



NEWSLETTER

No. 667
w/c Mon 04 May
Week B

SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK

“Walk in the Sunshine” [Bad Manners]

Dear Parents/Carers,

One of things I have always respected about Clyst Vale parents is that you read beyond the headlines. Therefore, despite Boris Johnson’s upbeat headline announcement about publishing a plan next week to get out of lockdown, including schools returning, you will be aware that any return will not be soon, will have to be phased, and will need a huge amount of planning. I want students to return soon; I am worried about the learning gaps widening for children with SEND, disadvantaged children, but actually all children; I am worried about the time it will take for young people to readjust socially and psychologically; I am worried about families facing real difficulties for months after all this is over meaning that a return to school provides some stability. However, it has to be safe; and Government has to be honest with the public about how schools simply cannot manage social distancing unless there are very small numbers of students involved.

A Quieter Week

Other than government announcements, things have been quieter for schools this week. We have small but growing numbers of students accessing ECP; our Welfare Team is contacting and supporting more families; for most parents, the free school meals voucher situation has settled down; and the focus has been very much on sustaining remote learning. Students are checking in very well with their tutors, but not all are engaging with the work and the first step in this is for them to check their College e-mail account every day. Please encourage/cajole/bribe/insist so that this happens.

My child is struggling.....

This is a slowly growing trend. Possibly after six weeks of lockdown some students and parents’ resilience is wearing a bit thin; possibly the daily provision of schoolwork is building up pressure. There is no question that some students are genuinely struggling, becoming anxious, developing a negative cycle of thinking, and parents are feeling anxious that they cannot support them or help enough: please contact your child’s teacher and tutor. Some students are struggling with one or two subjects only: again, please contact the teacher and tutor. Some students are being stereotypical teenagers, and need motivating or challenging. It’s difficult for parents who are not in education, but you are the teacher in the room and have to judge whether on some days you have to back off, and accept that not all the work is going to get done. Most of the work being set is understandable and do-able for almost all students, but it might need some thought and concentration.

We have higher expectations for students in Year 10, who really do need to be working across all of their subjects; we will not be allowing students to “drop” GCSEs when they return in June/July/September just because of lockdown. We will be continuing to chase Year 10s if SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK “Walk in the Sunshine” [Bad Manners] “Education Is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.” Albert Einstein they are not engaging. I’m treading a delicate balance: students need to be learning and it is vital that they do; however, this must not be at the expense of their mental health or of destroying family relationships. The major point is that if you have any concerns or queries, please contact us. There are several things we could do to help.

You’re not alone...

If you haven’t seen this, it will cheer up many parents. Of all the people who should be brilliant at home learning, it would be a school inspector. However, one former school inspector Andrew Jeffery inspected the educational provision in his own home and wrote a damning report.... “Pupils are regularly late to lessons and often leave class without permission...”; “The Key Stage 2 pupil was recently caught playing Fortnite and claimed it was a Geography project”. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52458237> (sometimes the link doesn’t bring up the spoof Ofsted Report, which is the best bit, so please persevere)

Sixth Form Update

Nationally there has not been a huge focus on Sixth Formers, so here is a small attempt to redress the balance. Year 13 students have suffered many of the same emotions as Year 11; they were preparing for A-level and Level 3 exams, and had organised their revision materials and plans when all of a sudden this just stopped. Similar to Year 11, there was uncertainty about their grades, but for many these grades lead on to university. However, will universities be open in the autumn, or running virtual teaching courses Is this good value for money? Would students be better off deferring entry for a year? What will happen to university offers this year – with a certain decline in foreign students, will grade offers be lower than usual? What should students do if a university contacts them with a lower offer? These are very difficult questions, some of which have no answers, and Miss Haynes and her team of tutors have been doing a great job in supporting, discussing and advising students.

Year 12 are not dissimilar to Year 10. They were two terms through a two year course when schools were shut, and share the same questions, such as when will we be back? Will exams be altered to reflect the loss of learning or will grades be awarded through massaging grade boundaries? We missed school exams, so how can I be sure I know how well I’m doing? There are additional questions: this term and next are key times for looking at university choices and attending open days, but this is not possible and virtual tours are not a substitute for an actual visit. In fairness to Year 12 students, they have responded really well, and are working hard, coping well with remote learning and focusing on their studies. They are also engaging really well with their tutors.

County Lines

I have been asked by local Police to publicise their campaign about County Lines “Help us keep your community safe. Information from the public will help the police further restrict and disrupt drug dealing, prosecute those organising the activity, protect vulnerable victims caught up in the networks and continue to keep our communities safe. If you see anyone dealing drugs or other suspicious activity taking place in your community please report this using the police’s online contact channels - dc.police.uk/contact Alternatively you can report online anonymously through CrimeStoppers: crimestoppersuk.org .“

British Dyslexia Association

These are some free webinars which could well be of interest to parents of students with dyslexia.

24/03/20 - How to support your dyslexic child during school closures <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/shop/webinars/webinar-for-parents-how-to-support-your-dyslexic-child-during-school-closures>

01/04/20 - Managing you and your child's wellbeing– being realistic and human (and not super-human!) <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/shop/webinars/managing-you-and-your-childs-wellbeing-being-realistic-and-human-and-not-super-human-1>

08/04/20 - How to prepare your child for success in life <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/shop/webinars/how-to-prepare-your-child-for-success-in-life>

15/04/20 -Virtual Q&A ambassador panel webinar – Succeeding with dyslexia for parents and children <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/shop/webinars/q-a-ambassador-panel-webinar-succeeding-with-dyslexia-for-parents-and-children>

Course 42

A little plug for Course 42, and not just because I teach it in Year 8. Course 42 is the only subject in which every lesson focuses on coronavirus or the lockdown in some way. Therefore it contributes to students' understanding of the present situation, helps them reflect on it, and provides some strategies for dealing with it. It's not a GCSE subject, but its value right now is very high in a different way.

Best wishes,



Dr Bawn



If you see any suspicious activity or any drug dealing in your area call the police on 101 or report online - [dc.police.uk](https://www.dc.police.uk)

Alternatively you can call CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report online: [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)



Devon & Cornwall Police

Safeguarding

During the closure, we encourage all parents to be responsible for safeguarding children in our communities. If you have any concerns, please contact the school and ask to speak to a **Designated Safeguarding Lead** (Mr Sutton, Mrs Albutt, Miss McConnachie, Mr A Pearce).

If this is not possible please contact **MASH, The Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub: 0345 155 1071.**

Further information on safeguarding children can be found by visiting

www.devon.gov.uk/childprotection

Alternatively contact the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Do you use Twitter? Then why not follow us @clystvale to find out what's going on in the College community.



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:

Penni Ball (Attendance Officer)

Direct line: 01392 463911

Email: studentabsence@clystvale.org

For Year 12 - 13 Absences

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: barringtonj@clystvale.org

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.
- Clyst Vale reversible jacket or other outdoor coat.

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.

- 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Clyst Vale Community College, Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon EX5 3AJ

Tel: 01392 461407 **Library:** 01392 464010

Email: admin@clystvale.org **Web:** www.clystvale.org

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

