



NEWSLETTER

No. 736
w/c Mon 10 January 2022
Week B

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"Reading is important. If you know how to read then the whole world opens up to you"

Barack Obama

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! Here's hoping for a happy, enjoyable, positive, successful, calmer, less worrying and confusing 2022. That said, the term has started much as the last one ended, and once again the Newsletter is dominated by the latest covid information and updates.

Coming Up This Term....

- A full range of lunchtime clubs and activities
- Continuation of Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh Award
- A variety of fixtures, trips and visits (fingers crossed)
- As part of the exam contingency plan, there will be assessments for Year 13 at the end of this month (their scheduled mock exams) and in March, and for Year 11 in mid-March.
- For Year 9 students the Options process will begin shortly, with the Options Evening scheduled for 25th January. Clearly, there is a possibility that this will be virtual.
- In the last week of March (29th to 1st April) the annual show: Legally Blonde, at Exmouth Pavilion. Very excited about this!

Covid Update

- Term started with eight students and no staff isolating. That has increased to twenty-three students and one member of staff currently isolating. This week we also passed an unwelcome milestone of 300 students having had covid since September.
- The mass-testing was overall a huge success, doubly so given the short notice in December, and immediately following two bank holidays and a Sunday! More than 900 students were tested, and all were in lessons by period 3 on Wednesday, meaning that barely two hours' learning was lost and we had avoided the inconvenience to parents of a staggered return to school and lengthened holiday. It wasn't perfect: promised agency testers did not materialise on Tuesday; fewer students than we would have liked were tested on the training day, meaning that queues were longer on the next day, and some students were hanging around for more than an hour; there were one or two individual difficulties. So, it wasn't perfect, but it was a fantastic achievement to get the College functioning fully by breaktime on the first day; many thanks to my colleagues for the testing, to students for their patience, and to those of you who made the extra journey on Tuesday. The testing identified just one positive case.

- There are big changes starting next week which we are told by government will be temporary. Starting on Tuesday, *anyone without covid symptoms* who has a positive LFT does not need a PCR (if they have covid symptoms then a PCR is still required). If they then have two negative LFTs on days six and seven, they can leave self-isolation on day eight (the LFT test counts as day zero). Positive LFT results should be reported to TestRegister and to the gov.uk website.
- In other words, if a student has a positive LFT over the weekend or on Monday, they should get a PCR test. If it's Tuesday, and the student has *no symptoms*, they don't need a PCR test.
- A second big change is an end to the guidance not to take LFT tests within 90 days of testing positive. After a period of isolation ends, students should go back to twice-weekly testing. This change has already happened.
- One day, hopefully during 2022, I will stop writing about masks. Government guidance is that students (unless exempt) should wear masks in class as well as communal areas and between lessons. This will be reviewed for 26th January. We will comply with this guidance. Basically, if a student is indoors they should be wearing a mask unless eating, drinking or doing PE. Although recent reports on the effectiveness of masks have been inconclusive, the national line is clearly that, on balance, they do more good than harm. Further, masks provide reassurance to other people, and like all schools some of our students or their family members have health conditions which means they are anxious when others do not wear masks. It really is hard to cater for both ends of the mask-wearing debate!
- The carbon dioxide monitors have finally arrived, and we will be deploying them from next week to identify the least well-ventilated rooms.
- Otherwise, our approach in College is essentially to tighten up on existing measures and keep reminding those preoccupied teenagers and pre-teens...hand sanitising, wiping desks, standing apart where possible, keeping windows and doors open.
- Please support us by discussing this at home and making sure students have a mask to wear. In fact, we've been really pleased that students are being very responsible about this, both in class and in terms of remembering to wear one – we have given out half the number of masks compared to the week before the holiday.

Vaccination

- You will have received a separate letter sent by us on behalf of the NHS School-Age Immunisation Service (SAIS). The highlights are: 12-15 year olds are now able to have a second jab (no sooner than twelve weeks after their first). SAIS will be coming to schools in the period February to April, but if you wish your child to receive their second jab before then (or indeed their first vaccination) you can book a time or walk-in outside school hours at the Greendale vaccination centre. SAIS will also be continuing to offer immunisation for HPV, DTP, MenACWY and Flu alongside providing Covid-19 vaccinations.

Sixth Form News

- As mentioned above, eyes are becoming focused on the Year 13 mocks later this month, and completion of NEAs (coursework).
- The final UCAS deadline is at the end of this month, too.
- I am pleased to report that Miss Haynes has returned, and has administrative support from Mrs Murch.
- An exciting opportunity for Year 12 students was launched on Wednesday. Former students Lottie Trick and Ayesha Kenan, on top of their day jobs, have set up a social enterprise to match alumni (in their mid 20s) with students in College as a mentor. These mentors cover a wide range of careers. We are delighted to be supporting this initiative, which is in its pilot phase.

