



NEWSLETTER

No. 689
w/c Mon 9 November
will be Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts." Dalai Lama

The Essential, Basic Instructions

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test. 3. Anyone you live with in your household, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home from the start of your symptoms until you get your result. 4. (And please contact us as soon as possible !!)
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National Lockdown.

We have been fortunate so far. Local rates have been mostly low, and that's still largely the case. In fact, Exeter and Broadclyst have dropped a little in recent days. However, the issue in the south-west region is less about rates and graphs, more about protecting hospital capacity, especially in ITU. In College, while there have been around 140 covid "incidents" since September, there have been fewer than ten positive tests among household members, none among staff or students. This is due to many factors both within and outside our control; one of these is the good sense and caution of parents in adopting a "better safe than sorry" approach to covid, and – thank you – for excellent, detailed communication. This is even more important now.

As a school, and a responsible one, we must follow the law, and will also follow government guidance as far as our buildings and other local issues permit us to do. The government have rushed out several pieces of guidance this week, recalled and clarified some of it, but as of today we have quite a clear idea of what is expected. There are one or two things on which we still await details. The list of points below is intended to be an up to date summary, and replaces anything in previous guidance until 2nd December at the earliest. This too is even more important now, and thank you again for your support, patience and understanding. If any of it doesn't make sense, please e-mail or phone in.

Starting Point 1:

The Clyst Vale Community. As mentioned above, we are very blessed here to have such brilliant students and supportive families. The level of compliance over face coverings this morning has been good, although I think breaks and lunchtimes will be interesting for a few days, and students have been goodnatured and even humorous, which just makes everything so much easier for everyone. Parental support over covid has been almost universally good, and we don't mind helping families with queries. Who knows what might happen to our little patch of Devon in the next few weeks? Whatever does happen, this good sense, good humour, patience and understanding will need to continue!

Starting Point 2:

"National Lockdown". While we are open, we are also committed to helping others stay at home, reducing unnecessary journeys, and continue to educate and support students and families in such a way as to reinforce these key principles.

Face Coverings.

The starting point is that they should be worn at all times by students and colleagues and visitors. Then, working back, we introduce *exceptions*.

Coverings should not be worn *in lessons*, according to the guidance (although some students need to); nor when eating or drinking. Nor on the field when students can socially distance easily – and are outside. There are some rooms and occasions when members of staff are not required to wear them. The wearing of face coverings is a significant change of mindset for all of us, and my colleagues will be relentlessly cheerful in reminding students to wear them!

Is a visor a face covering? No, *it isn't*.

Disposal of face coverings. Lidded bins, please.

What if my child forgets their face covering? They won't get into trouble unless there is defiance or rudeness. My colleagues will check if students are exempt. We will provide a disposable one. If this becomes a repeated pattern of forgetting, expect us to contact you.

What about exemptions? This is not something the College will decide. You will need to refer to the guidance which is clear that there must be a (significant) age, health or disability reason for exemption. To state the obvious, as well, there will be a minority of students who will need some persuading that a national lockdown is more important than looking cool in school; so mild conditions are not a reason for exemption. We strongly recommend that students who are genuinely exempt wear an appropriate lanyard or badge. If this is a problem, please contact your child's AtHoS.

Designs. Again, I'm stating the obvious, for a very small number of students, but any mask which contains words or images which are offensive in any way will not be permitted, could be confiscated for the day, and a replacement mask issued. Further, some "funny" masks are in fact quite scary to certain students.

Mock exams. We have to balance the covid risks against a whole range of wider risks of not doing or delaying the mocks. The decision is that we will do them as planned, starting 30 November; in the Hall; students to wear masks to their seats, with a recommendation they are removed but not a rule. We will need to review the exact situation in the week before the mocks.

After-school clubs and detentions. Anything which is not “childcare” is not permitted in the guidance, but this is too vague and DfE clarification is awaited on after-school activities. (Being a 2/3 rural school, there is a complicating factor in that any after-school activity creates extra car journeys compared to the students going home as normal, which contradicts one of the main principles of the national lockdown.) Lesson 6s will continue. I am assuming that purely educational activities like revision classes will be permitted, we will retain afterschool detentions unless these are prohibited, but sport, performance or other clubs and enrichment activities will not.

Meetings with individual sets of parents. The starting point will be to do this remotely, or by phone. Again, there will be occasions when face-to-face is needed but we will try to keep these to the absolute minimum. We also request that any face-to-face meeting involves just one parent.

Other visitors to College. The starting point is that this should be discouraged, but we await guidance. We are assuming that health workers and agencies involved with SEND children would be permitted.

Trips and visits. The starting (and end) point is that these cannot run and have to be postponed. This affects Year 13 Fieldwork, and Ten Tors/DofE.

Duration of these tightened restrictions. Up to and including 2nd December, although this **could** be extended by Parliament.

Guidance, for Reference

Schools: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

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

Face coverings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-andprotecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Staff who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable We have a handful of colleagues who meet the definition in the national guidance, and who have been told to work from home. This will have an impact in Maths and Food; further, a colleague in D&T has had a major operation. Where a member of staff is isolating but not signed off ill, they will still be the teacher. They will plan and prepare lessons, and as far as possible mark work, mostly through Teams, and write reports. There will be another teacher physically in the room with the children. We will be using Teams or webcams so that the member of staff at home can “teach” the lesson, answer questions, and guide the teacher in the room. If a member of staff is absent ill, then cover work will be set in the normal way. I mention this because parents should be reassured that this contingency planning is in hand; because there could be teething problems; and because it is another indication that despite our good fortune so far, we are not a special case.

