



# Clarity Independent School

4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

## Headteachers Newsletter



We have had a busy and exciting term at Clarity Independent School, filled with enriching events and activities that have engaged our students in both learning and personal progress. From E-safety workshops with the 2Johns to hands-on workshops about bullying, 'What is love?' (for Valentine's Day), Mothers' Day and Easter, our pupils have had fantastic opportunities to develop their skills and interests.

### Success at Health & Safety Audit – 100%

We are delighted to share that for the third consecutive year, we have achieved 100% in our Health & Safety audit. This outstanding result is a testament to the diligence and commitment of our staff and students in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all.

### Safeguarding Audit – 100%

Another fantastic achievement! We have once again received 100% 'green status' in our safeguarding audit for Essex County Council, confirming our full compliance with all safeguarding protocols. We remain dedicated to maintaining the highest standards in safeguarding and child protection.

### Children's Progress

Our pupils continue to make excellent progress across all areas of their education. We have seen significant improvements in literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional development, with some of the young people **gaining up to 3 years progress in their Mental Maths skills** so far this year. We are looking forward to our reading assessments in June where we hope to see more fantastic progress in reading too. This shows the dedication of our teaching staff and the resilience of our students to push past obstacles and keep trying!

### Headteacher awards:

**Literacy:** Lexie, Summer and Holly: For progress in reading skills, specifically reading a playscript by Shakespeare and being able to discuss the language and themes with growing confidence and insight.

**English:** Alfie – for an excellent piece of descriptive writing, which he also proofread and edited!

**Personal Achievement:** Harry B - at Danbury Outdoors, he was able to overcome his fear of heights and climb the climbing wall. Kartal – for settling into the school and extending his timetable consistently to full time.

**Cookery:** Dan – for his ability to take a design brief and make a plan of action for his final cooking piece. These will be displayed on our website and 'Headteachers' Awards Noticeboard' in Reception for all to see.



Approved Assessments for  
Disabled Students'  
Allowance



Guild Member  
Assessment Practising  
Certificate Holder



INPP  
Practitioner



AMBDA Status

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## **Attendance**

Improving attendance remains a key focus, and we are pleased to see a positive trend again this term, (discounting data from new arrivals attending on part time timetables whilst settling into the school.) We encourage parents and carers to support our efforts by ensuring regular and punctual attendance and avoiding taking students out of school for holidays during term time. Consistent attendance plays a crucial role in our students' academic success and overall well-being, as well as providing them access to their therapies and interventions for their SEND needs.

Thank you also for carefully reading the information below about when it is recommended that your child may be too ill for school, and when they could still attend school with some extra support, for example by taking some paracetamol to ease symptoms, so that any absence experienced is at a minimum and can be authorised as genuinely being needed.

When to keep your young person off school, or not, and advice on how to treat at home:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

General advice on keeping children and young people healthy this school year:

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2024/09/04/a-parents-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year/>

To reduce the spread of illness, we continue to promote good ventilation, extra cleaning measures and model and teach good hand hygiene at school. Please encourage your child to wash their hands following using the bathroom and at regular intervals throughout the day at home, so we can all join together in this approach.

## **Days Out / Activities / Fundraising / Community Engagements**

This term has been filled with the usual exciting trips offsite and activities in school, which form part of our offer. Highlights include educational visits from the 2Johns (E-safety training) this week and our Careers advisors, Directions. Next term, we look forward to the students enjoying their swimming lessons each week on Wednesdays, at County High School in Chelmsford.

## **Exam and Course Accreditations at Clarity**

Our students continue to work towards their qualifications with determination. This year marks a significant milestone as we see our first student who has progressed through all year groups from Year 7 to Year 11, culminating in their GCSE examinations. Several pupils are completing other accredited courses, such as Functional Skills Entry Levels and Functional Skills, ASDAN certificates and NCFE courses and we eagerly await their results this summer and next. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment.

## **Staff News**

We were saddened to say goodbye to Mrs Faulkes just after February half-term, but are excited to welcome Mrs Cattell to our team as a Trainee Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) from Moulsham Junior School, where she has developed Literacy and a love of reading with children with SEND. Further information about Mrs Cattell will be updated on our website on the 'About our staff...' pages soon for your information. The students have spent some time with her when she visited the school last week to prepare. We look forward to the expertise and enthusiasm she will bring to our school.

## **Professional Development**

Our staff have been actively engaging in professional development opportunities, including more training in Trauma Perceptive Practice, Social Emotional Mental Health, Safeguarding, Mental Health Needs and



Strategies, and ensuring we remain at the forefront of best practices in education and SEND support. Ongoing training and collaboration help us continually enhance our teaching approaches.

### **New Pupils**

We are delighted to welcome Tilda to Clarity Independent School in Horse's class. Welcome Tilda! We look forward to supporting her educational journey, helping her settle into our nurturing school community and make friends.

### **Policy Updates**

**RSE Policy Parent Consultation:** We have reviewed our 'Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and PSHE Policy' and invite parents to share their thoughts during our parent consultation, which runs from now until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on the policy, regarding any suggested additions to enhance our RSE and PSHE delivery. Your input is invaluable in shaping a curriculum that reflects the needs of our students and community.

### **Next Term**

Looking ahead, we have an exciting term planned with more enriching experiences, academic challenges, and opportunities for personal development.

### **Upcoming dates for your diary (more details to follow):**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025:** Pupils return to school (staff return Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April)  
(Swimming starts – 'walk through' only this day and to meet the swimming teacher, then swimming lessons each week thereafter.)

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025:** Careers consultant visiting

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025:** Bank holiday – school closed

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025:** SALT visiting

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May:** Occupational therapist visiting

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025:** Half term

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025:** INSET day

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025:** Careers

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025:** Occupational therapist visiting

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025:** Parents' and Carers' afternoon / evening 1.15pm – 7pm including careers specialist for advice and information

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025:** Whole-school trip (venue to be decided)

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025:** students finish for the summer, half day

### **Information from the Local Authority:**

1. More details of everything on offer from Essex County Council can be found on the Essex Local Offer website: <https://send.essex.gov.uk/>. (Click the purple box 'Search for Support Groups and Activities'.)
2. *The Department for Education have funded its 5<sup>th</sup> Year of Holiday Activity Food Programme (HAF). Essex ActivAte is the name for the Holiday Activity and Food (#HAF2025) programme across Essex, run by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education.*

*The programme aims to support the physical and mental wellbeing of primary and secondary school children, through engagement in a wide variety of enrichment and physical activities, and provision of a nutritious, school standard meal.*



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*Our Easter Essex ActivAte programme 2025 bookings go live today, Friday 14th March midday. For all bookings, young people will require to book via their unique Holiday activities code from schools accessed by being Income related FSM. We also have 15% of spaces on offer for those who are low income, vulnerable or at risk.*

*To refer your young person, please email "HAF Admin" [haf@activeessex.org](mailto:haf@activeessex.org)*

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to another successful term at Clarity Independent School.

**Thank you**



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Hanson'.

Debbie Hanson, Head Teacher and Director

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

*Member of the Dyslexia Guild*

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