



CLAYTON HALL ACADEMY



A part of Windsor
Academy Trust

Headteacher

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CRE/JFI

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we get even nearer to the end of term, you might expect things to slow down but here at Clayton Hall Academy, it's been quite the opposite! This week has been full of energy, achievements, and special moments that remind us why our school community is so special.

This week's **Awards Evening** was a true highlight. Our hall was packed with proud families as we celebrated achievements from the last academic year. It was also lovely to see our Year 11 leavers return to collect their GCSE certificates and awards. A memorable moment was sharing a message from the Headteacher found in a programme from 1953-54 - a fascinating glimpse into our school's history and a reminder of the traditions we're proud to continue.

Today, our **Year 7 Grandparents' Afternoon Tea** was another heartwarming event. Students baked cakes, scones and sandwiches, and served them with such care and skill. Meanwhile, our Treblemakers choir was busy helping to keep everyone entertained with their renditions of some festive songs. This tradition has become a treasured part of our calendar, and it's always wonderful to see the joy it brings to families. My thanks to Mrs Shaw, Ms Harris and all the students who helped make this the success it was. So many positive comments were made at the event that describe the event much better than I can:

"Very well-presented food and the student servers were very polite and pleasant.

Nice to see our grandson's school and have a chat over lunch.

Wonderful idea to share with grandparents. Food was gorgeous.

Really good to involve grandparents at secondary school.

Very attentive student waiters and very fresh, tasty food.

The cakes were delicious, better than M&S!

Very organised with plenty of delicious food.

So nice to include us grandparents in some school festivities. Everyone has worked hard to look after us.

Thanks to staff and students for such a wonderful afternoon."

Our talented **choir** continued to spread festive cheer with their performance this week at a **Portmeirion** corporate event. We were thrilled to see our choir perform at the stunning venue this week, and they truly did us proud. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the organisers for inviting us to perform and for their incredible hospitality. Opportunities like this not only allow our students to shine but also strengthen partnerships that benefit everyone involved.



Special mention this week must go to an outstanding solo performance by **Keza (year 10)**, as she sang in front of almost 1,500 staff from across our Trust at the ICC in Birmingham during our recent trust-wide **inset day conference**. Members of our Treblemakers were there too and gave their own choreographed performance alongside other choirs from across the Trust – what an experience for them! The theme of the conference was *belonging*, and our students truly embodied that message - we are so proud they belong to our school family. We were also proud of our staff, as 8 were shortlisted for a **Windsor Academy Trust Award**, with **Mrs Findlater** receiving *Highly Commended* in her category. Congratulations to all - you truly reflect our drive for excellence and commitment!

Sporting success continues as well, and it was the turn of our **Year 7 girls' futsal team** who took part in the Newcastle Schools District tournament. They didn't just take part though; they went on to win the whole tournament, staying undefeated from start to finish - what a record! Photos of the winning team can be found on our Facebook page – congratulations go to **Poppy, Lola, Sophia, Lilly, Ava, Frankie, Imogen** and **Isabella**.

History Trip to Shrewsbury Prison

On Thursday, many of our Year 10 history students took part in an unforgettable trip to **Shrewsbury Prison**. This visit gave them a unique opportunity to step inside a real Victorian prison and experience what life was like for inmates over the centuries. Students explored original cells, heard stories of famous prisoners, and learned about the harsh conditions and punishments that shaped Britain's justice system. These insights are invaluable for their GCSE studies, particularly for the Crime and Punishment unit, as they bring textbook learning to life in a vivid and memorable way. The students were engaged, asked thoughtful questions, and represented our academy brilliantly throughout the day.

Parent and Student Voice

Thank you to everyone who signed up for our Parent Voice session with CEO Dawn Haywood next week. We've had so much interest that we're oversubscribed and have introduced a reserve list. If you registered, you'll have received an email today confirming whether you're on the main list or the reserve list. We really do appreciate our parents getting involved and we know your time is precious.

We also have a **student voice session** called *Clayton Speaks* next week, led by Mrs Hulme. Our randomly selected students will receive their invites via Outlook email - please encourage them to check. This is their chance to have their voice heard about issues that matter to them in school.

Hot Chocolate with the Head

Over the last few Fridays, **James, Nuvenya, Erin and Olivia** (all from Year 7) joined me for *Hot Chocolate with the Head*. These students have been shining examples of what it means to represent Clayton Hall Academy. From performing in concerts, attending the WAT COP conference event, to consistently showing kindness, teamwork, and respect, they truly embody our academy values.

It was a pleasure to spend time with them and hear about their experiences and I hope they enjoy more hot chocolate at home in their keepsake Academy mugs!

Looking Ahead to Spring Term

We're already planning for next term, and one of our big focuses will be improving the presentation of student work in books. We'll be encouraging everyone to aim for '**Presentation Perfect**'. To help with this, all students will need:

- **2 black pens** for neat writing
- **one pencil** for diagrams and sketches
- **one rubber** for corrections
- **one ruler** for clear layouts
- **one calculator** for maths and science work.

These might not be the most exciting stocking fillers, but having the right equipment really helps students take pride in their work.

A huge thank you to **Nieve in Year 8** and her mum, who kindly donated a large quantity of maths equipment this week. This means we can support any student who needs to borrow items. If any other parents are able to donate pens, pencils, rulers or other stationery, please contact Miss Jones at rjones@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Community News

Did you know our academy can be hired for local clubs and events? We work with a management agent called EduLettings and if you ever need a venue, why not consider us? I attach some information for you provided by EduLettings, in case it's of interest. Contact them directly with any enquiries please.

Important Reminder

Next Friday, 19 December, is our last day before the Christmas break. It's **Christmas Jumper Day** (or own clothes with a festive accessory!) and we'll finish early at **12:55pm**. Don't forget your donation of **tinned food** for the 'Tinmas Tree' - thank you.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Warm regards



CATY REID
Headteacher

Enc Edulettings flyer

Dates for your diary:

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| Tues 16 Dec | Parent Voice with CEO |
| Wed 17 Dec | Student Voice with Mrs Hulme |
| Fri 19 Dec | Christmas Jumper Day – school closes at 12.55pm (Donations of tinned food items please) |
| Mon 22 Dec – Fri 2 Jan | CHRISTMAS BREAK (school closed) |
| Mon 5 Jan 2026 | School re-opens (students line up by 8.40am) |
| Mon 12 Jan 2026 | North West STEM Challenge Final (further info from cashton@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk) |
| w/c 12 Jan 2026 | Food Practical Exams (further info from jshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk) |
| Wed 21 Jan 2026 | Year 9 Parents Evening (further info from vstreet@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk) |
| Wed 11 Feb 2026 | Year 9 Options Evening |
| Fri 13 Feb 2026 | Inset Day (school closed to students) |
| w/c Mon 16 Feb | Half-term break (school closed to students) |
| Mon 23 Feb | School re-opens to all |
| w/c Mon 23 Feb | Year 11 PPEs begin |
| w/c Mon 2 Mar | Year 11 PPEs continue |