



Cleeve Meadow School

End of Year Newsletter

July 2023

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!

Welcome from the Head of School

Phew we made it! The last few weeks have been like a whirlwind of activity and the fever pitch has lasted right until the end of term. Last Friday the students were bringing out their best moves on the dance floor and it was a delight to see them enjoying themselves so much. This term we have revelled in the great outdoors at Cudham, run a Supergoals week for some year groups, enjoyed a student led sports event and celebrated a summer fête organised by the students as part of their 'Skills Builder' program. We have hosted a fabulous careers event, been practising dancing and singing for the celebration assembly, getting the Year 7s out on community careers visits and transitioning the Year 11 students into Year 12. All of these events rely on the hard work and dedication of staff to go the extra mile to make the preparations and ensure the smooth running of the event. I am grateful that we have a staff body who are always prepared to put that extra effort into making sure that our curriculum provides enrichment and opportunity.

A school community thrives when people look after each other. In order to ensure high performance students need to feel safe and secure. Led by Ms Lee and Mrs Nobbs, this term we have been learning more about 'Trauma Informed' approaches in education and how to support our most vulnerable students. In the education setting it is important to focus on kindness, empathy and respect. Recent research tells us that emotional intelligence is recognised as one of the most reliable predictors of success; 'that people with high emotional intelligence (EI) are more likely to get hired, promoted and earn better salaries'. Our zones of regulation lessons and skillsbuilder sessions help us to prepare students for life in the workplace and every day I am astounded to see the level of kindness and genuine empathy that our students demonstrate towards each other. What a privilege it is to work with these young people.

This year we say a fond farewell to Mr Mansbridge who is leaving to work in a through school. We will miss his input in the various roles he has performed across the school, his dry sense of humour and commitment to providing the best possible support for his team. The students will miss him too. We wish him the best of luck in his new role.

We welcome next academic year three new members of teaching staff, Ms Booth, Ms Sargent and Ms Younis. We also welcome a new SENDCo Ms Leyland and senior teaching assistant Ms Charter. All of them bring a wealth of knowledge of experience from across Primary, Secondary and SEN settings, we look forward to welcoming them into the Cleeve Meadow family.

A huge thank you to our parents for your endless support. You have been an important factor in the growth and development of the school and we value your input and offers to get involved. We look forward to getting you on board with the Christmas Fair (it will be here before you know it!). Have a fabulous summer and we look forward to welcoming your children back in September.

Ms Morris
Head of School



In this edition:



And much more...

Cleeve Meadow Scout Group

We are starting to look more and more like a Scout Troop!

Our uniforms and personalised flag has arrived and our Scouts are earning their first collection of badges!

Our year 8's have all chosen their patrols: Foxes, Falcons, Wolves and Tigers and have appointed Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders. They have begun working towards their first interest badges and challenge awards too: the Teamwork Challenge and Fundraising badge.

Mrs Southby



This year has been a very good year again for school attendance. Cleeve Meadow is now competing with the highest attending secondary schools in TKAT and is achieving records well above Special SEND national averages, with CMS attendance at 90.7% versus national SEND schools at 86.2%.

The rate of persistent absence (90% or below) has improved also and is now only 26%, having fallen and improved from 34% earlier in the year. This compares to persistent absence across SEND schools nationally at 39%; we are significantly better.

Thank you for supporting excellent attendance at Cleeve Meadow. Thank you for making as many appointments as you can out of the school day. And thank you for bringing children back to school after local appointments, all of this has made a significant difference.

There are now 51% of students whose attendance is above 95%, the government expectation for all children. But we want this to improve next year and aim for 60%, so please continue in all you do to support attendance and understand that we will always ask and challenge absence to keep these records high and keep children safe in education.

The following amazing young people have attendance that is 95% or better. Well done to you all.

Ms Lee, Deputy Headteacher

Year 6 transition

It has been our pleasure to welcome our new year 7 starters in for 2 mornings this half term for transition events.

