



# NEWSLETTER

**No. 710**  
**w/c Mon 10 May 2021**  
**Week B**

## THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

*“People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost.”*

Dalai Lama

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Riding the rollercoaster

We have another week before the pronouncements about further easing of lockdown on May 17th. Society in general looks in line for some significant changes, but what about schools? As usual, there has been media speculation. For example, the Department for Education seems to be very much in favour of relaxing the compulsory wearing of masks, but this week teaching unions and medical experts warned that it is too soon. The big question for me is how, and how quickly, the guidance for schools will catch up with the general easing? Existing government guidance has a system of control based on twelve “preventions”; if certain preventions do not change, then we will be retaining bubbles, one-way systems and the staggered day, and there could be limitations on the big events and activities we would all love to reinstate. So, next week we should know if we’re at the top or the bottom of the rollercoaster, although I’m not entirely sure if one is better than the other...

### “Reset”

It’s curious to think that Year 8 students have been AT Clyst Vale for nearly two years, but only IN Clyst Vale for a little over one. Similarly, Year 7 arrived without our normal induction (or their Year 6 rites of passage), many experienced a period of isolation, and then were at home for the bulk of the Spring Term. Certainly for some students, this loss of social and developmental learning is arguably greater than the loss of formal education. It will be two years since Years 9 and 10 experienced a normal summer term. So, assuming that things will become easier but remain unsettled for a while, we are having a sort of “reset”; after successive stop-starts and in-outs, we are revisiting the core messages from the start of the school year in September. This means that we are going back to our mantras of “safe, happy, successful” and “respect, participate, learn” to reinforce our values and expectations. This week’s assemblies were on this theme, as is today’s Student Bulletin. Clyst Vale is not a “zero-tolerance” school; we prefer to educate students into better attitudes and behaviour through building trust and strong relationships. However, where students are significantly out of line or are not responding to support we will take action.

### Year 10 Parents’ Evening

Thank you to parents and carers for your time and engagement with Wednesday’s parents evening. Again, feedback suggests that many parents prefer this system to the village hall fete style event of the past. Having made my parents’ evening debut, I completely understand why – appointments may be shorter, but they are very focused, don’t overrun, and you can hear yourself think. From a teacher perspective, it is much less tiring: but I have a fantastic Year 10 group (and therefore parents). We are still grappling with the logistical problem we will encounter next week with Year 7: there are often many more students/parents than slots available. We operate waiting lists, so please let us know if you can’t attend; we will also contact parents on the waiting list separately to the Parents’ Evening.

One question which came up was what will happen to GCSEs next summer. We do not know exactly, but Ofqual's Chief Regulator Simon Lebus has indicated that it won't just be a return to "full-fat" exams as in 2019 (his analogy, which amused me – full fat may look and taste good, but it's generally seen as unhealthy if you have too much of it, a bit like exams?). Year 10s nationally and here at Clyst Vale missed almost a whole term in school; but during the autumn term some schools in badly-hit areas lost many weeks more of formal schooling through isolations. It came out today that Ofqual will tell schools what the changes will be "before the start of term in September"; for example, if sections of exams will be omitted as was the plan this year before all exams were cancelled. In the meantime, we press on through the syllabus as we would normally do.

### **The Tuesday CV&CC Update**

I have no idea how many parents looked at this, but it's too late now! I have decided to discontinue the Tuesday updates unless there is a significant deterioration in the covid situation nationally, which is likely to have a big impact on schools and requires two communications a week. I was quite interested in tracking the changing rates in our local area, but these are currently very low: roughly 1-2 cases each day for each of Exeter and East Devon. Which, of course, does not mean that covid has gone away completely.

### **Year 11 and 13 "Last Day" Update**

Parents and carers of Year 11 and 13 students will receive a separate communication today. In summary, the "last day" in student understanding of the phrase will be Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May, and there will be celebration events. There may be individual exceptions who need to come in after half-term if there are specific issues with their assessment folders, for example. We will also be signposting a number of courses and opportunities, and Exeter College will be issuing their "Flying Start" materials (Year 11). The "last day" in official terms is the final Friday of June, i.e. 25<sup>th</sup> June. Regarding proms, it is unlikely that we will be able to hold big, expensive events at external venues (our first choices aren't taking bookings); however, we are determined to do *something* to celebrate the classes of 2021. And we need to observe whatever guidance is in place at the time.

