La Sainte Union Catholic School Family Bulletin

15th January 2024

Please check the school website for resources and information.

And follow us on twitter for updates and news! **@LaSainteUnion**

Dear Parents and Carers,

At La Sainte Union, students follow a carefully crafted oracy curriculum which ensures that all students are equipped to be articulate, confident speakers who can hold their own in any situation in life. The Year 9 elements of our oracy curriculum involves learning to perform speeches from memory, leading to a prestigious qualification from Trinity College London.

During the autumn term, all students in Y9 took part in their Speech and Drama exam, which gives them a Grade 3 qualification in performance. In their Drama and English lessons, students have been studying Romeo and Juliet, and as part of the exam had to learn and perform an extract from the play from memory, improvise a short scene as their characters and answer questions about the play itself.

Year 9 worked so diligently to prepare themselves for this and as a year group received a **100% pass rate!** We are very proud of their efforts and achievement. Congratulations Year 9! The certificates will be awarded at a special assembly. Thank you to our parents and families for supporting our young people during their exam preparation.

Best wishes,

Mrs Fegan

PSHE Topics

Year 7 - Body image and self-care
Year 8 - Media influence on body image
Year 9 - Camden are coming in to present to students on crime and risks (Camden Choices Program)
Year 10 - Careers 1
Year 11 - Pornography

Attendance

La Sainte Union seeks to ensure excellent school attendance and punctuality so that pupils can achieve and realise their potential and have full opportunities to be involved in all aspects of school life.

We appreciate that your daughter may be unwell from time to time and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absence, but we urge you to think carefully about keeping your child out of school.

There is a strong connection between poor attendance and underachievement. Please see our Policies page for the Attendance Policy.

Attend today, achieve tomorrow

LSU prides itself in its high exam results, which are achieved thanks to excellent attendance levels. Ensuring a young person's regular attendance at school is the legal responsibility of parents and carers and the school views any failure to attend regularly as a matter of safeguarding.

Reporting your child's absence

If your child is unable to attend school, you must inform the school **before 8.30 am on the first day and every day thereafter of the absence.** If you do not inform the school, this may result in an unauthorised absence and is placed on your child's record. If you are unable to inform the school, you must provide a note with the reason for the absence on your child's return. For every day that your child is absent, you will receive a text informing you of their absence, unless we know otherwise.

Parents and guardians please email absence/early departures to attendance@lsu.camden.sch.uk or telephone 0207 428 4600 press option 1 and please include in your message: the pupil's full name, the pupil's form year and class and the reason for absence.

All requests for exceptional leave must be made in advance to Mrs Fegan.

Holidays in term time cannot be authorised. Individual requests for time off school for exceptional circumstances are considered on a case-by-case basis, in line with the guidance from the Department of Education. Requests for authorisation cannot be considered in retrospect.

Early departure

All appointments for the doctor, hospital, orthodontist or dentist, must be made out of term time or after school. If it is local, your child may be able to leave and then return to school. Your child must bring a note on the day of any appointments and report to reception **before 8.30 am** with proof of their appointment unless we have received an email from a parent/guardian.

They must deposit their phone in the early departure box, ready for collection when they sign out and leave the premises. Without a note or proof, your child will not be allowed to leave school premises until we have made contact with the parent or guardian.

Medical appointments before school

If your child has a medical appointment before school and arrives late, they must show proof of their appointment on arrival. If they have no proof, we may contact the parent/guardian to confirm. No proof results in an unauthorised absence.

Punctuality

If your child arrives late to school **after 8.30 am** they will need to use the main entrance in Highgate road. They must sign in using the Inventory system. This is important for safeguarding and health and safety. They must hand in their phones at reception and collect them from there after PM registration.

They may receive a late detention that they must attend at the end of the day. Persistent lateness may result in a penalty notice and a fine. La Sainte Union seeks to ensure excellent school attendance and punctuality so that pupils can achieve and realise their potential and have full opportunities to be involved in all aspects of school life.

You can see in the table below how percentage attendance relates to the number of days off school:

98% attendance	4 days absent from school
95% attendance	10 days absent from school (2 weeks)
90% attendance	19 days absent from school (4 weeks)
85% attendance	27.5 days absent from school (5.5 weeks)
80% attendance	38 days absent from school (7.5 weeks)

We expect every student to achieve over 95% attendance in the school year. The advice from the Department for Education is that any pupil with less than 90% attendance will be classed as a persistent absentee. Any persistent absentee will be discussed with the PAS (Pupil Attendance Service.

What happens if your child is absent from school?

If your daughter is absent from school you will receive an absence text by 10.30am, unless you have already informed us that she will be absent. This is to ensure that you are aware that she has not arrived at school.

If your daughter's attendance drops below 95% you may receive a letter of concern and we will ask you to contact the school to discuss your daughter's attendance.

If your daughter's attendance drops below 90% you may receive a further letter. It is likely that you daughter's absence will be referred to the PAS (Pupil Attendance Service) and there may be statutory action taken.

What happens if your child is persistently late for school?

The school day starts at **8.30 am** and registers remain open until 9.00 am. If your daughter arrives between 8.35 am and 9.00 am, she will be marked late in the register (L). If she arrives after 9.00 am, without an appropriate reason, she will be recorded as an unauthorised absence (U). If your daughter is recorded as L or U eight times or more over a period of eight weeks, she will be referred to the PAS (Pupil Attendance Service and you may receive a fine. We want to work with you and your daughter to ensure optimum attendance and will do whatever we can to offer support where it is needed.

We are able to refer you to a number of school and external support services that may be able to help.

Please contact attendance@lsu.camden.sch.uk , if you have concerns regarding your daughter's attendance or want to discuss your particular situation.

Adverse Weather Policy

Please regularly check the school website for decisions regarding adverse weather.

La Sainte Union will endeavour to remain open during snow and bad weather.

In the event of severe weather, such as heavy snow and ice, the school may be forced to close. We endeavour to stay open at all times, however, if we are forced to close, the school's website will be updated and you will be sent a text message confirming the school's closure. Please continue to check the Weather Forecast and TFL service updates for the next few days for weather warnings as hazardous conditions could affect public transport and your daughter's journey into school.

Transition to Sixth Form Study

A message for our Year 11 students and their families

It is our pleasure to outline the events that will be taking place to support you during the application process to the Sixth Form. It was lovely to see so many of you at the LaSWAP Open Evening last term. This was only the first event designed to support student transition to Sixth Form study.

On Monday January 15th, Ms Boyd (Deputy Director of Sixth Form) will be leading the presentation for Year 11 to explain our plans.

Individual Progression Guidance Interviews

During this first half term, all students in Year 11 will receive an invitation for a personal discussion about their planned courses, with a member of staff who is knowledgeable about the sixth form and post 16/18 progression routes. This will be sent via e-mail to you using the contact details that we have on our system. These guidance meetings will help each student identify their most appropriate pathway – it will be an opportunity to compare predicted grades to entry criteria for the courses of interest.

The dates planned are as follows, appointments will be scheduled between 3.30pm and 5.15pm and you will receive a personal invitation with the time slot next week:

Form Group / s	Date
11T	**Monday 22nd January**
11D and 11E	**Wednesday 24th January**
11C and first half of 11R	**Monday 5th February**
11J and second half of 11R	**Wednesday 7th February**

The online application process for LaSWAP opens from January 9th for LSU students.

Students will be issued with their log in details at their individual guidance interview and will have the opportunity to complete their applications **directly after their guidance interview**. This is just the starting point for a conversation about post 16 study and does not have to represent final choices. Please note that entry on to any of our courses cannot be confirmed until GCSE grades are known in August as entry criteria for each course must be met.

Further details about our pathways, courses and entry criteria and the *LaSWAP Admissions Policy* can be found on the LaSWAP website: www.LaSWAP.camden.sch.uk

Please click here to see a full break down of the GCSE qualifications needed to access each A Level subject offered at LaSWAP.

Please click here to see a full break down of the GCSE qualifications needed to access each Vocational qualification offered at LaSWAP.

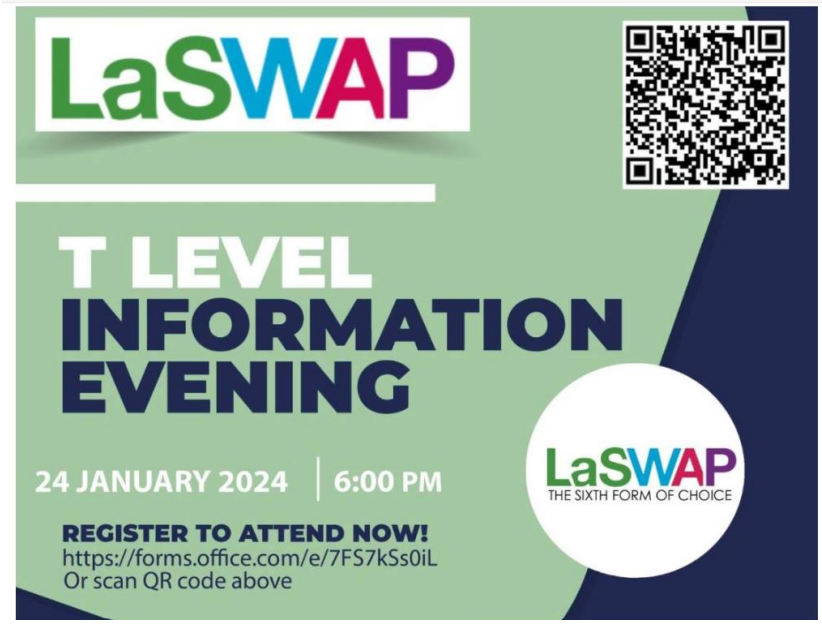
Virtual Open Evening Tuesday March 21st with focus on KS4 and the step up to KS5

