

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this at the start of the holidays, I am sitting in my office, on Wednesday, with the sun shining outside and I'm looking at the wonderful setting that we have at The Clere. It is a pleasure to have some time to reflect upon the last year and share it with you. I am so proud to be the headteacher at The Clere and to have the opportunity to work with such a vibrant community.

Our vision at The Clere is that "Every member of our community is supported and challenged to succeed and flourish now and in the future." This is something that we are absolutely wedded to and drives everything that we do. This is underpinned by our school values of Community, Integrity and Respect which we have seen in abundance during the year.

There have been many highlights during the year that have stood out. In extra-curricular we have seen our students taking up a number of opportunities. Many of these were new to us this year and it's always a pleasure for me to visit these at the end of the day. Whether it be Science Club, Inclusivity Club, Art Club, Gaming Club or Jazz Band it is fantastic to see students and staff coming together to explore the shared interest that they have.

Our performing arts have had some real highlights this year. Miss Smith through the Drama Department have given students the chance to flourish and have put on two fantastic shows. 'The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe' brought together a lot of our lower school students and allowed them to shine. At the end of the year, we were treated to 'Shrek Jr. The Musical'. The sound of song and laughter rang through a packed hall last week. The level of performance and staging was fantastic. What made it even more special was the fact that all of the direction and preparation for the show was put together by Year 11s who juggled their other commitments and gave up hours of their time after the GCSEs had finished. As I mentioned before Mrs Kirton and Mrs Dixon have been working on the formation of the Jazz Band. They made their public debut at the end of year Awards Evening and they all performed brilliantly.

We have also seen the development of trips at school. There was the very moving and poignant visit to the Battle Fields where our students learned about this important part of our history as well as laying a wreath at a ceremony to honour the fallen. I was also very proud that the school attended Remembrance Sunday services at both Basingstoke and our local church in Burghclere. We have also seen trips in PE, Drama, Geography and English and are looking to expand on these in the upcoming year.

Our students have also had the opportunity to explore the wider areas of the school curriculum. Students were involved in the Hampshire Book Awards. We also saw great success for our entrants for The National Math's Challenge. The Year 9 students were fortunate to have a talk about the local history from Greenham Common.

We talk a lot about community at The Clere and I have been pleased to see how the involvement of our wider community has grown. This has been exemplified by our PTA, "The Clere Friends". As a relatively new group they have made great strides in supporting school events and fundraising for projects around the school. They are looking to expand further next year and would love to hear from parents that would be willing to lend time and skills. In terms of the wider community I would like to offer my sincere thank you for how you supported myself and the school when we were subject to a cyber-attack. Not only was I sent messages of encouragement but many parents with IT skills offered practical help and support. This was invaluable and helped us get through an extremely challenging time. As parents you are a key

part of our community and so often you display our values it is a pleasure to work alongside you. On this note we have recently been awarded a £5000 grant to create a sensory garden and we would love to hear from any parents who could spend some time and skills helping us to create a wonderful space.

Our Year 11s came to the end of the journey at The Clere and sat their GCSE exams which is always a time of high pressure for students, but all the feedback from teachers and our team of invigilators was that they were a credit to themselves and the school. The commitment that so many of them put into their revision and preparation showed true integrity. It was, therefore, lovely to come together as a community to celebrate, in Kingsclere, their time at the school at the Year 11 Prom. It was great to see the students turned out in their finery and arriving in a rage of brilliant transport, including a steam engine. It was lovely to see the entrance full of parents as well as students past and present to clap our students in and to give them a memorable send off. We look forward to the next time we will see the students to celebrate their results in August.

The Clere's athletic endeavours has seen participation and competitive drive gain some excellent results. There have been notable performances from our netball, football and rounders teams. We are also very proud of our athletes who turned in phenomenal performances in both district and county championships. With a number of students finishing with podium places meaning potential call ups to the National Schools' Championship. Whilst we celebrate our successes, we were also incredibly proud that in the lower school over 25% of our school population represented the school at districts. This is a statistic that other schools can only dream about. Extra-curricular has remained strong in the PE department with great participation in both the traditional school sports as well as newer ones such as cheerleading.

This Monday we celebrated our students with the annual the Awards Evening. To sit and listen to all the things that staff had to say about the students was incredibly emotional. Many of these comments reflected the way that students had taken pride in their work and how much the staff respected the efforts that had been put in. We also had the opportunity to give awards to staff who play such a big part in our school life.

During the final full week of term Year 10 students attended their work experience. The students had the vital opportunity to learn about the world of work first hand and supplement our Careers Fair and curriculum, which will help them make decisions in the future. They did themselves and the school proud with excellent feedback from the employers who hosted them.

The relaunch of the House system has been a great success. All students have been issued with a house badge and are able to participate in academic and extra-curricular activities to gain points for their house. We have concluded the term with Well-being Week. This is a week that our students have told us that they value and enjoy and we have worked hard to try new things as well as reflecting on what it means to be positive about our physical and mental health. This year's Well Being week was organised in Houses giving the students an opportunity to get to know and build relationships with those in their House across the Year Groups. Our grand finale was the end of year assembly on Tuesday where we came together as a community to celebrate the great things I have mentioned in this newsletter. At the end of the assembly the House Cup was awarded to Cottington and the House shield will be displayed for the next year adorned with green ribbons. I know the competition will be keenly contested next year.

At the end of every academic year, we say goodbye to colleagues who are moving on. Mrs Thomas is taking a well deserved retirement after many years at The Clere and we will miss her work both in English and in the Library. Miss Smith is moving closer to home to teach Dance and Drama and I know she will have the same enormous impact at her new school as she has had at The Clere. Miss Ross is moving on to teach History at a new school. Miss Swift is relocating back to the South East and to explore life outside of the classroom. In SEN we say goodbye to Mrs Thwaite and Mrs Thompson who are both moving on to pastures new and I want to thank them for all the work that they have done with our students. The last couple of days have been filled with tears and happy memories as we have celebrated the staff who have been such an important part of The Clere family. I know that you would want to extend your thanks and best wishes to all of these colleagues for their contributions to the education of our students during their time at The Clere.

I also want to introduce you to the new staff who will be joining us in September. I have appointed Mr Todd and Mr Szklarek who are joining the English Department; Mr Scaffardi is joining the PE department Mr Lawson is joining to lead in Drama and Pastoral; Mr Liszka is joining Science; Mrs Turk is joining the Maths department; Ms Ridgers is joining to us to lead in Design and Technology; Mrs Nielsen is joining the Humanities Department and Mr Payne is joining us to teach Humanities and Computing.

I am incredibly excited as our new staff combine with our established staff to provide the students with the best possible education and opportunities.

If you want to see the images of all the events from this year, then I would recommend to you our excellent Facebook and Instagram pages. These give you a great picture (no pun intended) of our fantastic community.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer and I hope that you have time to relax with loved ones and that the weather improves! Again, I would like to say thank you for being part of this very special community and I look forward to continuing to work with you all in September.

Yours sincerely

Mr Rob Milner

Headteacher