



Dear Parents

Somehow, we are now entering the final half term of the year! These last few weeks seem to have flown by, no doubt due to the very busy nature of life at Clifton Lodge. From residential to musicals, here are a few highlights of the first half of this term.

In April, we welcomed our parents into the school for a drinks and canapes event. This is a lovely opportunity for us to meet as a community on a social level and, given the great turnout when we ran this in September, we would like to put more such dates into the calendar. Just before the event, I used the chance to have a discussion with parents about the work the school had been doing this year on our vision and values. It is so important that the whole school community feels involved in the school's journey, so it was a great opportunity for parents to offer their opinions on why they feel Clifton Lodge is the school for their child and what they are looking for from the school moving forward. Below is the result of their live survey. The key words and thoughts from this have been added to the wider Voice of the Parent survey as well as the contribution from staff and children to formulate the school's future vision – more on this when we start the new academic year!



Cognita Sings

On Wednesday 8th May, the Clifton Lodge Prep Choir travelled to Epsom to take part in the Cognita Sings event at the renowned Epsom Playhouse.

It was a wonderful day where our children had the opportunity to rehearse as part of a much bigger choir during the day and to experience the excitement of performing to a packed auditorium in the evening show. They sang some classics such as California Dreaming and Holding Out for a Hero with the whole Cognita Choir, as well as performing two songs of their own accompanied by our own talented pianist, Arisa. Clifton Lodge made a great impression on all the staff in rehearsals and the wider audience in the evening performance. The children really rose to the occasion in front of the sell-out crowd and we were all very proud of them. A big thank you to Ms Velkova who always does such an amazing job with the children as well as to all the parents who braved the traffic to get out to Surrey to support their children.

Here are some of the pupils' comments:

"Being part of the concert was really fun."

"I liked it when we were singing J'Entends Le Moulin because Arisa was playing the piano."

"I liked it when we were singing with the other schools."



Football Success

On Friday 19th April, some of our Prep children played football matches against Avenue House School. The Year 3 and 4's played their hearts out, drawing 2-2. They had a great time, learning and growing as a team! The Year 5 and 6's dominated with a 7-0 victory, showcasing incredible teamwork and sportsmanship! The opposition, Avenue House, played well and left the sports field in good spirits. Our children are eager for a rematch!

Dylan B (Year 6): "Everyone played well. We shared the ball and had a great experience."

Xander (Year 6): "There was great distribution, allowing everyone to have the ball and score goals, including myself – I scored a hat trick!"

Willow (Year 6): "It was a great game – I played well. I enjoyed playing defender – I think I did a good job, considering the clean sheet. I am looking forward to a rematch."

Alexander (Year 6): "It was a fun game which we enjoyed. We played well! Avenue House had some good chances, but our defence was stronger, so we kept a clean sheet."

Asher (Year 4): "It was well-played from both sides. I am glad I got to score a goal!"

Shuma (Year 4): "It was fun, and the other team played well. I hope we win next time."

Lenny (Year 3): "It was a really good experience and I had lots of fun! I hope we can play them again."

Finley (Year 3): "I enjoyed it so much. We played very well, so did Avenue House."



Y5 – Walpole Park Exploration!

Year 5 embarked on an exciting adventure early in May, inspired by Captain James Cook! They took on the role of intrepid explorers, scouring the school and Walpole Park for 'new' scientific discoveries whilst dodging dangers just like Cook and his crew did. Through hands-on exploration, our pupils not only learned about historical figures like Captain Cook but also developed critical thinking skills and teamwork.

Here's what some of our young explorers had to say about their journey:

Wesam: "I found being an explorer very interesting. I got to learn many new things which I really liked!"

Dylan: "It was such fun and I enjoyed being like Captain Cook and recording different discoveries."

Arisa: "I liked finding new things. I was excited to explore!"



Year 3 to 6 Residential Trips – May 2024

Our pupils had a wonderful time at two PGL centres. Our Year 3 & 4 classes went for 2 nights to PGL Marchants Hill & our Year 5 & 6 pupils had 4 nights at PGL Osmington Bay .

