



# NEWSLETTER

CCS NEWSLETTER - EDITION 4 - DECEMBER 2021

*Message from the Headteacher - Anna Leng*

What a busy term this has been for all. I am so proud of the way Clifton students have settled back into the school routine this term as we all get used to being together again and out of the year group bubbles.

Christmas is a time to stop and reflect on what has been going well and what we can do even better as we move into the new year. With the Clifton Way continuing to be central to everything we do, we promise to never stop dreaming big and working hard to ensure all our students can flourish in the future. As a school we know that getting the right balance of both academic and pastoral support is key to our success and we are excited to continue helping out students to become both able and qualified.

The teachers have also been back in the classroom this term and working closely with colleagues in the other Wickersley Partnership Trust schools to further develop the curriculum. Our biggest priority remains ensuring that high quality of teaching and learning is available to all.

I am excited to welcome Mr Skirrow who will be joining us as Deputy Headteacher in January. Mr Skirrow is an experienced leader with a passion for ensuring that nothing gets in the way of students achieving their full potential. He will be a huge asset to our team, and together we will ensure the quality of education on offer at Clifton remains excellent.

As we move into the new year we are going to really focus on maintaining high standards, and reinforce the key messages, expectations and rules you will be familiar with already. I believe that students who do the right thing everyday and always show the 'Clifton Way' should be rewarded and recognised more. Over the course of the new year you will see an extension to our 100 club which will include access to 100 club-only indoor social areas, and a 100 Club privilege outdoor area and garden which hopefully will be ready for the Spring term. To be a member of the 100 club students need to have outstanding attendance and embody the Clifton Way on a daily basis.

The students have also been taking pride in their presentation of work, and staff across the school have selected a book from each of their classes that was an excellent example of outstanding presentation. All of the chosen books have been wrapped in gold paper and it was great to see how proud the students were, receiving these golden books. More students will be selected next term and we are all so proud of the hard work they have put in. Well done to all our winners so far!

Lastly.... Thank you so much for all the feedback received following on from our announcement to update the use of mobile phones in the Academy. We received too many to respond back to individually but your feedback is most welcome. The overwhelming majority of parents are very supportive and can see the benefits of students having time away from devices, but I know some will find this hard so any work families can do at home over the festive period would be much appreciated.

We will be offering Covid testing on our return again in January, so if you haven't already, please complete the consent form and remember all students will continue to require face masks when we come back.

**I hope that you and your families, whether you celebrate Christmas or not, get to spend some quality time over the break with friends, family and loved ones. Stay safe, be kind and I look forward to seeing all our students return safe and well on Tuesday 4th January 2022.**



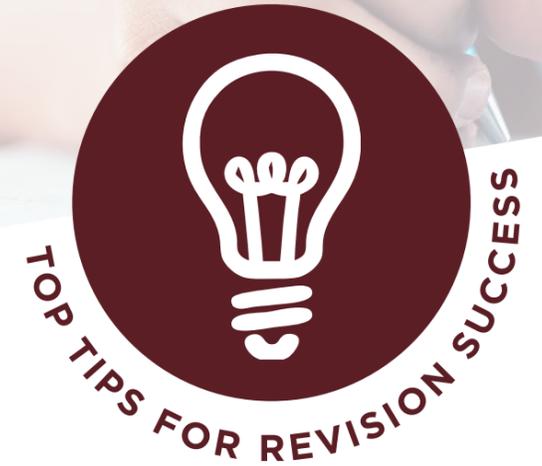
## Exams & Revision

Towards the end of November, our Y11 students sat their GCSE Mock Exams.

These assessments replicated what will happen in the summer, to ensure our students can best prepare for the first GCSE Exam Season in two years.

Students have been tested on all the GCSE content they have studied so far on their chosen courses. We are really proud of our students: they have risen to the challenge and given no less than their best. Their hard work and commitment is clear through the great classwork they are doing in school alongside fantastic revision at home.

Over the next few weeks, students will receive more information about the extended school day and our "catch up curriculum". Students will have a Period 5 added to their timetable for Maths, English and Science. In addition to this, there will also be revision sessions before school and drop down days for students to revise and complete coursework in their option subjects.



Start early. Revising content in small chunks, over a long period of time is much better than cramming

1

Make a timetable and follow it. Choose topics from specific subjects to complete at a given time.

2

Do active and creative revision alongside your notes: mind maps, videos and role plays can all help you remember!

