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Dear Parents and Carers

A year ago I ended my round up my letter to you by quoting something that Mr Hodges had said following a year of more and abrupt Covid lockdowns, school bubbles, strict rules about attendance: "Cleves really is an amazing community: parents' patience and support have been exceptional."

Although this year has not seen school closures, in some ways it has been even more challenging, with high rates of Covid amongst pupils and staff for much of the academic year and various, differing restrictions and safety measures in place at different times. So we – and I'm sure you, too - have all been thrilled that finally, in recent months, Cleves has been back to its all singing, all dancing self, with successful residential trips for all years, competitive sport back on the agenda and much more.

The last few weeks have seen two major developments, and I would like to thank you for the part you played. First, for the first time since 2007 Ofsted inspectors visited the school: for the first day, 4 inspectors, and for the second day, 3 inspectors. To say that they dived deep and looked under every pebble on the playground would be to understate the thorough and forensic approach they took. As you know, we need to wait for the report to be published, which won't be till next term, but it is not too early to thank all of you who took the time to fill in questionnaires; who encouraged your children to fill in their own questionnaire; and who proactively spoke to inspectors on the gate. The inspectors found the last of these both unusual and positive and mentioned to us the obvious care you showed your children at the gate. And to quote Mr Hodges again, he told trustees at our last Board meeting how strong he had felt the partnership across the whole Cleves community to have been; both during Covid and most recently during the inspection.

Secondly, I want to mention the school's excellent SATs results, which equalled those from 3 years ago, and did not reflect the national dip following Covid. For those children not in year 6, in house monitoring of progress and attainment results also show strong performances. Again, this is in large part due to the excellent support you have given your children over the last few difficult years, and the way in which you support Cleves too. Another trustee and I at different times observed the SATs tests and were impressed both with the well-oiled operation of the process and the children's calm focus and concentration.

Looking ahead, it will be good for September to be the start of a full academic year of the usual Cleves' way of life. If you have Year 6 children, we hope they and you feel proud of all they have achieved and how they have developed during their time at Cleves and we wish you and your child a very successful transition to secondary school, taking many positive memories with you. If you have children returning we hope you have a restful holiday and an excellent return in September.

With very best wishes

Susan Foster, Chair of Trustees (on behalf of trustees)

