



NEWSLETTER

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

No. 598
w/c Mon 10 September 2018
will be Week B

Happy New Year!

Welcome to academic year 2018-19...I'm pleased to report that for the vast majority of staff and students, the first week has gone fantastically well. The first few days of the autumn term are about establishing the routines, expectations and working patterns in a large, complex organisation to provide an essential foundation to good learning throughout the year. There will always be individual students who have not had the perfect start for a variety of reasons, and one or two who either didn't hear clear messages last year or chose to ignore them; as always, if you have any concerns, please do not let them fester but get on the phone or e-mail to your child's tutor or AtHoS.

Facebook, but not what you're expecting....

Clyst Vale moves still further into the 21st century with the launch of a College Facebook page. You can access it by searching for Clyst Vale on Facebook. The page is for information, links, news of recent and forthcoming events, and celebrations; it should not be possible to make posts! Clearly, we will observe the requirements of GDPR, and no student names or images will be posted if permission has not been given; in fact, we will be extremely careful as to what we will use even if permission has been given. Related, we will shortly be reissuing our revised consent form to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information.

GCSE and A-Level Results

You will find more information and some photos on the College website home page, but the general message is that we had a good summer, our students did us proud, and (as time immemorial) hard work and a good attitude lead to deserved achievement. A-Level results overall were the best for at least three years, with 100% pass rate and 48% of grades at A*-B. There were significant improvements at GCSE for "Priority Learners" (nationally termed "disadvantaged learners"); as both A-level and Priority learners are Ofsted areas for improvement for us, this is really good news for the students themselves and the College as a whole. Thirteen GCSE subjects attained better than the national subject figures. There were some excellent individual results, too, with a deserved special mention to Jacob Roach who achieved nine grade 9s among his results. Only 732 students in the whole of England were awarded seven or more grade 9s, so Jacob's is an amazing achievement.

Uniform

A significant change was over uniform, and this has gone astonishingly well, far better than we imagined. Thank you so much to parents for responding so positively to the changes and supporting us. The standard of uniform is literally the best I can remember, and I am very hopeful that over the coming year hundreds of hours will be saved from fruitless uniform discussions and used for more positive purposes. One reason for the change was to achieve a general smartening-up, and engender a bit more pride in the College, and this is undoubtedly the case. If there are still queries, or trousers needing the official rivet, please contact the relevant AtHoS. And one small, final reminder mostly affecting boys: the weather is still warm, so shorts are allowed provided that they are properly tailored ones; if lads change into PE shorts to play football at lunchtime – which is fine, and saves on the washing at home – they are expected to change back into proper uniform for the afternoon.

Smartphones

Like uniform, it's early days, but again the start of the smartphone ban has been very successful with just two confiscations (and one of those was a bit unlucky). I must congratulate our students on being so respectful and accepting of this change, and also thank parents and carers for your part in explaining why the policy is important. We have a potential side-issue which we will be monitoring closely: smartwatches. In simple terms, these can be used for certain things which the smartphone ban is meant to prevent, but only if in close proximity to the phone, and only if switched on. At present, we're monitoring and hopefully it will not become an issue, not least because I'll have to write a whole new policy about smartwatches....

Attendance

After Ofsted's fleeting visit in April, this is a big issue for us and we need to make improvements and be seen to be making improvements. Both common sense and academic research has indicated time and time again that there is a very strong correlation between attendance and academic success: children simply do not learn as effectively if they are at home both for long periods and for frequent sporadic absence. This will mean we will be contacting parents earlier if their child's attendance starts to slip, partly to see if we can help. We will be more diligent in checking why students are absent to reduce so-called "unauthorised absence" – most parents and carers have helped us enormously in the past by always letting us know when and why a student is absent on the day, and I cannot underline enough how helpful this is. We will be much more robust in declining holiday requests in term-time. Please be reassured that we will be as understanding as we possibly can to students who have health issues or who go through family difficulties for a period of time; however, our starting point has to be to maximise the individual's attendance within those challenging circumstances.

New Staff and Staff News

We welcome three new colleagues to Clyst Vale this year. Miss Hayley Johns joins us to teach Spanish and French; Mr Steve Bampton and Mrs Katie Sanders join us as HLTAs (Higher-Level Teaching Assistants) as specialist support for a student with complex needs. We are also very pleased that Miss Tania Gale (Maths) has rejoined us on a part-time basis. Congratulations to Mrs Howden on the birth of her son, Fox, and to Miss Webber who was married in the summer and is now Mrs Routledge!

Site: Nearly Done!

