



### Dear families,

Our bumper Christmas Newsletter was full of exciting announcements and celebrations. If you didn't manage to see it, please use this [link](#) to have a look.

Although a shorter term, the last 5 weeks have been packed full of events and again we have lots to celebrate. It has been a busy term for visitors and once again they have been full of praise for our school community. Our students are not the only ones on a journey of learning - our teaching staff work hard every day to get better. Recently our senior leadership team have been visiting lessons to provide teacher feedback and it has been a pleasure to hear about the calm and quiet focus that is taking place in our classrooms.

We are halfway through the school year and only a number of weeks away from public examinations starting. Following last year's excellent improvement in outcomes we are looking forward to continuing the push year with 11 and 13 after half term.

Have a restful break and we look forward to seeing all of our students safe and well on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

## February Half-term Break

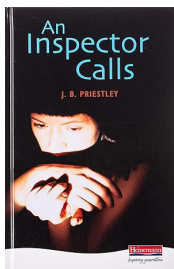
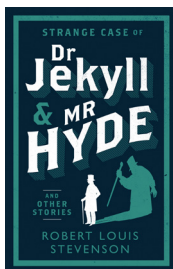
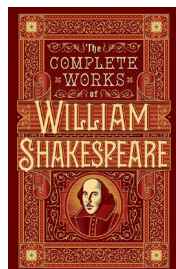
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

*a copy of the Executive Headteachers Half Term Letter can be viewed [here](#)*

### Shakespeare and GCSEs

Year 7 to 10 students are all getting stuck into Shakespeare this half term. In English lessons, we challenge students to tell us what the text is about (summarise the story) and then consider what the text is really about - the big ideas that the writer focuses on. It's often these big ideas or abstract nouns (things you can't touch: love, power, rebellion, guilt) that make these plays, that are over 400 years old, still relevant today.

After half term, our Year 11s begin their final 10 week GCSE exam preparation programme. Teachers will be revisiting the key texts: Macbeth, Jekyll and Hyde, An Inspector Calls and the Power and Conflict Poems as well as exam skills for the language papers. Please challenge your children to recall what the texts are really about and pick out moments that matter in relation to each theme or big idea. Regular revisiting of each text and exam question will really help students secure the knowledge they need to perform on the day.



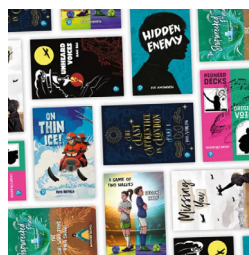
### Literacy Update

Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak and listen in a way that lets us communicate effectively and make sense of the world. Our small group Literacy Interventions are designed to help our students develop all these skills. The focus is different for each year group.

With 87% of Year 9 Literacy students receiving Gold Certification for the Entry Level exam AQA Step up to English last year, this year's Year 9 cohort have now been entered, and are also on track to do well. They are hoping to better last year's results. They have already completed the written tasks for our two topics Music and Leisure and are finishing off the speaking and listening elements for each, before we move on to our third topic, Gothic Horror.



Our Year 8 Literacy students have so far read and completed written tasks on the book 'Rat', and are now working on 'Lightning Strike'. Alongside this they are working on 'Lexia' our computer based literacy program. This was introduced at the end of last year and covers three distinct areas to enhance our students' knowledge: Word Study, Grammar and Comprehension.



Things work a little differently for our Year 7 Literacy students. They are working on our Rapid Plus program of books which is tailored to their level of reading ability but covers topics that are both interesting and relevant to their age group. Delivered in blocks of 10 weeks each, we can target small numbers of students each time to boost their reading ability and enhance their learning across all subjects.

We want every student to be successful (not just those in Literacy!), so please encourage them to read at home, as regular reading will improve both their vocabulary and comprehension skills.

And remember ... ***"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*** Dr. Seuss.

**Ms Day, Literacy Mentor**

### Have you heard of Ofsted Parent View?



Parent View

Your feedback is really important to us; we have been asking you to complete

a survey during our face-to-face parents evenings but you may not have yet had the opportunity. If you would like to complete the Ofsted parent view, then please follow this [link](#). These views are shared with Ofsted and form an integral part of any inspections – both positive and less so.

If you have a specific concern that you would like to raise, please contact the school directly and we can ensure the most appropriate person gets back to you.



### EAL (English as an Additional Language)

A group of students who have joined our school from various countries in the world have been very lucky to be supported by Ms Kinnaird over the last few months. She has been supporting them with reading and writing and has been working very hard to boost their confidence in speaking the language new to them. It is great watching our multilingual students embrace the challenges and add to the cultural diversity of our school!

There are 31 languages spoken by staff and students at Cleeve Park School, with some students speaking 2 languages or more. Did you know that the more languages you speak, the more brain power you use? It helps with memory as well!

Great news! Some of the languages spoken at our school are available as a GCSE qualification. Taking a GCSE in your home language opens a world of possibilities: you can become a professional translator or an interpreter or you can become a Student Interpreter at Cleeve (initially open to students in Years 9 and 10 - watch this space!).

If you would like to learn more about languages available as a GCSE or would like to become a Student Interpreter, come and speak to me in D9. **Pozdrowienia!**

**Ms Kurasiewicz (EAL Strategy Lead)**

### Grassroots

Our new programme in collaboration with Grassroots, Education Endowment Foundation, Institute of Education and University College London has made a strong start. This is a programme that aims to reduce bullying and conflict in schools by empowering pupils to positively impact their peers' behaviour. Students have been engaging really well with the sessions and we are looking forward to seeing the impact as we progress through the year.



Education  
Endowment  
Foundation

### Resilience Assemblies

We recently returned to face-to-face assemblies in the main hall and we have been making the most of it. We have covered a range of different topics but most recently resilience in learning. Equipping our students with the knowledge and skills to pass exams is essential, but so are those so-called 'soft' skills. Showing resilience is particularly important in today's demanding world, and we hope that by educating our students on how to be a better learner, this will equip them to deal with many of life's challenges.

As a parent we need you to play your part at home by encouraging students to be resilient when completing homework, by celebrating their hard work, supporting the school when poor behaviours occur, congratulating your child when they produce excellent work, and by generally being a voice of optimism for school and learning. We mustn't underestimate the power and impact of adult voices in a child's life and how nurturing a positive outlook towards school and learning can set our young people up for life.

### ELSA and Resilience

Over the last term, a small group of students have taken part in the ELSA and Friends Resilience interventions. These have been run by visitors to school who have been impressed by the way that students have taken on board the advice they have been given. Students have shown that they are keen to develop their resilience when faced by difficult situations.



### STEM Club

In STEM club this term, our young scientists have been working with potions, learning about magical creatures, and exploring herbology and alchemy. The inspiration from Harry Potter and the world of Hogwarts saw our 'muggles' create magical fire snakes last week and they absolutely loved it. It is great to see our students staying behind after school to develop their passion for science, technology and mathematics.

**Year 7 & 8**

**This term :**  
Explore Witchcraft and Wizardry through the world of Science

Week 1- Potions  
Week 2- Magical Creatures  
Week 3- Herbology  
Week 4 Alchemy



## Key Dates

**Year 8 Parents Evening - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb**  
**Year 9 Options Evening - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
**Year 11 Parents Evening - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Year 13 Parents Evening - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March**  
**Inset Day - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March (No Students)**  
**Easter Break - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> April**  
 (Students do not attend between 28<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April)