Students met staff and had taster sessions of some of the subjects they will take part in next year as well as their favourite part of the mornings - meeting Baloo!

All students settled in well, and we are looking forward to welcoming them to Cleeve Park in September.



Reading and Literacy

At Cleeve Meadow School, students have finished the academic year with a series of thrilling reading competitions. These events have fostered a love for reading and celebrated the progress made by the students.

The Reading River has been a central focus in the school's library to encourage reading. Acting as a metaphorical pathway, it reminds students of the importance of literacy in their lives. Teachers and form groups have moved along the river hoping to reach the final destination of the Millionaire Marina. Miss Nobbs, Miss Blunt, Miss Palmer and Easton class have all become magnificent reading Millionaires. It has certainly produced some friendly rivalry between staff and students along the way and created an engaging reading experience.

We have received many accolades this year from Renaissance and other schools from within the trust. Visits have been ongoing from schools wanting to see our reading initiatives and teaching ideas and delivery of phonics and the Accelerated Reader Programme.

Finally, as we approach the Summer holidays, I would like to take a moment to extend my gratitude to all the parents of Cleeve Meadow students. Your support and dedication have played an integral role in creating a nurturing and inclusive learning environment.

During the summer break, I invite you to continue fostering a love of reading by exploring books together. Young people reading for just 10 minutes every day can help them relax, learn and feel good!

Renaissance has made Myon, their e-book platform free over the Summer, so if you are struggling to find suitable reading material, it is certainly worth a look.

Thank you once again for being an invaluable part of the school community. Enjoy your well-deserved break, and I will see you all at the end of August.

Happy Reading

Mrs Simmons



RENAISSANCE
myON[®]

1. **School Name:** Summer Reads
2. **Username:** SUM
3. **Password:** SUMR123!

Super Goals Week 12th - 16th June

During the week from 12th June, the school held a Super goals week with a range of activities planned to support students in developing skills towards their Super goal.

The activities included shopping for a first aid kit, visiting the control room at Vauxhall underground station, visiting Maryon Wilson animal park, going to the Police Museum in Marlowe House putting together flat pack furniture, and creating theatre costume masks.

Students and staff all had a wonderful time, and gained some excellent skills and knowledge linked to their super goal.



The DIY group worked together to build a piece of flat pack furniture. They demonstrated fantastic teamwork and DIY skills, as well as a lot of patience!



The transport group visited Vauxhall Underground station, where they were able to visit the control room, talk to a member of Underground staff and also made their own PA announcements!



The first aid group had a trip to Sidcup High street to find the local chemists. They then went into some of the shops to find the equipment they would need to create a first aid kit.



A key stage 4 group who are interested in the emergency services, visited the Police Museum at Marlowe House. Here they learned about the history of policing and crime from the very beginnings of policing in London.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

I am really looking forward to setting up and running the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Cleeve Meadow School for our new Sixth Form students!

"What is the DofE?"

A life-changing experience. A fun time with friends. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers.

The DofE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate adult life." dofe.org

In 1954, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh first considered the idea of a national programme to support young people's development and help them become well-rounded citizens. In 1956, the first DofE Award started, and it is still going, as strong as ever.



The DofE programme is run at three progressive levels and when successfully completed will lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There are four sections to complete the Bronze Award: helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills and completing an expedition, all designed to set and achieve personal challenges.



The DofE is a brilliant opportunity for young people to have fun, improve self-esteem and build confidence, while gaining essential skills for work and life such as resilience, problem solving, team-working and communication. Having a Duke of Edinburgh's Award enhances your CV and college or job applications and employers recognise the Award and the work-ready skills young people have.

