

Mrs Fraser's Prize Day Speech 2022

Welcome to our prize day and leavers' celebration. Firstly, thank you to the choir and to Mrs. Pugh for leading that moving tribute.

Well, what an unforgettable first two terms it has been as the Headteacher of this wonderful school.

Cleve House School stole my heart 12 years ago when I came to cover a short sabbatical so it was a no brainer to accept the offer to take over the reins in January. I had only planned to give you a round-up of the main events of the last two terms. You may notice that we have cut back on the number of trophies this year so this part will be shorter, but this means that my speech will be longer – which reminds me of the pleasure and pain scenario. I believe if the balance is tipped too heavily in one direction and we have too much fun, then fun doesn't become a treat anymore. Likewise, if we have too many awards it undermines the significance of the accolade.

However, this Prize and Leavers' day is for all. I have been witness to your children making their own personal developments this year. Whether it is being able to now successfully traverse the monkey bars on the play equipment, stay overnight on the residential trip, recite a poem in front of room full of strangers, whether it is making the effort to speak to new people in the playground, say sorry when you made a mistake, finish a thick reading book for the first time, nail tricky spellings, score a rounder for the first time, enjoy a new sport or try out a new language. Because I have read your reports, seen all of your house points and watched your efforts, every pupil will receive a small prize at the end of this assembly as a personal 'well done' for all their achievements!

As teachers, it is an honour and a pleasure to watch your children develop and to play our small but crucial part in their journey. We would like to thank you for allowing this. You have chosen Cleve House for varying reasons and have entrusted us with your children. You have my word that as Headteacher of this school I will continue to do my very best to enable all to succeed, progress and develop - hence our motto 'Teaching to Reach... Since 1937.'

I would like to thank all my colleagues in both main and preschool for their support and dedication to the school and to your children. I am more than proud of this school - there is no shouting but lots of laughter, zero tolerance for unkind behaviour, and pupils are taught to

learn from their mistakes. Cleve is built on strong foundations from previous leaderships, we build a good and consistent work ethic and show respect and kindness to each other. Teachers take time to get to know your children well and we all want the very best for them. I am constantly thinking of Cleve pupils and how to make school better but also what makes us different to the rest. We are a city school - we do not have gravel driveways, extensive acreage or indoor swimming pools but I believe we have something that tops all of this!

We allow our children to have their childhood.

In this day and age, this cannot be underestimated. Childhood is short and comes but once in a life time. Cleve pupils enjoy this to the max. These children haven't grown up to be 'worldly wise', they enjoy the simple things and are truly grateful for small joys, such as a surprise ice lolly on a hot day. This is why Cleve is a special place. In today's fast, furious and ever-changing world, we at Cleve allow children to be themselves, without fear of bullying and ridicule. I have witnessed sisters from different forms calling out across a class to say to each other 'I love you' and no-one batted an eyelid - this would never happen in another school. Pupils are accepting and tolerant of each other's differences and this should be recognised as a rare and wonderful thing.

At Cleve we are a strong team of staff, parents and pupils and together these are just some of the achievements and changes we have made in two terms.

New logos, letterheads, photographs, leaflets, adverts have all been created. With the help of Mr. Foulger we have built a new responsive clean and clear website. With Shine, we now offer a comprehensive skill-based sports provision for all. Pupils have enjoyed playing in football tournaments, rounders and netball matches with Ms. Riach. We now offer a new Mandarin Club, Gardening club and Brass lessons.

Thanks to you for the funds raised in the Ten Talents assembly, the pupils enjoy the play equipment in the playground on a daily basis and the new flooring has thankfully done its job so far! We won a range of prizes in the Bristol Schools Speech and Drama Eisteddfod under the guidance of the effervescent Miss Emma. We now have our own on-site uniform shop. Pupils have enjoyed a sponsored bounce, an Easter egg hunt, Form 3 and 4 an educational trip to Bristol Zoo.

Form 5 and 6 pupils recently enjoyed a two-night, three-day residential trip to Magdalen Farm in Chard and you only have to speak with Miss Trehearn, Ms Riach or Mr. Pakrooh to find out about all the amazing challenges that pupils and staff tried out there.

If you know me, you will know that I never do things by halves, it has to be done well or not at all - and this is exemplified by our recent Open Day - if you were lucky enough to be there, you will have felt the vibe. It was a cheerful, uplifting event which celebrated 85 years of Cleve in the community. This event was a huge success due to lots of hard work behind the scenes and I thank all my colleagues for their help and you for either attending, or supporting us by buying a raffle ticket or by helping in any small way. We have had a lot of great feedback and I believe we left an indelible mark in the community. We were delighted to welcome so many past pupils of Cleve House and to witness first-hand the impact Cleve has made.

We have lots of exciting things planned for our start in September and have shaken up the timetables and overhauled the curriculum. KS1 will be enjoying some outdoor learning under the guidance of Mrs Hasson. KS2 will enjoy new Oracy lessons and we are excited to be welcoming in new pupils in both the Main school and Preschool.

We are going to break here to award some **PRIZES:**

I would like to call the Form teachers onto the stage to tell you about their awards. Children, remember if it is not you this year, it doesn't mean we haven't seen your hard work. It means we had to choose one pupil and this year is their time to shine. Be happy for them please and enjoy your treat on the way out of the hall.

