



NEWSLETTER

CCS NEWSLETTER - EDITION 3 - MAY 2021

Message from the Assistant Headteacher

Another term has passed since our last newsletter and it has been so great to see our students back where they belong, in the classroom, and it is clear that learning is back front and centre for the majority of our students.

I know you will see from this newsletter just how busy our individual subjects have been and the great work that is happening across the entire school.

We have continued to work on the wellbeing of both staff and students as we know that many have found the last eighteen months incredibly challenging.

We have not wavered in our determination to ensure that our students are equipped for life with the skills they need in the wider world. Our pastoral team have worked tirelessly to keep students informed and understand how best to look after themselves and how they can contribute positively to their community.

Please enjoy reading about everything we have been doing at Clifton, and finally I would like to wish you and your families and safe and relaxing half term break.

CREATIVE ARTS

It has been a busy term for the Creative Arts faculty within the community projects and competitions both local and regional.

Sheffield Bear Trail

Together with the staff and students at Clifton Community School The creative arts department have designed and painted a bear for the Children's Hospital Charity 'The bear trail'

The inspiration behind our bear sculpture design is highly influenced by landmarks in our local community. We felt that it was important to include

local architecture to show appreciation of the community in which we live in.

The back of the bear is dedicated to the pupils, staff, languages and cultures in our school. We have also discreetly incorporated the Clifton Community School logo as this is a symbol that unites us.



It is important to us that this bear is designed and made with a combined effort, therefore we made it our duty to involve both staff and students.

We did this by speaking with our student council and also asking pupils to get stuck in during year 9 art club to bring the bear to life.

We recently said Goodbye, and Bon Voyage' to Clifford the bear as he now goes to join the rest of the Bears of Sheffield.

Our Y9 Art Club has done an amazing job getting him ready for being on display over the summer and really expressed what Clifton means to us. **We can't wait to welcome him back in the autumn, and as soon as we know where you can visit him, we will let you know. Safe journey Clifford!**



Rotherham Hospice

In the Creative Arts Faculty we have been supporting our local hospice to celebrate their 25th Anniversary.



They were looking for a young local artist to create a sunflower design which will be printed on their sunflower appeal merchandise.

It needed to be on A4 and they could use paint, crayon, pencils, pen, ink or felt tips.

See below a selection of our fantastic entries from our very talented Y7 - Y10 aspiring Artists. Good luck to all!

BRINGING A LITTLE BIT OF SUNSHINE TO ROTHERHAM!



Royal Mail

The Creative Arts department is taking part in **Royal Mail's Heroes Stamp Design Competition**, to honour our heroes during the coronavirus pandemic.

All children from across the UK can enter the competition and a new series of eight stamps will be created.



Mental Health Week

Y8 Art, Y9 Graphics, Y9 Textiles, and Y10 Textiles groups got involved in mental health wellbeing week and making some positivity tags for staff to brighten up their day with a chocolate treat.



DRAMA

Y7

Students in Year 7 and 8 have chosen to specialise in Drama or Dance for the final term of the year. This means students are taking part in extended projects in Dance and Drama to develop skills and knowledge learned during lockdown and in face-to-face practical lessons.

Year 7 have started a new play, *Our Teacher's a Troll*, by Dennis Kelly. This is a different style of play that allows students to multi-role using narration and dialogue at different points of each script. The play is a comedy so students are finding ways of using gestures and voices to make their performances funny.

Y8

Year 8 are working in the style of melodrama, using over-the-top gestures and learning how different accents are formed.

Each lesson brings a new extract of the heavily abridged play *The Demon Barber*. We hope to be able to present sections of this play using props, lighting and costumes during the final half term.

Y9

Year 9 have been studying *DNA* by Dennis Kelly since January. We were all looking forward to getting back to the classroom after analysing pieces of text during online learning.

This provided them with good character knowledge and allowed them to develop knowledge of status, proxemics and staging which they can now apply in practical work. We are currently exploring the 4 stage types of proscenium, traverse, thrust and in-the-round. Students are enjoying the challenge of directing as well as developing their performance skills.

Y10

In Year 10, students are preparing for performances of their monologues for the Vocal Techniques unit. This is part of their coursework which will be completed by the end of Year 10.

Each student has selected a monologue and a solo speech they will present to an audience. They are working hard to embed the techniques they learnt through their practical workshops completed online. They are developing experience in using microphone techniques which they will demonstrate in performance in June. I am excited to see their final pieces.

