



Year 9

September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to a new academic year. I hope that you and your family are well and that you have had a restful summer.

At Clifton Community School, we want all students to leave able and qualified to play their full part in the world.

This means that we want all of our students to start their lives equipped with not only the qualifications, in terms of GCSE grades, but also the skills and attributes that they will need in order to deal with the challenges of life beyond their time at school.

As adults, we all know that our children will sometimes face adversity, frustration and disappointment in their life. We, the adults, can't wave a magic wand to make the tough times disappear, but we can work in partnership – parents, students and teachers – to help our children develop the resilience and determination they will need to overcome them.

For that reason, we say and do things in a certain way at Clifton, referred to as, 'The Clifton Way'. The Clifton Way allows us all to promote the skills and attributes our children need in order to develop their independence, responsibility and resilience to have a happy and successful life.

The Clifton Way:

1. We are nice to people
2. We say please and thank you
3. We are equipped to learn – bag, pencil case, planner, stationery and PE kit
4. We work hard – even when the work is difficult
5. We are prepared to make mistakes – high challenge, low fear
6. We listen to others
7. We believe in ourselves
8. We are proud of our achievements
9. We take pride in our appearance
10. We take responsibility for our actions – e.g. turning up to detention
11. We dream big
12. We take risks

As parents and teachers, it is natural to want to protect our children from failure and upset, and often we set everything up so that cannot happen. However, we often learn best from our mistakes, and the most valuable achievements are those we've really worked hard for. Working together in the Clifton Way will help us all ensure that our children leave school able and qualified.

Many will claim the upper school years (Years 10 and 11) to be the most important years. We here at Clifton know that the work done and progress achieved in the 'early' years (Years 7, 8 and 9) is critical and the importance of pace and challenge at the beginning of secondary school should not be underestimated.

Great strides will continue to be made and we make no apology for our impatience with anything less than the very best from everyone involved.

My staff and I are excited by the prospect of working with you. The combination: home, school and student here at Clifton will prove to be unbeatable.

Yours sincerely

T Hardcastle
Headteacher

Some points to note:

- 100% attendance should be the norm. 95% attendance is the whole school target, but 95% attendance per student should not be regarded as "good" since it represents 2 full weeks off school. Please don't book holidays in school time. Holidays taken during term-time will not be authorised and you may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice issued through the Local Authority. Per child this would be £60 if paid within 28 days. Please ensure that you always ring school each and every day that your child is ill.
- Students will be expected to wear uniform properly at all times – have a school bag, PE kit, planner and basic stationery (pen, pencil, ruler).
- We continue to have an open access policy in school and students will be allowed inside the buildings at break times. They can bring sandwiches and they can take advantage of our cashless lunch arrangements. However, they are not allowed to go off site at breaks or lunchtimes as we cannot guarantee their safety if they do.
- We would be grateful if you could regularly check and sign your child's planner. Your Head of Year is **Mr Griffin**.
- We have enclosed a data collection sheet for your child. Please check this carefully and if there are any amendments to the information please return this sheet to school with the amendments clearly indicated. This should be returned to school marked for the attention of the 'Data Office'. We are particularly keen to have e-mail addresses for all parents as this will be our preferred method of communication when letters need to be sent home.