La Sainte Union Catholic School

Family Bulletin

14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Half term has arrived – and as explained in last week's Family Bulletin, our Opportunity Centre offer for the half term week includes basketball, football, volleyball, fencing, martial arts, cooking, crochet and fashion design. Sessions are delivered by dedicated experts and spaces are limited. To sign up for the activities, please click on this link to reserve your child's place: https://forms.office.com/e/b2K5wD7zfF?origin=lprLink

In this edition of the Family Bulletin, you will find exciting news about our status as a Rights Respecting News as well as important information for all Year 11 students hoping to continue their studies with us in the Sixth Form.

We return on Monday 24th February at the normal time for the second half of the Spring Term. I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and restful February Holiday.

Best wishes,

Mrs Fegan

Headteacher

Important Dates:

Monday 17th February- Friday 21st February- Half Term

Monday 24th February – Y11 mocks begin

Thursday 27th February- Y12 Parents Evening

Friday 14th March- Year 9 Td/IPV and Meningitis ACWY Vaccinations

PHSE Topics

Year 7 - Introduction to First Aid

Year 8 - Recognising and dealing with emotions

Year 9 - Camden Choices Programme

Year 10 - First Give Programme

Year 11 - Sexual health and STIs

Contact form for any PSHE related queries: https://forms.office.com/e/GY4SBrwbNW

Latest editions of the LaSWAP newsletter can be found here: LaSWAP Sixth Form Consortium - Newsletters

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La Sainte Union is a Rights Respecting School

We are delighted to announce that our school has taken a significant step towards becoming a Rights Respecting School under the UNICEF UK initiative. Over the past few months, we have been working diligently behind the scenes to ensure that all the necessary aspects are in place to receive the Bronze Award, which will be awarded at any time.

To bring this vision into practice, we have already introduced our Year 7 and 8 pupils to the programme during our recent Curriculum Enrichment Day. A highlight of the day was the "Know Your Rights" session, which provided an interactive introduction to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by linking its articles directly to the rights of our pupils. This session was designed to empower students by helping them understand the fundamental principles that safeguard their wellbeing both at school and in everyday life.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share that soon all year groups will benefit from explicit links being made in their PSHE lessons between various topics and the articles of the UNCRC. This approach will not only enrich their learning experience but also help them appreciate the real-world relevance of these essential rights.
We believe that by embedding these principles into our curriculum, we are nurturing confident, responsible, and compassionate citizens for the future. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue this important journey.

Empowering Students for Their Next Step!

Enrichment Day on Year 13 Friday 7th February -University Futures Day
Our University Futures Day was an exciting and informative experience for Year 13 students as they began to explore the realities of university life and make crucial decisions about their futures. The day focused on three key areas: student finance, budgeting, and university offers.
Students dove deep into the intricacies of student finance, where they learned about tuition fees, maintenance loans, and living costs. They were tasked with using the online student finance calculator to get a clearer picture of how much financial support they could expect and how to plan for the costs of university life. As part of a hands-on budgeting challenge, students explored the expenses of student accommodation, weighing up costs in different areas and considering how to make their money stretch throughout the year.

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One of the highlights of the day was the one-on-one discussions with tutors, where students compared their current grades with potential university offers. This valuable guidance helped them to make informed decisions about their firm and insurance choices. With all the information and support provided, students left feeling more confident and prepared to take the next steps in their academic journey. It was an exciting, empowering day full of practical advice for their university futures!

Apprenticeship Day – A Step Towards Future Careers!

On Friday 7th February, a small group of Year 13 students also had the unique opportunity to take part in our exciting Apprenticeship Day! The day was designed to give them a hands-on introduction to the recruitment process for apprenticeships, with a special focus on the assessments that play a key role in securing these roles.

Throughout the day, students were introduced to a range of online and paper-based assessments commonly used by employers. These included verbal reasoning, numerical reasoning, situational judgment tests, in-tray exercises, and even gamified assessments!
For example, students tackled verbal reasoning questions like: *"Which word is most similar in meaning to 'predict'?"* and numerical reasoning challenges such as: *"If a car travels 60 miles in 1.5 hours, what is its average speed?"*

The situational judgment tests encouraged students to consider realistic workplace scenarios, while the in-tray exercises tested their ability to prioritise tasks under pressure. The gamified assessments added a fun twist, where students faced challenges like completing tasks within a time limit or solving puzzles to simulate real-life job scenarios.

The day was a fantastic way for students to gain insight into the types of skills needed for apprenticeship opportunities, preparing them for the next step in their career journey!

Maths Challenge Success

A massive congratulations to all our year 9s and 10s who took part in the prestigious Intermediate Maths Challenge in January. The following students gained certificates this year, meaning that they correctly answered many of the very challenging questions:

Bronze

Meklit

Kamila

Fancy-Precious

Kaelyn

Ruth

Edith

Silver Medals

Shelly

Lucy

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Conditional Offers Week for LaSWAP Sixth Form for Year 11

We are excited to announce that Conditional Offers Week for our Sixth Form has arrived! Students who attended their individual progression interviews last month were able to discuss course choice and entry requirements. At this meeting they were also issued with their log in details for the online application process.

Students who attended their meeting will be receiving a letter that outlines our general entry requirements for each sixth form pathway. Their letter will also include specific requirements for each of the subjects they have expressed an interest in.

If your daughter was not able to make their appointment, please ask them to see Ms Field or Ms Boyd so that we can rearrange this for them.

LaSWAP Pathways

Average Point Score: Each of our pathways also has an average point score entry requirement. These are calculated by using an average of the best 8 GCSE grades achieved.

