

NEWSLETTER

No. 704
w/c Mon 15 March
Week B

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” Dr Seuss

Reporting of Covid-19 positive test results throughout Lockdown **(including evenings and weekends)**

To report a positive Covid-19 test result during normal school hours, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or email: studentabsence@clystvale.org

If out-of-hours, we have a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends. This isn’t for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, or advice.

07818 212 931

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

Name of student; Tutor group; Dates of 1. When symptoms appeared; 2. Test; 3. Test result

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

Dear parent/carers,

Successful Return

I know that many of you are disappointed that home-schooling is over, but you have hidden it well, and it will be of some relief to you that students have returned incredibly well this week. I have included a little paragraph of statistics below, but this week has been more about emotions and feelings. It was a weird start, but students are resilient; their first experience was arriving at College, then standing in a queue like a theme park. No thrilling ride, but the next bit was eye-watering as they had their LFT. Then a most peculiar half-hour of waiting for the test results sitting in a 2m grid pattern in the Sports Hall. And after that the “normal” timetable from the autumn term, a gradual feeling of normality returning. Yes, friends have stayed in touch through social media and to an extent live lessons, but we humans are social creatures and need to see each other in person. There are always exceptions, and most teenagers would never admit it, but most are at least relieved to be back and many pleased. From my point of view, it’s just brilliant to have the buzz, energy and (up to a point) the noise of a happy, vibrant College once again.

Vital Statistics

There are just 2 students for whom we have no response either way about LFTs (so 99.8% of you have responded – thank you very much indeed !). There are 31 students for whom parents have withheld consent or for whom there are medical reasons why a student cannot be tested (96.4% of students are being tested). Not including today (Friday), 1376 tests have been carried out this week; the busiest day was yesterday, with 395 tests. Since testing began, our team has carried out 3188 tests. There have been no positive results so far.

First day attendance has been excellent: 98% of Year 11 on Monday, 97% of Year 10 on Tuesday, 99% of Year 7 on Wednesday, 99% of Year 8 yesterday, and 96% of Year 9 today.

I imagine that most parents will find these figures reassuring. There are many people behind the statistics to thank, including my colleagues who have been directly involved in testing or supervising students. However, it is fair to say that we simply could not have done what we have done without the selfless generosity of time from our volunteers. 29 fantastic people have helped out this week (and next) which has really shared the burden and released College staff to do their day job from time to time. More on this next week; there's still a week to go and I don't like to tempt Fate. And as always, the unseen work of parents and carers has made a massive contribution to this excellent start, so thank you, too !

Home Testing Kits

After the three tests in school, students move to home-testing twice a week. I apologise for any confusion when I wrote in previous communications that the tests will be posted to you. The government changed its mind on this, so in fact schools will be giving them out to students. After your child has had their third LFT test in school, they will be issued with testing kits of their own. This will be two boxes of three kits each, totalling six. This will precisely cover the weeks until Easter. As students will need a home-test before returning on 20th April after the holiday, we are assuming that more kits will be despatched to be distributed before we break up, but this hasn't been confirmed yet.

	Sixth Form	Year 11	Year 10	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Test 3	Mon 15th	Mon 15th	Tues 16th	Thurs 18th	Fri 19th	Mon 22nd

Also yet to be confirmed is whether parents are expected to report the results of all tests (including voids and negatives) to schools. We must, of course, do our best to follow government guidance and instructions. But one might question the value of creating a parallel system when results should already be being reported to Test & Trace; and I am not convinced that parents will appreciate calls from us twice a week to check why they haven't sent their results in, especially when testing is not compulsory in the first place.

World Book Day Competition

World Book Day is a bit tricky in lockdown...however, Mrs Southard (Librarian) organised a competition for students to redesign a favourite book cover. Many congratulations to Samuel Cowie (Yr 7) and Lewis Voysey (Yr 9) for their entries, which have jointly scooped first prize! Their entries have a lot in common... They both re-imagined a cover for The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins, and both used their computers to create the design - explaining how they did so with some accompanying videos and pictures. In the end, Mrs Southard could not choose between them and so decided to name them as joint winners!

