



# NEWSLETTER

No. 721  
w/b Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September  
will be Week A

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year! (Well, *school* year anyway...). A very warm welcome to parents and carers for whom this is their first Clyst Vale Newsletter: it comes out on a Friday, and there are many back copies on the College website if you have nothing to read and every domestic chore has been completed.

I know that quite a few families were affected by covid, but nonetheless I hope that you all had a good summer and your children are super-excited about coming back to Clyst Vale next week. Although I have plenty to say about educational developments (or lack of) over the summer, I will restrain myself and do my best to make this Newsletter as brief and factual as possible. It's a bit dry, but I hope it addresses the questions you may have. There's no way I will cover every query, so please contact us if you need to. Reception is 01392-461407. Student Absence is 01392-463911. The main College inbox is [admin@clystvale.org](mailto:admin@clystvale.org) Additional Support is 01392-463919 or [phillipsc@clystvale.org](mailto:phillipsc@clystvale.org) Sixth Form is 01392-462697 or [barringtonj@clystvale.org](mailto:barringtonj@clystvale.org)

## The Return to School – September 2021

We are particularly looking forward to welcoming new students to Year 7 on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The full schedule is as follows:

Year	Date	Extra Information
Year 7	Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7 induction day
Year 8	Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Start of term delayed by one day
Year 9	Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September	
Year 10	Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Exam years prioritised to start on time (and Sixth Form)
Year 11	Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> September	
Sixth Form	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Testing only. Term starts properly on <i>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September</i> .

## Enhanced Response Area (ERA) and Masks

- We're all keen to get back to some sort of normality, but it hasn't started brilliantly: Devon has been designated as an Enhanced Response Area (ERA) as covid cases are so high. There is a revised Risk Assessment and "Outbreak Management Plan" on the College website. The ERA and advice from Public Health means that the Outbreak Plan has been partially activated.

- This basically means **we all wear masks again, at least for two weeks**. Of course, if cases locally continue to rise, or we have an outbreak in College, further restrictions could be introduced. Let's hope not.
- So, to be precise, students (and adults on site) are expected to wear masks or face coverings at all times except lessons and when eating, especially in communal areas and corridors – places which get crowded. There will be some students who are exempt, which is fine: *please let the relevant AtHoS know*.
- Any student who wishes to wear a face covering in lessons as well is allowed, and supported, in doing so.

**At the start of term, the following will also be in place:**

- We will be doing the required **mass testing** of two tests in College. No change to the information sent in July. Students aren't allowed in until they have been tested, so on arrival they'll need to queue up in the playground, do the test, wait in the Sports Hall, and hopefully all then go to their tutor group. Some students have had covid and therefore can't be tested; some students have had consent withheld. These students should line up as if to be tested but will be redirected/triaged/weeded out at the first desk.
- **We are assuming that all consents for testing (or withheld consent) from last year will roll forward. If this isn't correct, please let us know!** Year 7 parents have been contacted separately about consents.
- Please continue the use of twice weekly Lateral Flow testing at home after the initial testing of the masses.
- The continued adoption of strong hygiene and cleaning procedures particularly hand hygiene; standing apart where possible (social distancing, but not called that and with no hard and fast measure); wiping of tables and equipment.
- Some of the former one-way system, mostly through buildings. This is partly to help reduce the risk of transmission indoors, and also because it improves the flow of students and reduces crowds at lesson changeovers.
- Increased ventilation wherever possible and safe to do so.
- Continued liaison with my new friends in Public Health.
- Continued support for those staff and students who are clinically extremely vulnerable or who have household members in this position – whilst your child is expected to attend school, if you have any particular concerns you are welcome to contact the relevant AtHoS or Additional Support as appropriate.

**Expectations regarding positive cases and close contacts (this is a big change from last year):**

The guidance for schools is actually quite helpful:

“Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months (ie students)
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons”
- (I would also add, they have no symptoms of covid themselves)
- So, if (say) older brother or Mum is positive for covid, younger sister can still attend school and does not need to isolate for ten days (there are many opinions about the wisdom of this, but those are the rules as we – quote – “learn to live with covid”).
- Schools are no longer involved in contact tracing or isolating groups of students who might be close contacts. HOWEVER, please inform us of any positive cases and dates of symptoms (if any) and tests, as last year. The “out of hours” phone is still in operation. Schools are required to monitor for outbreaks, and also to report all positive cases to Devon, so we do need to be notified.

- If your child has covid symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste and/or smell), please don't send them in. We'll send them straight back.
- Instead, book a PCR test and keep them off until the result is known (other household members can go about their daily lives). If it's positive, it's a ten-day isolation. If negative, the symptoms weren't covid, and they can return to College. A negative PCR overrules a positive LFT.

### **Vaccinations:**

This also changed, so that 16-17 year olds are eligible for vaccination. This is not currently the case for 12-15 year olds, although there is a huge amount of media speculation and forces building on both sides. At the moment, no school knows what will be decided, nor whether schools will have any role in assisting the vaccination process. We don't even know if schools might be used as venues. These are national government decisions. We will clearly keep you posted.