Ventilation

You read it first in the Clyst Vale Newsletter.... (The piece below is from a national news article during half-term). **Schools should consider allowing pupils to wear “additional, suitable indoor items of clothing” during the winter as classrooms get colder because of the need for ventilation, the Department for Education has said.**

The DfE said increased ventilation “may make school buildings cooler than usual over the winter months”“schools may wish to consider allowing additional, suitable indoor items of clothing to be worn during the winter period in addition to the school’s current uniform”. The document states that schools should “always keeping occupied spaces well ventilated”, and that this approach “must be in place in all schools, all the time”“draughts from open windows can be mitigated by moving desks and wearing “warmer clothes”. So, we have to keep the windows and doors open, maybe not completely wide open, think about draughts, and allow students to wear coats if they are cold (and wearing a coat does not cause other safety risks, for example in labs and workshops). But we would far prefer students to wear an extra layer under their uniform. As my mother always said, “you won’t feel the benefit if you keep your coat on indoors”.

Library Corner

1. Overdue Library Books: the shelves are bare. HELP !

We are having great difficulty with students returning library books. Please could you help by asking about this, finding any library books, looking at the date, and reminding your child (if necessary) to hand them in. Students will not get into huge trouble or be shouted at, but we need the books back. Other students want to read them, and we simply cannot afford to buy loads more in. The one way system is less flexible than pre-lockdown, but it is still possible to get to the Library quite easily: students just need to make it their priority for the day. Books can be dropped off at Reception, too.

1a. Other Books from Last Year

Similarly, many students had library books and other subject books before lockdown, and again, we need them back. Similarly, we do not have the funding to just keep replacing them.

2. Clyst Vale Public Library Update During the lockdown period, Devon Library Services are preparing for a Choose and Collect service. This would mean that there will be staff in the building, but no customers. Customers will call ahead and book a collection slot, then pick up their items from a table outside of the Library. DLS are waiting for confirmation from the Government that this service can go ahead

Ogden Trust “Love Physics Photography Competition”

Organised by Mr Pearce, this competition challenged students across Devon to take a photograph that shows ‘everyday physics’. We are delighted to announce that one of our then-Year 8 students received a commendation for his triptych of photographs, showing ‘The Three Stages of Stone Skimming’. He will receive a certificate and voucher from the Ogden Trust in recognition of his commendation. You can find the triptych on the website home page ! Congratulations to Lewis!

The Marquee Mystery...

Why has the “Year 9” Marquee been moved and placed at a jaunty angle? It had a case of bad wind during the storm at the end of half-term, and because of urgency was re-pegged where it ended up.

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn
Principal

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



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



YELLOW SCHOOL

7YEM	Amelia Carthew
7YPN	Jak Gould
8YDS	Darcy White
8YSP	Jessica Anderson
9YNS	Grace Jeffery
10YCW	Kya Godbeer
10YRB	William Back
11YMBR	Sophie Garnsworthy
11YZKH	David Pardew

RED SCHOOL

7RHPI	Holly Walsh
7RZB	Aimeka Mortlock
8RAO	Kian James
8RAR	Isaac Hawken
9RGG	Edie pepper
9RER	Imogen Pearce
10RSS	Luke Jones
10RTMA	Olly Clayton
11RCM	Alisha Newton
11RGK	Emma Gold

Food practical work in KS3 (Years 7-9)

Regretfully, we are having to temporarily suspend food practical lessons over the next few weeks, due to the heightened Covid level and the issues that go with it. We fully intend to restart as soon as we can and, in the meantime, will set practical work as a homework option, as previously.

Thank you to everyone who made such a good start over the last week. We hope you can enjoy cooking at home. and look forward to seeing your photos.

Many thanks

Mrs Alison Crook
Teacher of Food & Nutrition

GREEN SCHOOL

7GABR	Ruby Morris
7GDH	Samuel Cowie
8GAW	Callum Fincham
8GBA	Heidi Morcrette
9GSW	Mickayla Brown
9GNB	Izzy Jackson-Lawson
10GGT	William Drake
10GMN	Lauren Eastwood
11GHE	Adam Muscat
11GIM	Remi Morcrette

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

- 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
Tues 10, Wed 11 & Thurs 12 November	Y13 Geography Data Collection Day Visits
Thurs 12 November	Post-16 Open Evening (online)
Thurs 19 November	Y13 Parents' Evening (virtual)
w/b 30 November - all week	Y11 Mocks
Fri 04 December	Y12 Geography Fieldwork
Sat 05 & Sun 06 December	Ten Tors/Bronze D of E Event
w/b Mon 07 December - all week	Y13 Mocks
Tues 08 December	Y8 Parents' Evening (virtual)
Fri 11 December	Human Rights Day
Sun 13 December	D of E Gold Y12 Dartmoor Day Walk
Weds 16 December 7pm - 9pm (tbc)	Christmas Carol Service, Whimble Church
Fri 18 December	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM St Petrock's - Non-Uniform Day
2021	
Tues 5th January	Start of Spring Term
Fri 12th February	Force Cancer - Non-Uniform Day
Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	Half Term
Thurs 1st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Tues 20th April	Start of Summer Term
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	Half Term
Fri 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM Water Aid - Non-Uniform Day

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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Library: 01392 464010

