



**CLAYTON
HALL**
ACADEMY



A part of Windsor
Academy Trust

Headteacher

Mrs Katy Reid Bsc
(Hons), PGCE

Place of registration: England



Clayton Lane, Newcastle under
Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 3DN



01782 367650



office@claytonhall.academy



www.claytonhallacademy.org



@ClaytonHall4094

CRE/JFI

19 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the Autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly busy and rewarding few months. Our students have shown incredible resilience, creativity, and enthusiasm throughout, and it has been wonderful to see their achievements both in and out of the classroom. There's been trips, residentials, fundraising, choir and musical performances, sporting success and all combined with fantastic classroom learning. Our students really do give their best in all that they do.

Across the Windsor Academy Trust too, there has been plenty to celebrate. The latest edition of the parent magazine - *Thriving Together* - has just been published, and it's a fantastic showcase of the WAT family spirit. You can read the Autumn edition here: [Thriving Together - Parent Magazine - Autumn Edition by WAT](#) - look out for Clayton Hall's feature!

We're also proud to share with you a simply uplifting video, which was showcased at our recent staff Inset day. This reminds us that every one of our students is truly remarkable. Please take a few minutes to watch it here: <https://youtu.be/Q3jbeJ4O-MA> – it's guaranteed to make you smile.

Parent and Student Voice

Thank you to those who joined our parent voice session with CEO Dawn Haywood this week. Dawn greatly appreciated the discussion, and feedback from parents has been very positive. While these sessions aren't intended for one-to-one conversations about individual students, please remember that we are always here to support you individually, whenever needed.

We also hosted a student voice session with Dawn, followed by our larger **Clayton Speaks** event for Years 7–10. This was a fantastic success, with students engaging positively and offering thoughtful, solution-focused ideas for improvement, including the introduction of positive feedback to parents and the willingness to take on leadership opportunities, starting as early as Year 7. Their maturity and enthusiasm were inspiring, and we look forward to building on these ideas in the new year.



Festive Highlights

- Today is Christmas Jumper Day, and the school is already full of bright, cheerful designs and festive accessories! Students and parents are being incredibly generous in donating tinned goods for our *Tinmas Tree*, with items arriving right now to our Form Tutors. All items will be going to the local Food Bank. Thank you for all your donations.
- Our House Assemblies this morning, led by our House Leaders, are celebrating the many positive achievements of the term, with certificates and treats aplenty.
- In sporting success this week, a special mention this week goes to **Isabelle (year 10)**, who has had an incredible week in the world of volleyball. Isabelle competed as part of the West Midlands Under-15 team at the Inter-Regional Championships, showcasing outstanding skill and teamwork on a national stage. Her performance was exceptional and reflects the hard work and dedication she has put into her sport. Isabelle has been invited to attend the England Under-18 training camp at Loughborough University this weekend - a remarkable achievement and a testament to her talent and commitment. We are immensely proud of Isabelle and wish her every success as she continues to pursue her sporting ambitions.
- We said a heartfelt thank you this week to **Ken Steele**, who led his final badminton session at Clayton Hall Academy after an incredible 30 years of volunteering. Ken's dedication and passion have made a lasting impact on countless students, and while he steps away from school sessions, he will continue sharing his expertise at Clayton Sports Centre. Thank you, Ken – we wish you all the very best!

Looking Ahead to Spring Term

Next term we launch our focus on **Presentation Perfect**. Please ensure students return with the following essentials: **two black pens, a pencil, a rubber, a ruler, and a calculator**. These may not be the most exciting stocking fillers, but they make a big difference!

On Wednesday 21 January, we look forward to the next in our series of Parents Evenings. Year 9 parents will receive more information early in the New Year and emails will be sent to parents when the booking system is open on Arbor.

In January, we're excited to support the ELSA study in partnership with the NHS and the University of Birmingham¹. This research screens children aged 3–13 for their risk of developing type 1 diabetes through a simple finger-stick blood test. Screening will take place at school on **27 January 2026**. Families who take part will help researchers understand more about type 1 diabetes and explore ways to delay its onset. For more information, visit www.elsadiabetes.nhs.uk or contact the ELSA team at elsa@contacts.bham.ac.uk. Further information will be sent out in the New Year.

¹ Further information in attached flyer, or from www.elsadiabetes.nhs.uk

19 December 2025

Please remember:

- School closes today at lunchtime (**12.55pm**).
- We return on **Monday 5 January**, with students ready to line up at **8.40am**.

Finally, as we close the term, I know that not everyone celebrates Christmas, and for some families this time of year can bring challenges. Whatever your circumstances, I hope the break offers moments of rest and connection. I leave you with this thought:

*“Christmas is not as much about opening presents
as opening our hearts.” - Janice Maeditere*

On behalf of all of us at Clayton Hall Academy, thank you for your continued support. Wishing you peace, joy, and a happy, healthy New Year.

Warm regards



CATY REID
Headteacher

Enc ELSA flyer

Dates for your diary:

Fri 19 Dec	School closes at 12.55pm
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 (booking system to open early in New Year, further info from vstreet@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Tues 27 Jan 2026	Year 7-8 ELSA Screening - optional (further info from research@mpft.nhs.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
Wed 11 Mar	Year 7 Parents Evening
Wed 22 Apr	Year 10 Parents Evening