



NEWSLETTER

No. 676
w/c Mon 06 July
Week B

SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK

DEDICATED TO MY FELLOW HEADTEACHERS

"Wake Me Up When September Ends" [Green Day]

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday's Big Announcement (and Guidance)

So, in terms of planning for September, we know where we are. I believe that students returning is the right thing to do, and in terms of risk, for young people Covid is a far lower risk than the mental health and physical challenges of further lockdown, and the long-term impact of these challenges. However, as I suspected, the only way to get whole schools back in September is to pretty much get rid of social distancing in classrooms, and certainly dispense with any strict 1-metre or 2-metre rules. There are also a lot of contradictions in the guidance which will need compromises: for example, offering a full curriculum including art or drama when students have to sit in rows facing forward.... and we already know that contact sports and singing are banned (this would be really tough on rugby-playing schools with choirs, so no surprise that this isn't a measure in Wales...). It's a bit soon to have worked out all of the details and implications, so forgive me. There are even greater challenges regarding the basics of break and lunchtime, keeping bubbles apart, supervision, hand-hygiene and good old school and public transport (the guidance says face coverings on one, but not the other, although it could be required on the other, it depends). And students in Year group bubbles mustn't mix with other bubbles, except presumably on the school bus, or if they are siblings, but it's ok for teachers to go from group to group to group because 2m social distancing works for them like an invisible force shield. We'll figure it out. It'll be fine.

We're expected to produce risk assessments by the end of term, which means that we have to have worked out quite a lot of the detail by a week on Friday. I shall do my best. One idea I had, which I won't suggest to the government, is that if the entire College became one giant bubble, then we wouldn't have to worry so much about all the details.... More seriously, I am concerned that even with all of our best endeavours, and the experience of ECP and wider re-opening under our belt, parents may still have concerns about safety. I am also concerned that in all this, my colleagues (and colleagues nationwide) are receiving very little consideration regarding our health: yes, we are at no greater risk than any other profession, but what if the age profile is on the old side (as in our case)? What about BAME colleagues? Colleagues who have been shielding since 23rd March? I will also be discussing with colleagues and Governors the issue of fining parents for non-attendance in September, as I'm not very comfortable with that, either. We'll be back in September (unless there are further lockdowns), and I am confident that we will do a brilliant job in coping with these challenges, making the site as safe as possible, and getting students back on track. As for the detail, watch this space over the next couple of weeks!

This link is to guidance for parents and carers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

This link is “The Guidance” for early years, schools and further education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

This Week’s Other News

Throughout lockdown I have tried to inject a bit of humour into these Newsletters, but I sometimes worry that lockdown hasn’t been funny for some Clyst Vale families. Flybe went into administration before lockdown, with knock on effects to the Airport and supply chain, and this week thousands of jobs have been lost nationally. While some of these national names are on our local high streets, Exeter and Devon has a very high proportion of SMEs (small and medium size enterprises) and we don’t get to hear about job losses of two or three people. Clyst Vale parents have been furloughed, made redundant, lost income, are worried about future employment. As a school, obviously we can’t do much about this in terms of providing jobs or money, but we can be aware and sensitive in supporting children from families who are under these pressures, as inevitably family worries cause children worries, too. Please contact us if you think your child is struggling and we might be able to help in some way.

Assignment Summary (Microsoft Teams)

I won’t repeat my letter of Monday, except to say again that I’m sorry for any upset or family disagreements this might have caused. I’ve never claimed CVCC is perfect, but at least we always operate in good faith, admit mistakes, apologise, and try to do better next time.

Assignment Summary is a new feature, so there’s currently very little flexibility for the way in which the system operates. If teachers set Assignments that don’t require any returns, these will show to parents as being uncompleted or late. Despite these limits we believe that weekly parental updates are valuable. Parents like them (when they’re accurate). Students like their work set as assignments because it aids their view of the work they need to tackle. We have issued detailed guidance to staff so Sunday’s Assignment Summary should not show a lot of uncompleted work, and the day should be a lot more peaceful.

Tricky Transition Dilemma

We are not allowed to hold any Transition visits for Year 6 pupils; not even one day, and we usually hold three. Some local schools have traditionally had the new Year 7 in on their own or with just one other year group on the first day of term. We have never done this. I can imagine that the suggestion would go down well with Year 6-7 parents, as going to high school is a big deal. On the other hand, parents of next year’s Years 8 to 11 might feel that having missed three months, and having had a seven week summer holiday, the return to school is delayed by another day. So, we will all start on Monday 5th September, and will keep Year 7 in a protective, er, bubble. In the meantime, transition packs and virtual welcome videos are being sent out, and Transition Coordinator Miss Matthews is visiting Year 6 pupils in their Primary Schools.

Results Days

These are also tricky, for different reasons. The dates are fixed as Thursday 13th (A-level) and Thursday 20th August (GCSE), but our normal method of distribution of Post-16 won’t work due to social distancing requirements. We are aware that some schools will be doing everything by e-mail, which is a possibility, but that is not really Clyst Vale’s style, and we think that students and parents would appreciate more personal contact; also, while we know that exams will be held in the autumn (below) we still await guidance on how appeals should work. We may well offer parents/students a choice of e-mail or collection. We will confirm details or at least the plan by the end of term at the absolute latest.

