

NEWSLETTER

No. 703
w/c Mon 8 March
Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr Seuss

Reporting of Covid-19 positive test results throughout Lockdown (including evenings and weekends)

To report a positive Covid-19 test result during normal school hours, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or email: studentabsence@clystvale.org

If out-of-hours, we have a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends. This isn't for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, or advice.

07818 212 931

We would prefer you to text positive Covid-19 test result information to this number, including:

Name of student; Tutor group; Dates of 1. When symptoms appeared; 2. Test; 3. Test result

If necessary, someone will contact you having received this information. Thank you!

Dear Parents and Carers

Communications

There have been several communications this week in preparation for next. Too much information can be almost as bad as too little, but I hope that what has been provided covers all of your questions. Someone more clever than me once said that in a crisis it is better to communicate twice than not at all, which cheered me up a bit. Here is a checklist....

- Last Friday I sent out a letter about the return to College, and the Newsletter.
- On Tuesday the weekly CV&CC Update was put up on the website.
- On Wednesday, I wrote to Year 7 parents to say that the Parents Evening has been postponed from 11th March to 12th May.
- Yesterday a letter went to all parents with a further clarification about next week.
- Also yesterday, I wrote to parents of KWV students about what changes and what stays the same next week.

- Today there is an audio powerpoint in AllStudents Team about the “testing route” for the first day back, and a useful YouTube clip about the test itself (from Durham University).
- And today it is the Newsletter... ☺. AT least all the communications mean I have less to write about in the Newsletter, so it’s the shortest for a while...

Testing Consent

We have had consent from parents of 840 students; withheld consent from 32; verbal consent with forms pending from 7; and still await 68 responses. Thank you very much indeed to the 879 ! If you are one of the 68, you will find a NEW and SHORTENED Covid consent form on the Covid-19 page of the website, where you will also find the privacy notice. The link is <http://www.clystvale.org/c19/> We will also be phoning parents of students for whom we have no response because we need to know one way or the other, and can help complete forms if that is an issue. If parents are content for them to be tested in College, we need to know as we will not test any student for whom there is no consent.

Testing Team and Volunteers

We will find out on Monday how successful all our preparations have been ! We are running seven testing bays on most days, and this would simply not be possible without the generosity of time from our intrepid volunteers, drawn from parents, relatives, friends of the College and exam invigilators. A huge thank you to all of them. We still have some gaps in the rota (which continues until the morning of 22nd May), and a volunteer releases a member of our staff to do their “proper” day job. If you think you might be able to help, it’s not too late to contact hopkinsa@clystvale.org (The team has now conducted 1812 tests in total, so parents can be reassured that they are now quite experienced; no positive results).

Mr Grumpy says...

Listening to the media, anyone would think lockdown is over. It is not. Schools are going back, I am sure that a proportion of parents are delighted that home-schooling has ended, but it is the first step of lockdown easing (and some people think it’s a bit early). It is not the end of lockdown, the end of term, or the start of a holiday. We are still in a pandemic, with lots of regulations in force, the pubs are still shut, and while the vaccination roll-out is a truly wonderful achievement it is suggesting a false impression that things are fine now. A school is a public building, and we are expected to enforce the regulations. Children and the workforce have to be safe. So, once again, I am asking parents to help us manage expectations. I would hope children are excited and happy about returning, and I will be so pleased to see them, but they still have to remember to wear masks at all times, hand sanitise every lesson, stand 2m away from any member of staff and ideally each other (although we all know that isn’t possible in many places), don’t shut windows and wear plenty of layers if it’s cold.

Mr Grumpy continues...

the core purpose of a school is to educate young people, and the aim next week is to settle students back into the routine to do this. Clearly, returning to school is a big change and exciting, and next week in particular is significantly disrupted by LFTesting. However, we are actually in the middle of a term, and we want to make the transition from home learning to classroom learning as fuss-free as we can. For students still at home next week (Year 9 have the longest wait, until Friday) I have asked my colleagues to continue to teach the best lessons possible, and expect students to respond. There will be some allowances made when students return, particularly regarding homework. And as I said after the first lockdown, we are sensitive to students’ emotions and mental well-being; but the single best thing we can do for the majority is to get back as smoothly and quickly as possible to the familiar day-to-day.

Shoes and Uniform and Smartphones

A number of parents have alerted me to the fact that their children have outgrown their school shoes. Under government guidance, shoes are apparently not essential, so shoe shops remain closed. Yes, you can buy shoes on-line, but many parents want a proper measurement done. All we can do is be pragmatic; the best-fitting footwear closest to all black will have to be acceptable. This is not an excuse for “anything goes” for all students, and if bright orange trainers are worn you can expect a phone call.... There should be far fewer problems with uniform which is available on-line. And, another reminder, students should wear the PE kit/uniform hybrid on the days that they have PE on their timetable, starting next Monday. As for smartphones, the 08.50 to 15.20 ban comes into force from Monday 08.50! (KWV students only will be allowed them in their designated areas at break and lunchtime and only for the days they are in KWV; this is to not annoy the majority of students who are not allowed them).

Only at Clyst Vale: International Resc-ewe

On April Fool's Day last year, I made up a story that a number of sheep had wandered into the Giraffe House. Nearly a year later, on Tuesday, a number of sheep staged a pitch invasion at the top of the field from a neighbouring farm. Tragically, a lamb had tangled itself in some netting and died. However, thanks to our premises team and other colleagues, four other lambs were cut free, and are now skipping around happily in the correct field.

Broadclyst Parish

When you hear the word "Broadclyst" you tend to think of the village itself, but the parish area is very big, including Westclyst and Tithebarn. Here, as if you weren't aware, there have been significant housing developments, with thousands of new homes planned eventually. The following DevonLive article gives an excellent overview of this and wider planning issues. Clearly, Clyst Vale is right in the middle of this, and while it is early days we will be following developments closely (literally and metaphorically). https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/small-devon-village-plans-tackle-5042568?utm_source=sharebar&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sh

Thank you for all your support, patience, understanding, praise and good sense over the past couple of months: we will be relying on it next week !

Best wishes,

Kevin Bawn
Principal



Food Practical Work in KS3 (years 7-9)

As we did following the previous lockdown, we are postponing KS3 practical lessons in school for the time being. This is to help ease any concerns students, parents and carers may have regarding transportation of food between home and school, carrying out general practical work in the food room and also allowing time for students to get used to being back in school and working with the new rules regarding masks etc.



We would very much like to encourage students who can, to cook at home and to this end, the relevant practical information (ingredients, picture recipes etc) will be posted on class websites. Please note this will not be set as an assignment, as it is purely voluntary. Any photos sent in are saved and we have already started displaying examples on the notice boards in the food area.

Many thanks for your understanding

Mrs Crook & Mr Krasko

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.

CALENDAR DATES

| DATE | EVENT |
|------------------------|---|
| w/b 08 March | Y11 Core Subject Mock Exams - CANCELLED |
| Sat 13 & Sun 14 March | Ten Tors/DofE Practice Weekend (TBC) |
| Weds 17 March (TBC) | Deep Learning Day (if back in school!) |
| w/b Mon 22 March | Y10 Exams (TBC) |
| Tues 23 - Fri 26 March | Y12 Geography Fieldwork Residential (TBC) |
| Thurs 1st April | Last Day of Spring Term |
| Tues 20th April | Start of Summer Term |
| Wed 12th May | YR7 Parents Evening |
| | Half Term |
| Fri 23rd July | LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM |

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Library: 01392 464010

