



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 all enjoyed a restful half-term break. It has been lovely to welcome students and staff back into school this week with a renewed sense of optimism and energy for the weeks ahead. Although this is a short half-term - only five weeks - there is a great deal taking place across the school, and it has already been wonderful to see everyone settle quickly back into routines. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support as we continue to work together to ensure the very best for every child.

Exams and Assessments

- **Year 11 PPEs began on Monday 23 February**, and students have made an excellent start. They appear far more settled in their approach, and many have commented that going through this process has helped them understand what to expect when their real exams begin on **11 May**. Our aim, as ever, is to ensure that every student approaches exam season feeling well-prepared and confident.
- Next week, our **Year 8 Assessment Window** opens and will run for two weeks. These assessments help us understand each student's progress so we can tailor our support and guidance accordingly. They take place during normal lesson time, in students' usual classrooms, and are completed like a class test rather than anything formal or high-pressure. Please be mindful that some students may feel a little anxious, and you are very welcome to contact Mr Smallman (Head of Year 8) at msmallman@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk or by phoning 01782 367650 if you would like to discuss any concerns. These assessments are designed to support students, not to create pressure.
- **Year 10 PPEs**, meanwhile, will begin a little later in the term, on **Thursday 30 April**. These assessments are an important milestone in preparing students for the full demands of GCSE study. Over the coming weeks, teachers will continue to support Year 10 with revision guidance, study routines and subject specific preparation, and we are grateful for your support in helping them put these plans into practice at home.

Celebrating Success

I am delighted to bring further news on the outstanding achievements of **Sam (Year 11)**, who continues to excel in competitive swimming. Across 2 impressive weekends at the **Staffordshire County Swimming Championships**, Sam secured an exceptional **12 Championship awards**, including **3 senior championship titles**, along with **9 age group medals**. His achievements span a wide range of events, including gold medals in the 200m and 400m Freestyle and the 50m Backstroke, and he also broke a **club record** in the 1500m Freestyle. This is an extraordinary set of results, and we are incredibly proud of his hard work, dedication and sporting excellence.

Regular participation in sport has clear benefits not only for physical health but also for academic success. Staying active can boost concentration, improve memory, and support overall wellbeing - all of which help students to engage more confidently with their learning. It's wonderful to see Sam achieving excellence in both his sport and his studies, and he sets a fantastic example for others.

In the spirit of keeping active, we are also looking forward to our **DofE Bronze (Wednesday) and Silver (Thursday) training days** next week. These sessions form an important part of the Duke of Edinburgh Programme, helping students develop teamwork, resilience, independence and practical expedition skills. A reminder to all participating students that they may wear their own comfortable, practical clothing suitable for the day's activities.

Meanwhile, this week our PE Department proudly hosted Interhouse competitions for our **Years 7 and 8**, with students taking part in a range of lively sports and activities in their form and house teams. The events were a great success, with fantastic energy and teamwork on display throughout. In **Year 7, Determination** were the winners of the Girls' Volleyball, while **Year 7 Ambition** secured victory in the Boys' Football. In **Year 8, Ambition** took the top spot in both the Girls' Volleyball and Boys' Football competitions. A huge well done to all students who took part - your behaviour, effort and enthusiasm were brilliant, and we were even lucky enough to enjoy bright weather for the outdoor activities. We would also like to extend a special thank you to our wonderful **Year 9 and 10 helpers**, whose leadership and support were invaluable in helping the PE team run these events so smoothly.

This week's **Hot Chocolate with the Head** celebration welcomed 2 fantastic students who were nominated for their creativity, kindness and contribution to school life. **Magnus** impressed us all with a wonderful box theatre he designed and built - complete with lighting - to support our Scheme of Learning on *Ernie's Incredible Illuminations*. Our second student, **Lola**, has been described as "consistently an absolute delight to both peers and staff; the embodiment of kindness" - what an absolutely lovely way to be described! It was a pleasure to recognise both students for the positivity they bring to our academy.

Report an Absence

A reminder that **Studybugs** is our system for reporting student absences due to illness. Introduced at the start of the academic year, it provides a secure, reliable way to notify us when your child is unwell. The system links directly with our registers, provides NHS guidance on “when is ill, too ill”, and supports wider public health initiatives. If you have not yet done so, please register via the Studybugs app or website (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>).

Finally...

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a request received from **Five Rivers Fostering Agency**. They are currently seeking new foster carers within the local area and have asked schools to help raise awareness of the need for supportive, caring families. We have included their information with this letter.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. As we move through this short but busy half-term, we remain committed to ensuring that every child feels supported, encouraged and well equipped to achieve their best. Please do get in touch if there is anything we can help with.

Warm regards



CATY REID
Headteacher

Enc: flyer Five Rivers Fostering Agency

Dates for your diary:

w/c Mon 2 Mar	Year 11 PPEs continue
Wed 4 Mar	DofE Bronze award training session (further info from tlongshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Wed 5 Mar	DofE Silver award training session (further info from tlongshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Wed 11 Mar	Year 7 Parents Evening
Sun 22 Mar – Tue 24 Mar	DofE Silver Expedition (further info from tlongshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Fri 27 mar	Year 9 NHS Vaccinations (further info to follow by email)
Sun 19 Apr – Tue 21 Apr	DofE Silver ‘Final Expedition’ (further info from tlongshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Wed 22 Apr	Year 10 Parents Evening
w/c 30 Mar	Easter break (school closed to students)
w/c 6 Apr	
Thurs 30 Apr	Year 10 PPEs begin (ending on Fri 8.5.26)
Mon 4 May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Fri 8 May	Year 10 PPE’s end
Mon 11 May	Year 11 GCSE’s begin
Fri 26 Jun	Inset Day (school closed to students)