



# Clarity Independent School

23rd December 2022

Dear parents / care-givers,

Christmas is nearly upon us and I am just wrapping up the last few end of term items for the holidays (if you'll pardon the festive pun!) 📺

I have some information to pass on to you, for your information and to peruse over the Christmas period and beyond.

Firstly, a reflection on our children and how well they have done again this term. They have worked hard on their lessons and enjoyed attending their interventions and activities; for some of our newer pupils, this is the first time they have been able to achieve this in any school. They have, together, through wearing different clothes or completing different activities, raised a total of £10 for Young Minds (Hello Yellow Day, September), a mental health charity supporting children through crisis times, and £22 (plus gift aid) for Save the Children charity on Christmas Jumper day. This is a fantastic effort, and contributes towards us championing the children's learning of being in a community and being considerate citizens in Britain today.

They have also been involved in promoting anti-bullying week and have completed some wonderful art work, which I aim to put on the website in the New Year for everyone to see.

The children have also been much more confident in welcoming visitors to the school, and the new staff we have recruited to start in January.

## Staff Team

Sadly, we said goodbye to Mr Bayly on the last day of term. We wish him well and he will certainly be missed! However, we are now looking forward to welcoming Mrs Carly Meeten, who joins us in January to teach English and lead our Stingrays class and has been in school for a few transition visits for the children already. We are looking forward to working together with her. Mrs Meeten has been teaching for over 20 years, in secondary schools and colleges across Essex. She has experience teaching English in Pupil Referral Units, Colleges, Secondary schools, teaching SEN students and in tutoring agencies.

We have also enjoyed welcoming Lauren Gray, our new Office Administrator, working in the front office with Mary Weidner, our Business Manager. Lauren has completed several transition days at the school during December and the pupils are getting used to seeing her and are getting to know her. Lauren joins us



Approved Assessor for  
Disabled Students'  
Allowance



Guild Member  
Assessment Practising  
Certificate holder



INPP  
Practitioner



AMBDA Status

from her previous role as a receptionist in a doctors' surgery, so she is used to working in a busy environment!

You can find out more about each of our new staff and see who they are on our website <https://www.clarity.essex.sch.uk/about-our-staff>.

We also let you know the sad news in November, that Sue O'Sullivan, our school counsellor for over 3 years, decided to move on to something new in the New Year. Sue has since had a change of heart, and has decided to stay at Clarity after all. This is fantastic news for both us as a staff team, and for the children, who have really got to know her well and benefitted from her mentoring and support over the years delivering a consistent wellbeing intervention. Sue will be changing her days from Wednesday to a Monday from January. (Please see the school calendar on our website (School term dates - halfway down our Homepage), for a refreshed plan of the year, as there have been several changes over the course of this term.)

### **Our accreditation with the Independent Schools Association**

I am very excited to inform you about our recent accreditation with the Independent Schools Association. This means that we are now also proud members of the Independent Schools Council. This enables us to network across the UK with other Independent Schools and gives us, as a school, access to a range of resources and staff training events, as well as giving the children access to competitions they can get involved in. We will be soon displaying the ISA logo on our website and in our reception area. For more information, please see <https://www.isaschools.org.uk/> and <https://www.isc.co.uk/>.

#### [Independent Schools Council - ISC](#)

ISC independent schools are among the best in the world and educate more than 500,000 children in the UK. The ISC brings together seven associations to represent over 1,300 independent schools and was founded in 1973.

[www.isc.co.uk](http://www.isc.co.uk)

#### [Homepage \[www.isaschools.org.uk\]](#)

Engage. Our accomplished Engage School Management Information System (SMIS) is designed for the needs of independent and international schools. Expansive functionality including admissions, marketing, academic, pastoral and financial is centralised making it simpler and intuitive for parents and teachers, while driving management at a school or group level.

[www.isaschools.org.uk](http://www.isaschools.org.uk)

### **Information to pass on to you from the Department of Education**

Please find the following useful information from the DfE, for support for families, with various aspects of costs of living:

For help with heating costs, please see <https://news.news.essex.gov.uk/9j46/send/m4e-h8449>

For the [Holiday Activity and Food Programme](#) (HAF) - this has been supporting children and families in the school holidays since 2018. Here is everything you need to know about the programme and how it could help you and your child during school holidays.

[https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/04/06/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-holiday-activities-and-food-haf-programme-2/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/04/06/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-holiday-activities-and-food-haf-programme-2/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Adult Community Learning (ACL) have a range free and low-cost [training courses](#) available to support with the cost of living crisis, further details can be found on their [website](#).

[https://aclessex.com/financial-wellbeing/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1670529409.0400719642639160156250](https://aclessex.com/financial-wellbeing/?doing_wp_cron=1670529409.0400719642639160156250)

Childcare offers for parents: The Childcare Choices campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding of the support available from the government with the [costs of childcare](#). With the school Christmas holidays approaching and looking ahead to half term in February, it is more important than ever that parents and carers are able to access the financial support they qualify for. They could be entitled to:

- up to £2,000 a year of Tax-Free Childcare per child (or £4,000 if disabled) for children up to 11, or 17 if they're disabled
- help with up to 85% of their childcare costs for children up to 16 with Universal Credit
- 30 hours of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds if they're a working family in England.

[https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/?utm\\_campaign=CC&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/?utm_campaign=CC&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

### Long COVID

Please find attached some details about long COVID in the form of a poster. I have been asked to make parents aware about the symptoms so am also sharing the Headteacher letter I have received from NHS Provide with you for more information.

This leaves me with my final task; to send you all the very warmest wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year, from all of us at Clarity Independent School! 🎄

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely,



Debbie Hanson, Head Teacher and Director

*BSc (Hons), QTS, PG Dip (Dyslexia and Literacy), AMBDA, APC*

*Member of the Dyslexia Guild*

*Associate Member of SASC (SpLD Assessment Standards Committee)*

*NPQH in progress*