



**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 reach the end of our first term of the academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly positive and purposeful start. This first half-term of the academic year has been full of energy, achievement, and community spirit at Clayton Hall Academy.

- We've welcomed our new Year 7 students, who have settled in with maturity and enthusiasm, and celebrated their transition with events like the Settling-In Evening and the iPad rollout.
- Across the school, students have embraced opportunities in sport, the arts, and leadership - from the Duke of Edinburgh expedition and cross-country victories to theatre trips and the appointment of new Student Librarians.
- We've explored important topics such as e-safety, mental health, and road safety, and strengthened our community links through initiatives like Parent Voice and the newly formed Local Community Committee.
- Our assemblies and Hot Chocolate with the Head moments have highlighted the kindness, resilience, and character of our students, while visits from inspiring figures like Paralympian Mel Clarke have encouraged them to dream big. It's been a term of growth, celebration, and belonging - we're so proud of how our students have represented themselves and our school.

Your support - going forward into next term, there are a couple of areas where we would really appreciate your continued support. As mentioned in last week's letter, we are still experiencing some challenges with **parking around school** and, even more seriously, with **road safety**. We've received a concern from a member of the local community regarding unsafe behaviour by some students while making their way home at the end of day school day - including crossing roads without care and cycling without helmets or on the wrong side of the road.

We are taking this very seriously and will be speaking to students in school about the importance of being responsible and aware when travelling to and from school. We kindly ask for your help in reinforcing these messages at home. Please remind your child of the Green Cross Code¹ and to:

- Always use designated pedestrian crossings
- Wait for the audible signals or the green figure before crossing
- Avoid distractions such as mobile phones or headphones near roads
- Wear a helmet if cycling and follow the rules of the road.

¹ [Green cross code](#)

The safety of our students is our top priority, and your support in helping us keep them safe is, as always, greatly appreciated.

Online safety & kindness - keeping students safe also includes their online safety. We have a legal and moral duty to help keep children safe online, both through education and by putting effective safeguarding measures in place. As our students spend more time on social media, we kindly ask for your support in reminding them that their words matter - even behind a screen. Encouraging respectful, positive interactions online helps create a safer, more supportive environment for everyone.

To help in your discussions at home, you might find the attached information about Snapchat helpful, and the sources of advice given during student assemblies this term. Ask your child too, about the Aspire Mountain and its values of Respect and Responsibility, this can be a helpful way of discussing positive values and how they relate to the use of social media. Let's continue working together to promote kindness in all areas of life – thank you.

Celebration assemblies - on a more celebratory note, we've rounded the half-term off this week with House assemblies. For the first time this academic year, we brought Houses together in joint assemblies, which created a fantastic sense of community and a healthy dose of competitive spirit — especially between Ambition and Determination! We've celebrated excellent **attendance**, high numbers of **achievement points**, and recognised students who have demonstrated exceptional character, such as resilience and kindness. Our **Star Students** were chosen for truly embodying the values of their House, and it was wonderful to see students and staff from all Houses come together to celebrate one another.

Another joyful moment for me personally was the weekly **Hot Chocolate with the Head**. Last week I had the pleasure of chatting with Malek and Kayla, and this week I was joined by Freddie and Benicega. These moments are a lovely reminder of the incredible young people we have in our school — thoughtful, kind, and full of potential.

Looking ahead to next term, we begin with a focus on academic potential, as **Year 11 PPEs** start on **Monday 3 November**. Please do encourage your child to find a healthy balance between revision and rest over the half-term break - both are essential for success. Shortly after, **Years 7 and 9** will have their assessment windows, and **Year 10** will begin their **KAT tests** from the week commencing **Monday 17 November**. These assessments are designed to support and prepare students, not to overwhelm them, and we will be here every step of the way to offer guidance and reassurance.

I hope you all have something lovely planned for the half-term break and that our students return refreshed and ready for the exciting term ahead. Please note that school is closed all next week, to students and staff. You can still reach us by email, and our phone lines will reopen at **8am on Monday 3 November**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a wonderful break and I look forward to welcoming students back at 8.40am for line-up on Monday 3 November.

Warmest wishes



CATY REID
Headteacher

Encs National College/Snapchat
Sources of advice/mental health

Dates for your diary:

w/c 27 Oct	HALF TERM (school closed)
Mon 3 Nov	School re-opens
w/c 3 Nov	Year 11 PPEs
w/c 10 Nov	Year 11 PPEs
w/c 17 Nov	Year 10 KAT tests
Wed 19 Nov	Year 8 Parents Evening
w/c 24 Nov	Year 7 residential to Stanley Head (further info from Arbor or tlongshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Wed 3 Dec	Year 11 Parents Evening
Fri 5 Dec	INSET DAY (school closed to students)
Thur 11 Dec	Year 10 trip to Shrewsbury Prison (further info on Arbor & from astevens@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Mon 22 Dec – Fri 2 Jan	CHRISTMAS BREAK (school closed)
Mon 5 Jan 2026	School re-opens (students line up by 8.40am)