We will also be running a virtual event for students, parents and carers before Easter – the proposed date is Tuesday March 12th. This will be a bespoke virtual open evening exclusively for current LSU students and their parents/carers. The link will be sent out in the week leading up to the event. The planned programme is as follows:

5.00-5.10pm	What are your goals and aspirations? Pathways, Subject Choices and Entry Criteria at LaSWAP	Ms Field (Director of Sixth Form and Assistant Head)
5.10-5.20pm	Pastoral Care and Enrichment opportunities in the Sixth Form	Ms Boyd (Deputy Director of Sixth Form)

5.20-5.30pm	How to use the Easter Holiday effectively to support excellent revision so that you can reach your academic goals	Ms O'Keefe (Assistant Head)
5.30pm-5.40pm	Progression, student destinations and careers support at LSU	Ms. Tait (Careers and Higher Education advisor)

We are also very excited to invite you the launch our T-Level offer this year. T Levels are a brand-new qualification designed to give you a head start towards the future that you want, by bringing classroom and work placements on a course designed in collaboration with the best employers and businesses. Please use this link or QR code to register your attendance.
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8pvmo4HEbkuUb_tf2gEZ6PwoD7ghfFxlsHQwknrDTUVUMVNKTVVYM1FRWEdVSlkwOVRTSjROMDg2Uy4u



We look forward to seeing you all soon.

The Sixth Form pastoral team

Classics' Enrichment Lent Term Programme at LSU #OpenYourMinds

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(Y13 Classics' students watch the sunset at the Temple of Poseidon in Sounion, Athens)

Learning how to learn is as much a part of what we teach as the content itself. Our students are offered as many different opportunities as possible to enrich their classroom learning. In Classics', students experience an abundance of lectures, workshops, performances and trips as well as having a chance to build their confidence through meeting academics in more informal settings such as at our Symposia.

Here are our plans for this term!

January 15, Y12/13 Classicists and Y8 Latin students will try their hands at Roman Pottery after school with the Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln.

January 26, All day trip to Warwick University to see Aeschylus's Persians, talks on the cultural and historical context of the oldest, extant tragedy from Dr Paul Grigsby, Dr Emmanuela Bakola, Dr Xavier Buxton, Professor David Fearn.

February 7, Y12 Classics' Students: UCL Workshop, Out of time-the urgency of performing Greek tragedy with Paul O'Mahony, Artistic director, Out of Chaos.

February 8, Y12 Classics' Students: UCL Workshop Chorus and Chorality in Practice with Dr Estel Baudou, dramaturg and Classics scholar.

February 9, Y12 Classics students: Archaeology workshop The Artists Around Dionysus: Artists and Festivals with Dr Georgios Mouratidis, Assistant Director of the British School at Athens' archaeological centre.

Y12 and Y13 Classics Students: Lecture at the Bloomsbury Theatre by dramaturg, theatre director and scholar David Bullen from Royal Holloway, followed by a performance of Euripides' visceral Tragedy The Bacchae, one of the A level set texts.

February 20, Professor Tim Whitmarsh, Cambridge, will discuss Ancient Greek Comedy with Y12/13 Classicists in class, have lunch with them and our Y8 Latin Students in our first Symposium of the Year.

March 8, British Museum A level Study Day, Roman Britain. Y12/13 Classics

March 19, Broadcaster, Author and Durham University Professor Edith Hall to discuss The Odyssey with Y12 and Y13 Classicists, have lunch with them and our Y8 Latin Students in our second Symposium of the Year. Professor Hall will also give a talk on Tragedy to the wider school community, watch this space!

March 26, Dr Clare Rowan, Editor of the (ancient) *The Numismatic Chronicle* and lecturer at Warwick University, will introduce Y12 and Y13 Classics students to how to handle and interpret Ancient coins, she will be holding a special session for our Y8 Latin students on how to read inscriptions on Roman coins.

Save the date! Our Y7s have been making huge progress in their study of Latin, of the Romans in both History and English; we are planning to take the whole year to the British Museum's exciting new Roman Legion Exhibition in May to fuel their intellectual curiosity and reward their progress. Euge! (Latin for hurray!)