

De La Salle College



Primary to Post-Primary Transition Pack

2024-2025



Principal's Welcome

June 2024

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Thank you for choosing De La Salle College as your son's secondary school. We aim to provide a well-rounded education for your son while striving for excellence. I would like to welcome you into our Lasallian community here in Dundalk and assure you that we will do our utmost to care for your son while he is a pupil here. We are a Le Chéile school and aim to provide an education based on gospel values, through the Lasallian core principles and based on an ethos of respect. The idea of partnership is central to Lasallian education, school and home working together for the benefit of our students.

The transition from primary to secondary school can be challenging for many children. It involves adapting to a whole new environment, dealing with many teachers, encountering new subjects, mastering a formal timetable, moving to different rooms in the course of the day and being a member of a much bigger school community than they are used to. Naturally, there is bound to be some anxiety associated with all of this. There is also a sense of great adventure and potential for learning and making new friends.

We have invited you here this evening to provide assistance for you and your son as you embark together on the voyage into secondary education. Much of the anxiety and stress can be dispelled by advance information and the adaptation of simple strategies. Your son will be supported in many ways in this school as he takes on increasing responsibility for organising himself and developing to his full potential. This support commences in August with an induction programme involving the SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) and Learning Support Departments, Lasallian Leaders and the Lasallian Animation Committee.

I would like to thank the school staff who have worked together to produce the materials in this Induction Resource Pack for Parents. It is intended to provide useful information and guidelines for you as you support and encourage your son to make the best possible start in secondary school. We strongly recommend that your son continues to develop his reading skills over the summer, in advance of engaging with our "Accelerated Reader" programme. You will find a list of popular authors enclosed.

We will contact you in the course of the year for feedback which will be taken into consideration for next year's parents.

Wishing you and your son all the best for next year,

Nicola Connolly,

Principal.

Senior Management Team



Ms Nicola Connolly
Principal



Mr Daragh Mc Keon
Deputy Principal



Mr Paul Breen
Deputy Principal

Year Head



Ms Niamh Quinn
First Year Head

About Your New School

- 🏛️ De La Salle Brothers first come to Dundalk in 1899.
- 🏛️ Present Boy's Primary School built in 1914.
- 🏛️ Increasing numbers required that extension to this building be provided in 1936.
- 🏛️ De La Salle College established in 1938 as development of the services provided by the primary school on Philip Street.
- 🏛️ "Secondary Top" school was developed over the years and was recognised as a second level school in its own right in 1970.
- 🏛️ Teachers and students moved to the main school building on the current site in 1978.
- 🏛️ New school building was formally opened in 1980, to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the founding of the De La Salle order in France.
- 🏛️ The student body has grown from 171 in 1970 to approximately 760 currently.
- 🏛️ Accordingly, the facilities at the college have developed, with significant additions to the building in 1998 and in 2014, with a gymnasium added in 1984.
- 🏛️ Female students were first admitted as part of the Repeat Leaving Cert. Programme and the college welcomes female students on this programme to the present day.
- 🏛️ De La Salle brothers continued to teach in the college until 2009 when the last remaining teaching brother, Br. Raymond McKeever, retired.
- 🏛️ The first lay-principal, Mr. Martin Brennan, assumed his position following the retirement of Br. Gregory Ferguson in 2004.
- 🏛️ In 2009, the college came under the auspices of the Le Chéile Trust as the brothers endeavoured to secure the ethos of their school into the future.



The School Crest

This consists of a star on a shield flanked by a green fern. Sometimes, on the scroll beneath are the Latin words "Signum Fidei" meaning "The Sign of Faith", referring to the star. This recalls the story of the Three Wise Men who followed the Star of Bethlehem, trusting that it would lead them to God.



The School Motto

The Latin "Recta Sapere" meaning "Right Judgement" or "Knowing what is Right" is the motto of De La Salle College, Dundalk.

