsley S	1 st place
7	Boys Individual Medley	Kingsley S	3 rd place
8	Boys Freestyle	Jack K	3 rd Place
8	Girls Backstroke	Lana B	2 nd place
8	Girls Individual Medley	Grace K	3 rd Place
9	Girls Backstroke	Francesca A	3 rd Place
9	Girls Freestyle	Emma T	3 rd Place

A big well done to all the other the swimmers that also took part:

Year 7

Kaitlyn M
Chloe O
Shalom W
Jack K

Year 8

Kacie K
Inah L
Jack S
Kai R

Year 9

Aimee C
Stig T



District Gymnastics Competition

On 7th Feb I took an U14 and U19 team to Chelmsford to participate in the District Gymnastics competition. The girls had been practicing hard for two-three times a week since November to perfect their floor routines and their vaults.

The standard of competition was very high and in both age groups we came 4th! This was a great achievement and showed the hard work and dedication of the girls. Well done to Lily D, Louise D, Amy C, Olivia F, Stella A, Katie T, Simem A, Grace M and Lily D.

Congratulations to the Year 10 sport studies class for achieving outstanding marks in the contemporary issues in their sport exam.

Top performances:

Bonnie W, Amy B, Jack R, Connor O, Elissa B

Well done!

Miss. C. Davies - Teacher of PE

Congratulations!





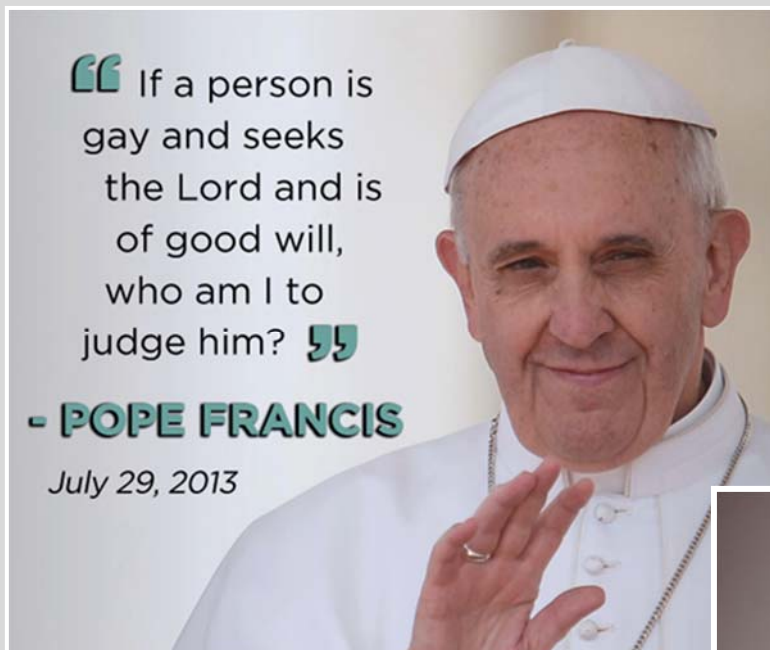
The RSE curriculum is based around 10 Principles of which number 5 is appropriate in raising awareness of LGBT matters within society and how the Catholic faith approaches and celebrates it.

Number 5. "Our deepest identity is as a child of God" Our children and young people need this deep truth planted, nurtured and burning in their hearts. They have been chosen and created by a loving God.

In society today, we're often asked to frame our identity in other ways. Are you gay, straight or bi? Are you male, female or a person with a fluid gender?

However, our identity as a child of God is deeper than our own self-understanding, our sexuality, religion, politics, gender, disability.

In the BBC series, The Pilgrimage, when Pope Francis was challenged by the British stand-up comedian Stephen K Amos to explain why he felt so ostracised by the Church because of his homosexuality, the Pope responded with compassion. He said: "Giving more importance to the adjective rather than the noun – this is not good. We are all human beings and have dignity. It does not matter who you are or how you live your life, you do not lose your dignity."



Stephen K Amos



Special Mention to

I would like to praise Melody L in Year 10 for her outstanding achievements and effort in Drama during lockdown. Melody's independent learning is excellent, her work throughout this process has been of high quality, interesting to mark and fantastic revision materials for her to use in the future. I am so pleased with her work, I also intend on sharing her work as exceptional examples with the rest of her cohort.

Mrs. K. King - Teacher of Drama

Maths Puzzle

There is a prize for the first person in each year group to return their completed puzzle to Mrs Curtis via the school email: info@dlsbasildon.org, prizes will be given out when we return to school.

Can You Solve

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} \text{Red Balloon} & + & \text{Red Balloon} & + & \text{Red Balloon} & = & 30 \\ \text{Red Balloon} & + & \text{Two Green Balloons} & + & \text{Two Green Balloons} & = & 18 \\ \text{Two Green Balloons} & - & \text{Two Blue Balloons} & = & 2 \\ \text{Blue Balloon} & + & \text{Red Balloon} & \times & \text{Green Balloon} & = & ?? \end{array}$$

Mrs. E. Cutis - HLTA Mathematics

KS3 Science Club

KS3 Science Club is running virtually. If anyone wants to join in, email mkeown@dlsbasildon.org to be invited to the group. We are adding videos, competitions, quiz's etc every week. This week we have been making words using symbols from the Periodic Table.