MUSIC

This term all year groups from Y8-Y11 have been back in the Music Department.

Y7 pupils have been learning how to read ukulele chords and tab, which they are making excellent progress at. Y8 have been learning about leitmotifs used in Film Music and composing their own character theme tunes based on Harry Potter and Jurassic Park. We've had some very creative ideas!

Y9 have been developing their technical skills on an instrument with class band skills projects - Miss Smales' class have been learning '(I can't get no) Satisfaction' by The Rolling Stones and Mrs Maud's group have learnt 'Message in a Bottle' by The Police. We've been very impressed with the resilient musicianship demonstrated by pupils throughout this project and can't wait to see what pupils achieve in Y10 and 11.

Y11 Music Performance pupils have shown true determination in completing Unit 202ta - Live Music Performance. Pupils have used their practice time wisely to prepare for the final performances which took place over the first two weeks in May. This year, due to current restrictions, we videoed the solo performances - these will be shared via our social media over the coming weeks.

Extra curricular activities are slowly returning to the department! Y10 Soul Band has been back rehearsing every Wednesday since Easter and we plan to offer activities to other year groups after half term. We have also entered seven pupils from Y7-10 into the WPT Young Musician of the Year competition - good luck to all involved!

PERFORMING ARTS

Y7/8

Students in Year 7 and 8 have had mini options to specialise in Dance or Drama for their final term. This means students are taking part in extended projects in Dance and Drama to develop skills and knowledge they learned during lockdown.

Both year groups are creating Show dance and Musical Theatre pieces to different songs from The Greatest Showman. They have worked hard during Lockdown, creating a PowerPoint and researching the true story of PT Barnum and his unique circus entertainers. Many students were intrigued to find out that the bearded lady Annie Jones and General Tom thumb were actually real people.

Year 7 are choreographing and learning how to use emphasis, gestures, canon and unison whereas Y8 are adding to their vocabulary knowledge by using dynamics, retrograde and isolation. We are hoping that each class can perform their routines to family in Clifton park during their lesson time in July.

Y9

Year 9 students are studying Chicago and the unique choreography of Bob Fosse. We are hoping to actually organise a trip to Sheffield Lyceum in June when Chicago should be on live.

This will hopefully provide students with knowledge of stylistic qualities and an understanding of how professional productions are put together. It should also inspire them to be better performers; something hopefully families will be able to see in December when they perform the routines for their practical exam. Students are beginning to realise the commitment and self discipline required to work as a team member in a performance group. Some of them do seem to be enjoying the challenge and responsibility of learning the choreography techniques as well as developing their performance skills.

Y10

Year 10 students are completing practical work from component 1 that they were unable to do as a group during Lockdown and also preparing to start their next component 2 performance creations.

Developing physical skills and techniques which will be completed and ready to be performed to an audience in December. They are working hard in developing knowledge, learning specific terminology linking to the varied styles being studied and understanding that getting the techniques correct will be a big step towards gaining higher final grades.

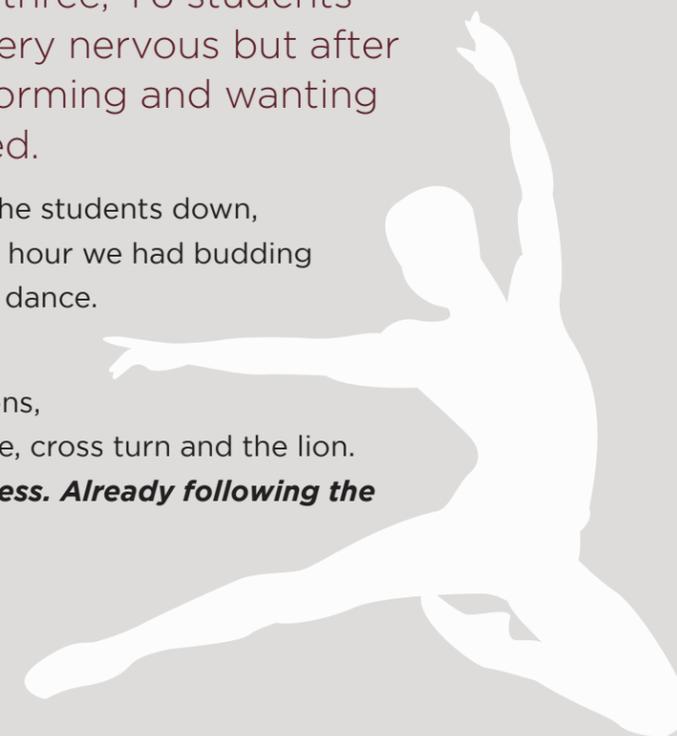
Primary Taster Lessons

May 10th saw the first taster sessions in dance being held at Cranworth Road. Twenty three, Y6 students took part; some of whom were very nervous but after a few minutes, they were all performing and wanting to show off what they had learned.