De La Salle Core Principles

5 CORE PRINCIPLES OF LASALLIAN SCHOOLS



St. John Baptiste De La Salle

- 👤 Born in Reims, France in 1651 to a wealthy family.
- 👤 Wanted to become a priest from an early age.
- 👤 Became Canon of Reims Cathedral when he was only 16.
- 👤 Ordained a priest in 1678.
- 👤 Became interested in teaching when he found himself helping a group of teachers who were looking after poor children in the city.
- 👤 He gradually became more involved in organising the work that these teachers were doing and their work became well known.
- 👤 People from other towns asked him to open schools to help their children and more and more young men came to him asking to become educators.
- 👤 Hearing God's call, John Baptiste gave up everything; firstly his Canonry and then, by supplying food to the starving in 1683 and 1684, he gave up his inheritance.
- 👤 He became as poor as the children who attended his schools, as poor as the teachers who taught them.
- 👤 John Baptiste relied on God's will for the survival of his schools.
- 👤 The Institute of the "Brothers of the Christian Schools" gradually evolved. They were a unique group as they belonged to a religious order, yet they were laymen who devoted their lives to educating children, especially poor children.
- 👤 His group encountered difficulties. Because his methods were so successful, students often joined from other schools, which upset their teachers. He also provided his education free of charge.
- 👤 By the time he died, in April 1719, his Brother's Institute had spread throughout France.
- 👤 His teachings and writings on education are used by educators to the present day.
- 👤 He was canonised on May 24th 1900 and on May 15th 1950 Pope Pius XII announced that John Baptiste De la Salle would be known in the future as:

"Special Patron of all Christian Educators"



De La Salle

Patron Saint of Teachers

He insisted that children should be taught to read in their own language first rather than in Latin.

He wrote some of the earliest, practical, instruction manuals for teachers and school administrators.

He insisted that secular studies were integrally related to religious development.



He founded schools as Christian communities based on communities of Brothers.

He developed the idea of teaching children in classes rather than individually.

He introduced modern languages, arts, science and technology into the traditional curriculum dominated by reading and writing.

He developed teacher-training centres to promote his new methods.









"To touch the hearts of your pupils is the greatest miracle you can perform"

A Saint for Teachers and School Administrators

A Saint with a Charism for the whole Church.

He led the way in developing the theology of the lay teacher's vocation, as an important part of the ministry of the Church and a continuation of the ministry of Jesus.

A Typical Day

-  Students should aim to be on site at 08.40 to allow them to visit their locker and/or bathroom before reporting to base class at 08.50.
-  The Pastoral Care class will take place every day at 9:48 and it will last 12 minutes.
Some important announcements for the day(s) ahead may be made at this time. Students may need to meet with their assigned 5th Year Lasallian Leader at this time, particularly in the early weeks of First Year.
-  The teacher who takes this class is the Class Tutor/PC Teacher. He/she will help the Year Head to ensure that all students are settling in and adjusting to life at De La Salle.
-  First class begins at 08.50. First years will have 3 classes before morning break. See sample timetable.
-  Morning break/wee break: 10.58 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10.56 Wednesday:
lasts 15 minutes and is a time for students to visit the bathroom and have a snack (canteen will be open most days of the year at this time for light snacks and drinks)
-  Lunch Break/Big Break lasts from 13.09-13.54 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday). School finishes at 13.05 on Wednesdays. **STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS DURING LUNCHTIME.**
-  At the beginning of lunch students should visit their lockers to sort out their books for the last three classes. Canteen facilities, where both hot and cold food is served, are available most days during lunch. Students should visit the bathroom before the end of lunch, when they will again line up outside.
-  There are two 58 minute classes before school finishes for the day at 15.50. *(School finishes at 1.05 on Wednesday)




Homework and Study

Each one of us has ambitions in life, e.g. getting that dream job, travelling to lots of places in the world or, perhaps, just being happy in life. Whatever the ambition, you have to work towards it and working and studying in school can help you along the way to achieving that dream.

