



**CLAYTON
HALL**
ACADEMY



A part of Windsor
Academy Trust

Headteacher

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CRE/JFI

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Dear Parents and Carers

Reading has been high on our agenda this week, and with good reason! A good book can brighten even the busiest of days, offering a chance to step into new worlds, explore fresh ideas and find a few precious moments of calm. I'm currently enjoying *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell - some of you may have already seen the recent film - an exquisitely written and moving re-imagining of Shakespeare's family life. With reading bringing such joy and uplift to so many of us, it has provided the perfect backdrop to our World Book Day celebrations across school this week.

We have been delighted to mark **World Book Day** across the school, running activities from Thursday 5 March to Thursday 12 March. Our celebrations began with the results of the "Reading in an Unusual Place" photo competition held over Half Term. A huge well done to all who entered, and special congratulations to our winners: **Amelia** (Year 7), **Lewis** (Year 8) and **Lara** (Year 7). Students sent in wonderfully imaginative photos - from London landmarks to gymnastics studios, aeroplanes, swimming pools and even pets getting in on the action! Every entrant has received a runner-up prize, and all photos are now displayed on our school TV screens throughout the week so we can celebrate their creativity and enthusiasm for reading.

As part of **National Careers Week**, we were delighted to welcome the Careers Bus to school on Tuesday 3 March. A self-selected group of enthusiastic Year 10 students took part in the session, which focused on apprenticeship pathways. The visit offered a fantastic chance for students to explore future opportunities, ask questions and engage directly with post-16 providers. We were incredibly proud of how our students conducted themselves - their curiosity, professionalism and willingness to get involved shone through, and our visitors were genuinely impressed by the calibre of the young people they met.

This week, we have also revisited our expectations around **school uniform** with students. We spoke to them about what excellence looks like and why a smart, consistent uniform matters. Our students overwhelmingly uphold these standards and are a credit to you. For a very small minority, only minor tweaks are needed, and we appreciate your support as we move towards a uniform reset from Monday 9 March 2026.



As a reminder: **blazers** must be worn during the school day; hoodies and non-uniform jumpers are not permitted; **shoes** must be black and polishable; **facial piercings are not allowed**; only one set of small ear studs may be worn (and must be removed for PE); and **acrylic, false or gel nails are not permitted**.

Thank you, as always, for continuing to support these expectations. Should you need any advice or clarification, please contact your child's Head of Year: Miss Higginson (Year 7), Mr Smallman (Years 8 and 9) or Mrs Chorlton (Years 10 and 11).

Our students have also been demonstrating excellence by shining academically. We are thrilled to share that a team of our Year 10 students were crowned **winners of the Physics Prize at the STEM Olympics**, held on Thursday 5 March at Stoke Sixth Form College. The event challenges students through a series of STEM-based tasks requiring teamwork, problem-solving and scientific thinking. A huge well done to **Jax, Chamin, Isaac, Oneli** and **Dami** (all year 10) for their impressive achievement.

Meanwhile, in sporting news, our **badminton squads** have once again done us proud at the Regional Schools Badminton Finals, representing Staffordshire with determination and skill. Each winning school at this level goes on to represent the West Midlands as one of the top nine school teams in England. Two of our teams finished runners-up for the second year running - placing them somewhere between 10th and 18th nationally - while our KS3 boys secured a strong third-place finish. We are incredibly proud of all three squads and look forward to building on this success as we continue our pursuit of reaching the national finals next year!

Finally, a few reminders. As our Year 11 students finish their PPEs, our **Year 8** students begin their Assessment Window next week (open for 2 weeks), with all assessments taking place in normal lessons to keep the process low-pressure. Meanwhile, **Year 10** PPEs begin on Thursday 30 April, and we appreciate your continued support at home as students prepare. Parents of **Year 7 students** are reminded of a prompt start to parents evening on Wed 11 March and parents of **Year 9** students are asked to look out for information on vaccinations from the NHS. There is lots going on this term!

I hope you find time to enjoy a good book this weekend and enjoy the moment of calm it can bring!

Warm regards



CATY REID
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

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 in email dated 2.3.26)
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)