Mrs Southby



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD



Whole School trip to Cudham Shaws Outdoor Centre

On Tuesday 4th July, we took the whole school to Cudham for our second Outdoor Adventure Activity day. Students, in teams with others from every year group, were given the opportunity to have a go at Archery, Grass Sledging, Soft Tomahawks, Orienteering, Cavebus, Problem Solving and the Adventure Area. Our young people were a credit to themselves, having a go and trying something new with many of the activities. On occasions they were challenged and demonstrated the courage to try something that may have been out of their comfort zone.



An adventurous activity day gives us the chance to develop new skills, problem solve and work together as a team, which our students all demonstrated brilliantly! We finished the day with a campfire and singing. Even the slight drizzle didn't dampen spirits and enthusiasm ran high throughout the day.

A big well done to the students for their positive attitude and smiley faces on the day! Sincere thanks to all the staff who helped run activities, supported groups and worked behind the scenes - the smooth running of a day like this is entirely down to amazing teamwork! Finally, thanks to all the volunteers at Cudham who ran activities and hosted us for the day.



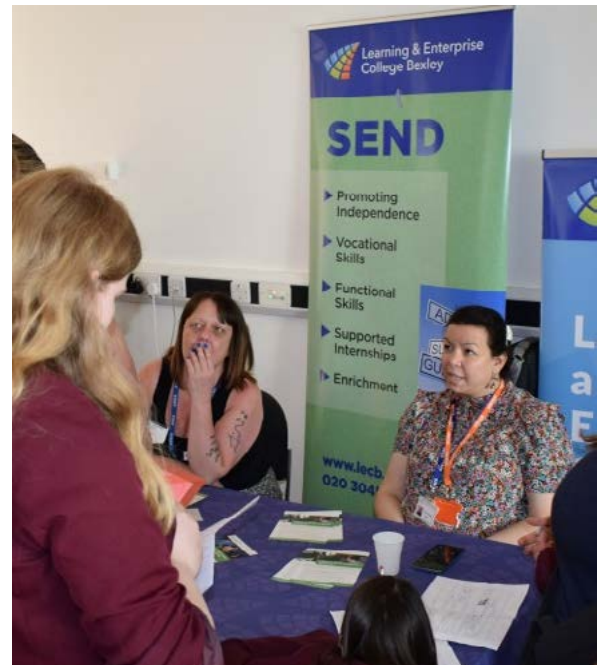


Careers Expo

On Wednesday 21st June, Cleeve Meadow held their very first SEND careers expo for years 9,10 and 11. It was a huge success. The morning was filled with excited students and their families meeting and talking with local colleges and businesses. Career expos give our students some time to explore what is out there for them after they finish school. If the students were unsure of their next steps, I definitely think the careers morning gave them some inspiration.

A big thank you to:

- London Fire Brigade
- South Eastern Police
- Trust IT Manager - Bullers Wood Multi Academy Trust
- We grow together
- Bowleys Restaurant
- Shooters Hill College
- Bexley Enterprise College
- NHSE Choices College
- Autism Project
- Keith Thomson - Props making
- Cleeve Meadow
- London College beauty and technician
- ADO services





Careers in Retail

Year 7 career focus this year has been all about retail. Earlier in the year the students had the chance to meet with two members of staff who worked for a very large charity company who spoke to the students all about the job roles within retail, they even got the chance to help set up for the Pop Up shop event. This week we had a trip to Sidcup High Street to look at all the retail shops they offer and were given a booklet and small tasks to complete during their trip. It was a great way for the students to see what it looks like to work in retail. We had some brave students ask some great questions to staff members in Poundland and The Works. Well done Year 7... You were all amazing.

Mrs Bakewell, Careers Lead

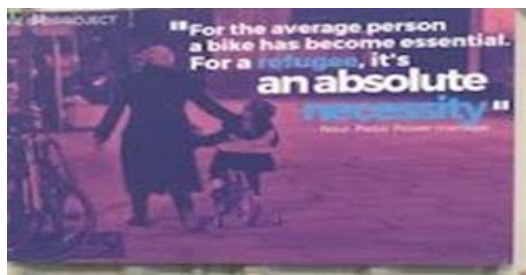


Cleeve Meadow goes to the Bike Project .

