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

As we move further into October, there is no escaping the fact that the seasons are beginning to change. The mornings feel a little darker, the temperatures are certainly cooler and there is a definite sense that autumn has arrived. At this time of year, it can be easy for motivation and energy levels to dip a little as we adjust to the changing routine and shorter days. However, I have been incredibly impressed by the way our students have approached this week. Across the academy, they have continued to demonstrate resilience and enthusiasm for their learning, with plenty of successes to celebrate. With half-term now only a couple of weeks away, there will soon be an opportunity for everyone to rest, recharge and enjoy a well-earned break. Until then, there is still much to look forward to!

One of the greatest pleasures of being a Headteacher is hearing about the **achievements of our students beyond the school gates**. What often strikes me is how many of these successes come as a surprise. Our students are often modest about their achievements and many quietly pursue their passions without ever seeking recognition. As a result, there are undoubtedly many wonderful achievements that we simply do not know about. Whenever parents take the time to share these stories with us, it is a real privilege to celebrate them. They remind us that our young people are developing talents, interests and skills in so many ways, and that there is a great deal to be proud of both inside and outside the classroom. Our mission, of course, is not only to unlock academic potential but also personal potential.

This week, I was delighted to learn about **Myla in Year 7**, who recently performed in 3 productions of the musical ‘Fame’ over a single weekend. Alongside her commitment to stage school, Myla is also a keen dancer. Balancing these opportunities whilst settling into secondary school is no small feat and is a wonderful example of enthusiasm and determination - congratulations Myla, we are incredibly proud of your achievement!

I was also pleased to hear about the success of another **Year 7 student Alby**, who recently competed in the Cheshire County Closed Squash Competition. Alby won the Under-13 title, defeating an opponent ranked amongst the country's top junior players. This is an outstanding sporting achievement - well done Alby – a quite fantastic accomplishment!

These achievements are a reminder that our students represent Clayton Hall Academy so brilliantly in the wider community. Whether through sport, performing arts, volunteering or other pursuits, it is always a pleasure to celebrate their successes. If your child achieves something special outside school, please do let us know - we love sharing and celebrating these moments! You can send an email to: celebrate@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Another highlight this week was our **Year 11 Post-16 Networking Event**, which saw an excellent turnout from students and parents/carers. It was fantastic to see so many conversations taking place as families explored the wide range of opportunities available after Year 11. Local colleges, training providers and employers generously gave their time to share advice, guidance and first-hand experiences, helping our students begin to make informed decisions about their next steps.

We are particularly grateful to **Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College** for delivering a presentation on post-16 pathways and forthcoming changes to qualifications. There was a real sense of excitement about the future throughout the evening, and I hope everyone left having learned something new, made valuable connections or discovered opportunities they had not previously considered. My sincere thanks go to all our exhibitors, students and families for making the event such a success.

As always, the safety of our students remains a priority. I would like to remind families that privately-owned **e-scooters should not be brought onto the academy site**. Whilst we recognise the appeal of this mode of transport, there are important safety considerations and legal restrictions surrounding their use. We appreciate your support in helping us reinforce this message and keeping our school community safe. Please note that this does not apply to mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs used to support a disability or mobility need.

Continuing with the theme of keeping young people safe, we have been made aware of vacancies for **School Crossing Patrol** staff across Staffordshire. These dedicated individuals play an important role in helping children travel safely to and from school every day. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in this rewarding term-time role, further information is available from Staffordshire County Council*.

Finally, I'd like to draw attention to our **Parent Charter** which shows our commitment to working in partnership and sets out the important role we all play in ensuring the very best outcomes for our young people. Education is always most successful when school and home work together, and I greatly value the support that you provide each day. I attach a copy for you and encourage you to take a moment to read this.

Warm regards

CATY REID
Headteacher

Enc: Parent Charter

Dates for your diary:

w/c 19 Oct	**Year 11 PPEs** (see timetable emailed on 17.9.26)
Mon 26 Oct – Fri 30 Oct	**Half-term break** (school closed to students)
w/c 2 Nov	**Year 11 PPEs** (see timetable emailed on 17.9.26)
w/c 23 Nov	**Year 7 Residentials** (see email of 24.9.26)
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**

* Staffordshire County Council Jobs - School Crossing Patrol Mobile Relief