Dr. M. Keown - Teacher of Science



The Black Lives Matter Movement

On Monday the 25th of May 2020 the whole globe witnessed the tragic murder of George Floyd; a 46 year old black man who was killed at the hands of a white police officer employed by the Minneapolis police department. His death, being the final straw, sparked worldwide outrage and protests. The petition demanding justice for George Floyd is well on its way to 19.5 million signatures and has become the most signed petition on change.org. The global rage towards George Floyd's death has aided awareness for the Black Lives Matter Movement. But what exactly is the Black Lives Matter Movement?

Unavoidably, you have heard of the Black Lives Matter Movement in the weeks commencing George Floyd's death, for many however this being the first time hearing of the movement. The movement dates all the way back to 2013 and was founded in response to Trayvon Martin's death. What is now known as the Black Lives Matter Global Network began to organize in 2016 and started out as a chapter-based, member-led organization in search for local power. Recent reports state the hashtag associated with the movement has been used over 50 million times across social media platforms such as instagram and twitter. The aim of the anti-racism movement is to create 'a world free of anti-blackness, where every black person has the social, economic and political power to thrive'.

As of today, many are taking it upon themselves to show their support for the movement including large companies, celebrities and organisations. The Premier League is a prime example of awareness being spread as many players and officials take a knee to show their solidarity. Additionally, players' names were replaced with the line 'Black Lives Matter' on the back of their shirts, players had also been wearing the Black Lives Matter logo on their shirt sleeves which will now remain there for the rest of the season. Furthermore platforms such as Netflix and Youtube have decided to show their support by dedicating sections of their platform towards the education of black lives.

Additionally, a multitude of individuals took their solidarity to social media on Tuesday the 2nd of June by posting a black screen using the hashtag; #theshowmustbestopped and #blackouttuesday which was an initiative by two black women to use that day to 'take a beat for an honest, reflective, and productive conversation' about what actions need to be taken to support the black community. The hashtags now have over 24.7 million posts. Apple Music used this day to stream music made by black people only whilst many other brands such as Reddit and Twitter changed their logo to show accord with the movement. Others chose to show their unison through commercials like Nickelodeon, Nike and Adidas did, whereas others chose to show their unison through donations such as the UK rapper Stormzy, who is set to donate £10m to black British causes over the next 10 years.

The spread of awareness is all in the hope that one day we get to live in a world of racial equality, in a world where black people no longer suffer from institutionalised racism and systematic oppression, in the hope that one day we get to live in a world where your skin colour no longer defines you. In the hope that one day the world becomes a place where all black victims get the justice they deserve and in a world wherein we deserve to live, a world led by unity, love, peace and equality! #BlackLivesMatter

Grace E



PE During Lockdown

Week 1 - Joe Wicks

Week 2 - Cosmic Yoga

Week 3 - Plank challenge

Week 4 - Standing Broad jump

Week 5 - Wall sit challenge

Week 6 - 50 Club challenge

Week 7 - Spell your name daily workout

Week 8 – Burpee Challenge

Week 9 – Hip hop dance move tabata and Mark Wright workout.

Week 10 – Speed bounce challenge

Week 11 – Circuit Training sessions

I have had many emails about students continuing with Joe Wick's daily workout and other online workouts! Well done and keep up the good work.

To maintain your fitness levels, try and do at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day. This will also help improve your mood and sleep.

Week 3 winners - Plank challenge:

Year 7 Boy Joseph W 1min 29 sec

Year 7 Girl Ela U 1min 17 seconds

Year 8 Girls (no boys entered so I have picked the top 2 girls)

Lana B 5min 13 sec

Beatrice P 2min

Year 9 Boy Keane B 3min 7 sec

Year 9 Girl Ana V 1min 13 sec

Year 11 Girls (No boys entered so I have picked the top two girls)