On Tuesday 18th July, once again our superb Cleeve Meadow bike mechanics took a bus load of 11 bikes to The Bike Project in Deptford. These bikes have been renovated fully throughout the summer term, and we hope that The Bike Project will be able to match our bikes to a needy person who will benefit hugely from having a new means of getting about.

Our mechanics are developing their skills strongly, as we are now completing an entire renovation every week, and finding time to start the next one too. One challenge we face is having enough bikes to keep us busy, so as always, if during the summer you find yourself clearing out a shed, garage or other outdoor space, and you come across an old bike you no longer want, we would love to receive it as a donation both to the teaching resources of the school, and subsequently to support the work of the charity. The bikes our students have previously renovated have all been donated by members of the public, but especially during the winter months this source of supply cannot be guaranteed, so we will happily receive unwanted bikes of any style, size and shape, regardless of their condition.

The Bike Project is a charity dedicated to donating bikes to refugees, catering for people of all ages from single adults to whole families. Please visit their website to find out more about their work <https://thebikeproject.co.uk/>



Level 5 in the RHS School Gardening Awards!

I am really proud to announce that our school has achieved the highest level within the Royal Horticultural Society's School Gardening Awards!

As you may remember, we have gradually worked our way through levels one to four in this award with various gardening projects and activities. To achieve Level five our gardening project had to involve the local community, so we are grateful to all our parents, friends and visitors who joined us for our gardening events. Being able to share the events with you made it even more special, helping us to promote the importance of gardening and the environment for us all, and for the students to show how proud they were of all their efforts within school.

Gardening has so many benefits for our own health and well-being and for the planet. As a result of the various gardening projects that have been undertaken, the outside areas around school have been improved for everyone's enjoyment. To achieve this level 5 award, students have learnt how to sow, care for and harvest vegetable and herb plants, learning where our food comes from and using it to cook with. They have weeded flower beds and learned to manage the soil. New sapling trees and shrubs have been planted and we have learned about the benefits these will bring to air quality and pollution. Students considered the wildlife who use our environment, providing new habitats for them and learned how the wildlife helps us too.

Gardening is a fantastic life skill to have and many of our students show a great aptitude for it. You never know, we could have the next Alan Titchmarsh, Monty Don or Capability Brown amongst us!

Our reward for Level 5 is £200 of National Garden gift vouchers, certificate and plaque - do have a look as you come through the school reception!

Really well done to all the staff and students who took part in so many of our gardening projects, in particular, thanks go to Ms Magda who really has been the driving force behind it all!

Mrs Southby



NHS Careers Untapped

A collection of London Hospitals and NHS England are delighted to share a series of podcasts and recorded webinars showcasing some of the lesser-known jobs and professions in healthcare.

This series is part of our ongoing Careers Untapped programme, aimed at young people aged 13 and above, who want to find out more about careers in the NHS.

Whether you know what your future career pathway looks like or not, join us to hear about roles in the NHS, directly from our frontline staff. The programme is completely free and can be accessed via the links below.

To listen to our podcasts only scan this QR code



To listen to our podcasts and access our recorded webinars via our digital platform: scan this QR code



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

KS3 ADVENTURERS



It's been a long and exciting road but finally the KS3 Dungeons and Dragons group have completed their first Campaign.

Having at last found the Wand our heroes made their way to the Fantasy Costco and gave it to Garfield the deal's warlock in exchange for 2000 gold pieces each. Gold that Garfield took back off them in exchange for strange and fabulous items.

One item took the fancy of Corpse the Warlock who through some quick thing stole it out from under Garfield's nose. She is now the proud owner of the 'Flaming Raging Poisoning Sword of Doom'

Their next stop brought them to the realm of Tither and the abandoned home of Skabatha Nightshade, Loomlurch. A strange place, half factory half museum, where our heroes discovered that the Hourglass Coven and Zyblina not only sisters but daughters of the powerful witch Baba Yaga.