Staff News

- Starting this term are Jane Gravell, who joins us as a Teaching Assistant. We also welcome Daniel Thompson as Caterlink's Catering Manager. Just before Christmas Maria Murch joined us to provide admin support in the Sixth Form. As always, we wish them every success in their time at Clyst Vale.
- Last term we were battered by high levels of staff absence. I am pleased to say that we have started this term with only two long-term absences, both support staff colleagues, which has enabled us to make a good start to the term.

Rail Safety

- Network Rail, in partnership with Learn Live, are working to help raise awareness for students across the UK of the dangers of the railways, especially trespassing on the tracks, through interactive digital delivery. As requested, I am pleased to send parents the link to watch the videos (secondary age group) at home; nationally, the videos have been viewed 14 million times.

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/>

<https://learnliveuk.com/i-am-train-safe/>

Online Safety Newsletter

- Christmas is a time when students often receive technological gifts from Santa (and others). We all know that technologies can be incredibly enjoyable, enriching, even educational at times. We also all know that there can be a darker side to technology, especially on-line, and therefore I am pleased to attach the regular, monthly newsletter for parents.

Extreme Weather

- Next week should be average or even mild, but just in case the snows or floods come later this term.... Clyst Vale rarely closes for extreme weather (maybe a dozen days in twenty years). If there is extreme weather, the two reliable sources of information are the College website front page, and (if we do close or part-close to certain year groups) local radio; please do not rely on social media! The “rules” on school transport are that if the buses can get your children to school in the morning, they are contractually obliged to get them home again in the afternoon. This does not apply to Stagecoach, however.

Strangers

- This morning before school started, two men were behaving oddly, in a possibly drunken way, just outside the College entrance where the phone box used to be. The good news is that they seem to have been “passing through” not hanging around, and made no attempt to interact with any students or come on to the site. We have reported this to the Police, with details thanks to some sharp-eyed observation by two Year 10s. It’s a reminder though of those “stranger danger” warnings: don’t talk to strangers, never get in a car, if possible avoid them, go to a known safe place (school, shop, friend’s house), walk home in groups, and – as in this case – tell an adult as soon as possible. Immediately before and after the school day, there are duty staff in the coach park, and after the school day a further member of staff in Dog Village for 15 minutes.

Once again, thank you for everything you have done at home to ease the transition from holiday back to school routines!

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn
Principal

Evenings and weekends – 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.

You may also use this number if you have accidentally recorded an LFT result as positive – please always notify us if this has happened in error.

(During the school's normal opening hours, please contact Student Absence on **01392 463911** or email: 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.

We would prefer you to 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!

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
Sat 15 January	DofE Overnight 1: Bronze
Thurs 20 January	Y11 Parents' Evening 4pm - 7pm
Mon 24 January	Y11 Presentation of GCSE Drama Work for Parents 6pm - 7.30pm
Tues 25 January	Y9 Options Evening 4.30pm - 7pm
Thurs 27 January	Y10/Y11 Trip to Southall Gurdwara
w/b Mon 31 January	Y13 Mock Exams
Sat 5 February	DofE Overnight 2: Bronze All day
Thurs 17 February	Y12 Parents' Evening 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Fri 18 February	Y9 Options Fair
Mon 21 - Fri 25 February	SPRING HALF TERM
Mon 28 February	Y11 Food Practical Exams
Tues 1 March	Y11 Food Practical Exams
w/b Mon 7 March	Y11 GCSE Assessment Week
Sat 12 March	DofE/Ten Tors Overnight 3
Mon 14 & Tue 15 March	Further Y11 GCSE Assessment
Thur 17, Fri 18, Mon 21 & Tue 22 March	Y13 Assessments
Wed 23 - Fri 25 March	Rosslyn Park Rugby 7s Tournament
Fri 25 March	Production: rehearsal in school All day
Sat 26 March	Production: rehearsal in school All day
Sun 27 March	Production: rehearsal in school Half day
Mon 28 March	Production: technical rehearsal & evening dress rehearsal (principals only) 9am - 10pm
Mon 28 March	Production: remaining cast to join rehearsal 5.30pm - 10pm
Tues 29 March - Fri 01 April	Legally Blonde - Musical Production
Tues 05 April	LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM
Wed 06 April - Wed 20 April	EASTER HOLIDAYS

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:

Sharon Leaman/Racheal Long (Attendance Officers)

Direct line: 01392 463911

Email: studentabsence@clystvale.org

For Year 12 - 13 Absences

Please do **not** ring

Email: studentabsence@clystvale.org

copying in: haynesc@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).
- 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

Address: Clyst Vale Community College, Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon
EX5 3AJ

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

Library: 01392 464010

