



A Remarkable Term of Progress and Positivity

This term has been incredibly positive across our school community. Students have continued to work hard and demonstrate real commitment to their learning, and we are delighted to share several key highlights that reflect this collective effort. Our current whole-school attendance stands at 91.5%, an improvement of more than 2% compared to this time last year. This is a significant achievement and reflects the hard work of students, families, and staff in prioritising regular school attendance.

It is especially encouraging to see key groups of students, including those with Special Educational Needs, achieving attendance well above the national average.

Behaviour across the school has shown strong and sustained improvement. While we remain focused on raising standards even further, we are proud of the progress made so far.

Our recent Local Authority inspection highlighted:

“Behaviour is calm and purposeful as a result of the effective roll-out of the renewed behaviour policy in September. Attendance has significantly improved as systems are now more proactive and better targeted.”

This recognition reflects the dedication of staff and students in maintaining a calm, purposeful learning

Following the Local Authority inspection, we also welcomed Ofsted to the school. I will share a full update once the official letter is published, the visit reaffirmed we are making good progress. This is a testament to the energy, focus, and resilience across our school community.

As a parent myself, I fully understand how important it is to have the *right* staff working with your children. I want to reassure you that we are working incredibly hard to secure the very best teachers and leaders for The Clere School.

I am delighted to announce that from April:

- Miss Podesta will be joining us as Head of Geography;
- Mrs Read will be joining us as Head of Key Stage 3 Science.

Both are exceptionally experienced teachers who will bring great strength and expertise to their departments.

Over the Easter break, I will continue working hard to recruit additional outstanding teachers so that every student benefits from high-quality teaching across all subjects.

As many of you will know, Mrs McLaren and Mrs Lane, Business Manager, at The Hurst will be returning to their school. They have been instrumental in the significant improvements we have made, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to them for everything they have contributed to our school.

Looking ahead, I am incredibly excited to be taking on the Headship of The Clere School, and I am determined to lead our school to even greater success. We will continue to build on the strong momentum of this term—raising standards, celebrating achievements, and ensuring that every child has the support and opportunities they deserve. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we are shaping a bright future for The Clere School.



Mr J Rodgers
Head of School



Embedding The Clere Way in Every Lesson

This term, we continue to strengthen our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning by embedding *The Clere Way* into every classroom experience. Our shared approach ensures that lessons are structured, purposeful, and designed to help every student think deeply and work hard.

Starting Strong: DNA and Prior Knowledge

Every lesson begins with a focused DNA task. These opening activities are carefully designed to activate prior knowledge, helping students make meaningful connections between what they already know and the new learning ahead. This consistent starting point supports retrieval practice, builds confidence, and sets a calm, purposeful tone for the lesson.

From Guidance to Independence

Across the school, teachers are increasingly shaping learning journeys that move from guided practice to independent application. This gradual release model ensures students feel supported as they encounter new concepts, while also being challenged to take ownership of their learning. By the end of each lesson, students should be able to demonstrate their understanding with increasing independence and accuracy.

Checking for Understanding: Mini Whiteboards

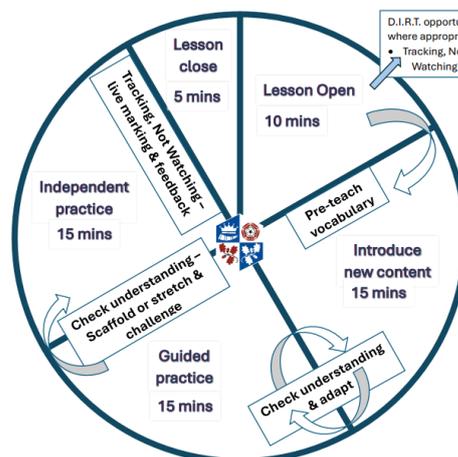
One of the most significant developments this year has been the growing use of mini whiteboards as a routine part of checking for understanding. These quick, low-stakes responses allow teachers to see every student's thinking in real time, address misconceptions immediately, and adapt teaching responsively. To support this, we ask all students to arrive equipped with their whiteboard and pen so they can fully participate in every lesson.