Here they solved puzzles, Summoned their Rock friend Duuur and rescued Agdorn Longscarf from the brink of death. But they had to quickly escape as the entire realm was fading from existence.

Following the evil ghoulish child, Sowpig, they travelled by mirror to The steps of Zyblina's castle where they at last came to the carnival that had abducted their children, only to discover the Gnomes were in fact magical mecha-gnomes wielding chainsaws.

After using their new spells and abilities they won the battle and began to draw their plan of attack.

However...

All through the year Aether, the Dragonborn paladin has been gathering items from each witch in the Hourglass Coven at the behest of his chosen god, Vecna the Lich who instructs him from a throne of bone and sinew in far away empty dimension. Using Endelyn Moongrave's Needle and the tail of Skabatha Nightshade's Unicorn as a thread Aether began to furiously sew the Symbol of Vecna into Bavlorna's Lilypad, giving the the undead god a way out of his prison and into Prismeer.

(Incidentally Aether's Player Joe managed to keep this a secret from his teammates for the entire year!)

Now in an uneasy alliance with the Lich the players tried to enter the castle only to find a magical barrier in their way. Thanks to Maki the rogue's knowledge of locks and arcane seals she opened it with ease, her work was so good that Vecna gave her his blessing and considered her one of his disciples (giving her and Aether extra help against Vecna's enemies)

Inside they found Zyblina, in all her 20ft tall glory, frozen in stone and suspended above the players children. As everyone knows no child may be hurt in Prismeer under pain of sudden explosive death, unable to fully kill her themselves, the Coven believe



that were they to crush the kids with Zyblina's frozen form, SHE would die and her power would belong to them.

The Battle ensued and a flurry of Magical lasers, fire balls, battle axes and silent sneak attacks from the shadows the witches were quickly brought to their knees. Aether delivering the final blow. It almost looked like Vecna and the newly revived Zyblina would come to blows were it not for the quick thinking of Scratcheye the wizard who negotiated a fragile peace between the powerful god like beings.

Scratcheye with his son, Corpse with her sister along with the rest of the rescued children were sent back home and were rewarded with treasures that would keep them in fine living for a long time to come.

Vecna had one last trick up his sleeve however and instead of sending them home, pushed Aether and Maki into another timeline where things in Prismeer went differently and will be his secret disciples in amongst a new set of heroes.

Dungeon Master note:

I cannot stress enough how amazing the students have been at showing how creative thoughtful and good they are at working as a team even when their interests have been at odds with each other in the game.



They have improved in their understanding of some complex terms in their reading and ability in maths in Dungeons and Dragons this year, they have been a pleasure to run a game for and I cant wait to see what they will do next in their new games.

KS4

In KS4 the group have had a few firsts as well, they had their first night out in a bar for one thing as they spent the night in a wandering inn with humongous human feet that roams the land, their first barfight and more importantly their first run in with The Wendigo.

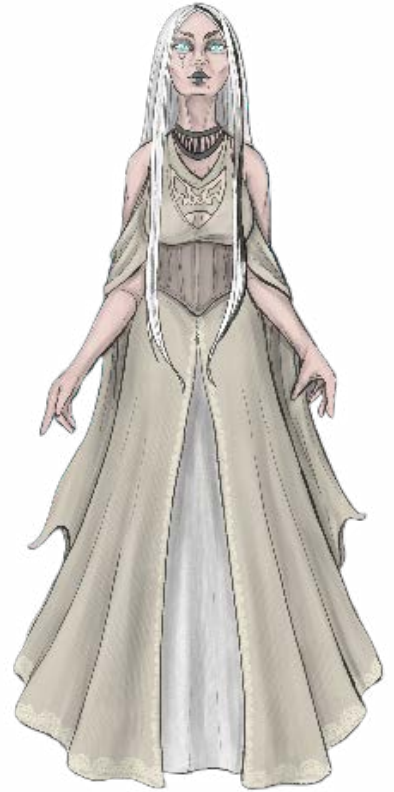
The secret weapon of the evil Lockwoods the Wendigo has begun to change and mutate with it's surroundings, becoming a strange plant beast that attacked the inn, which they valiantly kept at bay before something called it away. They now stand at the entrance of Downfall the home of Bavlorna the witch only to find instead of the swamp hag their nemesis Tiffany a wood witch rival they have come to blows with now looming down at them queen of the swamp kingdom. And at her side, the well dressed and moustache twirling vilionous Uncle of player Belziros, Lord Abernathy, smiling menacingly at them.

