

Summer Newsletter

June 2019



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The last term of the 2018/2019 Academic Year was a short one and it flew by at an incredible busy pace for everyone in De La Salle College.

Sixth and Third Years were under pressure finishing projects and studying for the State Exams which were held in June. We hope that the papers went well for all our students and they will get the results they are hoping for. Results will be out earlier this year on the 12th of August for Leaving Certificate students while the Junior Certificate students will have to wait until later in September.

Sixth Year Graduation was a very memorable night thanks to the committee of students who worked closely with their Year Head Ms Mazzucato and with Ms Jordan and Mr Forde to prepare the liturgy and award ceremony. I would like to thank our past pupils Fr Brian Edwards who led the liturgical celebration, and Dan Mc Cartney who gave a very inspiring speech on the night.

Congratulations to all graduates and award winners on this special night, in particular, to Sean Callis who was awarded Student of the Year 2019, Charlie Byrne who was received the Spirit of Salle Award and Adam Dunne winner of the John Corbett Award for the Creative Arts. Their names are already on our Honours Boards . This year a special award was given to each Prefect to acknowledge the great contribution these students have made in so many ways throughout their years in De La Salle College.

Prefects 2018/2019



Spirit of La Salle Award

Charlie Byrne



The John Corbett Award for the Creative Arts

Adam Dunne



Student of the Year 2019

Sean Callis



Award Ceremonies

Awards ceremonies for all other years took place in the school in May. This year it was decided to divide the distribution of awards into three sections. Subject Awards were presented to each year group by their Year Heads and Class Tutors, the Sports Awards by Sports Coaches and Outstanding Student Awards by the Principal and Deputy Principal. I would like to congratulate all the winners of the various awards, you have worked hard this year and it is a pleasure to recognise your achievements and contribution to school life.

Second Year Award Winners



First Year Award Winners



Transition Year Graduation.

Transition Year students graduated on May 21st after a very enjoyable year where students had the opportunity to experience new subjects, social work and work placements. They met and listened to guest speakers, carried out work for charitable organisations, went on educational and entertaining trips and much more besides. Thank you to the TY Tutors Mr Cronin, Mr O' Reilly and Mr Brennan who worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the students experienced a top class TY Programme. We wish Mr Brennan every success in his new appointment as Programme

Coordinator and TY Year Head. The TY Graduation was a lovely evening which was student led and an opportunity for students to share their experiences and what they had learned over the year with their parents and teachers. Congratulations to all the TY prize winners on the night in particular, Student of the Year winners Russel Flores, John Kirk and Andrew Cotter and Spirit of Salle winners Diarmaid Balfe, Ben O'Connell and Roland Markul.



Debate Club

Debate Club takes place on Tuesdays at lunchtime in Ms O'Dwyer's classroom. I am delighted that this club is growing in numbers every week and is now firmly established in the school. We do however have to say a fond farewell to the 6th Year club members. This group of students helped to resurrect and bring new life to the Debate Club over the last few years with their energy, enthusiasm and wit. They are eloquent speakers and great role models for the younger students and will be missed by the Debate Club next year. Congratulations to Dualtagh Mc Donnell Grundy and Harvey Tsonдай on being joint winners of the Sixth Year Best Debator Award 2019 and to Elliot Looney who received the Junior Debator Award and Conor Odeneme who received the Senior Debator Award from the Club.



Library and Literacy

As you know a huge amount of fund raising, time and effort has gone into refurbishing and restocking our library and this year saw us introduce the Accelerator Reader Programme to all Junior Cycle and Transition Year Students. The latest testing done on students has shown that they have read a staggering 40 million words this year and more importantly we are seeing literacy levels increase faster than students are aging naturally. An increase in literacy levels means that students will have better access to the curriculum and the world around them. In consultation with the Student Council we have just invested in over a €1000 worth of new books for the library for the new academic year. We ask parents to work in partnership with us on this ongoing, worthwhile initiative and to encourage your son to read as many books as he can over the holidays and throughout the academic year. I would like to thank Loraine Sturdy our librarian assistant, for all her hard work and especially for running the Chess Club and competitions. Congratulations to..... the winner of the 2019 end of year competition.

Active School Week 2019

April 29th to May 4th was Active Schools Week in the College. There was a wide array of events organised with the aim of getting the whole school community active, with events taking place for parents, teachers and students. A highlight of the week was the Wheelchair Basketball Challenge match between the students and staff. It was great fun as well as raising awareness and funds for a worthy cause. The students also had another fantastic day learning how to sand and sea surf on the sandy beaches in County Wicklow. The week ended on the Friday with Sports Day. There was a great turn out and well done to a delighted sixth year team who this year managed to defeat the staff in the annual Sixth Years versus the Staff football match. As a health promoting school, this week is an important and integral part of the school calendar. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Shane O'Neill for organising such a fantastic, engaging week.