Clyst Vale's Online Art Galleries

There has been a significant amount of new work uploaded to our Online Art Galleries. Very well worth a look, for your own child's work, to appreciate the talent of young people, to see the outcomes of skilful teaching, or just to admire some Art. There is an announcement on the home page of the website, here: <http://www.clystvale.org/>

Ten Tors Cancelled

We heard the disappointing if not surprising news this week that Ten Tors in May has been cancelled. The Army are preparing some on-line or virtual Ten Tors challenges; details to follow in due course.

Sixth Form News

As for Year 11 GCSE students, Sixth Form A, AS and BTec L3 students are still in a state of limbo over grades. Actually, it's not quite as bad as that. We know that teachers will recommend grades, that teachers will base these grades on a range of evidence, that the evidence is not all tests and assessments, and therefore any work done now is of value. We still don't know precisely what the exam boards will require in terms of evidence and won't know until the end of March. There will have to be assessments, but we will not be setting intensive mock exam style weeks and endless weeks of tests. We also know that students are not to be tested on the entirety of their courses, but topics they have been taught. We also know that there will be a bank of exam board questions from which teachers can choose relevant ones. Plus, this week and next has been about getting back to College, getting through the disruption of testing, and re-establishing the routine.

We are aware that some schools have already told Sixth Formers students to start revising everything. There is nothing to stop our students from doing this if they wish. However, we will be following the advice that courses should be rounded off, and NEAs similarly rounded off if near completion. Sixth Formers should focus on NEAs, and make sure notes / revision notes are in order. Then start revising things that they have been taught in school. Our hunch is that the external assessments (which may or may not have more weight attached, we don't know yet) will not be sweeping across the entire syllabus, but more like module or end-of-topic tests with perhaps deeper questions on a narrower range of material. It's worth remembering that this is a national situation, and Sixth Formers in some areas have been taught remotely almost all year, so whatever assessment model is used has to not disadvantage them.

Year 11 and 13's "Last Day".

We still await confirmation from the DfE as to when Year 11 and 13 officially "leave" school. Pre-pandemic, the rites of passage "last day" in school was in the last week before May half-term, the actual last day was the day of their last exam, and the official last day was the final Friday in June. The only fixed date we have at the moment is 18th June, the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, when all exam grades are sent off. Common sense suggests that parents gambling on booking a holiday would be "safe" after 18th June, but there was a lot of talk about Years 11 and 13 staying in school until later than usual in the summer term to address "lost learning". There is some non-educational merit in this, too – if Years 11 and 13 are in school, then they are not in the parks or on beaches socialising and transmitting the virus (although it is light until ten in the evening...). I think this is more "drift" than deliberate government policy, though. There's the hope of significant easing nationally on 21st June. But if anyone asks me the direct question, "when is Year 11/13's last day", the official answer has to be "I don't know, it's still not clear, I would not advise booking anything, and if you go on holiday any absence will be unauthorised which can lead to a fine". (Really? In late June after all your grades have been sent off?).

But it's beginning to seem more like normal, and, with the occasional hiccup such as the gate not opening at 3.20, what could have been a messy, difficult week has gone very well indeed.

Best wishes

Kevin Bawn
Principal



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/Sharon Leaman (Attendance Officers)

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.

CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Sat 13 & Sun 14 March	Ten Tors/DofE Practice Weekend (TBC)
Weds 17 March (TBC)	Deep Learning Day
w/b Mon 22 March	Y10 Exams (TBC)
Tues 23 - Fri 26 March	Y12 Geography Fieldwork Residential (TBC)
Thurs 1st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Tues 20th April	Start of Summer Term
Wed 12th May	Y7 Parents' Evening
Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June	Half Term
Fri 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

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