



NEWSLETTER

No. 717
w/c Mon 5 July 2021
Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land." Warsan Shire

Covid Case

You will have heard separately that we had a positive LFT case in a Year 10 student reported today, and as per the current guidance and (separately) Public Health advice, 59 students have been identified as potential close contacts and asked to self-isolate. Thank you to all parents for their support in this, and to Year 10 students who were just as sensible as in their exams (see below). The student in question has taken a PCR test, result due probably tomorrow. If the result is negative, all students may return on Monday as if nothing has happened. If it is positive, I am afraid that this will mean ten days' self-isolation, ending on Monday 16th July. I will send further communications to Year 10 parents during the weekend.

Year 10 Exams

We've been hugely impressed with the attitude and approach of Year 10 students to their exams this week. Their exam room behaviour has been exemplary, and they have been really mature and sensible. (Some, bless them, have even said "thank you" to the invigilators as they leave after the exam). This includes students who have not had an easy return after lockdown. It's very encouraging, because while students can revise harder if their result is a bit disappointing, it's much harder to revise "attitude" or "character".

Exams Continued

There are two catch-up days on Monday and Tuesday for Year 10 students who missed exams – we know who you are and where we can find you (assuming you're in College, of course)! Today, the Drama and Biology exams had to be cancelled. Until we know what's happening, these exams are pencilled in (not definite) for next Tuesday at 09.10; if large numbers will be self-isolating, we'll need to think again. Also, Year 12 exams take place next Monday to Thursday. These are much later than we would have liked, but were delayed by lockdown and guidance; it is also very important that Year 12 get some exam room experience under their belts: their GCSE were cancelled last summer, so their last experience would have been Year 11 mocks in December 2019 !

Sports Days Excitement

The team selection is nearing completion...the “would it happen, would it not” debate is over...the start date approaches... In direct parallel to the Tokyo Olympics, CVCC sports days will be held on a single year group basis from Monday 12th (Year 7) to Thursday 15th (Year 10). With covid, these are being organised in year group bubbles, and regrettably without much of a crowd or visitors. Still, students will be able to compete, achieve personal bests, and break a College record or two; and it’s 100% better than last year when no sports days were possible at all.

PE Kit/Uniform Reminder

The PE department is doing well managing the changing rooms to ensure good covid hygiene; the move away from the hybrid PE kit uniform has significantly improved College uniform in general. Old habits die hard, though: students who have PE lesson 1 (or even 2) are wearing their PE kit to College “to save time”, but then forgetting to bring a white shirt or trousers. This isn’t all right, and is definitely not our policy this term ! Students should leave home and arrive at College in uniform

Bonnie and Clyde

Much as I love musical theatre, and CVCC musical theatre in particular, I still find myself hesitating in bigging up Bonnie and Clyde so as not to tempt Fate ! The show is in the last week of term, Tuesday 20th to Friday 23rd July. Tickets are on sale. *At the moment* there is reduced capacity due to social distancing, but we are hoping that this will ease with the government’s 19th July announcement. We maintain a very high standard of performing arts, punching well above our weight, and B&C will sustain that tradition and showcase our seemingly endless stream of talented young people.

MediaWatch

There have been several education stories in the press this week and, as I sometimes like to do, I relate the national headlines to the situation here in Clyst Vale.

Testing. I think I’m probably as confused as you are. We DO know that twice-weekly testing should continue until the end of term. In fact, the next lot of kits are being issued today or Monday (depending on tutors). We also know that there is no expectation for students to test throughout the summer holiday. After that, in September, students may be required to self-test before returning to school. Growing as a possibility is the idea that schools will set up mass testing again. Certainly, the latest delivery of test kits are in 20s, with only two phials of testing fluid, which therefore can only be used in a mass-testing methodology. But the DfE has also said that this is a precaution and might not happen. But just in case, plan to set up mass testing again. During the summer holidays. When it takes at least a week. And takes key staff out of their normal roles at the very start of term when they are most badly needed. To do this, we would need to stagger year group returns during the first week back, as we did in March. Hopefully, we will get some clarifications on all this before the end of term, and as always we will do our utmost to make it (whatever “it” is) work to the best possible benefit of the fantastic young people who come to Clyst Vale.

I wrote this before we were told about today's positive LFT result. *"Bubbles. After 14 months of hopelessly being devoted, the government is falling out of love with bubbles (because bubbles mean that 95+% of students isolating are at minimal risk of catching covid, societal risks are arguably lower for covid but higher in terms of well-being, economy, and so on). There is much talk of them being popped for good in September, but not before the end of this term; with covid cases rising daily and the highest rates among younger age groups, one can understand a cautious approach. The situation at Clyst Vale: we definitely would like to end the "four breaks a day" model, so this would be welcomed. However, there have been some benefits of separating year groups in terms of student management, which we would like to maintain if possible. Another thing which might come as a surprise in September is that we will have almost a hundred more students rattling around than we did in March 2020, and all five year groups piling into the Giraffe House will need managing."*

HGV driver shortages risking the provision of school meals. This is affecting us as much as everyone from large chain supermarkets to McDonald's to schools and hospitals. Working with our caterers, we are seeking to carry as much stock as possible and buy as locally as we can. Orders for September will be being placed very early in anticipation of any shortages. Not reported, but connected to driver shortages, is that sometimes deliveries are made considerably later in the day. Parents and students should not be worried, however. There will always be food available, even if menus have to be tweaked. We have a fantastic canteen staff who have battled through ECP, lockdown, KWV, staff shortages, staggered breaks & lunches so will get through this as well !

