



17th July 2020

Clandon School Newsletter

A year like no other!

And finally, it is here, the last newsletter of the year! In some way the months have flown by and at other times the road to August has felt exceptionally long indeed. What a journey we have been on together, I am honoured and grateful to have travelled it with all of you.

I have attended numerous headteacher meetings this year, mostly looking at a portrait gallery of exhausted faces on Zoom. As I listen to the complaints and difficulties these headteachers are facing at the hands of parents, governors, and their own staff I am reminded just how fortunate I am to work in the schools I do.

I have been humbled by your faith in me, and sometimes overwhelmed by it. My inbox has been filled with emails from you and not one of them has been a complaint; you have been supportive, patient, understanding and kind.

I have never had more to be thankful for, from a community that is strong, loving, forgiving, and inspiring. So, **THANK YOU!**



Federation:

We started our year in a new and somewhat fragile partnership between Clandon and Shere; we have ended it as a strong and united team. It is true that all of us at Shere laboured under the illusion that we were travelling over the hill to save a school in crisis. Never judge a book by its cover will now hold a much deeper and personal meaning for me; lesson learnt!

Turning the pages of the Clandon book has been eye-opening and exciting; this has been a mutually beneficial partnership and all of us have grown professionally and personally as

a result. I have found some of the best teachers I have ever met, the most caring and hardworking team, creative and fun-loving children, and a supportive community. Clandon has an incredibly special place in my heart and I can't imagine a future that doesn't involve all of you.

Recruitment:

Thanks to the hard work of our SEND team several EHCPs have been approved for children at Clandon School. This is great news for all of us because when we support children with additional needs all children benefit. To fulfil these plans, we have recruited Mrs Karen Fletcher, Mrs Stephanie Wood and Mrs Gemma Cramp. These new practitioners will work on a one-to-one basis with children throughout our school next year. I must also inform you that Mrs Penn has resigned from her post as TA at Clandon School as she will be moving to a new house soon. We would like to thank Mrs Penn for her hard work at the school and wish her all the absolute best for the future.

We have appointed Mrs Nicola Fincken as a Teaching Assistant in Kestrel Class. Mrs Fincken will support the whole class and will be a great support to Mrs Morton next year. I have been thrilled by the number of applications we have had for these roles and pleased to have appointed such wonderful new staff. I am sure you will join me in making them all welcome in September.

The Summer:

I am determined that all staff at Clandon will have at least four weeks of uninterrupted holiday! I know that they will be thinking about school and making plans, but this will be on their terms and there will be no expectation from me. Can I ask that all parents respect this time and allow our staff a much-needed rest.

During the pandemic, the professional boundaries have been blurred a bit and we have been available to you around the clock. I would not have this any other way because it has served us all so well. However, I think now is the time to remember that our teachers are only human and deserve their well-earned rest!

I know that you are all desperate to know about September and I assure you will have the details in due course. The guidance suggests business as usual, which will be a welcome relief to us all! I have a new risk assessment to complete and once this is approved, I will be able to provide you with all the information you need.

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful summer. I hope you have the chance to reconnect with friends and family and to enjoy this time of togetherness.

Warmest wishes

Vicky