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 move into October, I have found myself reflecting on how important strong partnerships between home and school are. Every day, we work together with a shared goal - helping our young people to be happy, successful and confident in their future. That partnership is strongest when we listen to one another, which is why I would like to begin this week's letter by inviting parents to help shape an important area of our work.

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent Experience Survey at the end of the last academic year. We were delighted to see so many strengths highlighted, including parents' confidence that staff help children learn, keep them safe and treat them fairly. We were also pleased to see such strong support for the importance of education and good attendance.

The survey also identified some areas where we would like to learn more, particularly around communication with home. To help us do this, **I invite you to attend a group discussion** on **Monday 12 October at 10.00am**, led by Martin Lopez, Windsor Academy Trust's Head of Marketing, as part of a deeper review of how we communicate with families. Your views will help us continue to improve and strengthen our partnership with you. If you would like to attend, please see further detail in my email to you yesterday, or simply express an interest here: CLICK HERE.

On Wednesday evening, we welcomed many of our new Year 7 students and their families to our **Settling-in Evening**. It was lovely to see such a fantastic turnout and to hear so many positive conversations taking place. The evening provided an opportunity for families to meet Form Tutors, ask questions and learn more about life at Clayton Hall Academy. As a reminder, your child's Form Tutor and Head of Year are always available to support you and your child. One of the things I value most about our pastoral system is the strong relationships that develop over time, with these key staff remaining a constant source of support throughout your child's journey with us.

Following the success of last week's Open Evening, we have now begun a series of smaller daytime **tours for prospective families** considering Clayton Hall Academy. These visits offer parents the opportunity to see the academy during a normal working day, and I could not be prouder of the impression our students have made. Every classroom we visited was purposeful and productive. Students were fully engaged in their learning, showed respect to visitors and spoke confidently and politely when asked questions about their experiences.

Visitors commented on the calm atmosphere around the academy and the positive attitudes of our young people. It is always a pleasure to showcase our school in action because our students consistently demonstrate exactly what makes Clayton Hall Academy such a special place to learn.

Of course, exceptional students are supported by exceptional staff. Across the academy, members of staff go above and beyond every day to support our young people and their families. Sometimes those extra acts of kindness, care and commitment can go unnoticed, so I would like to invite parents to **tell us** when a member of staff has made a positive difference to your child.

Positive feedback is incredibly powerful. Not only does it allow us to celebrate excellent practice, but it also helps boost wellbeing and reminds everyone that hard work makes a real difference. When staff feel valued and supported, our students benefit too. If there is a **member of staff who has gone the extra mile** for your family, please do take a moment to let us know*.

Thinking about those exceptional individuals also leads nicely to another opportunity that may be of interest to some of you. Have you ever considered becoming a teacher?

Teaching is a rewarding and fulfilling profession that gives you the opportunity to make a lasting difference to young people's lives. As part of Windsor Academy Trust's partnership with the National Institute of Teaching, applications open on 6 October 2026 for the next intake of the **Initial Teacher Training programme**. Trainees receive mentoring, practical classroom experience and high-quality training within Trust schools, including Clayton Hall Academy. If this is something you have ever thought about, I would encourage you to find out more using the information shared along with this letter.

Finally, I would like to share a fantastic resource that has recently been brought to our attention. Caudwell Children offers a wide range of support for families of children and young people with SEND, including workshops covering communication, sensory needs, sleep, emotional regulation, behaviour, relationships and transitions. Importantly, many of these services can now be accessed **without a diagnosis**, and support is available for young people up to the age of 25.

As a parent, finding the right support can sometimes feel overwhelming. Services such as these can provide practical advice, reassurance and opportunities to connect with other families experiencing similar challenges. I would encourage any parent who feels this support may be beneficial to look at the information provided.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you and your family enjoy a restful weekend.

* Email office@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Warm regards

CATY REID
Headteacher

Encs: Caudwell flyers
ITT flyer

Dates for your diary:

Tue 6 Oct	**Year 11 Post-16 Networking Event**
w/c 19 Oct	**Year 11 PPEs** (see timetable emailed on 17.9.26)
Mon 26 Oct – Fri 30 Oct	**Half-term break** (school closed to students)
w/c 2 Nov	**Year 11 PPEs** (see timetable emailed on 17.9.26)
w/c 23 Nov	**Year 7 Residentials** (see email of 24.9.26)
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**
Mon 4 Jan 2027	**School re-opens**