High Expectations: Thinking and Working Hard

At the heart of *The Clere Way* is a simple expectation: students will think hard and work hard. Our classrooms are places of challenge, curiosity and ambition. By embedding consistent routines and high expectations, we are ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Mrs S Kirton
Assistant Head

T&L The Clere Way



LESSON OPEN

- Greet students at the door
- Equipment out / whiteboards out – seated promptly in seating plan (as per blue folder)
- **DNA** that activates prior learning & gives opportunity for retrieval – 5-question quiz
- Register students
- Present Big Question / Learning Objective that is challenging for all learners

INTRODUCE NEW CONTENT

- Pre-teach vocabulary
- Present material in small, coherently sequenced steps
- Precise, concise explanations
- Targeted questioning (**cold calling**, planned explicitly)

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

- Check whole class understanding – hinge questions, use of mini-whiteboards, **Tracking, Not Watching**
- Move students on where appropriate
- **Right is Right**

GUIDED PRACTICE

- I do – We do – You do
- Model answers that are deconstructed
- Live modelling – using visualiser / practical models
- Modelling thinking – thinking aloud
- Producing / developing class answers
- Structured paired / group work

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE – Silent Solo

- Share success criteria
- Scaffold or stretch & challenge according to need (use annotations in blue folder)
- **Tracking, Not Watching**
- Live marking / feedforward

LESSON CLOSE

- **Show Call** where appropriate
- Check for understanding (whiteboards, exit tickets, hinge questions)

ADAPT NEXT LESSON ACCORDINGLY



Local Mental Health Support for Young People

If your child is struggling with their mental health, support is available locally. You can contact the pastoral team at school to discuss your concerns, and we can support with referrals to services who can provide confidential help for young people across North Hampshire.



Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

Providing specialist support for young people experiencing significant mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders or trauma.

- Address: Bramblys Drive, Basingstoke, RG21 8UN
- Phone: **02382 317 901**
- Website: hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk



Offers **youth counselling services and drop-in support** covering issues including mental health, family relationships, bullying, and self-harm.

- Address: The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 4AF
- Phone: **01256 423878**
- Website: upicounselling.co.uk



Provides **confidential counselling for young people aged 11–17** in Basingstoke. Sessions give young people a safe space to talk about worries such as anxiety, relationships, school pressures and self-esteem.

- Address: The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 4AF
- Phone: **01256 423892**
- Website: mindspacefoundation.co.uk

Young people can **self-refer or be referred by parents or schools**



Hampshire Youth Access provides **free counselling and emotional wellbeing support for young people across Hampshire.**

- Phone: **02382 147 755**
- Website: hampshireyouthaccess.org.uk

Young people can **self-refer online or through school.**



Andover Mind Safe Haven

offering a safe and supportive space for people experiencing mental health distress. They also run the **“Be You” service for young people aged 11–17**, including drop-ins and wellbeing support.

- Phone: **01264 332297**
- Email: mind@andovermind.org.uk
- Address: Westbrook Close, South Street, Andover, SP10 2BN
- Website: andovermind.org.uk

24/7 Support for Young People

These are useful if support is needed **outside school hours.**



0800 1111 (24/7 for under 19s)



Text **SHOUT** to **85258** for free confidential text support



116 123 (24/7 emotional support)

World Book Day—Thursday 5th March 2026

It was a pleasure to see both staff and students participating in World Book Day on 5th March 2026. Many of you marked the occasion by dressing as characters from your favourite books, contributing to a vibrant and engaging atmosphere throughout the day. The variety and creativity of the costumes on display were truly impressive.

Established by UNESCO in 1995, the annual event serves as an important opportunity to promote and celebrate reading for pleasure.