3

Create a suitable space for revision, be fully equipped and turn off social media, games consoles and other distractions.

4

Attend revision classes with your teachers (remember, they are the experts!) and use past exam materials.

5

Take a break. Ensure you eat well, drink plenty of water and get enough sleep at night.

6

## English

We've been very busy in the English department over the last few months; it certainly has made for an incredible start to the new school year!

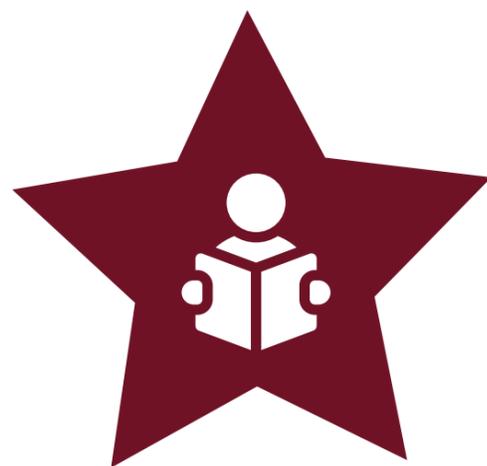
Y7

Our Year 7s have been reading the novel Wonder. This is always a popular scheme of work with our students and this half term has been no different. Teachers have really enjoyed seeing students' reactions to the plot as well as hearing the mature discussion that has arisen surrounding the issues in the story; friendship, bullying and disability.

Y8

In Year 8, students have been studying poetry linked to the theme of Conflict. This scheme of work also helped us honour Remembrance Day back in November, and allowed students to consider the effects of war whilst also remembering the sacrifices many people made throughout both WW1 and WW2.

Alongside their English work, both Y7 and Y8 students have been studying drama, which has been hugely successful. Students have been eager to share how fun and interesting they have found the drama lessons, and how well they have complimented their learning in English.



Of course, we have also continued to offer our Accelerated Reader programme to Y7 and 8s, where students are given freedom over their own reading journey whilst also improving their reading ages.

Many of our KS3 students say that their library time as part of English is one of their favourite times of the week, but the key to success is to read at home as well! Students take home their Accelerated Reader books each day, and can win prizes for regular home-reading.

Y9

In Year 9, students have been studying the American Classic, Of Mice and Men. This novel promotes thoughtful discussion around issues that are still as prevalent today as they were when the story was written back in 1937.

The students have had the opportunity to discuss racism, sexism, ageism and ableism, all the while developing their analysis skills (that will be so important as they move closer towards their GCSE years).

Y10

In Year 10, students have completed their study of The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde; one of three texts that they will need to know for their GCSE English Literature examination. After Christmas, we move on to the study of Macbeth. Later in the year, we will also have a performance of Macbeth in school from a theatre company – an event that always entertains and really helps students to cement their knowledge of the play.

Y11

Finally, our Year 11s have completed their first mock exams and they will be receiving the results of those exams before we break up for Christmas. The demands of revision coupled with the rigorous mock exam schedule was certainly a challenge, but our students rose to that challenge and coped superbly. We also begun our after-school revision sessions, which will continue into the new year. The importance of revision is paramount and I hope we will see a good turnout in each of the sessions to come; these are key to helping our Year 11s retain and apply the necessary knowledge and skills in order to be successful in their GCSE examinations.

**As always, our Superior Students have been named each week throughout the term, where each English teacher chooses two of their students to receive special recognition for their effort and ability to follow The English Way in every lesson. Keep an eye on Clifton's website and social media in the new year to see who will be next!**

**This half term, Ben Furness (Y7) managed to complete 10 quizzes since September, achieving 100% on each one! He has also read a massive 258,622 words since the start of term!**

**Special mentions also go to Faizan Boota (Y7) and Alexi McGill (Y8) who have achieved 100% of their points targets for the term. They will now, along with Ben Furness, receive a certificate and a prize in assembly.**

**SUPERIOR  STUDENTS**

## MFL

In Year 7-9, students have been learning a wide range of topics in their French and Spanish lessons, building their vocabulary and really beginning to use their language with confidence.

The languages teachers have been really impressed by the excellent progress with Spanish and French accents seen. We have awarded our first Golden books across all classes and year groups and again teachers have been blown away by the effort shown in student work. We are looking forward to seeing who will get the next round of Golden books.

