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

This morning, I had the privilege of once again joining a local radio* programme to talk about secondary school applications and the process of choosing a high school place. Whilst speaking live on the radio is certainly a little nerve-wracking, it is also a wonderful opportunity to support families at such an important stage in their child's educational journey, and it is an honour that our school is a showcase for others. As a reminder to parents with younger children, applications for Year 7 places for September 2027 must be submitted through Staffordshire County Council by **31 October 2026** and we would love to be your school of choice.

Last week, I invited families to share news of **students' achievements**† outside of school and I have been absolutely delighted by the response. It is wonderful to hear about the talents and accomplishments of our young people, many of which happen quietly away from the classroom. From this, I have learned that it's been quite a week for **Year 8** outside of school - I have heard so much about how you are all getting on! We've had **Seth**, who has successfully achieved his first Black Belt Dan grading in Taekwondo, an achievement that reflects considerable dedication and discipline. We were proud to share his achievement along with photos, on our social media spaces – well done Seth!

I was also incredibly pleased to hear about **Sam**, who recently completed his first ever work experience opportunity. Sam took on the roles of Usher and Ticketing Assistant at a local independent cinema, where he welcomed guests, checked tickets, served refreshments and even helped clean up after the event. For many young people this would be a challenge, and Sam rose to that challenge. The feedback he received was exceptional, with the cinema owners praising both his attitude and work ethic and even offering him an ongoing work experience placement – great work Sam!

Congratulations also go to **Lyla in Year 8**, who recently attended her dance troupe's end-of-season celebration in Skegness and was awarded the **Golden Heart 2026 Trophy**. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and the commitment she has shown throughout the year to reach this accolade.

These remind us that success comes in many forms and, throughout our academy, we love to hear about it. With your permission, we can often celebrate these achievements more widely through our social media channels, helping to inspire others and recognise our students' many accomplishments. Please continue to share by emailing: **Celebrate@claytonhall**

Also celebrating is **Miss Amer from our SEND team**, who is starting a new chapter in life and relocating to a new area. As a result, we say farewell to her this half-term. We thank her for everything she has contributed to Clayton Hall Academy and wish her every success and happiness for the future. Following half-term, we will be welcoming **Miss Davis-Phillips**, joining us on 9 November. We very much look forward to welcoming her to the Clayton Hall family and to the SEND team.

I would also like to **celebrate our Year 11 students** for completing their first full week of PPE examinations. There is, of course, another week to complete after half-term, but they have already demonstrated a wonderfully positive attitude. I hope they use the break as an opportunity to rest, recharge and recognise what they have achieved so far, before returning ready to give their best once again.

Meanwhile, for families looking for **activities over the half-term break**, I have attached information about a range of local opportunities, for younger and older students. These include wellbeing and reading events, sessions for parents on understanding teenagers, stop vaping and smoking programmes for young people, football tournaments and youth engagement activities. Families of younger children should also remember that **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)** sessions are available during the break, with free places available for eligible children receiving targeted free school meals.

Finally, as part of our focus on Remembrance, we will once again **be inviting members of cadets, guides, scouts and similar uniformed organisations** to **wear their uniforms to school** on **Wednesday 11 November**. We would also like to create a display recognising family members who are currently serving or who have previously served in the armed forces. If you would like to **contribute a photograph**, please ensure you have the appropriate permission from those featured and email it to us at office@claytonhall. It is always a privilege to recognise the service and sacrifice of members of our wider community, and we look forward to sharing these tributes with students during our remembrance activities.

I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to the academy refreshed and ready for the second half of the autumn term.

Warm regards

CATY REID
Headteacher

Enc: Half-Term Activities

Dates for your diary:

Fri 23 Oct	**ParentPay - closes**
Mon 26 Oct – Fri 30 Oct	**Half-term break** (school closed)
Mon 26 Oct	**Arbor payments – open** - add funds to purchase food from Relish - further info in email dated 7.10.26
w/c 2 Nov	**Year 11 - PPEs** (see timetable emailed on 17.9.26)
Wed 11 Nov	**Scouts/Guides/Cadets/Uniformed Organisations** – wear organisation's uniform
w/c 16 Nov	**KS3 Assessment Window** (see emailed dated 19.10.26) **Year 10 Assessment Window**
w/c 23 Nov	**Year 7 - Residentials** (see email of 24.9.26)
Thur 26 Nov	**Year 8 - Parents Evening**
Fri 27 Nov	**Winter Good Food Show** (by invite, further info from jshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Fri 4 Dec	**Staff Inset Day** (school closed to students)
Mon 7 Dec	**All Years - NHS Flu Vaccinations** (info to follow directly from NHS)
Thur 10 Dec	**Year 11 - Parents Evening**
Fri 18 Dec	**Term ends**
Mon 4 Jan 2027	**School re-opens**

* www.thehitmix.co.uk
† celebrate@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
office@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk