



**CLAYTON
HALL**
ACADEMY



A part of Windsor
Academy Trust

Headteacher

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CRE/JFI

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we step into February, the first gentle signs of spring are beginning to appear - lighter mornings, brighter afternoons, and those early hints of green returning to the hedgerows around school. This change in season always brings a welcome lift in spirits, and I would like to take a moment to congratulate our students on how well they have conducted themselves throughout what is often considered the most testing stretch of winter. Their positivity, resilience and continued hard work have been truly appreciated by all staff.

This week, I was delighted to hold the very first meeting of our new **Military Students Support Group**. This gathering brought together young people whose parents are currently serving, or have recently served, in the armed forces. These students often carry a unique set of experiences and worries, and our aim is to ensure they feel seen, heard and supported. The meeting was a wonderful blend of shared stories, mutual understanding and genuine enthusiasm for shaping future activities. I am deeply grateful to these students and to their families for the strength, adaptability and service they show every day.

We also had some wonderful news from Performing Arts. Seven of our students have been selected to go forward in this year's **WAT a Band project** - an exciting opportunity that invites young musicians across our Trust to help create a virtual performance of Gotye's *Somebody That I Used to Know*. **Lacey, Nola, Mofe, Phoebe, Ava, Emily and Oliver** prepared audition recordings via our online classroom, and will now be filmed and recorded by Mr Cotterill, our WAT Head of Performing Arts. This is a fantastic accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of the dedication, talent and confidence they have shown throughout the process. We can't wait to see the end result!

Our **sporting achievements** continue to shine too. Many of you will have seen social media updates celebrating **Charlie** in Year 10, who recently competed at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships - a remarkable achievement that reflects months of hard training and determination. Alongside this, we have been thrilled by the outstanding swimming success of **Eva** (year 10) and **Sam** (year 11). Their performances have been so impressive and numerous that it has been difficult to capture them all in one go. We will continue to share updates as their seasons progress, and we are excited to see how far their talents will take them. I encourage you to check our social media posts often, as this gives us the chance to showcase individual achievements.



Our **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver** groups took part in their training days this week with the expert help of PAU Expeditions, and it was a pleasure to see just how engaged and enthusiastic they all were. All these students excelled during the route-planning sessions, making informed choices and selecting routes that suited their interests, fitness levels and confidence. Some groups challenged themselves by adding extra difficulty, while others sensibly streamlined their choices for moments when they know they may be tired - excellent decision-making that will serve them well on the expedition.

Meanwhile, our Silver groups also impressed us by confidently recalling key practical skills learned previously, such as using camp stoves and pitching tents - with plenty of laughter as they reminisced about the dramatic thunderstorm they faced during Bronze! We also talked about the idea of 'Type 2 fun' - those experiences that may feel challenging at the time but become favourite memories afterwards.

PAU staff once again commented on how polite, enthusiastic and willing to take on a challenge our students are. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and teamwork they displayed throughout the day.

On Tuesday this week our Year 9 students took part in their second **Engineering Careers event** with the Inspirational Learning Group this week. Students demonstrated outstanding resilience and teamwork as they collaborated to solve a challenging series of engineering problems. We are incredibly proud of their determination and creativity throughout the day. A special congratulations goes to the winning team, who completed the 'Toxic Popcorn' challenge in under 5 seconds - earning the title of our school champions!

Looking forward...

Could I please draw your attention to an important item in the *Dates for Your Diary* section below - the upcoming **Year 10 PPEs (Pre-Public Examination)**. This will be Year 10 students' first formal experience of sitting exams in this way, and it serves as a valuable opportunity to practice revision routines, time management and the calm, focused mindset needed for success in Year 11. We hope students have already begun creating study timetables and revisiting class notes; small, consistent steps now will make a real difference later. Our staff are on hand to support them, and we know they will approach these exams with maturity and determination. Should you feel your child needs support in any way to manage the new challenge of PPE's, please don't hesitate to reach out to either their Form Tutor or Head of Year either by emailing (contact details can be found on our academy's website) or by telephone to switchboard on 01782 367650.

Charity bake/gift sale...

Next week, we will be holding a special Valentine's Bake Sale and small gift stall on **Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime**, organised in support of one of our fantastic Year 8 students. **Connor**, who is not only a dedicated member of our school library team but also an active Scout, has been given an incredible opportunity to travel to Poland with his Scout pack in 2027. To take part, he needs to raise approximately £3,000, and we are very pleased to help him begin this journey.

A selection of cakes and Valentine's gifts will be available for **50p or £1**, and if your child would like to take part, please remind them to bring a small amount of money on these days so they don't miss out.

Community Focus...

I'd like to take a moment to reiterate the importance of positive behaviour within our local community. Recently, we have been notified of **incidents in the local Co-op that did not reflect the standards we expect from our students** when wearing the academy uniform. We are working with the store to address these concerns, and we kindly ask parents to help us reinforce the message that respectful conduct on the way to and from school is essential. Our students play an important role in shaping relationships with our neighbours, and we thank you for your continued support in upholding these values.

Lost property...

A gentle reminder that we currently have a large number of unclaimed jackets in our lost property store. We recognise that these items cost a lot of money and would love to re-unite items with their owners.

- If your child has misplaced an item, please encourage them - or feel free yourself - to **check at reception**. Reuniting items with their owners helps avoid unnecessary replacement costs and keeps our store manageable.
- Please try to **label your child's items** with their name, or at least initials and form class, and we'll always do our best to find their owner.

As we get nearer the half-term break, please note that **next Friday is an INSET day** for staff. This means there will be **no students in school** on that day. We appreciate your support in making any necessary arrangements and hope the upcoming break, when it arrives, provides a welcome rest for all.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support.

Warm regards



CATY REID
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

Tues 10 Feb 2026	Year 11 GCSE Live (Manchester) (further info from email dated 4.11.25 or by email to cashton@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Wed 11 Feb 2026	Year 9 Options Evening (further info in email dated 22.1.26)
Thurs 12 Feb 2026	Years 9-11 Career Connection Event (further info in email dated 13.1.26)
Fri 13 Feb 2026	Inset Day (school closed to students)
w/c Mon 16 Feb	Half-term break (school closed to students)
Mon 23 Feb	School re-opens to all
w/c Mon 23 Feb	Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) begin
w/c Mon 2 Mar	Year 11 PPEs continue
Wed 11 Mar	Year 7 Parents Evening
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