**Terms and conditions and Joining Instructions for**

**Six week Clay Course**

**Cheshire Clay Studio Ltd.**

**2023**

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Joining Instructions:

Cheshire Clay Studio welcomes you to our lovely facility at Lowes Farm Shop’s premises. We hope that you will all have a great time working with clay.

To keep things as clear as possible, and perhaps answer any questions you may have, we’ve prepared these joining instructions and the terms and conditions of your attendance at these sessions.

Cheshire Clay Studio ltd (CCS) is a small private company offering classes, courses, workshops and taster sessions to anyone keen to work with clay. It receives no outside funding.

1. The course will be supervised by a course leader from the studio who will be on hand to help you become familiar with the studio, its equipment and materials. They will teach beginners the various methods of making and can advise on many aspects of creating with clay.
2. We have a clearly written Health and Safety policy which will be pointed out to participants and if the supervising course leader sees unsafe practice they will intervene. Ceramics involves working with chemicals and other noxious substances, as well as extreme heat and participants need to follow the practices that CCS have adopted to safeguard the health and safety of all who use the studio. Course members will need to sign that they have read and understood the H&S Policy.
3. Participants should bring their own aprons, although we can provide aprons to those who have forgotten them. They can also bring along their own tools if they have them. CCS has a range of tools for general use.
4. Participants will work with the raw materials supplied by CCS rather than bringing their own. This is to ensure that when firing, all clays are compatible. There are few things more disappointing than opening the kiln only to find that one person’s work has exploded, destroying everyone else’s at the same time.
5. Mixing glazes and oxides requires specialist knowledge and at present CCS will do this mixing. A range of glazes are available to use, as well as oxides and clay slips. CCS will also carry out all the firing of participants’ work, although participants are welcome to observe the loading and unloading of the kilns if this happens during their course.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Courses are offered in blocks of six weeks, largely conforming to school terms. Payment must be in full and in advance of each course. CCS has an online booking system.
2. If a participant cannot attend one or more sessions in their six week course, there is no refund for non-attendance of any sessions. There are no refunds once payment has been made. However, if there is a waiting list, and either the participant or CCS can re-fill the place then a refund can be given – but this is a gesture of goodwill and not a part of our terms and conditions.
3. The aim of the course is to give participants a happy and enjoyable experience when they are at the studio. If a participant is rude, disruptive or generally unpleasant or difficult, they may be asked to leave the course.
4. The cost of the course includes all firing and glazing of course participants’ work that can be fitted into one of the 43 litre kilns (30x30cm).Items made on the course that exceed either 30cm high or 30cm wide will be subject to a one off course firing fee of £20.00, which covers both the bisque and glaze firings.
5. Some course participants may wish to work at home in addition to class. CCS encourages this enthusiasm. Course partipants can purchase extra clay from the studio to work at home. Please see costs of clay in appendix 1. Items made at home will be subject to the external firing fees laid down in Appendix 1.
6. There will be a price increase every year *at least* in line with the rate of inflation for all courses and classes at CCS.

Cheshire Clay Studio :

Lowes Farm Shop

Moss Lane

Byley

Middlewich

Cheshire

CW10 9NG

Parking:

Day class or course participants must park in the furthest car park next to the fields behind the café during the day, as the carpark gets very busy with shop and café users.

Evening course participants may park anywhere on the main car park.

Ginger and Pickles is available for coffees, and food from 10.00pm to 4pm. We don’t allow food to be consumed in the studio, but class members can bring drinks into the studio, with lids.

If you have any queries at all then don’t hesitate to contact Lisa on 07931 351183.

**Appendix 1:**

**Kiln firing service**

**Making at Home service**

The Kiln firing service is available to those course members who want to make at home and bring their work to the studio. All clay has to be purchased from Cheshire Clay Studio so that we can avoid incidents in the firing process.

To keep things very simple there is a charge of £50.00 when class members purchase 6 kilos (half a bag) of clay. This purchase includes purchase of clay, 2 firings (bisque and glaze)of all work made from the 6kg of clay and all glazes etc that are used to finish the pieces. All pieces from this purchase can then be fired along with general class work.

The only restriction is that items must conform to the maximum sizes of 30cm high and/or wide. Items bigger than this will be subject to the one off firing charge.

**Course members one off firing charge**

For one off items taller or wider than 30cm that have been made on a course there is an excess firing charge of £20.00

**Appendix 2:**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Can I make up any sessions that I have to miss on a course?**

No.

**Can I take Clay away to make at home?**

Yes. We offer a one stop shop purchase of clay, glazing other decorating materials and two firings to class members for a fee of £50. We do not encourage course members to take home items that they are making in class.  This all inclusive fee covers bisque and glaze firing of everything made from the 6kg (half a bag) of clay.

**Can I make big items?**

Yes. Your course fee covers all clay, decoration and firings for items up to 30 cm high and 30 cm wide. If course members wish to make larger items then they will be subject to our one off kiln firing service charges of £20 per oversized item. (appendix 1)

**Can I bring my own clay?**

No. We insist that only clay purchased by the Studio is used as this ensures that there are no accidents in the kiln. For this reason we also do not accept requests from other potters outside of classes to fire in our kilns.

**If personal circumstances mean that I can’t get to the course can I have a refund?**

No. We have a commitment to you to run the courses, and you have a commitment to us to attend them. If we fail in our commitment to run the course, or have to change the dates only then will you be entitled to a refund.

**How long will it take for my items to be finished?** There is a 3 stage process to ceramics. Making and drying, bisque (first) firing and Glaze firing. Making and drying is dependent upon the size, thickness and weather. Each firing takes 24 hours. Course participants need to expect a 3 to 4 week delay before their items are completed as drying can take over a week and kilns need to be full before each firing takes place.