The winners for each year all received a prize:

Year 7 - Lucy Jacobs Year 9—Katie Dennis
Year 8 - Megan Ashby Year 11—Pippa Curd
Staff - Mrs K Allnutt



Mr M Todd

World Book Day—Thursday 5th March 2026



History

Our Year 8 History students have been studying the Titanic this half term and have made some wonderful models for a homework project.

In this unit on Titanic students have developed their skills of historical enquiry, source skills and interpretations.



Mrs K Allnutt
Head of History

Religious Studies

Year 9 have been learning about Paganism in Religious Studies, as part of this we looked at Stonehenge as a Pagan ritual site. Students were given the task to create a Stonehenge monument and write a description on the importance of Stonehenge in Paganism. Year 9 have been incredibly creative with their monuments, brilliant effort all round!



Miss E Campbell
Religious Studies

Past Student Success

Anna van der Giessen

We are thrilled to announce that Anna is one of 57 Peter Symonds College students to earn a coveted place at Oxbridge - an extraordinary achievement. Her hard work and dedication have truly paid off, and we could not be prouder. We wish her every success in the exciting journey ahead.



Anna tells us that her time at Peter Symonds College has been a large change from secondary school. The large size of PSC has meant she could find many other people with similar interests, either from the countless enrichments college offers or from her lessons (or sometimes both),

She has done a lot during her time at PSC. She competed in various academic competitions, with variable success and participated in a wide range of enrichments from playing board games to martial arts and choir. She helped out, and was helped, in various subject workshops at college and also joined a few subject trips to Oxford events.

PSC has been flexible to find teachers whose style works best for Anna and all my teachers are great. The teachers made lessons engaging in their own unique ways, and did their best to assist when she needed help with something. Without their passion, Anna says she would not have made it this far.

Starting to look at universities last year, Anna was unsure of what course she wanted to do. She loves maths, problem solving and being creative but which particular subject to take was not clear to her. When she came across general engineering, it felt right. It gives her room to specialize later after having some experience in different engineering fields while covering each of the areas mentioned above that she enjoys. She applied to Oxford despite the fierce competition she knew she would had to face and she is so pleased she received an offer!

Drama Trip to see To Kill a Mockingbird

Students in Year 10 and 11 enjoyed an afternoon at The Mayflower Theatre in Southampton on Wednesday 25th March 2026 to watch a performance of To Kill a Mockingbird.