I always try to stay on the optimistic side of being level headed. It'll be brilliant to see students and colleagues back, with the atmosphere buzzing positively. But the truth is nobody is certain how events will play out in the upcoming weeks. So, I return to my set of mantras which apply whatever the context. We aim that children will be safe, happy and successful. We achieve this through Respect, Participate, Learn. Children will achieve best if the three legs of the student-home-school tripod are all doing their bit.

Parental support was amazing last year, and we couldn't have done as well as we did without it. Thank you!

Kevin Bawn  
Principal

### **Evenings and weekends – reporting of Covid-19 positive test results**

We have introduced a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends.

You may also use this number if you have accidentally recorded an LFT result as positive – please always notify us if this has happened in error.

(During the school's normal opening hours, please contact Student Absence on **01392 463911** or email: [studentabsence@clystvale.org](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org))

The number is:

**07818 212 931**

It is not for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, and is not an advice line.

We would prefer you to text positive Covid-19 test result information to this number, including:

- Name of student
- Student's tutor group
- Date symptoms appeared
- Which symptoms, or no symptoms
- Date of test
- Date of test result

If necessary, someone will contact you having received this information. Thank you!

## COLLEGE DRESS

Clyst Vale aims to maintain a simple pattern of College dress to promote a clear sense of identity and enable students to come sensibly dressed, at reasonable cost, for a range of learning activities. If a student is improperly dressed, correct uniform will be provided for that day or the student may be sent home to change his/her clothing, at the discretion of the Principal. **If parents are in any doubt about the suitability of an item of uniform they should check with the College before buying it.**

### Uniform for all students in Years 7 to 11

- White collared shirt
- School colour tie
- Clyst Vale V-neck jumper with College logo.
- Boys trousers - Banner Slimbridge (Black)/Banner Falmouth (Black).
- Girls trousers - Trutex GTN (2 pocket black)/David Luke DL965 black).
- All trousers must have Clyst Vale logo rivet on waistband.
- Skirts - Blue Tartan and knee length
- Trutex Senior stitched down/Taylor Tartan (blue) skirt and may be worn no more than 2" above the knee. Knee length black tailored shorts may be worn.
- Black sturdy shoes or **all black** trainers.
- White socks or black tights with skirts.
- Outdoor coat, a plain colour (hoodies are not outdoor coats)

*All uniform and PE Kit can be purchased from Thomas Moore, Exeter. Thomas Moore offers both a personal service in their shop and also the opportunity to order on line at [www.thomasmooretoymaster.co.uk](http://www.thomasmooretoymaster.co.uk)*

- Eyebrow jewellery, facial, tongue, nose and lip studs are not permitted.
- Leather jackets, all denim garments and all hoodies are not permitted.
- Hats should not be worn indoors.
- Outer coats should be predominantly plain in colour and without large logos.
- A plain white t-shirt or vest may be worn under the shirt.
- On health and safety grounds, shoes should be appropriate for a work place. Flipflops, open toes, Uggs, Dr Martens (or equivalent) are not permitted.
- Jewellery may be worn, providing it is not excessive or potentially hazardous. However, it is a legal requirement that all jewellery must be removed before undertaking sporting activities. It is the responsibility of the wearer to do this.

The Principal, in consultation with the Governors of the College, will decide on the suitability of the appearance of a student attending the College - extreme hair styles, of either cut or colour, are not permitted.

## **Attendance, Absence and Requests for Absence**

Please let the College know of any absence on the first day it occurs.

If the absence continues beyond the first day, please contact the College on each subsequent day of absence, too. To comply with safeguarding obligations, we cannot simply assume a student's sickness absence is ongoing; we need to be certain that the reason for absence is due to continuing illness.

If you do not notify the College, then we will make contact with you to identify the reason for absence. This is important as it helps to reduce unauthorised absences and truancy.

Please note, the College may ask you to provide medical proof if a student is absent from College due to illness.

### **Medical Appointments**

We encourage students to maximise their levels of attendance; research indicates a direct link between attendance and examination performance. The timing of many medical appointments means that often students can attend school first, and return afterwards. By doing so, students minimise missed learning whilst keeping their attendance levels as high as possible. Therefore, we ask that parents/carers send their child into school for morning registration, even when a medical appointment takes place in the middle of the morning. Similarly, appointments scheduled for the afternoon should, where possible, be arranged after Period 4 - during lunchtime. Students are encouraged to return to school after a lunchtime appointment, if they can.

Thank you for your support in helping your child maximise their attendance and learning.

### **For Years 7 - 11 Absences**

Please ring:

Sharon Leaman/Racheal Long (Attendance Officers)

Direct line: 01392 463911

Email: [studentabsence@clystvale.org](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org)

### **For Year 12 - 13 Absences**

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: [barringtonj@clystvale.org](mailto:barringtonj@clystvale.org)