Ellie Johnson 3min 56 sec

Roseie Clarke 3min 29 sec

PE Teachers

Miss Rothwell 2min 6 sec

Mr Conway 2min 4 sec

Mr Brinklow 1min 53sec

Week 4 winners - standing broad jump

Year 7

Kingsley S 2.35m

Casie B 1.44m

Valerie O 1.41m

Year 8

Jesse B 3.10m

Year 9

Keane B 2.15m

Ana V 1.79m



Cont'd.../

Week 5 winners – Wall sit challenge

Year 7

Casie C - 2.48 minutes

Anna A - 2.39 minutes

Year 8

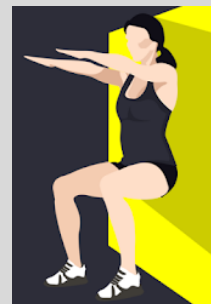
Lana B - 6 minutes

Year 9

Ana V - 2.03 minutes

Armandas V - 1.32 minutes

Keane B - 48.08 sec



Week 6 winners – 50 club challenge

Year 7

Casie C - 4.05 minutes

Anthonia O - 4.23 minutes

Anna A - 4.25 minutes

Year 9

Rebecca B - 3.07 minutes

Ana V - 4.54 minutes

Week 8 winners - Burpee challenge

Year 7

Ted C - 31

Zach C- Bartels 19

Year 8

Lana B - 82

Year 9

Jamie W - 35

Ana V - 30

Rebecca B – 28



Week 10 – Speed bounce challenge winners

Year 7

Ted C - 34

Hayden W – 29

Valerie O – 23

Year 8

Lana B – 69

Year 9

Rebecca B - 50

Ana V - 43

Well done to all students who took part. Don't forget to send me your results.

Miss. S. Rothwell – Head of Curriculum PE

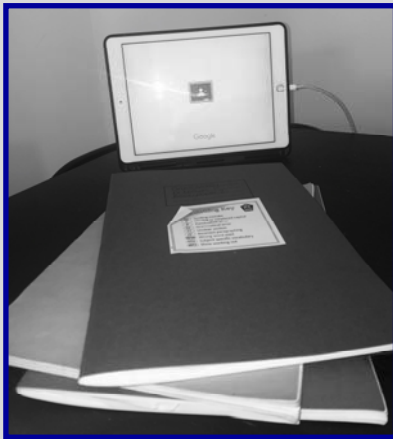
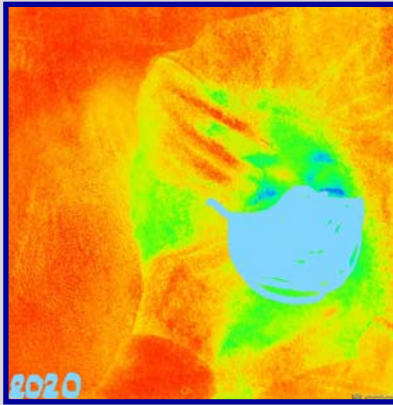
Lockdown - Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Photography

The Covid 19 crisis has proved to be an incredibly challenging time, students isolated from friends, family and school.

Throughout the Lockdown, Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Photography students have been documenting their experiences and memories of this unprecedented time by focusing on their extended project focusing on the Covid Crisis and the use of Mobile Photography.

The Creative Arts have had an important and positive impact on wellbeing and photographers and artists worldwide have expressed their feelings about this crisis through their artwork. These images represent a small sample of how our students have experienced this crisis.

Mrs. A. Ansary - Photography Teacher



Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

In what has been one of the most challenging periods of time in a generation, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of our staff who have worked tirelessly over the past few months to ensure our students continue to receive the best possible education in these unprecedented times.

True to their vocation, our senior leaders, teachers and support staff have worked selflessly, often at great personal cost and with potential risks to themselves and their families. By keeping our school open for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers, providing home-learning resources, teaching lessons remotely, maintaining the spiritual and pastoral care of pupils, keeping in touch with families and so much more, our staff have rendered a great service to our community in this time of need.

I would like to pay tribute also to you our incredible parents who, along with all of the day to day challenges you have had to face during this pandemic crisis, have exercised your role as the first educators of your children within your homes. I know that many of you may be concerned about the amount of face to face school-time your child may have missed and how this will impact on their development and their future. Please be assured that we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that your child receives a full, broad and balanced education with an enriching curriculum that enables our students to achieve their full potential.

I am particularly mindful of the class of 2020, our Year 11 leavers, who we have sadly not had the chance to bid farewell to in the way we would have hoped. Rest assured that all of our Year 11 leavers who we have had the honour of forming over these past 5 years, will always have a special place in our hearts and in our prayers. We will miss them and we wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

In a similar way, we haven't been able to say goodbye to staff who are moving on to pastures new and green this year. I am incredibly grateful for the service and commitment that has been shown to our school community this year by those members of staff and wish all our leaving staff the very best for the years ahead.

Catholic schools have a special mission to develop and form each person to achieve their very best, contribute to society in a positive way, and to realise and live out their vocation in its fullness. In particular, all Catholic schools seek to support the most vulnerable children and young people in society. De La Salle is no exception to this. I continue to be incredibly proud of the passion and commitment that our staff have shown to our community, which will continue in the new academic year, as we adjust to a different way of life.

We also look forward to welcoming the new members of our community in September with our Year 7's who will become part of the De La Salle family.

Our society will have to live with the legacy of this crisis for many months and years to come but the fortitude and resolve demonstrated by our school community during this emergency has been extraordinary and is something of which we can be rightly proud.

As we face the challenges ahead of us, please do continue to pray for our school, our Headteacher, Senior Leaders, Governors, teachers, parents and pupils.

I wish you a very happy and restful summer break and look forward to seeing you in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Liam Connolly
Chair of Governors