Reception cup - Casper

Form 1 cup - Eliza

Form 2 cup - Remi

Form 3 & 4 cup, - Bertie

Form 5 cup - Elham

Form 6 cup - Callum

A number of trophies will be awarded to Form 6 pupils:

The Hartles Cup for English – Elizabeth

The Lawsons Trophy for Mathematics – Beth

Design and Technology Cup – Ronnie

ICT – Oscar awarded by Mr. Foulger

Integrity Cup – Archie

Perseverance Cup - Rupert

Endeavour Cup– Josh

Headteacher's Award

This year my award to a boy someone who is kind, funny, hardworking and polite to everyone which makes him a popular pupil. He shows great integrity and will avoid trouble. Although he doesn't always find work easy, he can be relied upon to always give his best. He is an excellent sportsman, and he is both loved by staff and students alike. This year the Headteacher's award goes to Archie Fry.

Headboy and Headgirl

We end prize giving by saying thank you to our Headgirl and Headboy. Both Georgina Pestell and Ben Caplen are truly exceptional pupils, both started in our Preschool and both can be relied upon to always give their best. They work hard in all subjects, show resilience in adversity, both worked well during lockdown and importantly both being self-starters have enjoyed their learning journey. They are role models for others in the school and we thank you for your time and care for showing around new visitors, representing Cleve at the Remembrance service, Georgina, Ralph et al. for taking the Deputy Lord Mayor on an everlasting tour and for just being your fantastic selves. For all your dedication to Cleve we thank you and wish you our best in your chosen Senior schools - Bristol Grammar School and Badminton. We have engraved a pen for your both.

Gifts

You may have noticed, we need to say good luck and a short goodbye to Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Jones who leave to have their babies soon. We thank them for all their encouragement and endeavour and wish them a safe and healthy maternity leave. We can't wait to say hello to

the two ever growing bumps and as a small token here is a small something from the parents and staff who wish you their best.

Mrs. Edwards

has been dedicated to Cleve for over 30 years. Her husband, sons and daughter all attended Cleve House School and I am delighted to say that she won't be a stranger as she will continue to bring her grandchildren into preschool and has promised to help us whenever she can - for which we are hugely grateful.

Mrs. Edwards will have helped teach your child to read, helped them with writing and numbers, maybe picked them up from a fall in the playground and plastered up any scrages (new vocabulary learned at Cleve) or even waited with them in hospital with a broken finger. Mrs. Edwards is a very kind, unassuming lady with sound principles and good judgment. She loves a crossword puzzle but you may not know that she is a fantastic librarian, a great proof reader and lady who has a wonderful sense of humour and someone who will be silly with me in the staffroom behind closed doors. With love and immense gratitude for all that you have done for Cleve, please accept a little token of thanks from the staff and parents.

Mrs Hartles

I was told that Mrs. Hartles was once described by a parent as our 'national treasure.' She has worked at Cleve for an amazing 34 years. This in itself is remarkable, as statistically the average length of service for a job is now around 4 years!

Mrs. Hartles started at Cleve as a parent and is the straight-talking, no-nonsense matriarch of the school. However, she is kindness personified. She is one of the most organised and most forward-thinking people I know. Not only does she nurture pupils through one of the most challenging years in education, she instils in pupils the value of discipline, independence and self-belief. Any child can consider themselves lucky to have been taught by Mrs Hartles.

Behind the scenes Mrs. Hartles keeps us all on track, making sure we are all OK, and I can't thank her enough for the small acts of kindness she performs on a daily basis - never forgetting her Friday treats for the staffroom table. Without having to be asked, she will cover break duties, she puts the kettle on before staff arrive in the morning, she unlock doors, bring cups of coffee and runs home if we ever need a can opener or tin foil. Mrs

Hartles takes initiative and is intuitive to everyone's needs. She checks in on everyone and always has a nice word to say.

Things you may not know about Mrs. Hartles. She enjoys the run-up to Christmas more than anyone else I know, much more than any child, and has already invited herself and Mrs. Edwards to our staff Christmas do! Seriously, as a staff we will feel bereft of her wise words of advice and her listening ear – not to mention her matchmaking skills! Mrs. Hartles considers herself as shy, but she has one of the biggest personalities in the school and is one of the most positive people I have ever had the joy of working with. Thankfully she lives next door and I know this will not be the last time we will be seeing her. Mrs. Hartles you will be missed more than you realise. Both you and Mrs. Edwards will be welcome back anytime - when you are bored of being ladies who lunch, tired of eating too much coffee and cake, and when you can't lie in any longer then please pop back into Cleve - the door is always open! Please accept our small token our love from staff and parents.

This year our Form 6 pupils have been offered over 20 places at a variety of schools, including scholarships and bursaries from Bristol Grammar School, Badminton, Collegiate School, Sidcot and Clifton High. All pupils have been accepted at their first choice school and we can't be more proud of you all.

Only this week we received a telephone call from a proud parent whose daughter left Cleve in 2006. In fact she was in my first Form 4 class when I arrived here. I am delighted to announce that Hannah Wilkie graduated from Cambridge University with a double starred first in Music this week. Moreover, I loved the fact that her mum recognised us as having played our part in her achievement and took the trouble to share her success with us. Even when you have left, we are still excited to know how you are getting on - remember you are always part of this unique family.

Form 6 - your resilience, in the change of Headteacher and Form teacher and the way you and your parents have worked so hard alongside Ms. Riach, has been truly impressive. Ms Riach's, only instruction from me when she joined was, I need someone who can hit the ground running - and boy did she do this!

Form 6 leavers and others – do not think we will forget you. Long after you have left, we will remember you. You will grow up and change and look very different to the children we once

taught but is it your character and personality that is etched on our hearts and now as a past-pupil of Cleve we will remember you fondly.

Remember to be brave and to try new opportunities that come your way, learn from mistakes, be kind and always reach for the stars!

You will be delighted to hear that this concludes the formal aspect to these proceedings. Everyone is welcome to refreshments in the playground where you can say your goodbyes but first, please sit back and enjoy Form 6 's final swansong

ENDS: Friday 8th July 2022