

NEWSLETTER

No. 713
w/c Mon 7 June 2021
Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"The greatest nations are defined by how they treat their weakest inhabitants." Jorge Ramos

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid reminders during half-term.

Please keep up the twice-a-week testing and report the results to TestRegister and the NHS. If you or a member of your household receives a positive test result, please text 07818 212931 with the date of the test, the result, and any symptoms.

Reminders for June 7th!

It will be Week A. No "PE Kit" uniform, please. Year 10 switch to late breaks. Year 9 breaks area will be the Giraffe House. Masks still compulsory on public and school transport.

Laughter and Tears

- The big event of the week was the departure of Year 13 and Year 11. There isn't any "study leave" per se, but students have been sent various activities and suggestions, and for Year 11s going to Exeter College their Flying Start programme is especially useful.
- It was good to be able to have a "leaver's event" for Year 11. Last year the abruptness of lockdown meant that none of these rites of passage were possible, and they are really, really important to students. Everyone's different of course, but it is valuable life experience to go through these turning points, events, changes and transitions. It is an emotional day: students who live in the same village are hugging each other as if one is emigrating to Australia when they know they'll see each other the next day. (We didn't stop the hugging. Hopefully the hoodies acted as a barrier...). I liked this Year 11 a lot, and even the rogues had a certain charm. There are many, many fantastic students in this year group, and I am very confident that they will be a real credit to families and Clyst Vale in the future. They have been badly hit by covid, losing over two full terms of teaching, but also have not had the same opportunities for all the extra stuff which makes school enriching and stimulating. I think Year 11 as a whole have shown tremendous resilience and maturity throughout the last couple of years; the general attitude and approach from the 8th March return was brilliant. Of course, parents will have contributed greatly to this, as did we here in College. But yesterday was about the students; they actually lived the experience of the last two years; they have made us proud and can hold their heads high. I really hope the Prom, results day (12th August from 09.00) and November's Celebration Evening can go ahead as planned to complete all of the stages of the rites of passage.

Sixth Form News

- We said goodbye to Year 13 yesterday in an informal assembly with Miss Haynes, the tutor team, fizzy (non-alcoholic) drinks, a video, and the obligatory cake! All of my comments above about Year 11 apply equally, although there are far fewer rogues in the Sixth Form! We wish them every success for their futures.
- A-level and Level 3 BTEC results day will be on 10th August 2021, from 09.00. We are very hopeful that we will hold this at Clyst Vale, and not require a covid alternative! It would be much appreciated if students take an LFT on the morning of results day.
- We also said goodbye to Elena B, Elena D, and Stella, foreign students from Austria and Germany who were here for the term. They were in the UK as part of the Whitehouse Guardianship scheme which offers placements for EU students. We gain a lot from this partnership; it benefits the students themselves, but also helps to broaden CVCC students' horizons: teenagers around the world have much in common, but the cultural differences are really interesting and good to compare. In the past, students have stayed for a year or more; sadly, this length of stay which allows the young people to gain English qualifications will be a casualty of Brexit although shorter stays can continue.
- Year 11 students have received invitations to the Sixth Form taster day on 21st June. The programme in outline is a "meet and greet" followed by taster lessons arranged according to the option blocks. A LFT on the night before or morning would similarly be good.
- Year 12 exams will be held from 5th to 7th July. This seems quite intensive, but students will have just one exam per subject. We are very aware that Year 12 students missed out completely on GCSEs last summer, so it is very important that they have this experience.
- The BTEC Performing Arts students (Years 12 and 13) performed their composition pieces yesterday evening. Brilliant, thoroughly enjoyed it.
- The last week of term is looking exciting for Year 12, what with the production of Bonnie & Clyde at the Barnfield (fingers crossed), Duke of Edinburgh expedition, and work experience.

Student Voice

- This has been affected by covid, largely because we cannot assemble groups of students across different years in the same place. (Other than on a bus, he said with irony). This is a shame, because student opinions on College life improve matters, help students understand why some things aren't possible (mainly because of money – every parent of a teenager understands this), and are a key element of Rights Respecting School (articles 12, and also 13 and 15 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child).
- However, Head Boys and Girls supported by Tutor Captains have kept student voice alive, and more than that have raised issues and questions throughout the past year. As they are leaving, I would like to single out the Head Girls and Boys, ie, Lara, Lara. Martha, Adam, Robin and Tom for thanks and praise. It has been a pleasure to meet them regularly, they have done extremely well to maintain the School Councils through Teams, and my only frustration is that they have not had the chance to develop student voice from where it was left in March 2019, because they would have been a brilliant group to do this.