The most important thing at this early stage, is to set goals/targets. You have to be really motivated to achieve the targets you set for yourself. In terms of study and school work, you might set yourself a goal of getting a minimum of 55% in all subjects in your Christmas Exam in First Year. While this may be a challenging goal for one student, for another student the bar may need to be set higher. We are all different and each student should work to their individual talents and abilities. You must be careful to set goals for yourself that are realistic and achievable. It is also important to get a balance between school, exercise, leisure and social activities in order to develop all aspects of your character. We are looking forward to employing the **Athena** academic tracking programme on our return from the holidays. This will enable us to assess and track our students' progress with the aim of helping them achieve to their optimum. **Athena** will afford opportunities for parents to obtain data that is unique to their sons during parent/teacher meetings, leading to positive academic and pastoral outcomes.

Please take note of the following:

Homework:

-  From day one the material being covered in class is material that may be assessed for the Junior Cycle and so students must engage with classes from the start of First Year.
-  The most important work of the day is done in class. Paying attention and making every effort to participate fully in class work will ensure the student has a solid grounding in the material being covered. Any spare time in class can be effectively used by reading back over material from earlier in that class or from previous classes.
-  Keep a careful record of homework that has been set in your Homework/Student Journal. If no homework is set, then record this as

“No Homework Set”. Homework may be written or learning/reading. Both written and learning/reading homework are of equal value and should be treated equally in terms of effort and time spent.

- 🏆 Homework should take approximately one and a half hours. Homework should be done on the day on which it is set. Homework will be based on material covered in class so, the sooner after the class the homework is attempted, the clearer the understanding of the material the student will have.

Study:

- 🏆 Students should try to revise three different subjects each evening for a period of twenty minutes each and allocate some time to each subject over a week. Remember, revision does not stop because it's the weekend!
- 🏆 Further details about how to organise this aspect of Secondary School will be covered in SPHE classes early in the first term of First Year.

Note:

Students are welcome to apply for a place in After School Study. Places are prioritised to those in exam years – Third Year & Sixth Year but students in other years are also allocated places. This facility is very useful for those students who find it difficult to study on their own at home for any reason. Any student interested should contact Mr McKeon/Mr Breen as early as possible.

There is also a HOMEWORK CLUB which operates most afternoon throughout the school year where students needing a quiet place to do homework and those who may need some extra help to complete their homework can attend under the supervision of a staff member. Those interested should apply to Mr McKeon.

Uniform


















- 🏰 Grey shirt
- 🏰 College Tie (Junior)
- 🏰 College Jumper, with crest
- 🏰 Grey trousers,
- 🏰 Black shoes or plain black runners – **no obvious logos**
- 🏰 College Jacket with crest. NO other coat/jacket is permitted.
- 🏰 Jewellery should be restricted to a wristwatch/ **no rings, earrings allowed.**
- 🏰 Compulsory PE uniform available to purchase from Michael Lynch Menswear.






Plain Black Runners















Hot Tips for First Years

-  Be neat and presentable at all times. Respect the uniform code. Have ties fixed correctly, shirts tucked in, shoes clean.
-  Always be on time for class at 08.50 and for all classes during the day.
-  Keep up-to-date with your work. Revise regularly and do homework on the night it is set. Be organised.
-  Pack your schoolbag carefully **the night before**. Check your timetable and ensure you have all books, copies and equipment necessary for each class for the following day.
-  Bring in P.E. gear and other sports equipment on the days they are needed.
-  Put your name clearly on all your belongings – jackets, P.E. gear, books etc. Look after your possessions – do not leave them unattended, particularly in public areas.
-  Respect other people's belongings. Do not borrow other people's possessions without their permission.
-  Leave all valuables at home – phones, air-pods, team jerseys, expensive stationery etc. Only take large sums of money to school when absolutely necessary – e.g. paying for a school trip, and on such occasions get the money to the teacher collecting it at the earliest possible opportunity.
-  Always have your homework with you and record all homework set. If homework is not set in a particular class, then record this as “No Homework”.
-  Always aim to set goals and work towards achieving these goals.
-  Make good use of the support systems in the school – Form Tutor, mentors, older brothers or friends who can help you find your way around etc. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Talk to your parents about your day.
-  Be polite to staff and other students.
-  Get involved in school activities. There is a wide variety to choose from and it will help you to make friends and settle in.
-  Respect everyone and be tolerant of students who may be different to you. Make an effort to get along with everyone.
-  Most importantly - ENJOY!

















