



# NEWSLETTER

**No. 668**  
**w/c Mon 11 May**  
**Week A**

## SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK

**"Be Kind to Your Parents" [Don Mclean]**

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Big Announcement**

We all await the Prime Minister's big announcement on Sunday about how the lockdown will be eased. My instinct is that the big announcement will not have a big impact on schools, and certainly no immediate changes. As I explain to students in the Student Bulletin, media headlines are often simplistic and potentially misleading. "Schools" (as in 900 students in our case) will not "return" (as in all at once with all systems in place) on "1st June" (a convenient date, and literally the earliest any student could possibly set foot in a school). We will have at the very least three weeks to plan, including informing parents. We will need all of that time. I've seen another authority's checklist of things for schools to consider when partially reopening which runs to 40 pages.

### **VE Day**

It's very sad that the planned celebrations to commemorate 75 years have almost all been cancelled, especially as this is the last "landmark" anniversary that most surviving veterans will see. Even though there were just five adults and three students on site, we still honoured the occasion. The 11.00 silence was observed at the Harry Patch memorial garden, and one of the students played her violin which added a touch of poignancy. VE Day was of course a day of euphoria, relief and hope; for men like Harry Patch who had bravely fought for King and Country but who realised the stupidity and futility of war, it meant peace and a chance to rebuild a better future.

### **Reputations**

Unfortunately, crises can cause both emotion and a tinge of irrationality. So it is that this week's media coverage in some quarters has started teacher-bashing, resurrecting some long-established prejudices and stereotypes. "Teachers are reluctant to step up and re-open schools; they are cushioned from the grim realities of redundancy and furloughing experienced by other workers; and some of them aren't even prepared to make sure there is online learning for every youngster. School leaders are hyping up the safety concerns, and are therefore an obstacle to easing lockdown". This largely stems from ignorance, and I sincerely hope that no Clyst Vale parent recognises these criticisms as fair.

Every day lessons have been set with hardly one being missed; colleagues have trained themselves in a new platform to improve remote learning as well as adapted really quickly to the different challenges of this style of teaching; far from not setting work, colleagues are becoming stressed chasing work that hasn't been done, or students who are not engaging; colleagues have been grading and moderating students' exam entries also remotely, with a grave responsibility to do this professionally and with complete integrity. We've remained open throughout with our ECP; set up a Welfare Team to support families; issued computer equipment and other resources; battled through the total mess of the Government's Free School Meals scheme so that all families had vouchers every week; and are steadily winning constant battles with travel companies to recover and refund parents' contributions to trips. We're not perfect, and there have been mistakes and oversights, but this isn't because no one tried or cared. I don't know of a single colleague who doesn't want to be back in school, doing their job. Just like our students, my colleagues miss the life, interaction, buzz, warmth and humour of Clyst Vale. But all of us must be safe, including my colleagues who are more vulnerable to infection than students (and contrary to popular belief, school staff are not indestructible, nor will we have PPE); and all of us need very clear direction from government.

### **Year 11 Update**

I wrote to Year 11 students this week, which was a bitter-sweet moment. There is now no real point in pushing on with lesson-by-lesson work, as by now Year 11 would be doing only revision and exam practice, and the first sit-down exam for the whole cohort would have been on Monday 11th May. So, we have stopped setting work; we are still providing activities and suggestions with an eye to the future, including bridging materials, but it felt like another ending. It is also clear now that the Year 11 Prom cannot happen before the end of term. However, we have done our best to keep in touch with Year 11, and recognise that they are still the "Class of 2020", and over their four and three-quarter years they have contributed greatly to the College. Leavers' hoodies and a Yearbook are both being organised, and we are keeping in touch to discuss what sort of event we could manage and the students may like.

### **Sixth Form Update (continued from last week)**

As with everything, established patterns are changing. For Year 13 students, the deadlines for registering for finance for university are a little earlier, while UCAS decisions are a little later, and it has been announced that clearing this year will be for all students whether their offers are conditional or unconditional. This reflects that it is a buyers' market, and also the reality that the government's grading system will not be perfect around the edges. Miss Haynes has sent out a lengthy list of useful links to on-line courses as "CV-boosters", some of them directly related to study skills, others more intriguing like food, first aid, plumbing or gaming development. The whole point is to keep that brain ticking over! This is for both Year 12 and 13 students, although of course teachers are still setting work for Year 12.

### **Microsoft Teams**

When lockdown started, a few schools had in place very good virtual learning platforms for remote learning. The majority, including us, had platforms but had not really developed them fully. We've caught up rapidly. Our chosen platform in Microsoft Teams, and in little more than a month we have gone from a position of almost no use to one of almost universal use. Like all things technological, some students and colleagues are much more confident and proficient, but for the fundamentals of remote learning, all colleagues are setting work through Assignments, and the chatroom function is a real asset to our commitment to keeping in touch. Increasingly, lesson introductions are being recorded, audio powerpoints are becoming common (replicates the first part of many "real" lessons), chat is being used to mirror class discussion, and in some classes, especially Sixth Form, live lessons are taking place. All that said, there is a minority of students who are still to access Teams. The guidance can be found on <http://www.clystvale.org/students/teams/>. If that doesn't work, please contact us – we haven't had a problem which we couldn't fix (yet – mustn't tempt fate!)

## “SPACE”

I have been asked to publicise the work of SPACE, an Exeter-based Youth and Community Charity which is currently undertaking street-based youth engagement where young people are known to be gathering in public spaces. The purpose is to reinforce physical distancing, explain to young people why it is important they stay at home, and to ensure they have access to online support and online facilities, so that they can get help where needed. If you are concerned about young people gathering please contact Lisa Rutter. m. 07590 639440 | e. [lisa.rutter@spacepsm.org](mailto:lisa.rutter@spacepsm.org)

### **East Devon Hardship Support Grant**

EDDC has launched a Hardship Support Grant for access to emergency short term support to applicants whose immediate essential needs are not being met. There will be eligibility criteria and all applicants will have a telephone interview to discuss needs. The following categories have been identified as being eligible, although others may yet emerge:

- · Self-employed people who are not able to trade, in the interim until their tax-based grants are paid from June 2020.
- · Self Employed people who started business recently and are not eligible for a grant.
- · Employees whose employment has been terminated or those still in work but on short time, and where Universal Credit is not yet in payment.
- · Employees laid off, but not eligible for furlough.
- · Employees who are sick and either not eligible for Statutory Sick Pay, or where Statutory Sick Pay represents a significant drop in income.
- · People who are isolated and unable to source supplies and are not served by local voluntary help or by shielding.
- · Older people who are struggling because of increased vulnerability (carers and family cannot visit etc), and again are not served by local voluntary help.
- · People with little or no access to disposable income.

Applications for the fund can be made on-line through the Request Financial Support (Coronavirus COVID-19) <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/benefits-and-council-tax/request-financial-support-coronavirus-covid-19/> If you or you know someone who you feel may benefit from the fund please ask them to complete an application on-line. To speak to someone about this, please telephone 01395 516551. Alternatively please send details, including your/their phone number and email address to [hardship@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:hardship@eastdevon.gov.uk).

### **Broadclyst Parish Satellite Food Bank**

Broadclyst Parish Council has set up a satellite food bank at the Pavilions, working with Exeter Food Bank to distribute emergency food parcels to those in food poverty. Whilst the focus is on serving / safeguarding Broadclyst parishioners, the Food Bank is flexible – within reason - about lines on a map and boundaries in a time of crisis.

## Free School Meals: Quick Update

Mentioning food, I'm pleased to say that the national voucher scheme is steadily improving, and as a result Clyst Vale parents are experiencing only occasional problems rather than whole batches as in recent weeks. Thanks to Racheal Long, again: if you are experiencing difficulties, please email her on [longr@clystvale.org](mailto:longr@clystvale.org).

## Trips and Visits: Quick Update

This is another battle, similar to the experience of many people trying to get holiday refunds. We are entitled to the money back, but sadly (or understandably, depending on your viewpoint) companies are using various delaying tactics; in our case it's a game of who-blinks-first between the companies and our insurers, although of course companies have down-sized, furloughed staff and are less responsive than in normal times. The latest position is in yesterday's CV&CC update (CoronaVirus & College Closure) in "Latest Information" on the website home page: Bude, Belgium and Paris have been the most difficult, but rest assured you will get your money back!

Best wishes,



Dr Bawn



# County lines

Drug dealers are still operating despite the current Government restrictions

If you see any suspicious activity or any drug dealing in your area call the police on 101 or report online - [dc.police.uk](https://dc.police.uk)

Alternatively you can call CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report online: [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://crimestoppers-uk.org)



Devon & Cornwall Police

## Safeguarding

During the closure, we encourage all parents to be responsible for safeguarding children in our communities. If you have any concerns, please contact the school and ask to speak to a **Designated Safeguarding Lead** (Mr Sutton, Mrs Albutt, Miss McConnachie, Mr A Pearce).

If this is not possible please contact **MASH, The Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub: 0345 155 1071.**

Further information on safeguarding children can be found by visiting

[www.devon.gov.uk/childprotection](http://www.devon.gov.uk/childprotection)

**Alternatively** contact the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

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



## **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 (Attendance Officer)

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.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**Tel:** 01392 461407 **Library:** 01392 464010

**Email:** [admin@clystvale.org](mailto:admin@clystvale.org) **Web:** [www.clystvale.org](http://www.clystvale.org)

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

