



Message from Mr Rodgers

As we draw this purposeful half term to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on just how far we have come as a community. Every week, I see students growing in confidence, staff pushing for excellence, and families backing us with encouragement and belief. Together, we are building something truly special.

Our Year 11 students continue to impress us with their determination as they work towards their GCSE examinations this summer. Their resilience, ambition, and focus embody the very best of The Clere School, and we will be standing beside them every step of the way.

Attendance remains steady at 92%, but we know our potential is even greater. Our goal of 95% is well within reach, and it is a goal worth striving for. Every day in school is a step closer to success, confidence, and opportunity. With a united effort from students, staff, and families, we can—and will—reach that target.



This half term, we were delighted to welcome colleagues from the local authority. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive and reaffirmed what we already know: The Clere School is moving in the right direction, and rapidly so. They recognised the improvements across all areas of the school and praised the commitment shown by staff and students alike. Their words reflect the truth we see every day—that this is a school filled with potential, purpose, and promise.

Our momentum is strengthened further by several excellent appointments. After Easter, we will welcome new colleagues in Science and Geography, each bringing expertise and energy that will enrich our curriculum. We are also thrilled to add a highly experienced Pastoral Support Worker to our team, ensuring that every child receives the care, guidance, and encouragement they need to thrive.

Both Mrs McLaren and I, alongside our dedicated staff, remain unwavering in our ambition: to transform The Clere School into an exceptional school—one where every student feels valued, challenged, and inspired to be their very best. That transformation is already well underway, and it is being driven by our whole community.

I am deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our parents and carers. Your partnership, trust, and belief in our shared vision make an enormous difference.

I wish you all a restful, joyful, and well deserved break. We look forward to welcoming our students back, refreshed and ready for the next chapter, on Monday 23rd February.

Mr J Rodgers
Head of School

Teaching & Learning at The Clere:

Growing Consistency, Challenge and Confidence

As we move through the year, it has been fantastic to see “T&L There Clere Way” becoming increasingly embedded across the school.

Teachers are working hard to ensure that every lesson feels purposeful, consistent and challenging, and students themselves are commenting on the positive differences they are noticing. Many have shared that lessons feel more structured, expectations are clear, and most importantly, they are being required to *think hard*.

This is exactly what we want for our learners: classrooms where every student is stretched, supported and encouraged to engage deeply with their learning.

What’s coming after half term

After the break, we will be introducing a new whole-school expectation to strengthen the consistency of our practice even further. Every lesson will now include explicit *checking for understanding* points. These will be short activities where teachers will gather feedback from *every* student to ensure that key ideas have been understood before moving on.

To make this work smoothly, students will be using their mini-whiteboards. This routine will be simple and consistent across all subjects: “*Hide – Hover – 3.2.1 – Show.*” This approach allows teachers to see instantly who is secure, who needs support, and where the class might need further explanation. It also ensures that every student participates – no hands up, no opting out.

How can you help

Please ensure your child returns after half term with:

A mini-whiteboard

At least two working whiteboard pens



Having the right equipment means your child can take part fully in these routines and get the most out of their lessons.

Mrs S Kirton
Assistant Head

Supporting your Child through Year 11 Exam Stress

Year 11 can feel like a big milestone for students and parents alike. While a small amount of stress can help motivate revision, too much pressure can affect wellbeing, confidence and performance.

With approximately **45 school days** left until the exam season begins your support can make a significant difference.

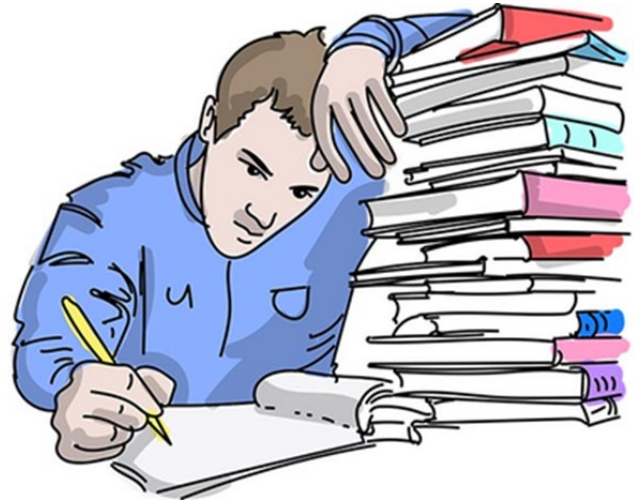


Understanding Exam Stress

It is normal for teenagers to experience:

- Mood changes;
- Irritability;
- Tiredness;
- Withdrawal;
- Worry about the future;
- Increased sensitivity to feedback.