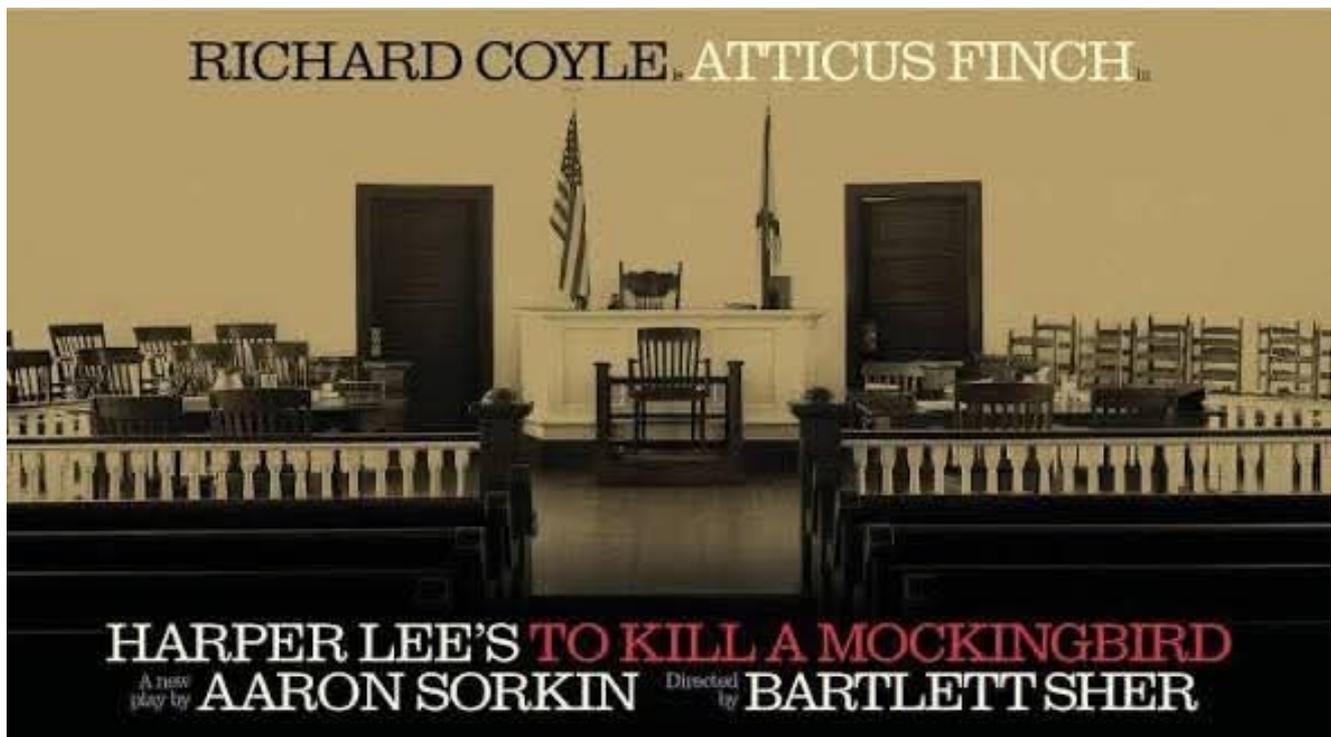
To Kill a Mockingbird is a novel by Harper Lee and although written in 1960, it is set in the mid-1930s. Lawyer Atticus Finch is assigned to defend Tom Robinson in court on a charge of beating and sexually assaulting a woman. There is no evidence that Tom committed the crime, but the issue is that he is a black man in 1930's Alabama, with the public already having decided his guilt. The story is seen through the eyes of Atticus's children, Jem and Scout, as well as their friend Dill, as the lawyer tries to do what is right.

The play was incredibly thought-provoking, and our students were deeply moved by both the performance and the issues it explored, as well as the way it highlighted how attitudes have evolved in today's society.

We were extremely proud of the way students conducted themselves and they were a credit to the school.

Mr S Lawson

Head of Drama / Year 10 & 11



News from the Music Department

It has been an exciting and creative term in the Music Department, with students across all year groups developing their musicianship, deepening their understanding of musical traditions and embracing new compositional challenges.

Year 9 – Composing for Film

Our Year 9 students have continued their exploration of film music and are now stepping into the role of soundtrack composers. Their current project involves an original score for a short animated film titled “*Ghost Story*”. Drawing on their knowledge of instrumental associations, musical elements and genre conventions, students are crafting soundtracks that enhance mood, character, and narrative. It has been wonderful to see them think like real composers, making thoughtful decisions about texture, timbre and thematic development.



Year 8 – Developing Compositional Technique

Year 8 have been strengthening their composition skills by working with a range of GCSE-style compositional devices. From sequence and auxiliary notes to passing notes and rhythmic variation, students are learning how these tools can transform a simple idea into something more sophisticated. They are now preparing to compose their own set of variations based on a given theme, applying these techniques with growing confidence and creativity.

Year 7 – Performing Pachelbel’s Canon

Our Year 7 musicians have just completed their performance assessment, showcasing their developing keyboard skills through a performance of *Pachelbel’s Canon*, performed in canon, of course! Alongside the practical work, students have been learning about the Baroque period, gaining insight into its musical characteristics and notational practices. Their progress has been impressive, and their performance have demonstrated both musical sensitivity and increasing technical control. Well done, Year 7!

Get Involved!