### **Year 11 and 13 AAMs**

Overall, organisationally-speaking, these have gone remarkably well. The large majority of students have been able to give their best in controlled conditions. The main issue has been external noise affecting one or two rooms during two of the five lessons. Covid hasn't helped: it is one reason we can't use the Hall, and also the reason that we have staggered lessons and breaks which results in student movements and noise. Clearly, we have tried to mitigate this as much as possible, and will put increased mitigations in place for w/b 17<sup>th</sup> May. I am not belittling the concern of students who have had their concentration affected, but one consolation is that an AAM is part of the evidence folder, unlike full-fat exams on which everything could depend.

### **Year 10 / 12 Work Experience reminder from Mrs Bennett-**

Well done to those students who have already handed in their application forms for Work Experience. It has been great to see so many enthusiastic and motivated students. Just a quick reminder that the application forms must be submitted before the end of May at the very latest. If you have secured a placement, please get your forms in so we can get all the checks and paperwork back to you promptly. Due to the very short turnaround time, we cannot accommodate late applications. All students who are unable to secure a work experience placement will be in school for the week as usual.

### **Outdoor Education**

Students who are following the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award are on their travels this weekend with two separate day walks around different bits of East Devon. Day one focuses on navigation and map-reading skills; day two is more physically challenging including Peak Hill near Sidmouth. I'm delighted that we have 22 Year 9 students signed up, and many thanks to Miss Barratt, Mr Eales, and volunteer Mr Robb.

### **The IOP IGB Project**

This is the Institute of Physics' Improving Gender Balance Project. (There are too many TLAs – three letter acronyms – in education...). We have been part of this for nearly three years. Its original remit was to investigate why girls tend not to opt for Physics at A-level, and therefore significantly reduce physics, maths and engineering opportunities at university.

However, the project widened into considering gender balance and possible bias more generally. An interim report I have mentioned before showed that as a school we are very gender-balanced, reassuring from a Rights Respecting School perspective. Then covid struck, and a year later we were sad to learn that the funding for the project has been withdrawn so that there is no in-school support. But it has left a valuable legacy, especially in terms of resources and training for our Science department.

### **Summer schools**

This has been on the news recently, so what are we doing here? We will be following Dept for Education recommendations by offering a summer school week for students who will be joining Year 7 in September (ie Year 6 at the moment), and letters have gone out; we will be using an external company called Big Step who are working with a number of schools in the area.

### **Schoolcomms issue with lunch payments earlier this week**

I hope that this didn't affect too many of you, and please contact [craigr@clystvale.org](mailto:craigr@clystvale.org) if you do have any queries. We received this statement from Schoolcomms: "We were made aware of an issue yesterday (Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May) that was distorting data in relation to payments, which resulted in both Schoolcomms and School Gateway being unavailable – we would like to apologise for the inconvenience this caused you. We have successfully corrected the data within the Schoolcomms payment reports."

### **Uniform and Hoodies**

I am hoping that after May 17<sup>th</sup> we will be able to go back to normal uniform and dispense with the PE hybrid uniform; this has allowed too many "grey areas" (especially leggings...) and recently is becoming a problem when we all have better things to do I know that some schools have had enough of uniform battles and have already done this. As usual, most students and families have been great; if you came into a Year 7 or 8 assembly you'd wonder what the fuss is about. However, there is an increasing number of students especially in Years 10 and 11 who are pushing boundaries, and hoodies are the main example of this. For the time being, hoodies are not permitted, students will be asked to remove them, the hoodie may be confiscated for the day, and in the rare event that students are defiant or rude sanctions will be used.

Thank you very much for your continuing support, and best wishes for a good weekend.



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](mailto: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



## YELLOW SCHOOL

7YPN	Jack Gould & William Stone
8YSP	Jack Spurrier
9YNS	Tom Shelton

## RED SCHOOL

7RHPI	Ruby Hopkins
9RER	Ella Jacobs

## GREEN SCHOOL

7GABR	Guy Earnshaw
8GAW	Izzy Fry
8GBA	Lucy Grabham
9GNB	Oriane Conneely



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## **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](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org)

#### **For Year 12 - 13 Absences**

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: [barringtonj@clystvale.org](mailto: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](http://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
Sat 8th - 9th May	Bronze DofE Assessed Expedition
Wed 12th May	Y7 Parents' Evening
Fri 28th May	Staff INSET day (Students not in school)
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	Half Term
Mon 19th— Fri 23rd July	Y10 Work Experience Week (tbc)
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