As the term ends, we will be looking to award our second round of prizes for the Modern Foreign Legend of the term - a prize that is awarded to students who really throw themselves into Language learning. In the final week of term, students will participate in Christmas themed lessons in order to learn about cultures and traditions in French and Spanish speaking countries.

In year 10, students have been working extremely hard on their first Vocabulary Incentive League. Students have revised a large number of words over the last six weeks and have sat two quizzes per week.

**All students who have been successful in the vocabulary incentive league are due to enjoy a Spanish cinema experience next week with popcorn, lunch and sweets provided!**

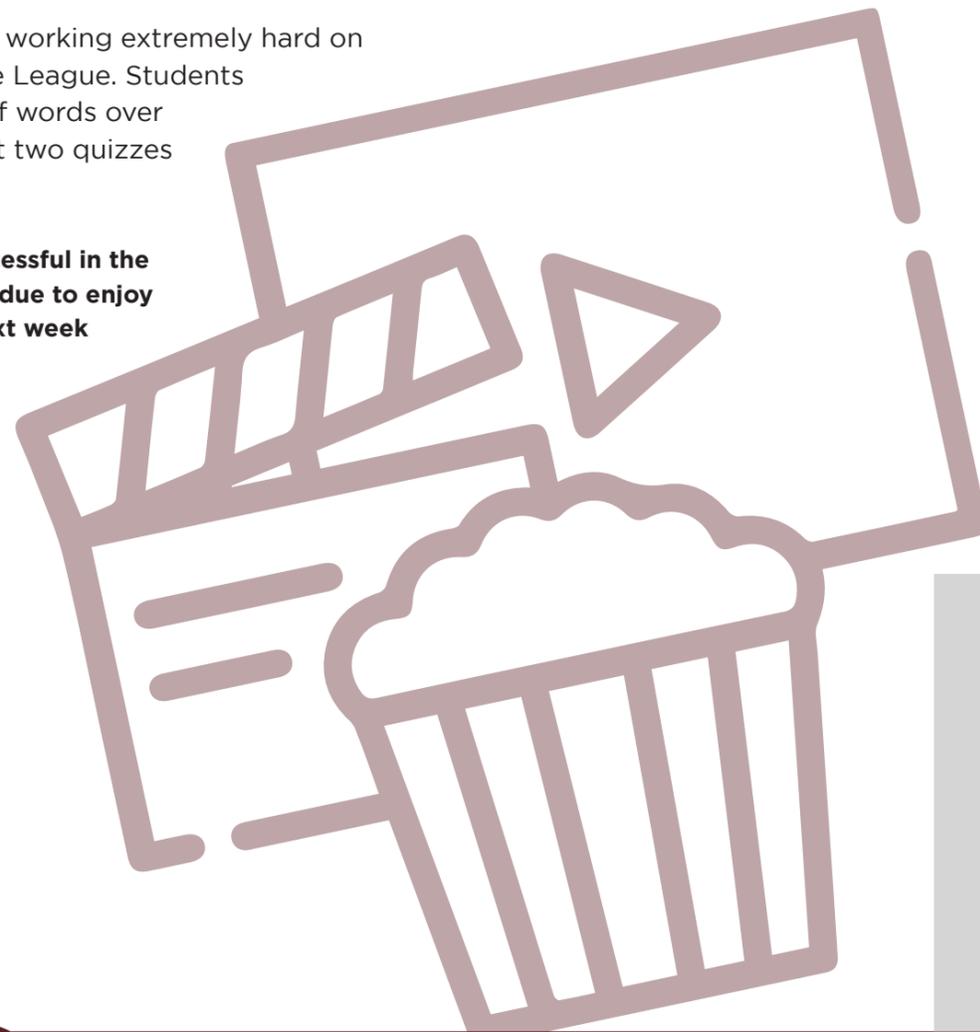
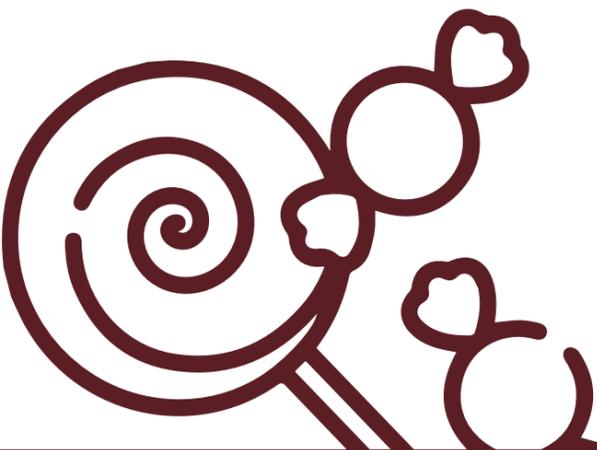


## FILM CLUB

23 students enjoyed an evening watching Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* this week with bean bags, popcorn, sweets and drinks.

