



NEWSLETTER

No. 672
w/c Mon 08 June
Week B

SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK

“Should I stay or should I go (out) ?” [The Clash]

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Position

- This week, requests for places at school have increased rapidly from critical workers and parents of vulnerable students (both as defined in Government guidance). **Please note that this provision (called ECP here) has strict eligibility criteria.** It is only for students with an EHCP; with an assigned social worker; or on the government’s list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> Even that does not mean an automatic place: it is only if parents cannot find alternative childcare. **Despite the easing of lockdown, the basic expectation is that students should stay at home.** We cannot accept students from parents who are not key workers; nor from parents who may be keyworkers but can look after children at home; nor from parents who are keyworkers who could look after their children but the children are a bit bored with lockdown and/or playing up. The provision is so that parents/carers are freed up to go to their essential work in tackling covid or supporting those who do. Being on free school meals by itself does not make a child eligible; again, can they be looked after at home?
- This increase in ECP reflects a national trend as well; not surprising, because many “critical workers” on the list were able to work from home at the height of lockdown but are now expected to return. As a result, we will open a fourth “Bubble” for ECP on Monday. This is likely to reduce capacity for Year 10/12 going forward. If all eligible students took up a place, we would have no capacity under social distancing for any Year 10 or 12 students. (Meaning there is a risk that if we started Year 10 and 12 back, we might have to stop some of them, or alternatively deny places to students with - in theory - a greater need).
- Returns from Year 10 parents indicate that about 55% of those parents are ok about their child coming in; however, we have only had about 60% of the returns. If you are a Year 10 parent who hasn’t replied to the link on the “In Touch” letter, please could you do so? Thank you. If it was, say 50%, then that would mean about 75-80 students. In seven groups of eleven, that could mean attendance at College for individual students roughly every fourth day, if nothing else changed and we brought in no other students.

- It's really tough for parents who are not critical workers but are in "non-essential" jobs and who have children, especially in Years 2-5 or 7-9. Basically, unless they can find childcare, they can't go back to work. We have had to turn down several parents in this position, which is really hard on them (and us, a bit). This was raised at a Downing Street briefing this week, and while the government "understands your frustration" the answer was, essentially, "tough".
- It is important for Year 10 and 12 parents/carers to understand that any suggestions in recent letters as to what we might provide were best guesses. They are not guaranteed to happen exactly as described.
- Also, I cannot stress enough that *IF* Y10 and Y12 "return" this term it will not be to anything which resembles normal teaching. The value in coming to site is almost entirely emotional and psychological. And it would allow parents to hire in contract cleaners with industrial standard equipment for the day to tackle the bedroom.....
- Year 12 students and parents are being surveyed similarly, to identify the sort of numbers we might need to organise alongside the other demands and constraints.
- In a third survey, members of staff are also being surveyed. This suggests around 20% are unable to return to work, and a further 30% will experience difficulty because of childcare arrangements (they are key workers, of course, but this doesn't necessarily help with under-5s, and where Primary Schools have declared themselves at full capacity).
- "The Science" seems to have splintered into several groups who each have "A Science". The whole thing is now riddled with contradictions, which seem to be increasing. I have asked several people and organisations to explain how The Science states that it's only safe for just six people, 2 metres apart, to meet outdoors, but it's fine for fifteen children and a couple of adults to meet indoors all day, when the children are not always brilliant at staying 2 metres apart. Nobody's got back to me yet. It really does seem to be a matter of opinion rather than hard fact. And the argument that children transmit covid less than adults now appears not to be the case, following further work by Dr Zoe Hyde strengthening some earlier German research.
- There has been some clarification from the Department for Education. The 25% of students means as a total of the combined populations of Year 10 and 12. Our maximum number is therefore 50. On a given day, we have the flexibility to bring in 50 Year 10 provided no Year 12s come in.
- However, there has been no further advice on how schools are to "consider" the particular situation of BAME students.
- And a late spanner in the works is that we (Heads) had assumed the government's intention was to get as many Y10 and 12 as possible to return to school, foolish as we were from all the briefings and headlines. Now it seems that we should do this, but also focus on disadvantaged children in these year groups as well, provided we do not exceed 25% in total.
- We are also exploring the idea of possibly inviting in some Year 10s in certain subjects with large coursework tasks to complete. This sounds great, and in principle I would love to do it all, but we have the health constraints, and that maximum figure of 50 to contend with.
- I do not yet have completely full returns from any of the surveys. All of this leads to...