Often, stress shows up as frustration or silence rather than open conversation.



1. Keep Communication Open

- Ask open questions: *"How are you feeling about exams this week?"*
- Listen without immediately trying to fix the problem.

Validate feelings:

"It sounds like that feels overwhelming."

Sometimes they need empathy more than solutions.



2. Help With Structure (Without Taking Over)

- Encourage a simple, realistic revision timetable.
- Break revision into manageable chunks.
- Support them in prioritising weaker subjects.
- Avoid micromanaging — independence builds confidence.



Supporting your Child through Year 11 Exam Stress

3. Create a Calm Study Environment

- Provide a quiet space where possible.
- Reduce distractions during agreed study times.
- Support healthy routines (sleep, meals, downtime).



4. Protect Sleep

Sleep is essential for memory consolidation and emotional regulation.

Encourage:

- Regular bedtime routines;
- Screen-free wind-down time;
- Short breaks during revision;
- Physical activity.

5. Focus on Effort, Not Just Outcomes

Avoid:

- Comparing them to siblings or peers;
- Repeatedly asking about grades;
- Catastrophising results.

Instead try:

- “I’m proud of the effort you’re putting in.”
- “Whatever happens, we’ll work through it.”
- Build confidence by talking about their strengths.

Reassurance reduces pressure.



Where to Get Help

Encourage your child to speak to their trusted adult in school if they are feeling overwhelmed:

- Form Tutor;
- Subject Teacher;
- Head of Year;
- School Pastoral Team.

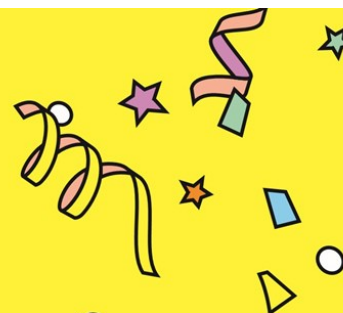
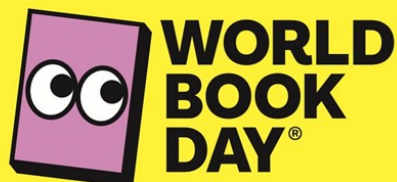
A Final Reminder

Exams are important, but they are not more important than your child’s wellbeing.

Your calm presence, reassurance and belief in them are powerful protective factors.

Please do reach out to the Pastoral Team if you would like further information or advice on supporting your child through their exams.

World Book Day—Thursday 5th March 2026



We're celebrating World Book Day & you're invited!

When:

Thursday 5th March 2026

Where:

The Clere School

How we're celebrating:

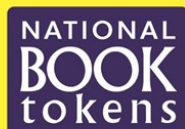
Dress up as your
favourite book character
or author.

Take part in the themed
activities on the day.

Contact:

Mr Todd or Mrs Street

Sponsored by



The reading for fun charity

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World Book Day and the associated logo are the registered trademarks of World Book Day Limited.



Year 8 History—Studying Emily Davison

Year 8 History students have been learning about the death of suffragette Emily Davison, who was killed when she stepped in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby in 1913.

Students have studied clues to help them decide whether Emily intended to take her own life or whether her death was an accident. Students presented their findings in creative ways such as news reports and a rap!

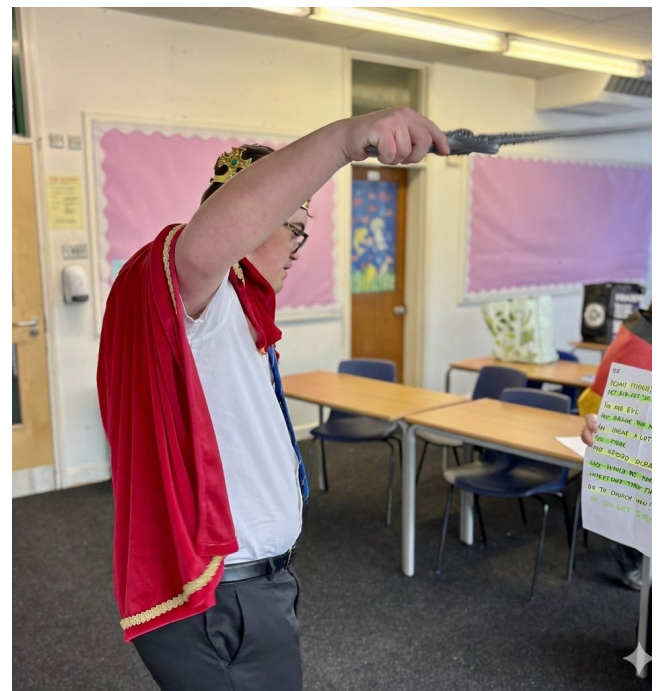


Year 11 History—Studying The Globe Theatre



Year 11 have been studying the Globe Theatre and the reasons why the theatre was so popular in Elizabethan times and why some people opposed it.