We had a great evening and students were eager to know when we can do it all again! They were pleased to know it will be a regular half-termly event for any student to attend.

**Details for our January 2022 Film Night will be out during the first week back.**



## PE

With the thankful return of clubs and fixtures, the winter term has been very busy and extremely positive for the PE department.



The Girls have led the way with some outstanding performances in their Netball fixtures. Highlights have included a fixture at Oakwood where all year groups won their games.



Attendance to boys Football has been a highpoint. Wednesday night training has been popular and at time of writing, our Y8, 9 and 11 teams remain in the hunt for silverware after first round wins in the Rotherham schools cup. The girls are now training on Monday night, and it is nice to see a team forming for them.



One of the highlights of the term has been the opportunity for several of our pupils to visit Ulley Reservoir to learn the skills of Kayaking and Canoeing. Classes have been given expert tuition including paddling techniques and basic survival as they took to the water during their PE lessons and after school Canoeing club. Thankfully the majority were able to remain upright and stay dry!



We have successfully reintroduced Climbing club on Monday evenings at Cranworth Road, with several pupils learning the skills of Climbing, belaying and backing up the rope.



Badminton club on Tuesday continues to be an enjoyable, relaxing pastime for many of our students while some of the more energetic athletes are learning the techniques of running at Thursday night Running club.

The Y9 BTEC Sport groups have settled well and are beginning to make progress towards their coursework deadlines while in Y10 the focus has very much been on their upcoming online exam. Pupils are now starting the process of revision in an effort to bag some valuable marks early.



In Y11 the end of the BTEC Sport course is in sight with groups working towards cementing their target grades through their coursework.

Our 2022 Y9 residential to Carlton lodge, where students will take on Outdoor Activity challenges is in the planning stage. We are also looking to Y9 as we introduce a Sports Leaders programme.

December will see the Netball and Football Christmas do's with the girls attending Burger and Bowling and the boys competing at 5 a-side at the Rotherham Football Centre.

In keeping with the Clifton way, the principles of teamwork and resilience have been evident throughout each year group and each lesson, club and fixture!

## Personal Development – Pastoral

It's been a busy time in personal development. Extracurricular clubs have started once again and allowed our students to gain those extra experiences that are so important to enhance the school experience. We also had our first live music concert which we have missed greatly over the last eighteen months.

Our KS4 students have started preparing for their next steps after Clifton and done financial literacy lessons, learning how to open bank accounts and financing Higher Education in Form Time.

A big highlight for the Y11 was the careers day where they spent time in workshops learning about bursaries, apprenticeships and personal statements. They also attended a careers fair where a wide variety of post 16 education providers attended and talked to the students about their future options. They also took part in mock interviews which helped them to prepare for the interviews they will be doing in order to gain places at college. In preparation for the event they created CVs in form tutor time.

For parliament week we took a group of 10 students from across all year groups to meet Lord Best at Wickersley School and learn about parliament and in particular. The House of Lords. It was led by the Y12 and Y13 politics students at WSSC. It was a great session and got the students really fired up about the political system in the UK.



On 16th November, we hosted the first Wickersley partnership Trust ECO summit, with all 5 secondary schools in the trust attending. It was a great event with students learning about campaigning for change in many different ways. Not only was it a great event but the students made some new friends across the trust. They went away full of determination about campaigning and the environment. Our ECO group at Clifton is now working on projects to develop the green space we have at school and provide habitats for wildlife and birds.

