



## Headteacher's Report - December 2022

Although it gets colder and darker at this time of the year, the last few weeks are always very busy, exciting and a real highlight. Our Christmas productions topped off an excellent Autumn term. Our last Christmas performances to an audience were back in December 2019 so, after a three year delay, it was lovely to invite parents of Lower School children to the church and Upper School to our performance hall. Staff, parents and pupils all coming together was the perfect way to end the term and 2022.

Celebrations and performances were not the only activity this term. Parent consultation meetings took place across two evenings just before half term, with many parents popping in to see me to add their congratulations on our OFSTED outcome.

We then welcomed prospective parents to our open evening which was very well attended. As usual, staff stayed for the evening, along with pupils who returned to replicate some of the activities we offer in our lessons. Parents were taken on a tour around the school and our many facilities and had the chance to talk to our pupils who, as always, were exemplary and the most impressive part of Cleves.

Following our Ofsted inspection in July we have been focusing on ... what next? We have been busier than ever developing our curriculum further and thinking about school improvements. One of the challenges we were set by the Ofsted inspection team was to consider ways to get our Arts offer to match our Sports offer. Music in particular is already very well provided for thanks to Mr Kilhams, with 300 pupils having already taken part in special events and performances this term, but we want to consider if we can do more for the pupils of Cleves as well as potentially for other schools in the local area (much as we do for Sport). A working party will focus on this development next term.

The Cleves Active Award was relaunched by year leaders before the half term break, and many pupils have been completing the activities on the list and capturing their efforts at home, and then updating their scrap books.

Mr Skinner refreshed our British values work and has selected a number of key leading British figures who our pupils learn about on a monthly basis. These are carefully selected to represent both men and women and to celebrate our multi-ethnic culture.

We have visited a number of schools this term to look at their approach to writing and consider if there is any best practice we can introduce at Cleves. Our Ofsted judgement made it clear that our curriculum offer is outstanding, so any changes need to be well thought through and evidence based.

Another school improvement priority this year is to redouble our efforts to work even more closely with our infant feeder schools. To direct activity we produced a "three schools action plan" with a particular focus on a 7 year curriculum journey, improving outcomes and SEND provision. Our collaboration continued after half term with all three schools holding a twilight session to outline our curriculum, subject by subject, thereby creating a single document. Subject leaders will meet again in January to consider if topics could be better arranged to create a more fluent, cohesive offer.

I am pleased to say the new school meal provider continues to do well, and after half term they introduced a special option for year 6 only which they call the Enjoy offer. Each week there is an offer from a different world cuisine. This is proving very popular and meal numbers are at record levels with over 500 covers a day.

Over recent weeks a number of projects have been completed. The patio outside reception was replaced since the tiles were becoming increasingly slippery and dangerous. We have booked several days of tree pruning to remove some of the heavier tree limbs that overhang the school boundary. Our new garden area, designed by our school council and mostly funded by the PTA, is almost finished; just the planting remains. This is a fantastic new play and learning space and was made possible mainly thanks to the support of the Parents Association, who have also been incredibly busy organizing our Fireworks night followed by the Christmas Fair.

All in all it has been another enjoyable term and I want to thank you all for your help in making it such a successful one. I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2023.



Mr C Hodges  
Headteacher