

# NEWSLETTER

## SONG OF THE WEEK

*“Don’t Stand So Close to Me” [The Police]*

**No. 663**  
**w/c Mon 6 April**  
**will be holiday**

Dear Parents/Carers

### Holiday Greetings

We don’t normally do a Newsletter during the holidays, but as everyone keeps saying, we are in unprecedented times..... I hope this finds you and your families safe, well and managing the “lockdown” in reasonably good spirits. At least we’re not sending any schoolwork, so that’s one bone of contention you don’t have to deal with ! And while the College is closed for both the holiday and the virus, parents and carers can contact us at any time on the central and AtHoS e-mails. You will have received the update for 2<sup>nd</sup> April via our usual messaging service: that has the latest information about the College closure, coronavirus and implications.

### Information Overload.

I don’t know about you, and it probably depends on your job or general media awareness, but I’m feeling bombarded by advice, guidelines and useful links. Not including the Government, I receive several daily detailed and thorough coronavirus updates from different organisations; regular updates from specific organisations; further, there is a huge amount of advice on the internet about the virus itself, coping with self-isolation, mental health, home-schooling and more. Pretty much all of this is accurate, helpful and well-intended information, and I’m criticising none of it, just the volume and to some extent that it’s repetitive. To an extent, I’ve done the same to you in the last 2-3 weeks; so going forward I intend to produce updates on the website every two or three days, not daily; will only message these to you if there is a significant change which many parents and carers need to know urgently; and narrow communications about ECP and free school meals to the and FSM group of parents respectively with brief, summary information for all through normal channels of communication. As I said, parents and carers can contact us by e-mail at any time, and we would be glad to hear from you.

### Some Useful Links

All that said, we in schools do have a role in filtering through this deluge of information, and signposting students and parents to organisations which we know are established and trusted. Please also refer to the covid-19 page on the CVCC website.

This link to Government guidance is very useful, and contains further reputable links in section 6.3:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust have developed a Coronavirus fact sheet for children: [Information for children](#), and an [animation](#) to go with it. (Recommended by Devon County Council)

Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children

both online and offline. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Advice on talking to children about coronavirus. Particularly good for children: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stresspanic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

This is aimed more at parents: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics>

Kooth provides a safe and secure means of accessing mental health and wellbeing support designed specifically for young people. [www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com)

### **Do not use Zoom on the College system.....**

.....and think carefully about using it on your own system, too. The product is very insecure, easily hacked, uses personal details, and I have advised my colleagues not to use it for meetings with students under any circumstances. There is a helpful and more detailed explanation of the issues from the Evening Standard:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/tech/zoom-app-safety-privacy-settings-porn-hack-a4404006.html>

### **Meanwhile, in Greece**

We had a wonderful random e-mail from Iain Burns, who is a photojournalist based in Sidmouth. It reads..... “ I have just been photographing in Moria camp, Lesbos, and to my surprise I saw a guy wearing a sweatshirt with Clyst Vale Community College on it. I’m a photojournalist covering refugee migration and their stories. It made me smile to see your support as I am from Sidmouth and have actually in my time photographed several pupils from your College. Anyway, well done. I explained to Abdul from Kabul, Afghanistan, about the College and we laughed at the co-incidence. There are a lot of Afghani refugees in Moria, it’s a terrible place to end up!”. The donation of clothes and other equipment dates back perhaps four years, when the Amnesty Group organised a Refugee Awareness Day and other activities, including donations of clothes and other items. It’s fantastic that our donations got there and are still making a difference, but it’s also pause for thought. Not much social distancing and good hygiene practices in a refugee camp.

### **Meanwhile, in China**

This is from a teacher in China, and is both heartening and good advice

“We are just finishing our 7th week of E-Learning, seven weeks of being mainly housebound and seven weeks of uncertainty. We are healthy, we are happy, and we are humbled.

We are allowed to move around freely now. You get your temperature taken everywhere, and it's just become part of the routine. Most restaurants and shopping centres are now open, and life is coming back to our city.

As we watch the rest of the world begin their time inside; here are some of my reflections on the last seven weeks:

1. Accept that you have no control over the situation. Let go of any thoughts of trying to plan too much for the next month or two. Things change so fast. Don't be angry and annoyed at the system. Anxiety goes down, and you make the best of the situation - whatever that might be for you. Accept that this is what it is and things will get easier.
2. Try not to listen to/read/watch too much media. It WILL drive you crazy. There is a thing as too much!
3. The sense of community I have felt during this time is incredible. I could choose who I wanted to spend my energy on - who I wanted to call, message and connect with and found the quality of my relationships has improved.

4. Appreciate this enforced downtime. When do you ever have time like this? I will miss it when we go back to the fast-paced speed of the 'real world'.
5. Time goes fast. I still haven't picked up the ukelele I planned to learn, and there are box set TV shows I haven't watched yet.
6. As a teacher, the relationships I have built with my students have only continued to grow. I have loved seeing how independent they are; filming themselves to respond to tasks while also learning essential life skills such as balance, risk-taking and problem-solving, that even we as adults are still learning.
7. You learn to appreciate the little things; sunshine through the window, flowers blossoming and being able to enjoy a coffee in a cafe.

To those just beginning this journey, you will get through it. Listen to what you are told, follow the rules and look out for each other. There is light at the end of the tunnel.”

### **In Next Week's Edition**

...there will be a remote learning special, just in time for the new term. I've had a few queries and suggestions from parents which I'll address. I shall also try to pick my way through the tons of advice about "home-schooling".

...we should have more clarity on the Government's plans for GCSE, vocational and A-level grades

Best wishes,



**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](http://www.devon.gov.uk/childprotection)

## **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](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org)

### **For Year 12 - 13 Absences**

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: [barringtonj@clystvale.org](mailto: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

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](http://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](mailto:admin@clystvale.org) **Web:** [www.clystvale.org](http://www.clystvale.org)

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