Who can help me!

-  Mentor
-  Form Teacher / PC Teacher
-  Year Head
-  Lasallian Leader
-  Subject Teacher






Tips for Parents

-  Buy a sturdy schoolbag that can be worn over both shoulders and has plenty of compartments to help with organisation.
-  Encourage your son to plan where everything will go in his bag.
-  Help your son to organise his books using the system that best suits him
We recommend the colour-coding system and zip mesh folders as shown in the information pack.
-  Label everything – uniform, books, hard and softback copies, pencil cases and all other necessary materials.
-  Discourage your son from taking valuable personal possessions to school – phones, air-pods, team jerseys etc.
-  It is not necessary for students to carry a mobile phone as emergency communications should be dealt with through the school office.
-  Encourage your son to look after his own possessions and to respect the possessions of others.
-  We strongly recommend that your son hires a locker for the academic year.
-  We recommend that you print off 3 or 4 copies of your son's timetable and laminate them if possible. Put one in your son's pencil case, one in his trouser pocket and one where your son will do his homework.
-  Help your son to develop the routine of packing his bag the night before.
-  Make lists of the supplies he will need for the practical subjects and P.E and have these lists in a convenient place.
-  Please ensure that your son attends school regularly and punctually. Remember, school starts at 08.50 but it is advisable that students be on-site at 08.40 to make any necessary preparations for the morning classes

– e.g. get books/equipment from lockers. When this is not possible please note this as a “Late Note” on the school app and ensure your son sign in at the school office.

-  Read the school Uniform Code and make sure that your son follows it.
-  If your son has difficulty tying laces or his tie, please practise these skills over the summer.
-  Read the school Code of Behaviour and make sure your son understands it.
-  Encourage your son to get to know his teachers, to be open to making new friends, to participate fully in school life and to avail of and enjoy the opportunities being a student of this school may present to him.
-  Encourage him to respect others, to recognise that it is acceptable for others to be different or to have different abilities and interests.
-  Encourage your son to participate in extra-curricular activities. Such participation will assist with forging new bonds of friendship, with the process of settling into secondary school and with enjoying school life.
-  All students MUST remain on school premises during lunchtimes.
-  Help him to establish a good homework and study routine. Encourage him to do the homework on the night it is set for maximum learning impact.
-  Check that he is recoding homework in his Student Journal and sign the journal once per week.
-  Homework and study should take about two hours to start with and breaks of approximately 5 minutes should be taken every thirty minutes.
-  Encourage your son to obtain the phone number of a student in his class who he can contact in case he forgets to write down a homework task.
-  Encourage your son to read for pleasure and listen to him read occasionally.
-  A list of popular reads for teenage boys is included in this pack.
-  Plan your son’s route to school (including public transport).
-  During the school day communication between parents and students is permitted through the office only.
-  Please do not drive onto school grounds unless there is a medical reason to drop your son to the school door. This is to ensure the health and safety of all students, staff and parents as we access the school site.