Choir Rehearsal

Choir will return after Easter but will now take place on Tuesday at lunchtime and new members are always welcome. Whether you have sung for years or just want to give it a try, come along and join the fun. It is a brilliant way to build confidence, make friends, and be part of something uplifting.

Junior Band Auditions

We are excited to announce that auditions for the Junior Band will begin after the Easter break. We are especially looking for players of: bass guitar, drums, electric guitar and keyboard/piano. But don’t let that list limit you – *all instruments are welcome*. If you are enthusiastic, committed and ready to make music with others, we want to hear from you.

Watch this space for full details and audition times for our Summer’s Eve Concert – exciting announcement coming soon!

Mrs S Kirton
Assistant Head

Careers Education at The Clere School

As part of our students ongoing Careers Education at The Clere, we have celebrated a number of events during the Spring Term and have provided opportunities for our students to meet with experts from the world of education and employment.

National Apprenticeship Week

(WC : Monday 8th to Friday February 12th)

During Tutor Time, tutors delivered presentations about the various Apprenticeship Pathways that are available to students and key information about these. These included quizzes testing key knowledge about Apprenticeships and Apprentice Videos where students could experience a snapshot of the life of apprentices in a variety of careers.

During lessons, staff also spoke with students about how their subject equipped students to work in, or opened up opportunities for them in a number of different career fields.

We shared the presentation with Parents via Parent-Mail, so that you as families could discuss information about apprenticeships or investigate areas of potential interest at your leisure.



We would like to thank both Jessie and Sam for their thoroughly engaging and highly impactful assemblies.

National Careers Week (WC Monday 2nd to Friday March 6th)

During National Careers Week, we were fortunate to welcome Jessie Concannon from BCOT (Basingstoke College of Technology) and Sam Earl from AWE into school to deliver assemblies to Years 7 - 10.

Jessie's assemblies focussed upon the variety of Post-16 courses and qualifications available to students once they leave school and explained in more detail what qualifications such as A-Levels, BTECs and T-Levels involved. Jessie outlined the entry requirements for various pathways and how these would enable students to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. She supported students with their understanding of the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them, which included both academic and vocational routes and learning in schools, colleges, universities and in the workplace. She also shared Information about the careers to which these academic, vocational and technical education qualifications might lead, as well as providing students with a description and very engaging video which demonstrated what learning at BCOT is like.

Sam delivered a really engaging assembly to Years 9 and 10 about apprenticeships and the many opportunities which are available to them with AWE. She was able to explain the multitude of career pathways that are available within a major organisation such as AWE, the opportunities for career progression and how students would be earning salaries as they trained as apprentices. Students certainly left the assembly with a much clearer understanding about how apprenticeships can work within major companies and how they could prepare themselves to access these.

School Careers Fair (Friday 20th March 2026)

On **Friday March 20th**, we invited Colleges, Universities and Employers into the school to meet with our students and to provide them with first hand insights into pathways of learning and employment beyond The Clere. We believe that it is vital for our students to be able to make informed choices about their futures and that by having the opportunities to meet expert professionals and to be able to ask them key questions from a very early age, we are equipping them to do so. We were very fortunate to have the following companies in attendance on Friday :-

Activate Learning, Andover College, Army, AWE, Basingstoke College of Technology, Bayer PLC, Bertin Exensor, Corn Exchange & Watermill Theatre, Hampshire Fire & Rescue, Hampshire



Each year group spent one lesson at the event during the day and as you can see from the images attached, it was an extremely positive event . The feedback from the employers reinforced what we already know about our students. A consistent theme throughout the feedback was the **outstanding behaviour, engagement, and curiosity displayed by students**. Exhibitors frequently remarked on the positive atmosphere and the meaningful discussions that took place.

