



**CLAYTON
HALL
ACADEMY**



A part of Windsor
Academy Trust

Headteacher

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well. I would like to begin my letter this week with a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and carers. Your continued support - whether through encouraging your children with their learning, attending school events, or sharing kind words with staff - truly makes a difference. I regularly hear from colleagues about how much they value the positivity and partnership shown by our families, and it helps create the strong, caring community that makes Clayton Hall Academy such a special place.

Over recent weeks, many of you have supported us with encouraging your children to complete their **homework**, and we are really seeing the impact. Following feedback from both students and parents, we have made a small but helpful change to the way assignments appear on Arbor. Students can now click the '*submit*' button themselves once they have completed their work. This is particularly useful when tasks are completed on other platforms such as Sparx Reader or Sparx Maths.

In further improvement and helping to keep attendance records accurate and up to date, we are now asking that **all student absences are reported only through the Studybugs app**. If you haven't already done so, please download Studybugs from the Apple App Store¹ or Google Play², create an account, and add your child's details. Reporting absence this way sends the information directly to school in real time, which helps our attendance team respond quickly and ensures our safeguarding records remain fully accurate.

This week also saw our **Year 7 Parents' Evening** - their first at our academy. It was incredibly well attended, and it was wonderful to see so many families engaging with teachers about the progress their children are making. Events like this are an important opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school, especially during a child's first year with us. A big thank you goes to our **fantastic prefects**, who seamlessly introduced our new electronic sign-in desk, and to **Kirsty**, our **Parent Champion**, who helped ensure everyone felt so welcome. We are always keen to learn from parents' experiences, so we strongly encourage Year 7 families to complete the questionnaire that is emailed to them.

¹ <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/studybugs/id695307170> [studybugs.com]

² <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.sickly.app&hl=en-US>



Our **World Book Day celebrations** have taken place across the last week, culminating yesterday in our 'Spot the Book Character' competition! A number of staff took part by dressing up as well-known characters, while students tried to identify them all to be in with a chance of a prize. It's always an uplifting day in school - seeing characters roaming the corridors brings smiles to so many faces and creates a bright, joyful atmosphere, all while maintaining the structure and expectations that help our school run smoothly.

This week also marked the launch of our **Year 10 Social Action Project**. Our ongoing partnership with YMCA North Staffordshire continues to inspire socially responsible, community minded young people. As part of National Careers Week, students worked with YMCA mentors to explore the full process of social action - from the spark of an idea to the planning of a meaningful project. Through hands-on workshops, they have begun shaping initiatives that will be delivered in the summer term, tackling real issues within our local community. This experience helps develop key skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership and problem-solving, while also providing excellent "gold" opportunities for future CVs. Most importantly, it nurtures empathy, responsibility and pride as students learn how to be positive agents of change.

Finally, you may be aware that last week brought important news for many local families as Staffordshire County Council released Year 6 high school allocations. We know this can be an anxious time, and we want to acknowledge the significance of these decisions for children and parents alike. We are thrilled and very proud to have been fully subscribed again this year. If this means that you, or someone you know, did not receive the place you had hoped for, especially if you have a sibling currently with us, please do get in touch. We are always happy to work with families to explore the options available.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. It means a great deal to us, and it is felt every day across the academy.

Warm regards



CATY REID
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

Sun 22 Mar – Tue 24 Mar	DofE Silver Expedition (further info from tlongshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Fri 27 Mar	Year 9 NHS Vaccinations (further info in email dated 2.3.26)
Sun 19 Apr – Tue 21 Apr	DofE Silver 'Final Expedition' (further info from tlongshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Wed 22 Apr	Year 10 Parents Evening
w/c 30 Mar	Easter break (school closed to students)
w/c 6 Apr	
Thurs 30 Apr	Year 10 PPEs begin (ending on Fri 8.5.26)
Mon 4 May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Fri 8 May	Year 10 PPE's end
Mon 11 May	Year 11 GCSE's begin
Fri 26 Jun	Inset Day (school closed to students)