Entrance to school is permitted through the **Mill Road Gate only. Other Entrance is strictly for staff use.**

-  Parents will be provided with login details for the school's VSware / App systems. Here you will be able to see your son's timetable, term reports and school fees when they become available on VSware and to note absences / lates / permission to leave on the school app.
-  On the school website - www.delasalle.ie you will find links to VSware to pay school fees for student insurance, practical subjects etc. We encourage all parents to use this system to avoid students having to carry large amounts of money to school.
-  If possible, arrange for your son to have a chat with a student who is already in De La Salle College (and who will be positive about the experience).
-  If your son has any special educational needs, please ensure that copies of all relevant reports are passed on to the SEN department in the De La Salle College.
-  The first week will be very tiring for your son. Make sure he gets plenty of rest. Provide lots of 'TLC' – Tender, Loving, Care.



Pastoral Care

Role of the Form Teacher:

A Form Teacher is assigned to every class in the school. This teacher meets with their class every day during the Pastoral Care (PC) period. He/she takes a special interest in their class, monitors attendance, punctuality and academic performance. The Form Teacher will communicate any concerns that emerge about a student to the Year Head who will liaise with other support structures within the school and with the parents/guardians about these concerns.

Role of the Year Head:

A Year Head is assigned to each year group in the school. The Year Head coordinates the supervision of all students in their year group, in conjunction with the Form Teachers. The Year Head will be concerned with the general well-being of students in their year group, with their attendance, punctuality and general discipline as well as with their academic progress and performance. When concerns arise about the performance of an individual student in any of these areas the Year Head will address these concerns and liaise with all relevant support structures within the school so that the reason for the concern may be corrected to the benefit of that student and others.



TFW Food Services

TFW FOOD SERVICES CASHLESS CATERING

We are delighted to offer this innovative solution to your school.

Cashless payments give you, as a parent, full control over your child's spending on school lunches. No more looking for change, no more wondering where and what they are eating...

With the cashless system comes a simple and innovative way for you to pay for your child's nutritious and healthy school meals supplied by TFW Food Services.

How it works:

The first step is to get a TFW contactless card to use in the system. To do this you just open an online account with at www.tfwfoodsolutions.ie. Click on the "register" link and follow the instructions. The card will be available for pick up the following morning in the canteen.

- Through an online account you manage your child's card. You can manage multiple children's cards from just one account.
- The card is topped up online using a secure payment gateway with processing done by Sage Pay. Example top up by €20.00.
- You can also top up with cash at the school canteen.
- At the school your child selects their meal and simply presents the card to the cashier who taps the card to a reader.
- The card balance is updated with the cost of the meal. Example €3/€3.50.
- Back online you can see the transaction and the card(s) balances in your account.
- Super Healthy Lunch €3.50 / 02/09/2020 / 12:35 / Balance €17.50
- Top up when you want.
- You will receive reminder emails when your account reaches under €0 and again at minus €5. We allow for a minus €5 to facilitate late top ups. After this the card will held at the canteen counter until topped up. Cash is also accepted.
- Our canteen prices range from €1.20 through to €3.50 and the new academic year price list will be available on your account once you log in.
- Any queries or problems email info@tfwfoodsolutions.ie

Know that your money is being spent the way you want. Lost cards can be reported online and easily cancelled. New cards issue the next day! Balances will be transferred.

Privacy matters: Your online account is secured on a server offering SSL encryption and is fully compliant with data regulations including EU GDPR guidelines. No home addresses, bank details or telephone numbers are stored on site.

“A strength of the school is the importance it attaches to the welfare of its pupils”

(ISI Inspection Report, 2011)

Some Famous Past Pupils



Dr. Martin Naughton



Stephen Staunton



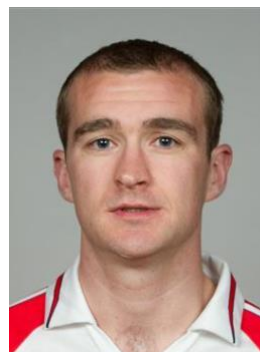
Mr. George Moore



Judge Matthew Deery



Ms. Sharon Corr



Mr. Paddy Keenan



Understanding the School Timetable

	Mon	Day
08:45-09:48	English 1 Eng-C R26 E.. Mulroy	
09:48-10:00	Pastoral Care 1 Pas-C R26 E. Mulroy	
10:00-10:45	Maths 1 Mat-C R09 E.O'Brien	
10:45-11:13	Religion 1 Rel-C R20 N.Quinn	