Grade Process: Update

- Today was our additional occasional day for moderation, and a very big thank you to parents for understanding the need. Students completed their "AAMs" last week or this, and the evidence of their work has been collated. Today, teachers are awarding grades to the folders as a whole, using grade descriptions provided by JCQ, the exam boards overseer. Folders are moderated in each qualification to ensure fairness and consistency. After half-term, there is a further round of scrutiny against the "historic performance" (ie past results) of the College, and to provide a general check of consistency across and between subject qualifications. Grades will be submitted to the exam boards on or before 18th June. After that, the exam boards will request samples of folders from a sample of subject qualifications.
- We still do not have the final guidance on appeals. This has been delayed by the powers-that-be until after half-term; it had been anticipated this week. This is irritating and not helpful, but I'm too tired to get worked up about it, and appeals don't happen for another three months.

NSSW Year 9 Articulatory Course

- It is a real pleasure to let you know that we have hosted a very successful articulatory course with a group of Year 9 students. The selected students have been involved in a weeklong workshop which culminated in an assessment on the Friday. Students were expected to learn and recite poetry and complete a verbal presentation in front of an external assessor from the English-Speaking Board. It was amazing to see just how much they changed and developed throughout the week and what brilliant presentations they produced about a wide variety of topics.
- Huge congratulation to Lily B, Lily K, Erin, Freddie, Patrick, James, Killian, Riley, Ethan, and Daniel. Some quotes from the students....
 - ⇒ *The Articulatory course will help me in the future because it helped me answer questions in full detail and will help me when I need to do job interviews and speak in front of large groups of people'. Erin*
 - ⇒ *'I enjoyed articulatory because it helped me to feel more confident when speaking and made me feel I could read in front of the class. It was a really fun way to gain in confidence and I feel I can read more fluently in front of an audience'. Lily K*
 - ⇒ *'During the course I learnt to believe in myself and be more confident in what I was saying'. Lily B*
 - ⇒ *'I completed a presentation about my favourite sport, rugby and I chose an exciting poem about a shark to recite'. Freddie*
- Students will be receiving their grades and qualification certificates in due course. This course is a brilliant first step on developing their articulatory skills for their GCSE courses and beyond into the world of work. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the superb organisation and coordination by Mrs Bennett and Miss Knowles.

Inspiring Girls Project

- Again led by Mrs Bennett and Miss Knowles, we were also pleased to have been selected to be involved in the 'inspiring girls' project. This was designed to raise aspirations, develop employability skills and give a small group of students the opportunity to work with a mentor from the local area. Despite the Covid restrictions and lockdowns we have completed the programme with our group of 3 students- Sophie, Freya, and Natalie.
- The students completed a one day long online articulatory course and had mentoring sessions with local businesswomen. These sessions involved students considering their strengths and weaknesses, considering their future career paths, developing communication skills, developing confidence, and increasing their knowledge and understanding of the world of work. The students were very impressive and well motivated, helped enormously by their high quality mentors who put a lot of time and effort in working with the three students.
- The mentors were - Charlotte Rook of Software Resolved, Charlotte Halliday from Devon County Council, and Sue McQueenie from McQueenie Mulholland.

Year 10 Work Experience (19th- 23rd July)

- Thank you to all the parents and carers who have submitted their work experience forms. The number of local businesses who have committed to take our students and have been able to support our programme this year has been a pleasant surprise after all the covid uncertainty.
- Unfortunately, we are now unable to take any further applications due to the time frame required for health and safety checks. This means that all students who have not secured a placement will be remaining in school during the last week of school.
- Students who have secured placements will be expected to complete the paperwork required when the health and safety checks have been processed, so please expect students to bring home forms after half-term!