They all had an amazing time, experiencing activities they had never tried before, teamworking and enjoying the wonderful scenery at both centres. The children tried archery, survival skills, sensory trails, climbing walls, challenge courses, problem solving, vertical climbing and aeroball! The Year 5 & 6 children also did kayaking, abseiling and looked for fossils and crystals on the beach, following up on a recent Science topic in class about the Jurassic Coast. A massive thank you to our children for being such great sports, trying new activities and ensuring everyone was included. Thank you to our great staff for enabling our pupils to have these experiences and finally to PGL Adventures , we will be back!

Here are some pupil quotes:

Year 5

Jay – It was an amazing experience where I challenged myself to get to the top of the rock climbing and vertical challenge and I can't wait to go again next year.

Taiyo- It was so enjoyable as we did so many activities that were new for me, my favourite was kayaking.

Arisa -I am proud of reaching the top in the Rock climbing and trapeze, quickly and confidently.

Eleeza – It was an exciting and enjoyable experience and totally worth it. I did things that I thought I would never do.

Year 6

Anish – It was a totally worthwhile experience, where I learnt to show perseverance and achieve goals, I never thought I could.

Xander – I had a great time and challenged myself a lot and I wish I could go again next year but can't!

Phoebus – It was a unique mix of memories, fun activities and a great time spent with my friends and peers. I learnt a lot about myself, and how I can do more than I ever thought before.

Angelo -It was a great experience; I wish we had done it sooner. I absolutely loved the kayaking and spending time with my classmates and peers.

Enara – I totally agree with what everyone else has said, it was great! My absolute favourite activity was abseiling!!

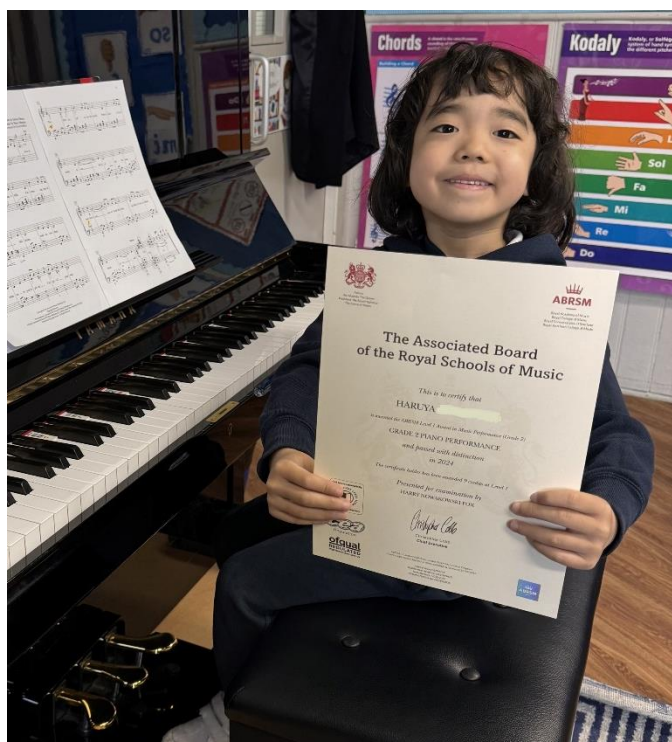






Pupil Piano Success

Congratulations to Miki in Year 5 who gained a very high distinction in her Grade 4 Piano exam with 140/150 points. Well done to Haruya in Year 2 who was awarded a distinction for his Grade 2 Piano exam. We are so proud of you both.



Finally, yes, it's Bruno the Bear! The mascot from Ealing Trailfinders Rugby Club visited us on Thursday 2nd May. The pupils and staff were delighted to meet such an important celebrity! Good luck to Trailfinders for all their future matches.



Wishing all our families a relaxing half-term break. The remaining few weeks of the year will be just as packed with activities, from Sports Day to winning House trip to Speech Day; we are all looking forward to seeing the children back next week.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Belsito', with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael Belsito
Head