Practice

1. At what time is English class on Monday?

2. What is the name of my English teacher?

3. In what room is my English class?

How to use a Colour-Coded Timetable

1. When you get your timetable give each subject a different colour (see example).
2. All materials (books, workbooks, copies, hardbacks, etc.) should be colour coded according to your timetable.
3. Your name should be clearly marked on ALL your belongings (uniform, PE uniform, bags, pencil case, books, etc.).
4. It is recommended as best practice, that you place all materials for each subject in a mesh zipper folder (A3, see picture below).
5. All zipper folders should be, if possible, colour coordinated as per your colour coded timetable.



These folders can be purchased as multipacks in Mr. Price, Easons, Staunton's Stationery Supplies, Oriel Office Supplies and most other stationery shops.

Please see next page for sample colour coded timetable.



DE LA SALLE COLLEGE

DUNDALK

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8:50 (9:48)	Business Studies Mr. O'Connor R. 42	Spanish Mr. D McArdle R. 24	8:50 (9:47)	Lifeskills Mr. McKeon R. 24	Geography Mr. Renaghan R. 25	English Ms. Hoyne R. 27
9:48 (10:00) PC Class	Pastoral Care Ms. Campbell R. 18	Pastoral Care Ms. Campbell R. 18	9:47 (9:59) PC Class	Pastoral Care Ms. Campbell R. 18	Pastoral Care Ms. Campbell R. 18	Pastoral Care Ms. Campbell R. 18
10:00 (10:58)	Irish Ms. McEntegart R. 30	Science Ms. Nolan R. 6	9:59 (10:56)	Business Studies Mr. O'Connor R. 42	Art Mr. McCourt Art 1	Science Ms. Nolan R. 6
10:58 (11:13) Junior Break			10:56 (11:11) Junior Break			
11:13 (12:11)	Mathematics Mr. Carey R. 15	Mathematics Mr. Carey R. 15	11:11 (12:08)	Computer Studies Ms. O'Connor R. 16	Technology Mr. Bruton R. 17	Spanish Mr. D McArdle R. 24
12:11 (13:09)	Technology Mr. Bruton R. 17	Religious Education Mr. McGrath R. 39	12:08 (13:05)	Irish Ms. McEntegart R. 30	History Ms. Connolly R. 20	Mathematics Mr. Carey R. 15
13:09 (13:54) Junior Lunch			Half-Day			
13:54 (14:52)	English Ms. Hoyne R. 27	History Ms. Connolly R. 20		English Ms. Hoyne R. 27	Business Studies Mr. O'Connor R. 42	
14:52 (15:50)	Art Mr. McCourt Art 1	Geography Mr. Renaghan R. 25		CSPE Ms. Heekin R. 1	Irish Ms. McEntegart R. 30	

Guidelines on How to Record Homework

		Due	✓
Subject			
Tech.			
R.E.			
Bus. Stud.	Page 10 Questions 1-5	19 th	
Science			
Irish			
Maths	Page 7 Questions 3-10	14 th	
English			
Geog.			

1. List all subjects for each day under the **Subject** heading as shown in the above sample.
2. Record ALL homework beside each subject. This includes written homework/revision/reading and oral work.
3. Make sure to record the due date for ALL homework under **Due** heading.
4. When you have finished your homework place a tick next to the due date. (✓)
5. All homework given **MUST** be recorded in the journal at the end of every class.
6. Parents are encouraged to check homework entries on a daily basis.
7. Parents **MUST** sign the journal at the end of each week.

School Map



School Jacket Available from Michael Lynch Menswear