Even the three teachers who accompanied the students down, took part. (and were really good) Within the hour we had budding dancers and singers performing a Trolls Pop dance.

They learned all about canon and repetition along with learning the names of some actions, like high V and low V with up-side-down-side, cross turn and the lion.

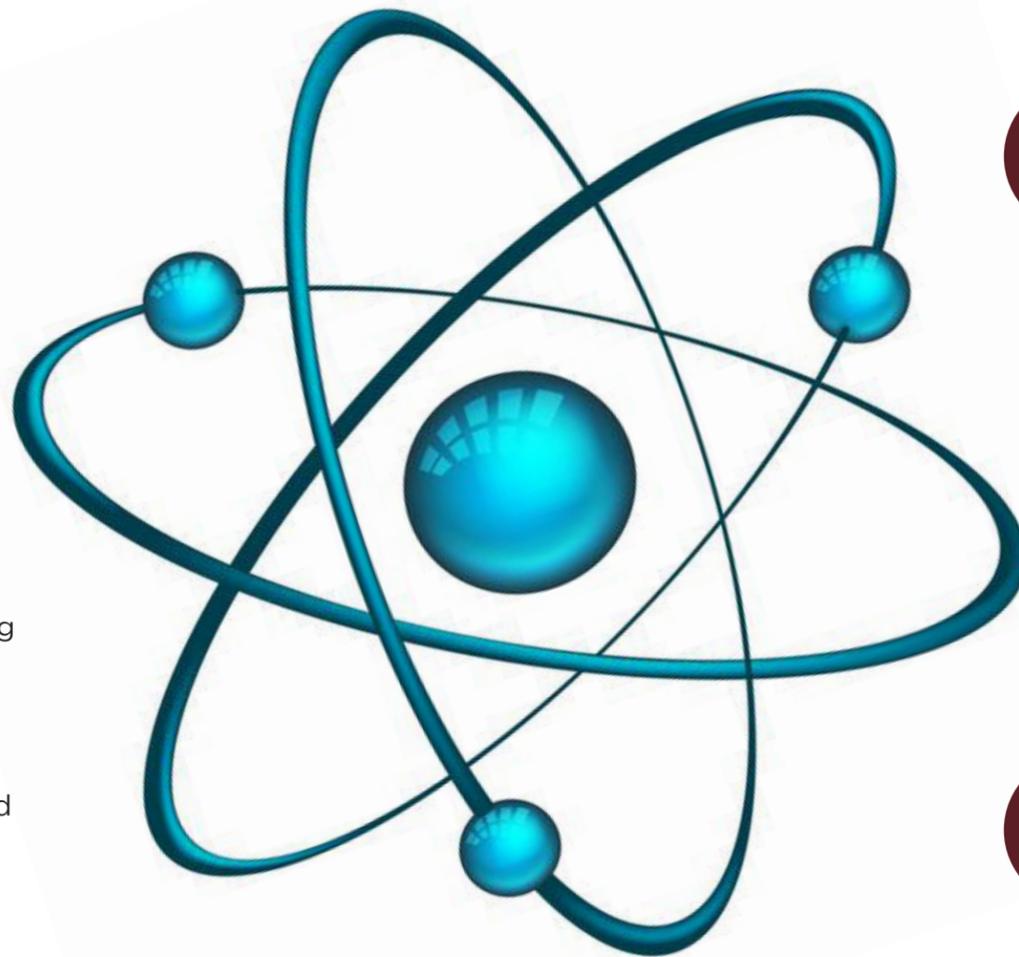
A good lesson where everyone made progress. Already following the Clifton Way! Well done Coleridge!