We have had most of the roofs replaced; over 160 doors replaced (plus architraves, plus making good); many of the doors with security locks fitted; pretty much the whole alarm system re-wired; consequential work to ceilings and fascias; and our regular planned maintenance and painting programmes. This has been a massive undertaking, and the only slight overrun is to one section of the roofs. From a student viewpoint, the College will not look much different, but it is significantly safer for them, and they genuinely have much better, watertight roofs over their heads. If all goes to plan, the small section of scaffolding will be down and all work completed by 24th September. Huge credit and thanks goes to the project managers Cunningham-Taylor, the main contractor TEC, and site controller Andy May; they have been superb, especially when working when we have had students in college.

Disabled Parking Spaces

We have three disabled parking bays, two by Reception and one by the vehicle entrance to the playground by the Technology block. Please could I ask all parents who have no specific access needs for themselves or their children NOT to park in them. This is particularly important this year as we have students with particular access needs who will require picking-up and dropping-off at different times during the day. To be absolutely clear: we are very happy for other "blue badge" holders to use the spaces, and even for brief drop-offs of students with temporary disabilities (ie sporting injuries); the concern is that the bays are occupied for lengthy periods.

DfE Traffic Count: Advance Warning

Just a reminder that a traffic count will take place between 07.00 and 19.00 hours on Tuesday, 11th September outside the College on Station Road. So, we can expect to see two unfamiliar people in hi-vis jackets sitting in a car on that day, and they will be definitely nothing to do with Ofsted even though they will have clipboards. As I said previously, I hope they park sensibly or with our customary congestion they might get a zero reading for traffic movement at drop-off and pick-up times.....

Best wishes,



Dr Bawn

SPORTS NEWS

After school on Wednesday Bethy Lawrence and Finley Burston raced in the last Round of the RAD (Racing After Dinner) Series. Bethy competed in the Championship Womens and Finley in Male 13 over 10 Rounds.

Bethy finished 1st Place and Finley in 2nd for the 10 Races.

We've had non stop racing all over the country and are getting prepared for the British Championships next weekend.



CALENDAR DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2018	
Fri 21 Sep	All School photos
Wed 26 Sept	6pm New Intake Open Evening
Thurs 11 Oct	YR7 Meet the Tutor
Mon 1 Oct— Fri 5 Oct	YR7 Open Week 10.00—11.25
Mon 22 Oct - Fri 26 Oct	Autumn Half Term
Fri 21 December 2018	Last day of Autumn Term
Mon 7 January 2019	Start of Spring Term
Mon 18 - Fri 22 Feb 2019	Spring Half Term
Fri 5 April 2019	Last day of Spring Term
Wed 24 April 2019	Start of Summer Term
Mon 6 May 2019	Bank Holiday
Mon 27 - Fri 31 May 2019	Summer Half Term
Fri 19 July 2019	Last day of Summer Term

Quiz Night

Fundraiser for Tanzania

Friday 5th October
Whimble Victory Hall

Doors Open 7pm for 7.30 start
(max team size 8)

Tickets £5 and includes dips & nibbles

Bar & Raffle

See you there
Mya & Dulcie

Tickets from Whimble Stores



Attendance, Absence and Requests for Absence

You need to let the College know of any absence on the first day it occurs. If you do not notify the College, then you will be contacted to identify the reason for absence.

This will help 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.

For Years 7 - 11 Absences

Please ring:

Sara Parker/Sue Uttley (Data Officers)

Direct line: 01392 463936

Email: datateam@clystvale.org

For Year 12 - 13 Absences

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: barringtonj@clystvale.org

School Transport

1. Clyst Vale supports the (DCC) Devon County Council's "No Pass No Travel Scheme" that operates on transport to and from this College.
2. Only students who show a valid travel pass to the driver **on every journey** will be allowed to travel. Students must travel on the vehicle indicated on their pass.
3. **Please ensure that your child has their travel pass before they leave home every day.**
4. Please ensure that your child knows what to do in the event they are not allowed to travel or the bus does not arrive (e.g. because of breakdown or traffic conditions or severe weather). College attendance is very important and it is best to be prepared for any of these eventualities.
5. DCC will carry out regular pass checks throughout the year.
6. Drivers are not allowed to carry passengers who cannot show a valid pass.
7. If your child loses their pass during the day they should go to the AtHoS offices to ask for a 10 day temporary pass. Replacement passes cost £5 each and can be ordered online, or by sending a cheque with a replacement form.

Further information is available at: http://www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport



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

COLLEGE DRESS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018

COLLEGE DRESS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 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.
- 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 in the summer.
- 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

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Email: admin@clystvale.org **Web:** www.clystvale.org

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