I have included some soundbites below:

- “Really impressed by students, super engaged and knew about Post-16 options. Had really wonderful conversations” (Charlotte Roan – Activate Learning)
 - “Highly engaged cohort across all different Year Groups” (Jamie O’Dwyer – Newbury College)
 - “The students were engaged and wanted to know more. They were interested in next steps and what opportunities were available to them after school” (Lottie Kingdom- Winchester University)
 - “One of the best careers Fairs I have seen. Students were polite and engaged, especially the Year 9’s” (William Shayne – Army)
 - “Students were confident and engaged, especially the Year 9’s and 10’s (Tiegan Hayward – Siemens Healthineers)
 - “Year 11 were so engaged. The children were polite and the Year 10 Prefects were lovely” (Heidi Ktorou – Xeinadin Accounting)
 - “Year 10 were highly engaged and curious about theatre” (Angharad Warren – Corn Exchange & Watermill Theatre)
 - “Students were nice and polite all round. Their engagement with our activity and apprenticeship information was a highpoint” (Sarah Woodhouse – AWE)
 - “Fantastic Event” (Phil Allen – Andover and Sparsholt Colleges)
 - “Students seemed keen to learn about other roles within Science” (Mia Hiscock – Bayer PLC)
- “Engagement of students who showed a genuine interest with the job and career” (Andy Jones – Police)

School Careers Fair (cont)

I would like to thank all of the exhibitors listed for taking the time out from their busy schedules to support this event, it means so much to us that we are able to provide our community with high quality careers education and meaningful interactions with colleges, universities and employers on our school campus. I would also like to thank our fantastic staff at The Clere for supporting this event and enabling it to run so successfully.

Two final shout outs go to

- Mia Hiscock, an ex student, who returned to represent her company Bayer PLC and share her career experiences with the students. It is great to hear from our alumni and to share in their successes.
- Our wonderful Year 10 Prefect Team who supported the event from start to finish and were wonderful ambassadors for the school. This was commented upon by every one of the employers who attended the event.

Vicky Mariner of Bertin Exensor praised the event, describing “The meet and greet team were amazing, fantastic.”



Images show students at the Fair attempting the road marking task
with Wilson & Scott and speaking with the Army

Mr A Deasy
Lead Practitioner



Sports News

Sports Club Timetable

April-July

Sports Club Timetable will be sent to all parents/carers through Edulink.

How to Join: Students just need to turn up with their PE kit and be registered for the club of their choice. If a student is attending a lunch time club they do not need to bring full PE kit just a pair of trainers.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the dedication of students attending clubs and fixtures. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact Miss King on EduLink or c.king@clere.school

Netball Club

A huge well done and thank you to all our students for their fantastic commitment throughout this year's netball season. Every year group has now completed their fixtures, and we could not be prouder of the hard work, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship shown by everyone involved. Please keep an eye out on how our Year 7 and Year 8 Netball teams got on. It has been wonderful to see our Netball Club continue to grow in attendance, creating a truly supportive, encouraging, and uplifting environment. Whether training, competing, or cheering each other on, you have all contributed to a brilliant season. Thank you for your dedication, here's to even more success next year!



Miss C King
Head of PE

Sporting Achievements

Amelie in Year 9 gets her first win of the road season 🚴

Last weekend in Kent at a closed circuit, Amelie picked up a stage win amongst the national youth - a U16 girls racing 4 stages over two days.

This is an incredible achievement. Well done Amelie!

We cannot wait to hear how you get on with the rest of the season.



Congratulations, Charlie!

A huge well done to Charlie Taylor in Year 11, who has achieved an impressive new personal best of 41.08m in the javelin. This is a fantastic milestone and a reflection of Charlie's hard work, commitment, and dedication to the sport.

We cannot wait to see how Charlie progresses throughout the rest of the season, keep it up Charlie!

We Want to Celebrate You!

We love hearing how you are getting on in your sport. Please email Miss King with any photos or videos, we want to celebrate you, your achievements, and your amazing commitment to sport.





Key Safeguarding Staff

We are here to support your Child.