SCIENCE

This term Y7s have been looking at the fundamentals of chemistry. This has included looking at the smallest things that make up everything around us - **atoms!**

Our young scientists have been using the periodic table to familiarise themselves with all the elements in our world which make up the things that surround us. They have then gone one step further to see how these things react, what they make, and essentially learn new language of science when reading and understanding their chemical formula. Space has also been one of our topics this term, students have learnt about the things beyond our world! Some even went out onto the field to see how our solar system is arranged, and map out the relative spaces between the different planets.



Y10

Y10s have been focusing on inheritance and variation. This has allowed them to understand where their characteristics come from and why they are the way they are.

More specifically, they have looked at selective and genetic breeding, linking this to the farming industry for both crops and animals. They have also looked at the rate of reactions and how we can make reactions faster or slower. Again, this has been linked to industry, thinking about how large companies that use reactions could speed these processes up safely to gain more profit.

Y11

Y11s have been completing science assessments to help with their GCSE grades.

This has required them to put in plenty of hard work both in lessons and at home in preparation. Lesson time has been spent revising chunks of topics, before completing exam style questions on the whole course in order to demonstrate what they know to their teachers.

Y8

Our Y8's having been catching up on missed content since Lockdown.

This has included covering some of the basics of chemistry; similar to Y7s. They have looked at practical processes on how to separate substances, and have watched videos and demonstrations of these whilst we have been out of the labs. They should now have a better understanding of the world around them and what everything is made from.

Y9

Y9's have had their first science GCSE style exam.

This may have felt strange for some students, but should really help them get used to GCSE style questions taking their first step towards their science exams in Y11. For the remainder of the term the Y9's have been looking at different types of bonding on structure, building on what they learnt in Y8 and discovering why different materials have different properties.



Finally, we have started work with Y6 students in our feeder schools doing science lessons outside creating contraptions to protect an egg.

We are looking forward to getting them in our science labs in September.

MATHS

After what has been a tough year for everybody, our students have continued to show resilience, perseverance and a brilliant attitude towards their learning both in the classroom and from home.

2021 started with an 8-week Lockdown and we could not be more proud of the commitment shown by our pupils in Maths. We recognised this with our Lockdown Legend Award. Pupils that joined every online lesson, participated virtually and completed work independently were entered into a prize draw.

A huge congratulations to everyone entered and the winners were:-

Lockdown Competition Winners

Y7 – Brogan Scholey

Y8 – Darcie Snoddin

Y9 – Danielle Kubwayo

Y10 – Matthew Bywater

Y11 – Zakaria Ahmed

Despite all of the uncertainty, Y11 have continued to focus in lessons and complete in class assessments to help prove what grades they are capable of. Pupils have worked with their teachers to collate a vast amount of evidence to support with their Centre Assessed Grades (CAG). We wish them all the luck in the world on their future endeavours, especially for those that are opting to continue the study of Mathematics at A level.

During this half term, a cohort of Y8's have participated in a challenge aimed at developing their communication and problem solving skills. This entailed giving up one form tutor time a week to work as a team to solve challenging probability questions. They all worked really hard and ended the task with a presentation to their peers showing them their findings. Well done!

Showing commitment to their learning and collecting Loyalty card points enters pupils into our half termly prize draw. Congratulations to this terms winners:-

Commitment to Learning Winners

Y7 – Ruya Foord

Y8 – Kaideanna Nichols

Y9 – Jack Walker 9EY

Y10 – Boris Abaffy

Y11 – Jamal Hussain

Finally, Y6 have begun their transition to Clifton. Primary Schools have been involved in completing a virtual maths session with our KS3 coordinator, using interactive online activities which introduced them to secondary school maths. Initial Feedback was very positive from our new students and we look forward to completing these in person in the future.

PHSE

In PSHE, students have continued to work hard to develop their knowledge and skills to be more comfortable with themselves and others, to know how to make healthy life decisions and to make choices to help them be happier and more resilient.

In year 7, the students have completed lessons on puberty and then changing adolescent body and mind. The year 8 students have learned about risky behaviours like gambling and substance misuse, and the year 9's and 10's have been watching the Stonewall LGBT+ film "FIT", which aims to address stereotypes and homophobia.

The PSHE team has been very impressed with how our students are putting the PSHE way into practice and showing their debate skills in respectful and tolerant ways. Well done to all of you and keep up the great work!

PE

CURRICULUM: We have at last been able to return to a more familiar style curriculum and after a period of team sports which was valuable for the pupils to readjust to working together, we are now focusing on Summer Sports.