Students wrote and performed their own short plays which were very entertaining!



Mrs K Allnutt
Head of History

News from the Music Department

It has been a lively and productive half term in the Music Department, with students across all year groups immersing themselves in new musical styles, skills and challenges.

Year 7 – Discovering the Baroque

Our Year 7 musicians have begun exploring the Baroque period, learning about its key features and the distinctive sound world of composers such as Pachelbel and Bach. They have been working hard on learning to perform *Pachelbel's Canon*, preparing to play this, in canon, for their assessment next half term. Their progress so far has been excellent, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they tackle this iconic piece.



Year 8 – Theme and Variations

Year 8 students are continuing to develop their composition skills through our unit on Theme and Variations. They have been introduced to a range of more complex compositional devices, which they will soon apply to their own original work. It is demanding, thoughtful work, but they are rising to the challenge and making strong progress.

Extra-Curricular Music

Choir has restarted and will now run on **Tuesdays at lunchtime** – all voices are warmly welcomed.

Junior Band meets every **Wednesday from 3.10-4.10pm**. All instruments and all ability levels are welcome, including beginners.

We look forward to hearing the fantastic music our students will continue to create next half term.

Year 9 – Film Music

Year 9 are currently delving into the world of film music, exploring how the elements of music are used to create atmosphere and support different film genres.



They have been analysing famous film themes and learning about *leitmotifs*, melodies associated with particular characters. Later this term, they will use this knowledge to compose their own soundtrack for an original short, animated film.

Year 10 – Preparing for Mocks

Our Year 10 GCSE musicians are busy preparing for their first round of mock exams, including their listening and appraising paper. They have completed their first Theme and Variations composition and are now working towards their ensemble performance. Their focus and commitment are really starting to shine through.

Mrs S Kirton
Assistant Head



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

Sports News

<div style="text-align: center;"> <h1>Sports Clubs</h1>  </div>					
Week 1 & Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCH TIME	Girls Football (All Years) Miss King	House Competitions (All Years)	Fixture Meetings with Captains (All Years) Mr Wilson and Miss King		GCSE Drop In Miss King Basketball (All Years) Mr Wilson
AFTER SCHOOL (3:10-4:10PM)	Meetings	Netball Club (All Years) Miss King Football Club (All Years) Mr Wilson	Fixtures (All Years) Miss King & Mr Wilson	Badminton Club (All Years) Miss King & Mr Wilson GCSE PE Revision (Target Groups Invite Only) Miss King	No clubs

Sports Club Timetable

February—March


Please note that Basketball Club has moved to a Friday lunchtime.

- ✓ Location: Sports hall, Gym, outdoor courts and outdoor fields
- ✓ 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 hope your child will take advantage of these exciting opportunities.

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact Miss King on EduLink or c.king@clere.school

Year 7 Football

Huge congratulations to our Year 7 boys 

On a wet and soggy afternoon, a massive well done on achieving 2nd place at the Development Football Tournament against seven teams! Mr Wilson was proud of your teamwork, skill, and determination.

Well done boys!



Sports News

Year 7 & 8 Netball Fixtures

It has been a fantastic and energetic start to the Year 7 and Year 8 Netball season. The girls have already taken part in home fixtures, showing real enthusiasm and a growing confidence each time they step onto the court.

Just before Half Term, we move into our first away match of the season, an exciting opportunity for the teams to challenge themselves in a new environment and continue building on the progress they've made.

The commitment the girls have demonstrated during training has been outstanding. Their focus, teamwork, and willingness to push themselves have clearly translated into their match play, where they have displayed impressive skill, determination, and sportsmanship.

We are very proud of how the players have developed so far, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and perform throughout the rest of the season. Their hard work is paying off, and we are excited for what is still to come.



Year 9 Netball Team Success

Huge congratulations to our Year 9 Netball Team on an incredible season and taking home 2nd place medals 🏆

Your teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship were outstanding from start to finish.

Miss King is so proud of the way you represented the school throughout the season.

What an achievement, well done girls 🏆



Primary Sports Athletics

Wednesday 21st January 2026

In January we hosted the annual Primary Sports Athletics competition. The students did incredibly well competing in lots of events.

We were incredibly proud of the Year 10 students who led each of the events and were an asset to the school.

A huge well done to Burghclere Primary School for winning the event and they are heading to the next round alongside Merton Primary School.



Miss C King
Head of PE

College Open Dates

Newbury College Foundation Learning Event

Wednesday 28th January 3pm-7pm

Foundation Open Event. Discover the options available to students in the Foundation Learning Department. This event is for students, school staff and prospective parents.