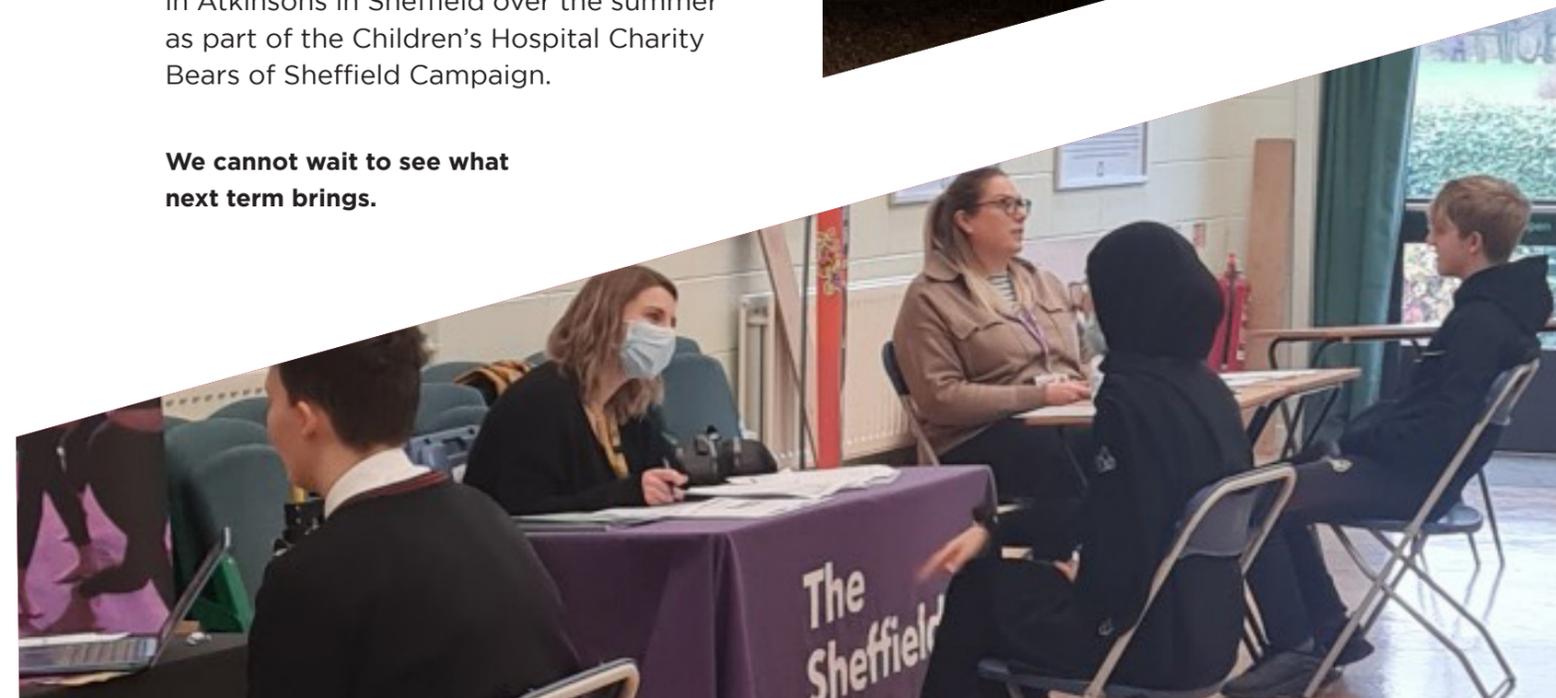
As always at Clifton, we take our wellbeing very seriously and a new addition this year has been our mindfulness sessions delivered by Mrs Cotton.

They have been really well received and the students have taken on board the advice and strategies extremely positively. This helped in particular for those students doing mock exams and also who have struggled with the mental challenges of the lockdowns.

Students have also been working very hard to achieve the Clifton pledges and develop their life skills. This has involved helping at events in school and also learning about the country we live in. We presented several bronze awards in October and look forward to presenting many more in the coming weeks and months.

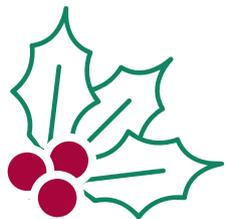
We have also continued to contribute to charity. In October, we took part in the Hello Yellow campaign for the second year, supporting young people to deal with mental health issues in positive ways and we raised a fantastic £669. In November we held a non uniform day for Children in Need and on this occasion we raised a brilliant £894! We also welcomed back Clifford our Bear who had been on display in Atkinsons in Sheffield over the summer as part of the Children's Hospital Charity Bears of Sheffield Campaign.

**We cannot wait to see what next term brings.**





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[WWW.CLIFTONSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.CLIFTONSCHOOL.ORG)



Merry Christmas