

NEWSLETTER



No. 549
w/c Tues 2 May 2017
will be Week A

“Everything should be as simple as it is, but not simpler”

Albert Einstein

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 10 Mocks

Several parents have contacted us to query apparently low mock exam grades, which are in many cases lower than target or “likely” grade. They should be reassured that their offspring have not suddenly become less clever overnight, or that teachers have suddenly become incompetent. The most important grade comparison to be made is that between the target and the likely grade (in the second column). The mock grade must be viewed with caution as it is likely to be lower than expectations: this is due to a variety of factors including the new style of exams in most subjects, unfamiliarity with this change, grade boundaries being unclear with different information in different subjects, and the perennial issue that *some* students approach mocks (especially in Year 10 when GCSEs seem a lifetime away) with the attitude that they aren’t the ‘real thing’.

If it helps, we’re not alone. A week or so ago the BBC reported a Maths teacher from County Durham, who said: “We still haven’t got our head around what the grade boundaries are because no-one [exam boards] will provide us with any. So we’re giving them mock exams and then telling them ‘we think that your grade might be a four, or might be a five, or it might be a six, or it could be anything because we don’t know. Compared to last year, the marks are very, very low. You sit down with the kids and you try to make them feel like actually they’re doing well, they’re working hard and ‘I know that last year you would have got a grade B, you’re that kind of student, you would have got a grade B last year. This year I think you’re probably going to get a five but I have no clue’.” The ghost of Mr Gove’s reforms still hovers in the background, and this is the sharp end of it. Under-confident students, frustrated teachers and worried parents. In hindsight, it might have been better if we had not published the mock grades, but kept them for internal purposes only. In the meantime, like schools up and down the country, we will continue to keep abreast of all the latest developments, and do our damndest to make sure your sons and daughters are prepared as well as possible and not disadvantaged in any way. One positive from all this is that students have now experienced what teachers have been saying about the new GCSEs being more demanding, and many will need to work harder.

Sports Award Evening

This is an annual event, but it never loses its charm or positivity. The best sporting students in Years 9-11 are invited; progress and achievement awards are presented; there are half-colours and full colours for older students; and the top award of “Sports Ambassador of the Year” is presented to a student who has performed very well in their sport, generally a range of sports, but also gives selflessly of their time to help other, coach, and/or officiate. In so doing they demonstrate both enthusiasm and commitment, as well as the character education traits of leadership, teamwork, resilience and preparing to try new challenges (curiosity). This year’s winner was Tom Bradner in Year 11, who exemplifies all of the above. The guest of honour was ex-student, now international elite athlete Kelsea Purchall, who gave an excellent and inspiring speech describing how within a couple of years she left Clyst Vale as a rugby player and transformed into a Youth Olympic bronze-medal winning bob-sleighter. It was a really great evening, and my thanks go the PE department for celebrating the achievements and benefits of sport. We do try very hard at CVCC to recognise all types of student, whether they are academic, artistic, dramatic or sporty. Thanks also to the students who turn out for the College teams, as they are great ambassadors for us; and also to parents and carers for the inevitable taxi service which goes with after-school fixtures....

Ten Tors

Still on the general themes of “sport” and “character”, next weekend (6-7 May) will see at least sixteen Clyst Vale students take part in the Ten Tors on Dartmoor. Once again, we have been allocated three team slots, 1 x 45 mile and 2 x 35 mile. There are age limits, so we have “borrowed” a couple of ex-students to make up the 45-mile team; however, both 35-mile teams are Clyst Vale through-and-through, and we are aware of at least two more students who are walking with Exeter Scouts. Ten Tors requires a fair amount of training, and a number of colleagues have helped out, especially with training walks. However, I must particularly acknowledge Mr Eales for his overall coordination and leadership, and the incredible voluntary support provided by ex-CVCC parent and ex-Governor Graeme Robb.