[Foundation Learning Open Event](#)



Sparsholt College Open Day Saturday 7th February.

NOT MANY TICKETS LEFT! Book free tickets here:

[SPARSHOLT COLLEGE OPEN EVENT - SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2026 Tickets, Winchester | Eventbrite](#)

The next Open Day is Saturday 7th March but tickets not yet available: [Experience Sparsholt - Sparsholt College Hampshire](#)

Visit the different departments in the college. There will also be a presentation by the Apprenticeship team.



Basingstoke College of Technology (BCoT) Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair:

Monday 9th February: Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair 4.30pm-7

Book a free ticket here:

[Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair](#)

Your opportunity to meet companies who are looking for apprentices like you! School uniform or smart casual. Take copies of your CV.



Andover College Open Evening Thursday 12th February 4.30-6.30

Book a ticket here (use dropdown menu and select date):

[Andover College - Further Education - Hampshire](#)

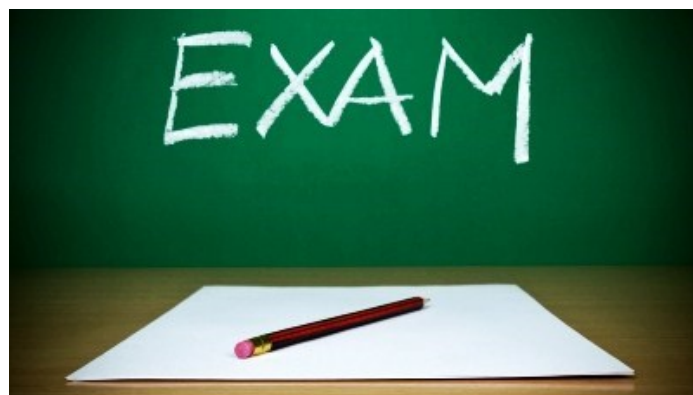


Exam Invigilators Required

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.



Parent and Carer FREE Webinar

Not all Parents/Carers feel confident or knowledgeable when it comes to talking to their young people about relationships and sex.

Effective sex education helps to equip young people with the skills and confidence to empower them to make informed and well-thought-out decisions that are right for them around relationships and sex.

Click on the link below to reserve a spot.

[Relationships and Sexual Health Webinar \(for parents and carers\) Tickets, Thu 12 Feb 2026 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

This webinar will cover:

- Who we are and what we do as a Sexual Health Service supporting young people.
- What does safeguarding and confidentiality look like when accessing sexual health services.
- Understanding young people's sexual health rights.
- What services are available to young people including contraception and STI screening.
- Online services including Personal Health Record (PHR)
- How we support young people including discussions around positive relationships, sexuality and gender and the impact of social media.
- How we can support you to support your young person with their relationships, sexual health and wellbeing.



Basingstoke, Rushmoor and Hart
Sexual Health Service

Tel: 07867 297175

Website:

www.letstalkaboutit.nhs.uk



Dates for your Diary

Spring Term

February

Monday 09—Friday 13	-	Year 11 In-Class Assessment Week
Thursday 12	-	Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening—15.30—18.30
Monday 16 - Friday 22	-	Half Term
Thursday 26	-	Year 9 Options Platform Webinar—18.00—18.30

March

Monday 02—Friday 13	-	Year 10 Mock Examinations
Friday 20	-	Year 11 GCSE Drama Practical Examination
Friday 27	-	School closes at 15.10
Monday 30 March - Friday 10 April	-	Easter Holiday

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 am—3 pm)
Monday 25 —Friday 29	-	Half Term

June

Monday 08	-	Year 7 Exams Week
Monday 08	-	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 am—3 pm)

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
Tuesday 21	-	KS3 Reward Trip
Wednesday 22	-	School Closes for Summer Break—12.35



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



The Clere Friends - Looking for New Volunteers to join the team

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Clere Friends our school's Parent Teacher Association are looking for new volunteers to join the team.

We're a small charity run by parents, raising funds and organising events that make a big difference for our students. From school discos and raffles to helping fund new equipment and enrichment activities, everything we do depends on volunteers like you.

We're currently looking for people to help with roles such as:

- **Chair / Co-Chair**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Event Helpers and Organisers**
- **Communications & Social Media Support**
- Or simply being a pair of extra hands when needed!

No experience is necessary — just enthusiasm and a bit of time to spare. Whether you can help regularly or occasionally, we'd love to hear from you.

If you are interested, please email us at theclerefriends@outlook.com or leave your details with the school office.

Let's make this a great year together for The Clere School community.

Kind regards,
The Clere Friends (PTA Committee)