CLAYTON HALL ACADEMY

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Headteacher
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Place of registration: England

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CRE/JFI

18 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another busy week, I have found myself reflecting on just how important the small moments are in helping young people feel happy, safe and successful at school. Whether it is being greeted by a familiar face each morning, receiving encouragement from a teacher, or celebrating an achievement however big or small, these moments help create a real sense of **belonging**. It is something we place great importance on at Clayton Hall Academy, and I have been delighted to see so many positive connections taking place already this term.

One of the things I enjoy most each morning is seeing our students arrive at school and be welcomed by staff. Our senior leaders, Heads of Year, pastoral team and I are out at the gates every day, ready to greet students and support them as they begin the day. Students line up at 8.40am and meet their Form Tutors. These routines may seem simple, but they build strong relationships and make sure each young person feels recognised, valued and part of something special. We want every student to feel that they **belong** at Clayton Hall Academy and that there is always someone here who knows them and cares about their success.

Each week our year groups come together for assemblies in the Main Hall. It is always a lovely occasion to see an entire year group gathered together, hearing key messages from their Head of Year and learning about opportunities both within and beyond school. This week, we were pleased to welcome **Jas from the NHS Mental Health Support Team**, who spoke to students about mental wellbeing, where to seek support if needed, and the importance of looking after themselves and others. These conversations are an important part of helping our young people develop confidence, resilience and healthy habits for life.

We were delighted also to welcome **Academy Photography** into school on Monday for our annual school photographs. The photographers commented on how well our students conducted themselves throughout the day, and I know many parents will be pleased to hear that photographs are already beginning to arrive in school. Form Tutors will be distributing these over the coming days. A huge thank you to students for representing the academy so positively.

On Monday, I once again had the pleasure of hosting **Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher**. For families who may be new to Clayton Hall Academy, these sessions give me the opportunity to spend time with Year 7 students who have demonstrated our values, made a positive contribution or simply made an exceptional start to school life.

My guests were **Jacob and Jackson (Year 7)**, who have shown incredible resilience and have already accumulated an impressive number of achievement points since joining us. They have also been fantastic **ambassadors** for our new Year 7 cohort, embracing school life with enthusiasm and setting a positive example for others. It was wonderful to hear about their experiences so far, and I look forward to celebrating many more students in the weeks ahead.

Seb and Ava in Year 8 were also excellent ambassadors for the academy when they visited the studios of **Hitmix 107.5FM** to help record a radio advert! Their voices can now be heard on air, with the advert running until the end of **October 2026**. If you're listening to Hitmix over the coming weeks, do keep an ear out for them. We are extremely proud of how they represented the school and embraced this exciting opportunity.

A great deal of Mr Dunleavy's focus this week has been on supporting our **Year 11 students**, and I am delighted to report that attendance at after-school tutoring sessions has been exceptional. The response from students has been outstanding, making the most of every opportunity available to them. These sessions help students revisit important knowledge, build confidence and secure learning ahead of their exams. Current sessions are running in several subjects, with more to follow in the coming weeks. We encourage all Year 11 students to speak to their teachers about the opportunities available and to attend as many sessions as possible – this can even lead to rewards!

Attendance remains one of our key school-wide priorities, and I am pleased to share that attendance at this stage of the year is already higher than at the same point last year. We encourage all students to aim for **97% attendance or above** - **every lesson counts**. When attendance begins to fall, we will seek to offer support and work with families to remove any barriers wherever possible. Regular attendance remains one of the most important factors in helping young people achieve their academic and personal potential.

I am incredibly proud to announce that Clayton Hall Academy has achieved **Microsoft Showcase School Status** for the **fifth consecutive year**. This prestigious award recognises schools that are leading the way in the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning. Through the use of iPads, digital classrooms and a range of online learning tools, our students continue to develop the skills they will need for the future. Maintaining this status for five years in a row reflects the commitment of our entire school community and reinforces our leading position in innovation and improving learning.

Finally, one of our community partners, **Teach Sports**, has asked us to share an exciting opportunity. They are looking for a young, enthusiastic helper to support football coaching sessions held at Clayton Hall Academy on Thursday evenings and at Newcastle Academy on Friday evenings. This could be an excellent opportunity for a student interested in sport, coaching or gaining some part-time work experience. Anyone interested should contact **teachsports@outlook.com** for further information. We are also always keen to hear from local groups and organisations looking to hire facilities at the academy, and I would encourage anyone interested to contact Edu-Lettings for more information.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been another positive week at Clayton Hall Academy, and I look forward to sharing more celebrations and successes with you next week.

Please note that next **Friday** is an Inset day for staff and **school is closed to students**.

Warm regards

CATY REID
Headteacher

Enc: Club List (Autumn Term)

Dates for your diary:

Fri 25 Sept	**Inset Day** (school closed to students)
Wed 30 Sept	**Year 7 settling-in evening** (optional)
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)
w/c 23 Nov	**Year 7 Residentials** (more info will follow)
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**