Students Promoting ASW in DLSC



Students Learning to Surf



The 2019 Victorious Sixth Year Football Team

Healthy Snacks



The Health Promoting School Flag

This term we were also delighted to be the recipients of the Health Promoting School Flag. This award recognises all the work that students, teachers and parents do in the school to promote well being and healthy living. I would like to thank Ms Kelleher and the Health Promotion Committee for all their hard work in leading this initiative. I also ask parents to continue to encourage your sons to bring in healthy snacks and lunches in the new academic year and to ensure that he engages in team sports in the school. There are lots to choose from. A reminder to parents that we have introduced a compulsory after school sports programme for First Years this academic year which has proven very successful. This will continue into Second Year and will be led by Mr Boyd who is our new Sports and Extra-Curricular Coordinator.



Sport - Athletics

Several talented students from the college took part in the East Leinster Athletics meeting in late April. They show great promise for the future! I would like to thank Ms Jill Lowry for her hard work in training the students in preparation for these events.



Sport - Rugby

The Rugby season drew to a close with the traditional Club V's College games, where three teams from De La Salle Palmerston FC compete with three teams from the College. The games are played for trophies named after deceased Past Pupils who have represented DLSP and the College. The three games were played in a great spirit with the College taking home the Barry Murphy Trophy (1st years), and DLSP taking home the Damien McCoy Trophy (Junior) and the Conor Martin Trophy (Senior). I would like to thank the members of De La Salle Palmerston for the organisation of this event and their continued support. I would also like to thank the teachers and past pupils who organise, manage and train our rugby teams. Rugby is an important part of who we are as a school and it would not survive and flourish without their hard work and dedication.



Sport - Football

With the rugby season completed the football season began in earnest. In partnership with the Student Council a school football team was organised. I am happy to say that we managed to field teams at 1st Year level, a Transition Year Team and a Senior Team. Friendly fixtures were played against other local schools as well as two tournaments with fellow Lasallian schools. For a first season I am happy with the progress that was

made in getting these teams started, I look forward to the sport growing in the school. A big thank you to Mr Boyd and the Student Council for all their hard work!

DLSC Churchtown First Year Soccer Blitz with DLS Dundalk, Benildus and St. Johns



Athlete of the Year 2019

This year the Dick Ryan Trophy for the DLSC Athlete of the Year 2019 was awarded to Dmitri Griffin, a very talented sportsman and worthy winner, who swept the boards with many sporting achievements this year and who has also contributed greatly to the development of Athletics and Squash throughout his time in DLSC. We wish him every success in his future endeavours in the world of sport!



Inclusion Rugby Blitz

On May 4th we hosted the Annual Inclusion Rugby Blitz for students from local rugby clubs. The sun shone and a great day was had by everyone as some terrific tag rugby took place between DLSP Eagles, Seapoint Dragons and Westmanstown Wasps. Check

out our Twitter feed to see the teams in action! A big thank you to all the staff and students who helped out on the day and especially to Jill and Sam Tyrell and Murrays of O'Connell Street for treating everyone to a delicious lunch after the blitz.



Salle's Got Talent!

We want to build a strong tradition of the arts in the school, particularly in the areas of music and drama. I am delighted to say that this last term we have taken our first steps toward our goal. On Thursday, May 9th we hosted the inaugural 'Salle's Got Talent', thanks to the organising committee of Ms Mazzucato, Ms Plunkett, Mr O'Neill and Adam Dunne with the support of the Parents Association. The event was a great success and a very enjoyable night was had by all who attended the event. The acts exceeded expectations! Check out the videos on Twitter!! Everyone was so impressed with the quality and variety of the acts. The audience was served up a treat of music, acting, spoken word poetry, and acrobatics. It really was a memorable evening. I would like to thank, our own Mark Forde, Joe Conlan (RATSS Stage School) and Sheelagh Fox (Rathfarnham Ukelele Group) who were our entertaining and excellent guest judges for the night, Neil Mitchell and past pupil Nicky Dempsey who sorted the sound for us and finally Horizon Digital Print who generously organised all the advertising for the event. Congratulations to Brendan Carberry and Matteo and Jethro and Heinz for their joint winning performances. Please check out twitter for all the amazing performances on the night. I cannot wait to see what further talent emerges next year!