Cricket, Rounders and Athletics are featuring in all year groups with some Short Tennis at Key Stage 3 and some Softball at Key Stage 4.

The Year 7 Girls had a very positive experience at Ulley Reservoir at the beginning of May when they took part in Canoeing and Rafting. We will be taking other students up there for a similar opportunity before the end of the summer term.

At Key stage 4 we took part in a very successful BTEC Sport Moderation. Three students were chosen with their coursework sampled by an external moderator. The report we received back was very positive and a tribute to the work the students have put in despite the disruptions to their learning.



EXTRA-CIRRICULAR: Each year group currently has their own night dedicated to them for taking part in team sports. When we first returned the girls began with Rounders while the boys who had almost missed the Football season had the chance at last to play.



EXTRA-CIRRICULAR CONT: After Easter, the girls have built on their excellent start and continued with Rounders while the boys have now switched over to Cricket.

We have also introduced a club at Ulley to take place on Monday evenings. This will be on a rota basis for year 7, 8 and 9 with pupils attending through invitation (due to numbers being limited). The pupils will once more work on Canoeing and rafting skills. This club is always popular with all year groups.

Across the year groups over 150 pupils have been able to get active and join us at extra-curricular since we returned from Lockdown.

SPORTS WEEK: At the start of May the department had a very enjoyable Sports week. The usual curriculum for PE was collapsed and pupils took on a series of different activities with a focus on teamwork. There was Ultimate Frisbee and Kick ball Rounders competitions along with some Old School Games.

Break times saw a Cricket bowling challenge and form time activities took the form of Sports quizzes and information about local clubs and facilities. Class reading that week was also based around Sport and team work. After school, each year group was given time for Sport. Highlights included Year 8 Badminton which proved very popular, Year 9 Boys v Girls Rounders, where the pupils played a tense game against one another and a Year 7 Inter-form Rounders competition. ***It was nice to see so many different pupils getting involved with a smile on their faces.***

PRIMARY TASTER SESSIONS: We recently welcomed 18 Y6 pupils from East Dene Primary at Cranworth Road for some PE taster sessions as part of their ongoing induction.

As this followed our Sports week, in keeping with the team work theme, the pupils took part in some skills sessions before a game of kick ball Rounders. This was a positive experience for the pupils and also helped to strengthen the bond between our school and the local primary schools. ***We look forward to working with these pupils in the future.***

SPANISH

This term, Year 7 Spanish students have been exploring Hispanic countries and towns and learning all about talking about where they live.



We have seen cabins in the Ecuadorian jungle, caves in the south of Spain and even bright blue houses in Spain's very own Smurf town! Students have been consolidating their knowledge of opinions and are really starting to develop them to express some unique and exciting points of view.

Year 8 have been learning all about the traditional Spanish diet and we are now consolidating how to talk about what we eat with a range of different verbs and structures.

It has been delightful to hear student opinions about all of the different dishes enjoyed by the Spanish (especially Los Churros) and hopefully it won't be too long before we can take students back to our favourite Tapas restaurants to try a few! It has been great to see students getting creative with homework projects to help them revise key nouns, verbs and structures.

Year 9 are exploring a famous music festival in Spain and are now visiting the different stalls they might see there.

Currently, we are learning how to order different quantities of Spanish treats and our vocabulary is ever expanding, as is our confidence in using a range of tenses.

Year 10 are also exploring different Hispanic cities and are really expanding their vocabulary bank through Miss Buckley's vocabulary challenge. Who will win the cash prize for the most words learnt?

As our time with Year 11 nears an end, we are working on an exciting Dragon's Den project whereby students are inventing a spontaneous translator to overtake Google.

So far, we have a translating lip balm, a talking backpack and even a translating jewellery set! Their job at the end of the term is to convince us to buy their product using all of the language and structures they have acquired throughout their Spanish lessons at Clifton. We are looking forward to see who the winners will be.

HISTORY

In History this term, as always, has been very varied for our Clifton historians.

The students in Y7 have been working their way through the Tudors and onto the Civil War, Y8 have been finding out about how women in Britain achieved the vote and have recently moved on to the Great War.

Our Y9 historians have been looking at the Second World War and most recently discovering the horrors of the Holocaust. Their approach to this very sensitive subject has been outstanding and I am very proud of them all for their compassion and understanding.

At GCSE Y10 have begun their study of Elizabethan England and Y11 are focused on assessments in preparation for their final grades.



