CLAYTON HALL ACADEMY

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Headteacher
Mrs Caty Reid Bsc (Hons), PGCE

Place of registration: England

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CRE/JFI

4 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families have enjoyed a restful summer and have had the opportunity to spend time together, recharge and create some happy memories. There is always something very special about the start of a new academic year. After the quieter weeks of the summer break, it has been wonderful to welcome our students back and see our classrooms and corridors full of life once again. The beginning of a new school year brings with it a real sense of excitement, and it is a pleasure to share with you the first of my weekly letters for the year ahead.

For those families who are new to Clayton Hall Academy, each week I write to share news from across the school, celebrate successes, provide important updates and highlight opportunities that may be of interest to students and families. Alongside my letter, you will usually find a **Dates for Your Diary** section, helping you to plan, and occasionally additional attachments containing useful information, guidance or opportunities from school and our wider community. My hope is that these letters help strengthen the partnership between home and school and give you a flavour of the many things happening across our academy.

As we have only enjoyed two days with students this week, my main focus in writing this week is simply to say **welcome back!** This time of the academic year is always one of my favourites - it is a time filled with positivity, anticipation and possibility. For some students, it is an opportunity to build on the successes of last year; for others, it represents a fresh start, a chance to reset goals and establish new habits. Whatever their starting point, we want every student to feel excited about the opportunities ahead and determined to make the most of them.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new **Year 7 students**. It is always a privilege to welcome a new cohort into the Clayton Hall Academy family and to see the energy they bring with them. Over the past two days they have made an incredibly positive start - they have arrived smartly presented, eager to learn and ready to embrace the opportunities available to them. We place great importance on ensuring students feel that they **belong**, and through our transition programme, tutor support, Heads of Year and wider pastoral teams, we hope they are already beginning to feel at home here. We genuinely believe that every child matters, and we look forward to watching this new cohort flourish over the next five years.

Regardless of year group, should you ever need support, advice or answers to questions, please remember that we are always here to help. Your first point of contact will often be your child's Head of Year, although our wider team is always available to support where needed.

**Key Contacts:**

- Head of Year 7: Mrs P Newton pnewton@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
- Head of Year 8: Mr J Cartlidge jcartlidge@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
- Head of Year 9: Miss R Holland rholland@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
- Head of Year 10: Mr M Smallman msmallman@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
- Head of Year 11: Mrs K Chorlton kchorlton@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
- Office team office@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

As we begin a new academic year, it is also important to reflect on how the previous one concluded - one of the highlights of the summer was undoubtedly **GCSE Results Day** on 20 August. It was an absolute pleasure to welcome back our former Year 11 students as they collected the results of years of hard work and dedication. There was a genuine sense of excitement and celebration throughout the morning, and rightly so. We were delighted with the outcomes our students achieved. It was a wonderful reminder that while academic outcomes are important, they are achieved through perseverance, support from families and staff, and a willingness to keep striving even when challenges arise.

Finally, thank you to all our students, families and staff for helping to ensure such a positive start to the year. The success of a school comes from the strength of the partnership between home and school, and I am grateful for the support you provide. I look forward to working with you throughout the year ahead as we help every student achieve their academic and personal potential. It is a privilege to do so.

Warm regards

CATY REID
Headteacher

Enc: Term Dates 2026-27

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**Dates for your diary:**

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| Fri 25 Sept | **Inset Day** (school closed to students) |
| Thur 1 & Fri 2 Oct | **Year 11 Geography fieldtrips** |
| Mon 26 Oct – Fri 30 Oct | **Half-term break** (school closed to students) |
| Fri 4 Dec | **Inset Day** (school closed to students) |
| Fri 18 Dec | **Term ends** |