Autumn Exams

In another announcement earlier this week, it was confirmed that Exam Boards will be required to offer a full set of exams in all subjects; however, “NEAs” (coursework) will not be considered except in Art. [The way this was reported made me so cross I complained to the BBC: “Students will be able to take exams in the Autumn if they are not happy with the grades awarded by their teachers”. Teachers have predicted grades and a rank order which will be calibrated by a complex algorithm and the grades, as usual, will be awarded by the Exam Boards; it is wholly wrong to suggest that the grade received on Results Day was that predicted by a teacher].

Clearly, this is good news for students who wish to avenge a disappointing grade produced by the Exam Board algorithm. On the other hand, by October (A-levels) and November (GCSE) students will be on their new courses, hopefully be fully engaged with them and perhaps not revise as much as anticipated; life has a habit of moving on. Stop me if you’ve heard this before, but more guidance is expected: a particular issue is schools entering students who have left for these exams. It’s also a logistical issue for schools, running a full exam series at a time when space will be at a premium (pretty bubbles everywhere...), and when the big priority is to settle students into an effective catch-up routine after months out of formal education. It’s not clear who will pay the additional costs; and we haven’t had a refund yet for all those exams which weren’t taken this summer. However, it will be worth it if it provides some hope and opportunity for Year 11 students who had such a difficult end to their year.

Year 11 Leavers’ Project featuring Sound of the Sirens and Surge Lyric Videos

Mentioning Year 11 students.... Thanks to former Clyst Vale student Abbe Martin and Hannah Wood (Sound of the Sirens), parent Kari Brooks and Mr Bailey, an exciting partnership has been developed just for Year 11 to recognise the very different departure they had this year. Video production has been provided by Surge Videos. The project was set up to show Year 11 how much their sacrifices and hard work in 2020 has been appreciated. The end of Year 11 was abrupt and emotional, and Year 11 deserved something special. Sound of the Sirens have written and donated a song written especially for Clyst Vale Year 11, and Surge Lyric Videos are working hard to create a bespoke accompanying video just for you. Abbe and Hannah’s song is based on the themes of ‘New Beginnings’ and ‘You Can Be Anything’ and the music video by Surge will feature Year 11 students’ contributions to form what we hope will be an amazing memory for you to keep. So, Year 11, please use the bespoke email address:- year11song@clystvale.org – by Saturday 11th July - to help make the music video the best it can be. Please submit a photo, image, picture, stick figure, representation of yourself to include in the video – it would be great to include everyone in Year 11 so please do send something in! And/or an interpretation of the theme of ‘New Beginnings, Dreams and Ambitions or You can be Anything’ – this could be a poem, a written memory, a photo, a picture, a drawing, sculpture, film, dance ... So get creative and inspired – it can be either a still image or a very short film of up to 6 seconds! (There will be three small awards made for: the most creative, the most humorous and the most inspiring artworks sent in!). The intention is that the song and video will be sent to all students before the end of the school term as a special memory for years to come.

2021 Exams

Year 10 and 12 students are picking up on rumours and headlines (and who can blame them? We all would like to know what’s going on). At the moment the position is no change, a full set of GCSEs and A-levels next May and June. BUT, there is a consultation just sent out by Ofqual asking whether some exams could be dropped or made optional in some subjects. This is a consultation, and is not definite. Similarly, there has been much talk about pushing exams back a month to give some extra teaching time. This seems quite a good idea, but again it is not definite. The good news is that the powers-that-be are now thinking about next summer’s exams, and we should have some clarity by the time we return in September.

The Last Week of Term

Year 10 students in College this week report that lockdown and remote learning are very tiring (possibly explains why many of them are still in bed at 10.00 am or even later...). They were wondering what was happening to lessons in the last week of term, normally interrupted by trips, visits, Big Day Out, Big Day In, fun lessons and quizzes, and the occasional DVD. I am sure it has been tiring, but students have been out of school for three months, and are just about to have a seven week holiday; so I am expecting my colleagues to set lessons as normal. If some of these lessons are unusual, or fun, especially for Years 7 and 8, then so be it!

Government Guidance for Parents and Carers about Mental Health and Well-being

Credit where it's due: this is helpful and useful guidance, although perhaps a bit general, collating many good points and advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Exeter Community Initiatives

Another useful and local support organisation is that of Exeter Community Initiatives. Their website is <https://familyresource.eci.org.uk/services/>.

Of particular note is their Devon Family Advice Line on 01392 949059, providing help for parents who are struggling with their partner, children, or who need someone to talk to, or need to be pointed in the direction of more specialist help.

It's Super Saturday tomorrow. Whether you're back at work for the first time in a while grappling with all the rules and regs, or braving the hairdresser or a meal out, I hope it goes very well.



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

Year 9 Students

If you have taken an option for **GCSE PE, BTEC Sport or Dance** you will have received an email this week from the school about Polo shirts. You have an exciting opportunity to purchase a polo shirt which you can wear for your subject. In the letter it will state all the details and you can purchase them from School Gateway. Your child will be able to have their surname on the back of their shirts and wear their polo shirts with pride whilst they perform in their subject. Sizes and details are all on the letter and the deadline for payment is the **Wednesday 15th July**, so we hope to them have ready when we do meet as a class in September.

Mrs Broomfield

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

