CLAYTON HALL ACADEMY

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Headteacher
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Place of registration: England

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CRE/JFI

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we complete our first full week back, I would like to congratulate students on the excellent start they have made. They have returned looking smart, approaching lessons positively and settling quickly into the routines and expectations of the new school year. With **school photographs** taking place on **Monday 14 September**, they have certainly set a high standard already!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to several new members of staff who have joined us this term. We are delighted to welcome to our academy; **Mr Halim (Science)**, **Mr Murray (Mathematics), Miss Hughes (PE), Miss Stanway (RE)** and **Miss Amos (Teaching Assistant)**. We are also pleased to welcome **Mrs Birks** to our Pastoral Team, where she will be working closely with students and families on attendance-related support. We are excited to have them as part of our academy family and know they will make a positive contribution to school life.

Many students have now had the opportunity to experience our new catering arrangements with **Relish**, and we hope families are becoming familiar with the hot meal pre-ordering system. Whilst hot meals need to be ordered in advance, sandwiches and other cold options remain available every day without pre-ordering. We would encourage all students to eat something at lunchtime, even if their favourite meal is unavailable, as a good lunch helps maintain energy levels, concentration and readiness to learn throughout the afternoon.

**ParentPay** remains our payment system, and we are aware that some families have experienced issues with balances not matching those shown on the Relish system. We have raised this with Relish and have been assured that the issue is currently being fixed. If you need any support with ParentPay, please contact our office team, who will be happy to help.

Over the summer, several improvements were made around the academy, and it has been great to see students already making use of them. Our new **Student Reception** and dedicated **Student Attendance Office** are helping students access support more quickly and efficiently, while providing spaces better suited to their needs.

We are also delighted to see the remedial work to our Old Hall Building completed, with the final sections of scaffolding now removed. It has been wonderful to see this important part of our site restored to its former appearance. As a reminder, **Reception** for visitors remains located in the Old Hall building, and we continue to operate a '**no cars** on site during the school day' approach wherever possible to help keep students and visitors safe.

We also have some fantastic news to celebrate from beyond the academy. Huge congratulations to **George in Year 11**, who recently completed a remarkable **50-mile charity bike ride** alongside his dad. Cycling as far as Nantwich and back in just 4 hours, they raised money for **The Dougie Mac**. This is a wonderful achievement, showing real determination and a desire to help others. We are extremely proud of George, and if anyone would like to support this worthy cause, the fundraising page can be found here: G's fundraiser for Douglas Macmillan Hospice

I would also like to draw your attention to a consultation currently being undertaken by **Staffordshire County Council** regarding the future of the **Aiming High SEND Short Breaks Service**. They are keen to hear the views of families, and we have attached further information for anyone who wishes to take part. Please note that the consultation closes very soon, so this weekend will be the final opportunity to share your views.

Finally, may I encourage all families to keep an eye on the **Dates for Your Diary** section of my letter each week. The school calendar is always busy and ever-changing, and we aim to give families as much notice as possible about key events and important dates. For example, **Year 7** families may want to note our optional Settling-In Evening on Wednesday 30 September, while **Year 11** families will want to be aware of the dates of upcoming PPE examinations and everyone is always keen to know when **parent's evenings** are due. A quick glance at these dates each week can make planning much easier.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The new academic year has begun positively, and I look forward to sharing many more celebrations, opportunities and achievements with you in the weeks ahead.

Warm regards

CATY REID
Headteacher

Encs: SEND Consultation
Term Dates 2026-27

**Dates for your diary:**

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| Mon 14 Sept | **All year groups – Student photographs** (Academy Photography) |
| Fri 25 Sept | **Inset Day** (school closed to students) |
| Wed 30 Sept | **Year 7 settling-in evening** |
| Thur 1 & Fri 2 Oct | **Year 11 Geography fieldtrips** |
| w/c 19 Oct | **Year 11 PPEs** |
| Mon 26 Oct – Fri 30 Oct | **Half-term break** (school closed to students) |
| w/c 2 Nov | **Year 11 PPEs** (end Fri 6 Nov) |
| Thur 5 Nov | **All year groups – NHS flu vaccinations** (more info to follow from NHS) |
| Thur 26 Nov | **Year 8 Parents Evening** |
| Fri 4 Dec | **Inset Day** (school closed to students) |
| Thur 10 Dec | **Year 11 Parents Evening** |
| Fri 18 Dec | **Term ends** |