Mobile phone ban. Like most secondary Heads, I am a bit bewildered by Gavin Williamson's obsession with mobile phones. There are hardly any schools which don't have a ban of some sort already. Anyway, "our" ban is as follows: mobile phones should be switched off and remain in the bottom of bags from entering the school gate until leaving again. The reason we allow them at all is because hundreds of students use public or school transport, many living in villages without public transport, and so it is an aid to safety on the journey to, and especially from, Clyst Vale.

Love Island. Nothing to report. I didn't even watch. It clashed with Switzerland v France in the Euros and, simultaneously, Andy Murray's return to Wimbledon. Life is full of hard decisions.

CIF Bids

Another TLA (three-letter acronym). This is not to do with kitchen cleaning products, but the Condition Improvement Fund. This is a government fund for capital projects too expensive for schools themselves, and grants are awarded through a competitive bidding process. Anyway, the good news is that supported by Taylor Cunninghams. College Manager Ann Hopkins has secured a grant of £730k. This is for rooves, or roofs if you prefer. So, while it is very welcome news, and definitely helps the fabric of the buildings, including the Additional Support conservatory-cum-colander, it's not the sort of glamorous work which will get students excited.

School InTouch Messages Email Address Change

The company which provides our InTouch communication system has changed ownership. The email address which is used to **send** messages to parents and students will change from Monday 5th July at 5pm. Clyst Vale will be migrated to the new email address for all outbound emails and the new email address will appear as the sender address.

It is changing from 8784009@capita-intouch.co.uk to 8784009@sims-communications.co.uk. Please add this new address to your Safe Senders list.

The current InTouch message email address will continue to work for sending messages until the end of July so the address of 8784009@capita-intouch.co.uk can be used until then.

Please continue to use studentabsence@clystvale.org as normal for reporting absence, but any reply email will be sent from the new email address as above - 8784009@sims-communications.co.uk

I'm sure that there are other things I should be mentioning, but it's been a very hectic day today.

Very best wishes, and fingers crossed,

Kevin Bawn

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)

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!

CVCC PE kit

I am delighted to announce the addition of a sports Skort to the PE kit for Clyst Vale Community College. We have chosen a version without the CVCC logo to keep costs down.

<https://www.thomasmooretoymaster.com/product/panelled-sports-skort/>

Pannelled Sports Skort (£9.99-£16.50) - Navy and sky



This is alongside the recent opportunity to purchase plain blue tracksuit bottoms.

The kit that your child can select from at Thomas Moore now includes the following:

Protech Rugby Jersey, Coolmax Socks, CVCC Leggings, CVCC Boys/Girls Polo Shirt, CVCC Cuatro Shorts, Aptus Training Pants (tracksuit bottoms), Pannelled Skort.

Your child's PE class teacher will be happy to advise as to what is best to wear depending on the season and also the age group of the student.

If you feel your family financial circumstances prevent the acquisition of PE kit please contact your child's form tutor or ATHOS.

Mr J Powell
Head of PE

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.

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



CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Mon 05 - Tues 06 July	Y10 Taster Days - Post 16
Thurs 8 - Fri 09 July	New Intake Induction Days - CANCELLED
Mon 12 July 6.00pm - 8.00pm	New Intake Parents' Evening - ONLINE
Mon 12 July Periods 2 & 3	Y7 Sports Day
Tue 13 July Periods 1 & 2	Y8 Sports Day
Wed 14 July Periods 1 & 2	Y9 Sports Day
Thurs 15 July Periods 1 & 2	Y10 Sports Day
Fri 16 & Sat 17 (all day) & Sun 18 July (half day)	School Production Rehearsal
Mon 19 July - Fri 23 July	Y10 and Y12 Work Experience
Mon 19 July - all day (9am - 9pm)	School Production: Technical Rehearsal
Tues 20 July - all day (9am - 4pm)	School Production: Dress Rehearsal
Tue 20 July - Fri 23 July	School Production Evening Performances
Mon 19 - Fri 23 July	Y12 & Y13 Gold D of E Expedition
Fri 23 July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM - NON UNIFORM DAY - WATER AID

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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

Tel: 01392 461407 **Email:** admin@clystvale.org **Web:** www.clystvale.org

Library: 01392 464010

