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

One of the things I enjoy most as Headteacher is taking the opportunity each week to walk around the academy and see school life in action. It gives me the chance to visit lessons, speak with students and staff, and gain a real sense of what is happening across our school community. Whilst data, reports and results are all important, nothing compares to seeing learning first-hand. These visits provide a wonderful reminder of the enthusiasm our students bring to school every day.

This week has been no exception. Around the academy, students have been engaging positively with their learning and embracing new challenges. In Technology**, Year 9** students have been designing and creating sustainable torches, combining creativity with practical problem-solving skills. **Year 8** scientists have been exploring how the heart and lungs work together to support respiration in our bodies, while **Year 11** Physics students have been investigating energy transfer. In Geography, **Year 9** students have been learning about the formation of volcanoes, and in Spanish, **Year 11** students have been building their confidence through extended speaking activities. Meanwhile, our **Year 7** students have been developing their concentration and teamwork skills through a range of drama games. I am so proud of the enthusiasm our students show and their willingness to embrace new challenges.

A major highlight of the week was undoubtedly our **Open Evening**. Many of you will remember attending something similar when choosing a secondary school for your child, and it was wonderful to be able to welcome so many prospective families through our doors. Our **students**, **prefects** and **Parent Champions** were exceptional throughout the evening, acting as knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides, supporting visitors and sharing their own experiences of life at the academy. We were also delighted to welcome a range of **community partners**, including representatives from the NHS, Foodbank and Everyone Health to name but a few, helping to showcase the wider support available within our community.

Visitors enjoyed a wide range of engaging activities, including science investigations, humanities challenges, drama and music performances, engineering demonstrations, sports activities and interactive technology experiences. There was something to inspire every visitor and showcase the breadth of opportunities available at Clayton Hall Academy.

A special mention must go to **Precious in Year 8**, who delivered a fantastic speech to a hall packed with parents and children. With confidence and enthusiasm, she spoke about why she chose Clayton Hall Academy and the opportunities she has enjoyed since joining us. She was a wonderful ambassador for the academy and should be extremely proud of herself – thank you Precious!

This week we also held an EmpowerED **Year 7 iPad Essentials** training session to help students develop the confidence, skills and routines needed to use their devices effectively. Student engagement was excellent and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. A huge thank you to our Year 9 student leaders, **Lucy, Menara and Prithveeraj**, who supported the sessions brilliantly. Such has been the enthusiasm for the programme that we have decided to bring forward the next training opportunity to meet demand and further support Year 7 students!

Also this week, it was wonderful to see 3 of our student Cadets, **Tilly (Year 11)**, **Imogen (Year 9)** and **George (Year 10**), visit **Year 8** students in Assembly to share their experiences. They were excellent ambassadors for both the Cadets and Clayton Hall Academy, speaking about the benefits of membership, including developing confidence, leadership skills and new friendships. Year 8 students seemed really keen and asked many thoughtful questions and we hope many will take advantage of this opportunity. Enrolment takes place today – ask your child and find out more on their website*. Any Clayton Hall Academy student who enrols will receive Aspire Points!

Finally, Although September is still flying by, many families may already be thinking ahead to the October half-term break. We have been asked to share details of the next **Staffordshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme**, which offers a range of fun and engaging activities for children and young people during the holidays. A meal is included with all activities lasting more than 2 hours, and bookings for the October programme will open on **Monday 5 October at 4.00pm**. Further information is attached for any families who may be interested.

My thanks, once again, to everyone for playing their part in such a positive week across our academy. Our young people continue to make us exceptionally proud.

Warm regards

CATY REID
Headteacher

Encs: Club List (Autumn Term)
HAF Activities & Food info

Dates for your diary:

Fri 25 Sept	**Inset Day** (school closed to students)
Wed 30 Sept	**Year 7 settling-in evening** (optional)
Thur 1 & Fri 2 Oct	**Year 11 Geography fieldtrips**
Tue 6 Oct	**Year 11 Post-16 Networking Event**
w/c 19 Oct	**Year 11 PPEs**
Mon 26 Oct – Fri 30 Oct	**Half-term break** (school closed to students)
w/c 2 Nov	**Year 11 PPEs** (end Fri 6 Nov)
w/c 23 Nov	**Year 7 Residentials** (more info will follow)
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**

* 435 (Newcastle-under- Lyme) Air Cadets Squadron Details - Air Cadets Squadron Finder