Exam Season

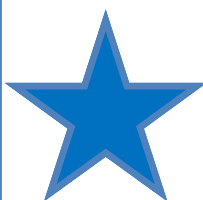
The exam season has started, with Art and Photography Final Piece “exams” this week. So far, so good. Next week there are assessments in GCSE Music and Drama, as well as Year 10’s externally set exams in Science. A fortnight on Monday, we hold the first formal sit-down-in-the-Hall exams. Therefore, the next couple of weeks are extremely important for students in exam years, as revision is going on in every lesson as well as additional lunchtime sessions and some after school. Most students will cope reasonably well, but if you have any concerns whatsoever please contact the relevant AtHoS (Y10-11) or Mrs Barrington (Post-16).

“Fiddle Toys”

These are the latest craze. Hardly any student needs a fiddle toy; there are exceptions, whereby a student may have a special need for which a fiddle toy is beneficial, but most students do not need them. Further, when a child does genuinely need such a toy, they are not likely to spin around or need buttons pushing. Most (genuine) fiddle toys are calming in texture and design. They are not illegal, and in fact are pretty harmless, but far from preventing distractions and helping students learn, they are actually *causing* distractions as they spin and whizz, and students compare them, and knock them off the desk. Therefore, we are assembling a list of students who, for reasons of genuine need, will benefit from a fiddle toy. Otherwise, they should not be brought to school, and hopefully the craze will pass quickly.



Dr Bawn



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



YELLOW SCHOOL	
7YJPU	Emily Atwell
8YME	India Ross
8YMM	Mary Farrant
9YJCO	Laura Goss
9YSP	Tom Raedar
10YMPR	Toby Derges
11YCW	Billy Davey

RED SCHOOL	
7RCM	Jacob Thomas
7RKC	Rhys Smaldon-Welham
8RZB	Aubrey Perkin
9RAR	Jasmine Daniels
10RDH	James Venton
10RGG	Dylan Pengilly

GREEN SCHOOL	
7GIQ	Alfie Woodger
8GPE	Freya Willingham
9GTGA	Aaiden Priest & Ollie Brailsford
10GSW	Ollie Manning

SILVER SCHOOL	
9SLA	Katie Berry
10SNS	Max Lillie
11SDJ	Lewis Hayne
11SSG	Leah Ripley

Ten Tors Challenge 2017

Since last October a group of Year 9, 10 & 12 students have been training hard for this year's Ten Tors Challenge which takes place on Dartmoor on 6th and 7th May 2017. There are just a few days left before departing for Dartmoor and finding out which 35-mile routes the two Year 9 and 10 teams have been allocated and which 45-mile route the Year 12 team has been given. It's the sixth year Clyst Vale has had teams in the Ten Tors event, and we wish all 20 of the students taking part (two are walking with the Exeter Scouts' team) every success on their 35 and 45 mile routes around the hills and tors of Dartmoor. It will be possible to follow their progress around the routes on the Ten Tors website (www.tentors.org.uk/) using our team code which is 1234. Depending on the variable mobile signal on Dartmoor, we also hope to keep our Twitter page @CVCCOutdoors up to date too.

All the Ten Tors training events could not happen without the help and assistance of many volunteers freely giving up their weekends to ensure the students are safe out on the moor in all the varied weather conditions. So a big thank you must go to those who helped this year, in no particular order: Graeme Robb and his daughter Jo, Mr Hewlett, Ms Watt, Miss Crawshay, Miss Barratt, Mrs Manaton, Alex and Simon Sanger-Anderson. We also need to give a big thank you to Year 13 students Amalia and Emma, plus Year 11 student Harry, who have all made big contributions. Many thanks to all of you for your help, we couldn't have done it without you no matter how big or small your contribution, it's most appreciated! Also very many thanks to Cathy/Jamie who helped at the checkpoint, and who also, along with Kevin 'Cas' Mather, ran a mock scrutineering (kit check) session on a Friday night so the students know what to expect on the Friday of the main Ten Tors event.

We would also like to wish all other Clyst Vale students participating in the Ten Tors challenge with other organisations like the Cadets, Explorers and others, every success too. We look forward to seeing many of them around the camp on Friday as they attend the mandatory safety briefings, the scrutineering (kit check), and enjoying the atmosphere before embarking on the challenge at 7am on Saturday morning!