The Plan

- We are chasing up returns today
- I will plan some scenarios over the weekend with more accurate numbers
- Governors will meet virtually on Monday to discuss these scenarios
- I will write to parents on Tuesday
- There are three possible directions of travel (now requiring face masks, of course, although face masks are explicitly not recommended for schools in the guidance):
 - we decide to be open only for ECP;
 - we decide to open up for a limited number of Y10 and 12 students defined by need, disadvantage and/or specific subjects
 - we decide to open for as many Y10 and 12 students as possible, to provide a little “re-acclimatisation”
 - If I have any time over the weekend, I shall relax with some crosswords and Sudoku.

Head Girls and Boys

Half term traditionally marks the point in the academic year when Year 11 have left – and Year 10 step up to become these important ambassadors and role models across the college. Despite lockdown, we want to elect the successful candidates before the end of term

Obviously, the application process has been adapted slightly but the main bits are still there: a letter of application, canvassing support and promoting your ideas, and a student vote. The deadline for applications to Heads of School is 15th June, with voting to close on 29th June.

Art Gallery

Welcome to our Art Gallery! Art and Photography are very popular subjects at Clyst Vale, and we are proud of the incredibly talented and creative artists that we have within the school. During lockdown this enthusiasm and engagement with the Arts continues to flourish. Please enjoy some of the excellent work that has been posted to the Art team over the last few weeks.....

<http://www.clystvale.org/departments/art-and-design-technology/>

Many thanks to our students, to the Art Department (Mr Brooks, Mrs Pieczenko, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Walton) and to Mrs Voysey for the website work.

Year 7 Eiffel Tower Competition!

This is from Miss McConnachie, so many thanks to her and to all of the students who took part!

“I recently set Year 7 the task of a ‘Build Your Own’ Eiffel Tower competition. I can safely say that every single competition entry was fantastic! It was very hard to whittle it down to just a few winners. A massive well done to everyone who got involved, I have made sure that praise points have been awarded to everyone who sent in a picture! Prizes will be awarded to the winners upon returning to school.

7B winners: Holly King 7RAO, Sylvia Reid 7GAW and Lenny Bolt 7YDS

7R winners: Samuel Cherry 7RAR, Lucy Grabham 7GBA and Isabelle Bradley 7YSP

Special mentions go to: Chloe Hoerning (7RAR), Olivier Krzemien (7RAR), Isaac Hawken (7RAR), Finley Honeywill (7RAO), Louise Maby (7GBA), Otto Moxey-White (7GAW), Samuel Hannaford (7GAW), Eliz Sherifova (7GAW), George Craig (7YSP), Harry Derges (7YSP) and Olivia Woolam (7YDS).”

Photos of the winning entries are on the website scrolling news.....

Devon Family Advice Line

I have been asked by the Exeter Community Initiatives Team to publicise the following, which of course I am happy to do.

ECI will be launching a new phone advice line for parents and carers across Devon on Monday 1 June. The number for the new service is 01392 949059 and it will be manned from 10 – 2pm Monday to Friday. People will be able to leave a message outside of these hours, or when the operators are all busy. It will offer advice on family relationships, including communication issues or conflict with partners or co-parents of their children. It is not a replacement for more targeted work, but offers a place to be heard, advice on how to deal with particular situations, and signposting to other specialist organisations.

To help keep students thinking of school.....

In the summer term, especially when the weather is beautiful, members of staff frequently use these common words and phrases to encourage and motivate your children and reaffirm the values and ethos of the College. So, to help your children mentally visualise being back to normal, put on a stern teacherly voice and use these phrases whenever appropriate.....

- Pick your litter up, please, it's not someone else's job
- Do your shirt up properly and tuck it in
- That skirt is too short
- Aren't you hot in that jumper?
- Don't throw water over [brother/sister]
- No-one wants to see your pants
- You look like a tomato – go and find some shade
- Look at the mess you lot have made
- Have you got suncream?
- (Lunchtime only) Wake up, it's time to go in and do something useful

Very best wishes to you all,



Dr Bawn

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

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



Call Back Offer

Chat with a Youth Worker
by phone or text

Are you 13 or over?
**Would you like to speak to
one of our youth workers via
text or a call-back?**

**All you have to do is fill in this form
Which is also available on our
website:
<https://spacepsm.org/>**



Attendance, Absence and Requests for Absence

DURING THE COLLEGE CLOSURE FOR COVID-19, PLEASE CONTACT THE COLLEGE ON THE CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR HAS ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT ILLNESS WHICH HAS AN IMPACT ON THEIR ABILITY TO LEARN EFFECTIVELY WHILE AT HOME.

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

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



COLLEGE DRESS: WE WILL BE BACK EVENTUALLY !!!

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.thomasmooresmaster.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