If your child needs to talk, share a concern or ask a question? Your child can speak to: Tutor or Head of Year; Pastoral Support workers ; Class Teachers ; Reception Staff ; Learning Support Assistants ; Senior Leadership Team

safeguardme@clere.school

Complete the [Student Anti Bullying Form Report](#)

Miss Vaughan—Designated Safeguarding Lead



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Mrs Chandler



Mrs Perry



Mrs Mackley



Miss Mitchell



Mr Wilson
Head of Year 7



Mr Woods
Head of Year 8 & 9



Mr Lawson
Head of Year 10 & 11



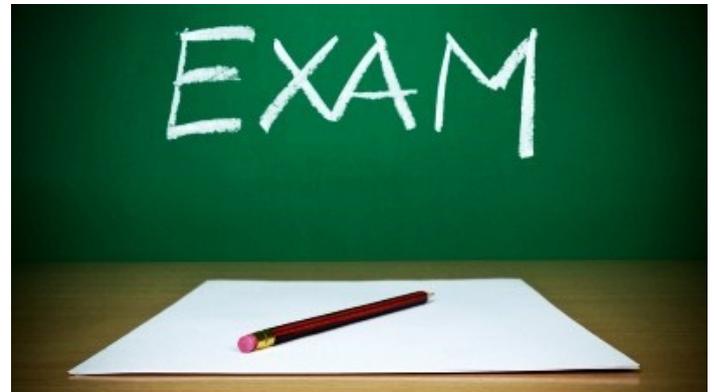
Mr Rodgers
Head of School

Exam Invigilators Required

We are looking to expand our team of friendly Exam Invigilators ahead of the Summer 2026 season.

The successful candidates will have a calm, authoritative manner, be a good communicator, and have a flexible attitude to work. You should be interested in education and enjoy helping students and be punctual and reliable. We pay the following hourly rates: £12.26 – Invigilator; £12.62 – Invigilator (Scribe); £13.18 – Lead Invigilator .

The role is subject to an enhanced DBS check. The Clere School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this



No experience is necessary as full training will be given. Please contact Mrs Deevey if you require additional information regarding this flexible, part time role (i.deevey@clere.school) .

Applicants should download the Support Staff Application form from our website:

<https://www.clere.school/parents/working-at-the-clere-school/> to apply for this position.

Wanted - Sweet Tubs / Containers

The Food Department will be very grateful for any empty sweet tubs, plastic containers or biscuit tins.

They will be used for those children who forget to bring a container to take their cooking home with them.





Dates for your Diary

Summer Term

April

- Tuesday 14 - Wednesday 15 - Year 11 GCSE Art Exam
- Thursday 23 - Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening (15.30 - 18.30)
- Wednesday 29 - Year 11 Examinations Information Evening (18.00 - 19.00) (online)

May

- Monday 04 - School Closure - Bank Holiday
- Thursday 07 - Year 6 Welcome Evening (tbc)
- Friday 08 - GCSEs begin
- Tuesday 19 - District Athletics (10.00 - 15.00)
- Monday 25 — Friday 29 - Half Term

June

- Monday 08 - Year 7 Exams Week
- Monday 08 - GCSE Athletics Moderation (15.45 - 17.45)
- Monday 15 - GCSE Athletics Moderation (15.45 - 17.45)
- Thursday 25 - Year 6 Induction Day & Evening
- Thursday 25 - Swimming Gala (14.00 - 16.00)
- Tuesday 30 - District Athletics (10.00 - 15.00)

July

- Thursday 02 - School Prom
- Thursday 09 - Creative Arts Evening (18.00 - 19.30)
- Monday 13—Friday 17 - Year 10 Work Experience Week
- Monday 20 - Year 10 Reward Trip (tbc)
- Tuesday 21 - KS3 Reward Trip (tbc)
- Wednesday 22 - School Closes for Summer Break (12.35)



For the latest news and information, please follow The Clere School @TheClereSchool on Facebook.