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CLAYDON



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

MARCH 2016

Another fantastic year since the last time of writing. We achieved our best ever results in the history of Claydon High School achieving 70% five A*-C grades including English and Maths. We also shadowed our data against the incoming measures that will be used this August and we had a positive progress score of +0.41 which is a remarkable achievement.

I would also like to share the news that Claydon High School has been named in the top 100 non-selective state-funded schools in England for greatest sustained improvement. MP Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, sent a letter to the school offering personal congratulations to the students and staff on this excellent achievement, which recognises sustained improvement in students achieving five or more A*-C GCSE grades, including English and Mathematics, between 2013 and 2015.

We are also celebrating news that the school has been invited to become a Leading Edge school. Leading Edge is a programme which invites Claydon High School to join other high performing schools across the country to work locally, regionally and nationally to raise achievement through the sharing of proven ideas. There are currently over 300 Leading Edge schools within the programme, representing some of the most outstanding and innovative practice nationally.

I am extremely pleased that the hard work and dedication of staff alongside the commitment and fantastic achievements of our students over this three year period has been recognised. We will continue to strive for improvement and to deliver outstanding teaching and learning for our young people and these two accolades will support us in that aim.

We had a very European feel to our spring term with two separate trips abroad to Paris and Salamanca in northwest Spain. We are proud to be able to offer these experiences for our students and both trips were jam-packed with visits to famous landmarks, fantastic evening activities and delicious food, providing a real opportunity for the students to immerse themselves in the cultures and practice their language skills. My thanks go to the staff for giving up their time and the students for their impeccable behaviour.

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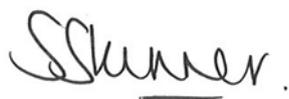
'Be the best you can be'

Other events recently included: our annual Fun Run; taking 120 Year 11 students to GCSE Boot Camp to undertake revision strategies; an art exhibition featuring work from our feeder primary school students, alongside our Year 7-9 work; and a Rock Band Session Day, featuring Ipswich based singer songwriter Connor Ryan Adams. Connor and members of I.E.M. (Industry Education in Music) worked with 50 students from Years 7-10 in small groups, helping them to compose original pop music. Students spent the morning rehearsing and performing their compositions; a winning group was then chosen to support Connor in a live performance on stage to a captive student audience. A fantastic 'Evening of Rock, Pop and Contemporary Music' is to follow on 23rd March, showcasing our musical talent and allowing students to put into practice their newly developed skills.

On 10th March our Reporters Club joined selected Year 8 students to take part in the BBC School Report Day. Students gave up time-tabled lessons to produce an online newspaper based on events in and around school. Students also represented the Eastern region as one of six schools nationally who were invited to participate in a 'Live on Air' radio broadcast for a pop up radio station based in Birmingham! This was broadcast as an online radio show via the BBC School Report webpage. Please do visit our news page at www.claydonhigh.co.uk where you will be directed to the online newspaper.

We have lots to look forward to when we return from our Easter break, including rehearsals for our forthcoming production of 'Grease the Musical' in July, the cast has been announced and students are very excited; a three day visit from the DfE; induction day with our 150 new Year 7 students who are coming to us from 19 different primary schools and of course the busy run up to GCSE exams.

If anyone would like a tour of the school please feel free to book into one of our monthly Open Mornings - I would be delighted to meet you.



Sarah Skinner
Headteacher