Athletics Club

- From Mr Powell: "You will have noticed with some frustration that we have struggled to run our very successful athletics club this half term. Initially Covid restrictions limited afterschool participation in non-educational activities. Since then we have had a succession of wet afternoons and this week I have been without a number of key PE staff and trainee PE teaching staff. Without them the activities cannot run as safely as is needed.
We will return after half term and just to remind students that the club is free, you do not need to sign up. Simply come up to the field after 3.20 and put your bags and coats in the area assigned for your year group. Then enjoy an hour of running, jumping and throwing with your friends under the guidance of the CVCC PE team!"

Staff Changes

Just one change to report: Chris Gliddon, cleaner, is leaving for a promotion to a cleaning supervisory/caretaking role at an Exeter High School. This gives me an opportunity to thank all of our cleaning and site colleagues who have played an essential role over the past year or so. "Enhanced cleaning" is one of the key covid protections, and this team has made a big contribution to keeping us all safe.

Looking Ahead

- After half-term there will be seven weeks until the Summer Holiday. It's going to be quite a busy time, obviously much busier than a year ago but probably not as busy as summer 2019. Clearly, we await the announcements about restrictions easing from 21st June and more directly important to us, how guidance for schools will change. Even if one or two things are affected, it'll still be busy. Year 10 and 12 have exams, and have been given topic lists if they wish to use half-term for early revision. There are TPRs for all year groups. We're running our first Deep Learning Day for 18 months (for new parents, this is a timetable collapse day in which Year groups follow a theme or activity in depth for a whole day). There are spoken English endorsements for Year 10. Sixth form taster days for Year 10 (they are having a busy time...) and for Year 11. Although we can't have the normal Sports Day extravaganza, students will have year/bubble-based days and a chance to win things, set personal bests and contribute points for the Schools' Trophy. As noted, there will be work experience, and Duke of Edinburgh. Year 10 will have Geography fieldwork. The annual production Bonnie & Clyde will take place at the end of term; regular readers of this esteemed publication may be surprised that I haven't gone on and on about this like I normally do – it's because I don't want to tempt Fate by mentioning it too much.

We have managed as well as any school so far, and will continue to do so. There are exceptions, but students have coped brilliantly. Parental support remains very high. My colleagues are absolutely exhausted by the demands of the exam grading requirements and procedures, and I cannot praise them highly enough. My sense (and hope) is that everything will feel a little easier in June; however, this has its own risks, and we will be vigilant in maintaining our standards and above all values of respect, participate and learn.

In the meantime, every best wish for the half-term week to you and your families, especially extended families if you have not seen them for ages.

Kevin Bawn
Principal



Evenings, weekends and holidays– 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

(At all other times, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or e-mail: studentabsence@clystvale.org)

The number is: **07818 212 931**

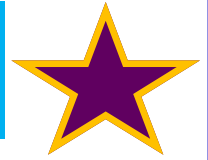
It is not for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, and is not an advice line. Please text positive Covid-19 test result information to this number, including:

- 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!



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



GREEN SCHOOL

8GBA Archie Jameson
9GSW Ethan Lovegrove

RED SCHOOL

7RHPI Ava Martin
7RZB George Russell

YELLOW SCHOOL

7YPN Callum Smith-Watt
8YSP Jack Spurrier

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 31 May - Fri 4 June	Half Term
Sat 12 - Monday 14 June	Silver DofE Event
Tues 15 - Thurs 17 June	AS Geography Fieldwork
Thurs 17 June 6.00pm - 7.30pm	Y6 Non-Feeder Schools' Evening (TBC)
Fri 18 June	Deadline for Grades to Exam Boards
Tues 22 June	Deep Learning Day
Thurs 24 & Fri 25 June	Y10 Geography Fieldwork
Fri 25 June 6pm - 11pm	Y11 School Prom
Thurs 01—03 July	Gold DofE Practice Y12 & Y13
Weds 07 - Fri 09 July	New Intake Induction Days
Mon 12 July 6.00pm—8.00pm	New Intake Parent's Evening
Mon 12—13 July	Y10 Taster Days—Post16
Weds 14 July	Sports Day
Thurs 15 July	Sports Day (reserve date)
Fri 16 & Sat 17 (all day) & Sun 18 July (half day)	School Production Technical Rehearsal
19 July—23 July	Gold DofE Expedition
19 July—23 July	Y10 and Y12 Work Experience
20 July—23 July	School Production Performance
Fri 23 July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM - NON UNIFORM DAY—WATER AID

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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EX5 3AJ

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

Library: 01392 464010