Clyst Vale Public Library

Did you know that there is a public library at Clyst Vale Community College? Part of Devon's Libraries Unlimited, the public is welcome to borrow books and audiobooks, use the internet, reserve items for collection and return books from other public libraries across Devon. There is also a fortnightly Bounce and Rhyme session for parents/guardians and their babies/toddlers. Please call in to the library for more information during the opening hours listed below:

Opening hours:

Monday: 3.30 - 5.30

Wednesday: 3.30 - 5.30

Thursday: 4 - 6

The Public Library is part of the School Library and is located next to Reception. Access can be gained from the main school entrance.

Sarah Foulds
Library Manager

Ski Pila 2019

If your child is interested in being part of the next Ski Trip in 2019 they need to collect a letter from Mrs Woolacott or from the folder outside of the PE office.

Pila is an excellent beginner resort with over 70kms of pistes offering high altitude, snow sure skiing for everyone from complete beginners to those who have previously skied. The price will be **£969.00** which includes the following:

- Travel from College to resort and return journey (luxury 49 seater coach fitted with seat belts), plus ferry, together with use of coach whilst in resort
- Ski lessons (morning and afternoon for six days)
- Hire of skis, boots and poles
- Full area lift pass
- Full insurance (including 24 hour Medicare, ski breakage and snow guarantee)
- Full board accommodation, including hot lunch on the slopes
- Après ski activities, such as ice-skating, tubing, ski test and Presentation Evening
- College Ski hooded sweatshirt

Behaviour and achievement points will be taken into consideration prior to students being accepted on this trip.



SPORTS NEWS

Last weekend, Ollie Manning of 10GSW fenced in a seven county competition as part of the Devon Fencing team. He fenced in the Men's Sabre team, and his contributions helped Devon to win the Excalibur Trophy for the first time in over 50 years. He was one of the youngest competitors, and helped the Men's Sabre to reach its highest place for many years (although I don't know where they were actually placed in the competition).

You will also see pictured below Ollie's elder brother, Finn, who is also part of the Devon squad.

We would like to congratulate Ollie for his magnificent achievement, well done!

Adam Pearce
Head of Green School
Teacher of PE



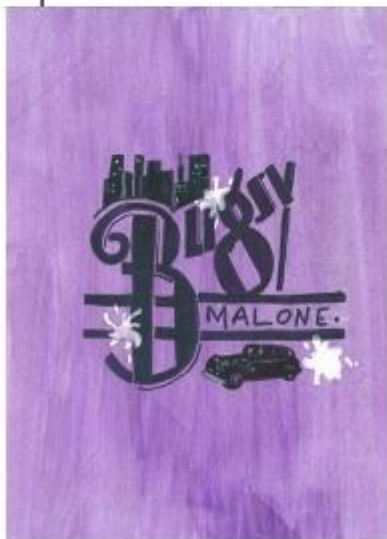
CALENDAR DATES

Mon 1st May	Bank Holiday
Tues 2nd May—Fri 5th May	Y10 Mock Exams
Fri 5th May	Baroness Tavistock visit
Fri 5th May—Sun 7th May	Ten Tors Main Event
Tues 9th May	Y7 Parents' Evening 4.30pm—7.00pm
Wed 10th May	LLC Fun Run
Thurs 11th May	Y12 & Y13—7.00 pm Northcott Theatre (Othello)
W/C Mon 15th May	GCSE Exams start
Thurs 18th May	Y7—Y10 Boys' & Girls' Vaccination Mop Ups
Fri 26th May	Y11 Leavers' assembly and start of study leave
Mon 29th May—Fri 2nd June	Half term
Thurs 8th June	Y8 Parents' Evening 4.30pm—7.00pm
Wed 14th June	Non Feeder Parents' Evening 5.30pm
Thurs 22nd June	Y12 Mock Exams begin
Mon 26th June—Wed 28th June	Y9 Mock Exams
Thurs 29th June	Y11 Prom
Thurs 29th June	DLD
Fri 30th June	Y13 Prom
Mon 3rd July—Tues 4th July	Y10 P16 Taster Sessions
Wed 5th July—Fri 7th July	New Intake Days
Mon 10th, Wed 12th, Thurs 13th & Fri 14th July	Celebration Assemblies
Tues 11th July	Sports Day
Fri 14th July	P16 Taster Days
Sat 15th July—Mon 17th July	Y9 Trip To Ypres
Sun 16th July—Mon 17th July	Borneo Expedition
Mon 17th July—Fri 21st July	Y7 Paris Residential
Mon 17th July—Wed 19th July	Bude Residential
Tues 18th July—Sat 22nd July	Y10, Y11 & Y12 Geography Field Trip to Iceland
Wed 19th July	Y7 & Y9 Woodlands Trip
Fri 21st July	Non-Uniform Day

WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY FROM 3.45-7.00PM IN THE 6TH FORM

CALL TO TEAM BUGSY

ALL THE CAST, CREW AND ORCHESTRA ARE INVITED TO
PARTY... MEXICAN GANGSTER STYLE!!!!



WE ARE HAVING A PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF OUR BRILLIANT BUGSY MALONE PRODUCTION.

THE **THEME IS MEXICAN** SO BRING YOUR PONCHOS AND SOMBREROS AND BE PREPARED TO SHAKE YOUR MARACAS AT OUR FIESTA!!!

FOOD TO BE PROVIDED BY ALL THOSE ATTENDING.

SEE BELOW FOR WHAT TO BRING...

YEAR 7— SWEET THINGS

YEAR 8— MEATY NIBBLES

YEAR 9— DRINKS

YEAR 10— SAVOURY NIBBLES

YEAR 11— VEGGIE NIBBLES

YEAR 12— CAKES

YEAR 13— SANDWICHES

REMEMBER THE THEME IS MEXICAN SO BE IMAGINATIVE!



School Transport

1. Clyst Vale supports the (DCC) Devon County Council's "No Pass No Travel Scheme" that operates on transport to and from this College.
2. Only students who show a valid travel pass to the driver **on every journey** will be allowed to travel. Students must travel on the vehicle indicated on their pass.
3. **Please ensure that your child has their travel pass before they leave home every day.**
4. Please ensure that your child knows what to do in the event they are not allowed to travel or the bus does not arrive (e.g. because of breakdown or traffic conditions or severe weather). College attendance is very important and it is best to be prepared for any of these eventualities.
5. DCC will carry out regular pass checks throughout the year.
6. Drivers are not allowed to carry passengers who cannot show a valid pass.
7. If your child loses their pass during the day they should go to the AtHoS offices to ask for a 10 day temporary pass. Replacement passes cost £5 each and can be ordered online, or by sending a cheque with a replacement form.

Further information is available at: http://www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport

Attendance, Absence and Requests for Absence

You need to let the College know of any absence on the first day it occurs. If you do not notify the College, then your Assistant to Head of School (AtHoS) will contact you to identify the reason for absence. This will help 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.

For Years 7 - 11 Absences

Please contact the relevant AtHoS

Silver School: Julia Knowles (01392 463906; knowlesj@clystvale.org)

Yellow School: Claire Turner (01392 463914; turnerc@clystvale.org)

Green School: Catherine Hellier (01392 463913; hellierc@clystvale.org)

Red School: Pam Grant (01392 463910; grantp@clystvale.org)

For Year 12 - 13 Absences

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington Post-16 PA

Direct line: 01392 462697

(answerphone available)

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 School colour logo.
- Trousers should be plain, black, formal and full length. This means no jeans, leggings, chinos or any trousers with rivets or studs. Trousers must be worn on the waist.
- Skirts should be plain black, and may be worn just above the knee. Skirts must be A-line or straight, but not stretchy or "skater" style.
- Knee length black tailored shorts may be worn in the summer.
- Black sturdy shoes or all black trainers.
- Clyst Vale reversible jacket or other outdoor coat.

All uniform 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.

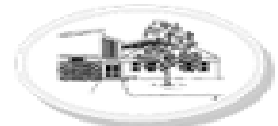
CONTACT INFORMATION

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



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