LaSWAP Entry requirements 2025

Level	Pathway	Qualifictions	Entry requirements
3	2 Year sixth form	A levels	8 GCSES. Minimum grade 5 in English Language. 4 grade 6s. Subject-specific criteria also apply
3	2 Year sixth form	Level 3 Vocational	8 GCSES. 6 grade 4s or Distinction in Level 2 Diploma. Subject-specific criteria also apply
3	2 Year sixth form	T levels	8 GCSES. Good pass in Maths & English. Distinction in Level 2 Diploma if taken
2	3 Year sixth form	Level 2 Vocational with English and/or Maths GCSE	8 GCSES grade 3 and 4 or Level 1 Diploma

Pathway	Average Point Score
L3 A Level Pathway	5.0
L3 BTEC with 1 A level	4.5
L3 T Level	5.0
L3 BTEC	4.5
Level 2 BTEC	4.0

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Key Dates

Friday 27th June is LaSWAP Taster Day. Students will have the opportunity to attend taster lessons to help them finalise their course choices.

Thursday 21st August is GCSE results day and LaSWAP enrolment day. LaSWAP is an oversubscribed sixth form consortium but, as one of our Year 11 students, your daughter will benefit from early enrolment to LaSWAP (a day before we open to the rest of London) – entry criteria dependent.

Final sixth form course choices will be confirmed once GCSE results are known and will be dependent on meeting all entry criteria – here is the link Summary of Entry Criteria

What happens next?

Students now need to complete their online application using this link https://laswap.applicaa.com/year12

Throughout the next few months, they will then have the opportunity to reflect on their subject choices and discuss any questions with our Sixth Form team. We will be available to provide support and guidance, ensuring that each student has the information they need to make informed decisions about their future.

We are excited to support our Year 11 students as they plan for the next stage of their education and look forward to helping them prepare for a smooth transition into LaSWAP Sixth Form.

Best wishes,

The Sixth Form Team

Year 10 Work Experience

Thank you for all the amazing placements sourced by parents, carers and students so far, and well done to students for being incredibly enterprising in finding employers!

The 'Own Find' deadline is Monday 24th February.

After this point, only low risk placements (e.g. your child's primary school) will be approved.

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Year 9 Careers Day

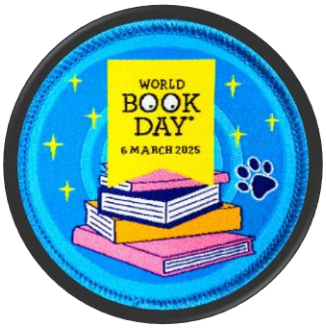
The Year 9 Careers Day was a huge success, offering students the chance to explore a variety of career paths and gain valuable insights into their futures. The event, held at the school last Friday, gave students the opportunity to engage with professionals, learning about the skills and qualifications required for different careers. Many were surprised to discover the variety of roles available in fields they had never considered.

The day emphasised the importance of transferable skills in shaping future careers. Students were encouraged to think about how their Year 9 options choices could align with their long-term goals and what steps they could take now to build a successful future.

By the end of the day, students left feeling inspired and better equipped to make informed decisions about their career paths. The event provided a valuable opportunity for Year 9 students to begin thinking seriously about their futures and the vast range of opportunities that await them. We would like to sincerely thank all employers generously giving their time to support students.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2025 - Attention All Students!

World Book Day 2025 is coming to LSU on Thursday 6th March! Below you can find information about the fun activities and prizes that will be on offer during the day.



We are excited to announce that **students are again invited to come dressed as a favourite character from a book, play or other work of literature!** If you want to take part, you'll need to bring £1 into your form tutor on the day. This money will go towards:

- New books for the library (50%)
- A first (35%), second (10%) and third (5%) place prize for best costume in your year group.

Therefore, if everyone in the year takes part, you could win a very valuable prize! Note: we are aware there are still prizes to hand out from last year – these will be announced in the run up to this year's event! **TREASURE HUNT**

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Most (if not all!) teachers will have the name of one of their favourite fictional items (e.g. Hermione's wand) on their badge. At break and lunchtime, try to find as many as you can and make a note of the item they have. Keep these details safe because there will be a quiz to take on a brand new World Book Day 2025 Teams page after school where the student with the most answers will win a special prize!

- **GREAT BOOKISH BAKEOFF**

Get your flour and apron ready – the Library will be hosting a competition for the best cake based on a work of literature, whatever it may be - from Gruffalo cupcakes to Oliver Twist "Please Sir I Want More Cake" cakes. A valuable voucher is promised to the winner! Please bring your creations to the Library– the judging will take place during lunchtime in the Library – winner to be announced at the end of the day!

- **THE MASKED READER IS BACK!**

Some of LSU's coolest teachers will be reading passages from Boxer's favourite book in disguise – listen closely and try to guess who it is before the big reveal at the end of the day!

We hope you really get into the spirit of the day and that it inspires you to read even more! Be on the lookout for a certain literary horse who might just make one more reappearance before he is sent off to pasture!

PS: World Book Day Tokens.

Each year on World Book Day every student can collect a £1 book token to spend in a book shop. There are books specifically published for WBD that you can exchange for your token, or you can put the token towards any other book. Come to the Library after school with your phone and scan the QR code to get your token.

- Click here to check to see the WBD books for 2025: https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/
- To find your nearest bookshop click here: Participating retailers - World Book Day

Trip Opportunity

For interested current Year 11 students who will be joining LaSWAP.

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