FOOD TECH / HOSPITALITY

The Y11 Hospitality students have been completing their final practical assessment with some excellent results.



The Y10 students continue to work on their knowledge of the catering industry and building their food preparation skills. Some of the products made this term have been brandy snaps and learning how to fillet fish and then make different products from the de boned and skinned fillets. Y8 students have completed more work on basic carbohydrate dishes, cooking a tomato pasta sauce dish and Macaroni cheese. They are now moving forward to make different bread products.

Y7 pupils are continuing to build their basic skills and have made Dutch apple cake, buns, flapjack, carrot cake and scones. They will be making savoury dishes after the May holidays.

Year 7

In Year 7, this half term, the students responded really well to the activities in sports week, where we had an exciting after school inter-form rounder's tournament.

It was great to see the students really competitive showing great teamwork and sportsmanship, but most of all seeing the students having fun with a smile on their face!



In Form Tutor Time we have enjoyed a range of issues including environmental week and some excellent work on mental health, students showed maturity, they were advocates of 'The Clifton Way' when sharing and discussing these topics in form time.



One of our exciting rewards is EDIS, where forms collect money towards end of year trips. Soon forms will be able to choose their reward with **7B leading the way with over £116 to spend on their reward.**



This term our Rotherham United football sessions have been a success, they have really used the game of football to engage the students in their academic studies, participation and health.

Year 8

In Year 8, this half term, students have finalised their options for next year. They have met with staff to discuss their future plans and will now start to prepare for Year 9.

We were really pleased to hear that students have so many aspirations for the future and we look forward to starting the foundation year of GCSE. We have had a huge focus on being prepared for the day and around 95% of students arrive at school with equipment. We will continue to encourage students to be ready to learn.

In Form Tutor Time, we have covered a range of issues including some excellent work on mental health. The students responded really well to the activities in sports week



Attendance has been a key area of work in Year 8 and I am proud to say that Year 8 is the highest attending year group in school, but there is more to do. Nearly half of the year have attended every day.



One of our exciting rewards is EDIS, where forms collect money towards end of year trips. Soon forms will be able to choose their reward with **8A leading the way with over £130 to spend on their reward.** In Year 8 we try to make 'Everyday a Good Day' and our students contribute to that by following the Clifton Way.

Year 9

This half term, students have finalised their GCSE options. It is great to see that the majority of students continue to uphold a passion for their foundation subjects and are continuing with the study of these in their final years



In form tutor time we have enjoyed a range of topics such as environmental week and mental health week. Sports week was also a great success with lots of students engaging in the after school girls Vs boys rounders and taking part in the cricket wickets at break.



We have also explored themes such as organisation and being equipped helping to develop year 9 into independent learners. The last week of term we will celebrate all the students' achievements from throughout HT5.

Year 10

Y10 have continued to make progress in their studies throughout the last term.

As a year group Y10 continue to mature both academically and socially with the majority of students demonstrating the Clifton Way daily. A current focus for the year group is attendance, students are aware of the importance of being in school every day and the impact punctuality has on their upcoming GCSE's.

During Form Tutor Time students have discussed topics ranging from mental health to the environment, their engagement has been high and their contributions meaningful. The students of year 10 half also took the time to attend the tea and talk sessions organised by Miss Boyle and the School Council, those in attendance reported how useful it was to have a cup of tea and a chat. It has been nice to see mental health being spoken about openly by the students.

During the last week of term we will be celebrating those students who have consistently worked hard and attended school throughout the term in an awards assembly. In particular we will be congratulating those who have remained at effort ranking number one throughout the year, these are the students who have shown a commitment and resilience towards their studies.

Year 11

This Half Term, Y11 have been concentrating on their in school assessments, in order to provide evidence for their GCSEs.

This work cumulates their hard work over the past five years, and the staff have been very impressed with how the majority have conducted themselves and approached these assessments, with diligence and fortitude.



Their time at Clifton will be celebrated with a leavers assembly on the last day of this half term. This is a time for students to celebrate what they have achieved and the friends they have made over the last 5 years. To Y11 - Enjoy the long summer, but remember we are still here if you need help with planning for the future. **(Mr Duroe, Miss Williams, Miss Kelly)**



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WWW.CLIFTONSCHOOL.ORG



HAVE A GOOD!
AND RESTFUL HALF TERM