Darkness Into Light 2019

Since the first Darkness into Light took place in the Phoenix Park 10 years ago, De La Salle College have taken part every year. This year's event took place in Marley Park and I'm delighted to say that over thirty students and staff members took part raising over €1200 for Pieta House. Well done to all involved and we look forward to participating again next year. I would like to acknowledge all the funds raised this year by our staff, students and parents for different charities. We as a school community continue to play our part in making a difference to those who are disadvantaged in society.



De La Salle Day 2019

This year's De La Salle Day celebration was extra special as 2019 is the Tricentenary of the Death of St. John Baptiste De La Salle. Our celebration on May 17th was organised by the Ethos and Liturgy Committee and was, as usual, a great success. It was an honour to welcome back the De La Salle Brothers, past staff , past pupils, parents and friends of the

college. Fr Brian Edwards led us in celebrating the occasion with a beautiful liturgy. Students from 1st to 6th year participated through prayer and song. As always the day ended with a traditional ice cream treat courtesy of Supervalu Churchtown who are unfailing in their support and generosity to the school.



De La Salle Day Draw

This year thanks to the combined efforts and generosity of staff, students, parents and the community we managed to raise over €3000 from the De La Salle Day Draw. In consultation with the Student Council the money raised will be spent on books for the library and some seating for the canteen and outdoor areas. Names of the winners of the prizes are on the school website. Huge appreciation to all our sponsors for the DLS Day Draw and throughout the year - Supervalu, The Glenside, Howards Way, China Schezuan Sandyford and John Reddy from Paintbox for all the fantastic promotional material and tickets he sorts for us each year.

Parents Association

A massive thank you to the members of the Parents' Association for all their hard work throughout the year. This term they helped out at Salle's Got Talent and organised the refreshments for everyone on the Sixth Year Graduation Night. Many of the events you read about would not happen without the support and encouragement we receive from this group parents. Unfortunately as students graduate we inevitably lose committed members of the association so please consider coming along to a meeting in the new year to see what it is all about.

Past Pupils News

We want to encourage our past pupils to keep in touch and to contact us to let us know of their adventures and successes. There are so many great Churchtown Lasallian role models out there all around the world. We want to hear from them so they can share their stories to inspire and encourage greatness in our current generation of young students.

Congratulations to past pupil Sean McLoughlin on his recent election to Dun Laoghaire County Council as a representative of the Dundrum Local election area. We have no doubt that Sean will continue to work hard and make a great contribution to the local community



Also congratulations to Paul O' Donnell on his selection for the Irish team for the U23 European Championship in the 3K Steeplechase. We are incredibly proud of all of his achievements to date.



As always we are very proud of Niyi Adeelokun continued success with Connaught Rugby and we were delighted he was named in the 23 man Barbarians squad to face England at Twickenham at the end of May.



Fond Farewells

I couldn't end this newsletter without saying a fond farewell to some great teachers and dear colleagues. Mr Brendan Cryan is retiring after many years of dedicated service as a Geography and Business teacher and as Year Head of Third Year. Mr Gareth O' Reilly is off on a career break to warmer climes in Oman but thanks to Gareth, the O'ReillyMaths website will still be a valued resource accessible to our students. Mr Brian Byrne is leaving city life to settle with his wife-to-be in the West of Ireland. Mr Gerry Mc Cann is leaving us to head off on an adventure to teach in Columbia! I want to say a heartfelt

thank you to each of them for all their hard work and commitment and for the difference they have made to so many lives throughout their years in DLSC. They will be hugely missed by all of us- parents, staff and students but they have assured us that they will keep in touch and let us know how they are getting on! I also want to say on behalf of all the staff, heartiest congratulations to Ms Emilie Mazzucato and her husband on the birth of their second little daughter this summer. We look forward to welcoming Emilie back after maternity leave later in the year. We will be also be welcoming a number of new teachers who will be joining the staff in September.

Summer Best Wishes

I hope you have enjoyed the newsletters throughout the year , each but a a snapshot and glimpspe into life in DLSC and some of the highlights of the 2018/2019 academic year. I know without doubt that we will have another busy and challenging new year ahead, but be assured that all of the incredibly dedicated staff of DLSC will continue to work hard with our super Deputy Principal Mr. Michael Kirwan and myself to create the best educational environment for your sons, so that each of them will have every chance to reach their full potential.

Now however, its time to recharge batteries! I hope everyone is enjoying the Summer break and getting the opportunity to take some holiday time to rest and relax. As always thank you for your ongoing support and kindness and we will look forward to working in partnership with you in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhán Foster

Principal

*****A reminder that Adminstration Day will be held in the college on Thursday 15th August 9am -6pm and the uniform company will also be present on the day.*****