Next year they will be joined by Aether and Maki tying both games together and giving the students who play them a unique chance to see exactly how different the same story can be told with a new set of players.

A big thank you must go out to the both Mrs Willis and Mr. O'Rouke who have both been playing a supporting role as adventurer 'Catrina Leche' in both the KS3 and KS4 games. They have been wonderful to have at the table with us and hopefully will be able to join us for more adventures next year.

As ever, may your rolls be high and luck on your side!

Mr Mountain AKA The Dungeon Master





We are preparing for our first Ofsted inspection and although there is no known inspection date, it is likely to be in within the next 12 months, and possibly before this school year closes.

Ofsted makes use of the Parent View questionnaires to gain an impression of the school; this is especially important in how schools support students with SEND. We welcome feedback from parents and would be grateful if you could take some time to answer the questions.

Please visit the Parent View webpage below and follow the links to the parent questionnaire.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. Thank you.

Mental Health and Crisis Support

The reality of financial worries, family pressures, unpredictable weather, and restrictions whilst managing your child's disability can lead to further stress and anxiety for everyone.

Here is a reminder of some important mental health contacts and links to services that will be operating at any time should you need any support or advice. Have a great Half Term and stay safe everyone!

Family Lives Helpline: 0808 800 2222 (confidential support for parents and carers) www.familylives.org.uk

<https://www.thecalmzone.net/>

Support for males who are experiencing suicidal thoughts and self-harm

<https://youngminds.org.uk>

Brilliant website for young people and those who support young people experiencing mental health concerns. Lots of advice and guidance relating to lockdown and managing anxiety around Covid-19

<https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/help-and-support/helpline>

<https://www.koothplc.com/our-products/young-people>

Mental health app for young people to chat and text professionals about mental health issues.

<https://www.thesilverline.org.uk/>

Friendship and support for older people who feel isolated .

<https://careservices.bexley.gov.uk/Services/1598>

Support for LGBTQ families within Bexley

<https://metrocharity.org.uk/youth/metro-shine>

Support for young people questioning their identity and other LGBTQ issues

<https://nopanic.org.uk/>

No Panic supports those who experience panic attacks, OCD, Phobias and other related anxiety disorders.

<https://mindinbexley.org.uk/>

Local support for those living with mental health conditions. Over 18's service, for children and young people look at the young minds website.

<https://careservices.bexley.gov.uk/Services/819>

Support for anyone affected by rape and sexual abuse

<https://blacklivesmatter.uk/>

Support for black people facing discrimination and prejudice within the UK

<https://www.bexleyvoice.org.uk>

Check out Bexley voice for mental health support groups including (Crisis Café 6pm-10-pm) and Tea and Talk workshops for parents/carers of children with special needs.

<https://www.samaritans.org/branches/bexley/>

24 hour advice and support if you need to talk. Someone will always listen.

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

Offer support for young people or for anyone worried about a young person who may be thinking about suicide

www.childline.org

24-hour helpline 0800 1111 support for under 19's call, email or chat online for any concerns.

www.bexleydomesticabuseservices.org.uk

Support affected by those experiencing domestic abuse.

<https://www.solacewomensaid.org/news/solace-bexley>

Legal and supportive advice for women experiencing domestic abuse



Cleeve Meadow School

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