

Clifford Holroyde Specialist SEN College



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Headteacher: Mr I Griffiths NPQH



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Dear Parents / Carers,

What an Autumn term it has been at Clifford Holroyde! It has been so busy, I cannot capture everything in this letter, but let me try and give you a flavour of how busy we have been! Firstly, can I thank everybody for their warm welcome to me as our new Headteacher. Parents, staff, governors and especially the boys have been really kind to me and helped me settle in quickly. Thank you for your welcome!

I have been blown away by the help and support that Clifford Holroyde has received this term from ASMAT – All Saints Multi Academy Trust. We have entered into a Trust Partnership Agreement (TPA) with ASMAT as we look to the future and consider joining this MAT on a permanent basis. The staff at ASMAT have been helping us with internal processes, curriculum provision, ICT facilities, estates and financial management. The benefits of ASMAT's support has already been seen with redecoration of classrooms during October half term, provision of DT teaching to 3x classes, laptops, lots of leadership support and Wi-Fi upgrades.

ASMAT have also been instrumental in helping us apply for additional funding to support learning. We have recently been informed that we have successfully been shortlisted for the Dfe School Rebuilding Programme which will mean significant refurbishment or rebuilding of our facilities to start sometime in the next 5 years. Great news! But we hope that next stages may be sooner rather than later. For more details, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-rebuilding-programme>

Staff have been really busy engaging in training and CPD including boxing coaching, Team Teach de-escalation training, updated Safeguarding & Prevent training, Inclusion conference, emergency first aid and even Headteacher training on how to promote "flourishing"!

There have been so many other things to celebrate! Return of face-to-face assemblies, KS3 and KS4 football competitions, an indoor cricket match, Tuesday morning rowing, afternoon enrichment trips and weekly Friday afternoon rewards trips.

One of the highlights of this term was the respect and maturity that pupils showed during Remembrance assemblies in November. Pupils completed work in English, Humanities and Art preparing poems and poppies for our 'Remembrance Garden' situated at the front gates of school. All pupils observed a 2-minute silence at 11am and one of our neighbours emailed to say how touched and impressed she was at the respect shown by the pupils observing the silence at the Remembrance Garden. A year 8 pupil read a poem which was truly inspirational.



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Our new year 7 pupils have settled into Clifford Holroyde well and are getting used to new surroundings, different learning methods and new staff. Many of our older pupils have been starting the process of sitting external examinations in Entry Level and Functional Skills. We are full to capacity with 68 pupils on role and we have received dozens of applications for places since September.

All pupils have been supported with their reading and have had their reading age assessed with an online assessment. Individual 'Literacy targets' have been created for each pupil and staff are seeking to help boys achieve their target in every subject.

We enjoyed celebrating Christmas this year with our Christmas jumper day, our Christmas raffle and our delicious Christmas dinner. We were so pleased to see the return of our 100 trees enterprise project. Pupils and staff volunteered to give up 2x Saturdays / Sundays to sell trees to our community and learn how to run a business, deal with customers and provide a service. We completely sold out! Selling all 100 Christmas trees. What a huge achievement. Thanks to all who volunteered or bought their tree from us this year.

You may have noticed the additional icon in the footer of our school letterhead. We have been successful in applying for the Artsmark Silver Award from Arts Council England. Recognition for the quality and standard of arts, culture and creativity across our curriculum, celebrating our commitment to cultural education. This award will help us to support the health and wellbeing of pupils and ensure that every pupil can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education at Clifford Holroyde.

Next term we are looking forward to installation of 7x Clevertouch Impact Max interactive learning screens that will transform classroom learning and help our teachers to deliver lessons using the latest technology. These along with donated laptops from ASMAT will transform the way our boys learn.

I am really excited to build on this amazing Autumn term and look forward to a busy Spring term full of learning opportunities for our boys. Can I take this opportunity to wish all the boys and their parents / carers a very happy, peaceful and restful Christmas. I hope 2023 is a great year for you all!

Yours sincerely,



Mr I Griffiths
Headteacher



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