



**CLAYTON
HALL**
ACADEMY



A part of Windsor
Academy Trust

Headteacher

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CRE/JFI

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you've had a good week. As always, it has been a busy and uplifting few days at Clayton Hall Academy, with so much to celebrate across our school community and it's my pleasure to share with you, some of the highlights. You'll also find some important updates further down and opportunities to get involved with school life either for you or your child.

I'd like to begin this week by telling you that January has been an **epic month for Performing Arts** at our academy. Last week, a group of our Year 9 students attended the WAT Talent Camp at Ingestre Hall, a truly spectacular venue. Over 3 creative days, and supported by specialist tutors, they explored the theme of *Connected* through drama, dance, art and music. Their final performances and exhibitions were deeply meaningful, skilful and powerful. It was also heartening to see new friendships forming with students from across the Trust. I have heard the most uplifting, positive comments from everyone involved in this event and we have been delighted to offer this opportunity.

This week, our Performing Arts team continued to shine as we took to the stage at Stoke Rep Theatre across 2 evenings, with our production of **Fireflies**. Students across all year groups showcased an impressive range of talent in dance, music, musical theatre and drama, creating a memorable show for everyone involved. We are very grateful to the team at Stoke Rep and to the staff (Ms Mood and Mrs Thomas-Nash) and volunteers who gave up their personal time to make this happen. Most of all we are grateful to the students who took part and to their parents for enabling them to be there – thank you. Planning for the next production is already underway!

Also deserving of huge praise this week are our **GCSE Food Technology students**, who completed their practical exams with remarkable success. Working to the theme *Paradise Bay by Sea*, they produced an amazing variety of street-food dishes - seafood paella, fresh seafood pasta, fish and chips, handmade burgers, beautifully seasoned gyros, and stunning desserts including waffles with homemade ice cream and rich caramel or chocolate ganache.

The level of skill on display was exceptional. Students spent 3 hours on their feet preparing 2 complete dishes with accompaniments, tackling demanding techniques such as filleting and deboning seabass, deboning chicken, making fresh pasta and baking bread. Their resilience, problem-solving and maturity under exam conditions were truly impressive.



A particular highlight was seeing their friends gathered outside at lunchtime, eager to taste their creations and leaving supportive comments on their evaluations. They should all feel incredibly proud.

In further success, we were delighted to take part in the **Western Front Association Competition**, which encourages **Year 8 and 9** students to deepen their understanding of WWI and reflect on its historical significance. Sixteen of our students submitted thoughtful, well researched entries, and we are thrilled to have been awarded one runner-up and two highly commended pieces (**Joseph, Aroush** and **Prithveeraj**). This recognition is a wonderful achievement and a testament to the hard work and curiosity shown by everyone involved. The judging panel said *“we were overwhelmed by the number and high standard of entries received this year and judging them has been rewarding but time consuming! There was clear evidence of original research, and many beautiful and moving examples of poetry making effective use of language.”*

Well done to all students who took part – **Menara, Geovia, Oliver, Laila, Lucy, Amelia, Emily, Blythe, Aimee, Geona, Finlay, Enes** and **Isabelle**.

This week also saw a strong turnout for our **Year 9 Parents’ Evening**. It was great to meet so many parents and carers who are keen to support their children at this important stage as they begin thinking about their GCSE choices. Parents’ Evening is a vital opportunity to share progress, ask questions and work together to ensure students feel confident about their next steps. If anyone left with unanswered questions, please do get in touch with your child’s Form Tutor or Head of Year, Mr Smallman or Ms Holland, who will be happy to help.

Over recent weeks, it has also been a pleasure welcoming some remarkable Year 7 students for **Hot Chocolate with the Head**. These small but meaningful celebrations give us the chance to recognise those who have been demonstrating our values so well. So far this term, I have met with **Jack, Jax, Lara** and **Thomas**, and I loved spending some quality time with them. It is always lovely to highlight the many students who impress us with their kindness, effort and achievements.

Opportunity to get involved...

I am pleased to share a **Parent Champion opportunity** for families of **Year 7*** students to join our existing team. Our Parent Champions play an important role in strengthening the partnership between home and school and get involved in all kinds of activities. They provide valuable feedback to our Senior Leadership Team and Local Community Committee, they offer a parent perspective on new initiatives and help us produce family friendly guides on different aspects of school life and support other parents at key events such as Parents’ Evening, Options Evening and transition activities.

* Parents from other year groups have previously been invited but if you would now like to apply, please do reach out to us.

Parent Champions may also accompany school trips where an additional parent voice is helpful. Further information will be sent separately to Year 7 parents but in the meantime, if you are a Year 7 parent and would like to find out more or have an informal chat, please get in touch by emailing jfindlater@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Finally...

We know that the cost of school uniform can sometimes be challenging, and we are always looking for ways to support families.

- We have secured a **discount voucher from Smart School Uniform**, available exclusively to Clayton Hall Academy parents for all of next week (Monday to Friday). Please find a unique voucher attached with this letter.
- Don't forget we have our own stock of pre-loved uniform in our 'Clayton Outfitters' stockroom and would be happy to help if you do face challenges. Please contact your child's Head of Year for a confidential chat.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to share in so many wonderful achievements each week, and I look forward to many more!

Have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards



CATY REID
Headteacher

Enc Smart School Uniform voucher

Dates for your diary:

Tues 27 Jan 2026	Year 7-8 ELSA Screening - optional (further info in email dated 7.1.26 or by email to research@mpft.nhs.uk)
Tues 10 Feb 2026	Year 11 GCSE Live (Manchester) (further info from email dated 4.11.25 or by email to cashton@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Wed 11 Feb 2026	Year 9 Options Evening (further info from email dated 22.1.26)
Thurs 12 Feb 2026	Years 9-11 Career Connection Event (see email dated 13.1.26)
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