



NEWSLETTER

No. 686
w/c Mon 12 October
Week B

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." Marcus Garvey

Dear Parents and Carers

Promotional Video

This can be found on the College website. It's on the "New Intake 2021" page, but it's worth a look whatever year (or age) you are! Air Original are the company responsible, and they have done a fantastic job. Of course, it's a promotional video, so it's inevitably marketing the College, but it has captured brilliantly the essential positive qualities of Clyst Vale. As ever, the students who appear and who provide commentary are our best ambassadors; and the video accurately portrays just what a happy and safe school this is, with a good range of opportunities. Other attributes are woven in well: we have a Sixth Form, the Rights Respecting School ethos, our rural feel, inspiring teachers, the quality of relationships. So, please take a look, and please bring it to the attention of any relatives, friends or neighbours who are contemplating the Year 6 transition to secondary school next September! (There is also a version of my Open Evening Principal's Speech which is three times as long as the video and some people say is not quite as visually attractive....).

What has been very good is that talking to students, there is a visible frisson of pride at being in or connected to such a positive public showcasing of Clyst Vale. And all the footage was shot in the recent weeks of returning to College, changed routines, shorter lunchtimes, one-way systems and hand sanitising. Watching the video really reinforces the social and psychological importance of students being in school for learning, but also to do a variety of things, run around with their mates, and have a laugh.

Uncertain Times

· We continue to whistle a happy tune but are constantly scanning the national and local media and public health information. There have been no positive cases of covid among students or staff themselves, although there are generally one or two individuals isolating each day awaiting results for household members or self-isolating because of a positive test. Student attendance remains above 90%, and staff attendance is even better. The headlines are causing a few jitters, particularly at national level in northern and midland areas: locally, one area of Exeter (the university) has very high rates, but Exeter as a whole does not, although there has been an increase. Even more locally, it's important to read the statistics carefully: Broadclyst, Cranbrook and Stoke Canon has a rate of 54 cases per 100,000 population, which looks a bit alarming. However, this seems to represent six actual cases. Next week we are all anticipating tighter measures for areas with high infection rates, and the introduction of a proposed Three Tier model.

We are keeping a very close watch on this; in College the major implication would be compulsory face covering, possibly even in lessons, although we are not there yet. We are very fortunate with our site, so that students spend most lesson change-overs in the fresh air rather than hanging around in corridors, and with the decent weather many students spend almost all of their non-lesson time out of doors; this is an important mitigating factor for now, but if rates did increase.....

· For students in exam years, there is an added layer of uncertainty. Chatting to Sixth Form and Year 11 students this week, they are actually quite realistic but there is a permanent underlying sense of worry over what might or might not happen over exams. This has had another prod with this week's news that in Scotland the Nationals (GCSE equivalent) have been cancelled and a different way of assessment introduced, although the Highers (A-level) will be examined next summer. There is a lot of media comment in England about this, but at present the position is that exams will take place, but possibly could be delayed. Therefore, the only responsible course of action right now is to prepare students for exams next summer as normal.

Covid testing

Again, to remind parents/carers that if your child has covid symptoms they must not come to school, and must be tested, and you must let us know. If the test comes back positive, also let us know, please – this may be quicker than the official route. If the test comes back negative, government guidance is that you should let us know that, too. Clearly, it is really helpful to us and saves awkward phone calls if you let us know the day before the student returns. Also, you may be asked if you have evidence of a test result; you are not obliged to show us, but obviously it is an additional safety measure especially if the child turns up still with possible symptoms. This has not happened here, but it has happened in several other schools. So, please don't be offended if we ask; we're just trying to do our best to be safe.

Buses 1.

Last week I confidently said that things were in a settled pattern. This tempted fate, and Monday was hilarious unless you were one of the twenty students heading towards Bradninch or Cullompton. On Monday, we had FIVE buses for Exeter and none for Cullompton, so we walked the students to the service stop. Stagecoach apologised. We are in a settled pattern, and this was a one-off driver error. One important point is that even if they are a bit late, we will make sure your children are safe and not stranded at school!

Buses 2.

There have been a couple of isolated incidents of poor behaviour by one or two individual students on buses. This is never acceptable. I have always taken the line that the College has the right to act on poor behaviour on the journey to and from school, from the front door at home to the Coach Park and back again. It goes back to safety and respect: poor behaviour on buses can distract the driver; it is certainly not respectful to the driver; it also makes other students feel uncomfortable, or even upset or scared. We will always try to educate students as to what is the right behaviour, but we will also impose sanctions where necessary; we work closely with School Transport, who can issue warnings and impose temporary bans. (The same goes for any students behaving irresponsibly on foot on their way home. Unfortunately, it only takes a couple to undo all the brilliant work shown in the promotional video).

“Digital Audit”

Before the summer, we learned that remote learning is dependent on several things: the quality of internet connection, the device being used, availability of a shared “family” PC or laptop. Students with otherwise excellent wifi were trying to do schoolwork on their phones, or the connection was slowed by three siblings separately streaming various things; Joe Wicks, probably. You will today have received a separate communication asking you to complete a very brief on-line survey. This is not “Big Brother”, and your information will be perfectly safe and is only for our use.

To paraphrase the separate letter, given the ongoing uncertainty around Covid19 and the likely need for flexible remote learning we really need to know what levels of access students have to IT and the internet. We'll be asking you about access to the internet, whether it's broadband or some other means, and secondly the type of device which is on the end of the connection. Gathering this information will not guarantee a Christmas bonanza of dongles, new or recycled laptops; but getting the information will be a start, and will also inform us which activities and file sizes may not be sensible to use.

Good News Section

Equestrian News

More congratulations to Rachel Brown who last weekend won the National Schools Equestrian Association Inter-School Arena Eventing. Rachel and her horse Coosan Grey won the 1m class against fierce competition from nearly twenty other riders representing a variety of schools, but mostly independent. Always good to see "Clyst Vale" up there on the top of the board, literally.

Promotional Video (see above)

There were a thousand hits in less than 48 hours! Not quite up to David Attenborough's Twitter following record, but very good for us.....

Library Competitions

Staff members with faces obscured by Roald Dahl Book Competition: the winner is Charlotte Goddard

Next competition is in AllStudent Teams: the wackiest photo of the most unlikely place in which you are reading a book (within reason, and without risking safety!)

Best wishes to you and your families for a pleasant weekend,



Kevin Bawn
Principal



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



YELLOW SCHOOL

7YEM	Violet Newberry
7YPN	Lizzie Yendole
8YDS	Keira Woodman
8YSP	Zoe Taylor
9YNS	Ellie Woodstock
10YCW	Harrison Rees
10YRB	Maddie Forty
11YMBR	Harri Turner
11YZKH	Max Walker

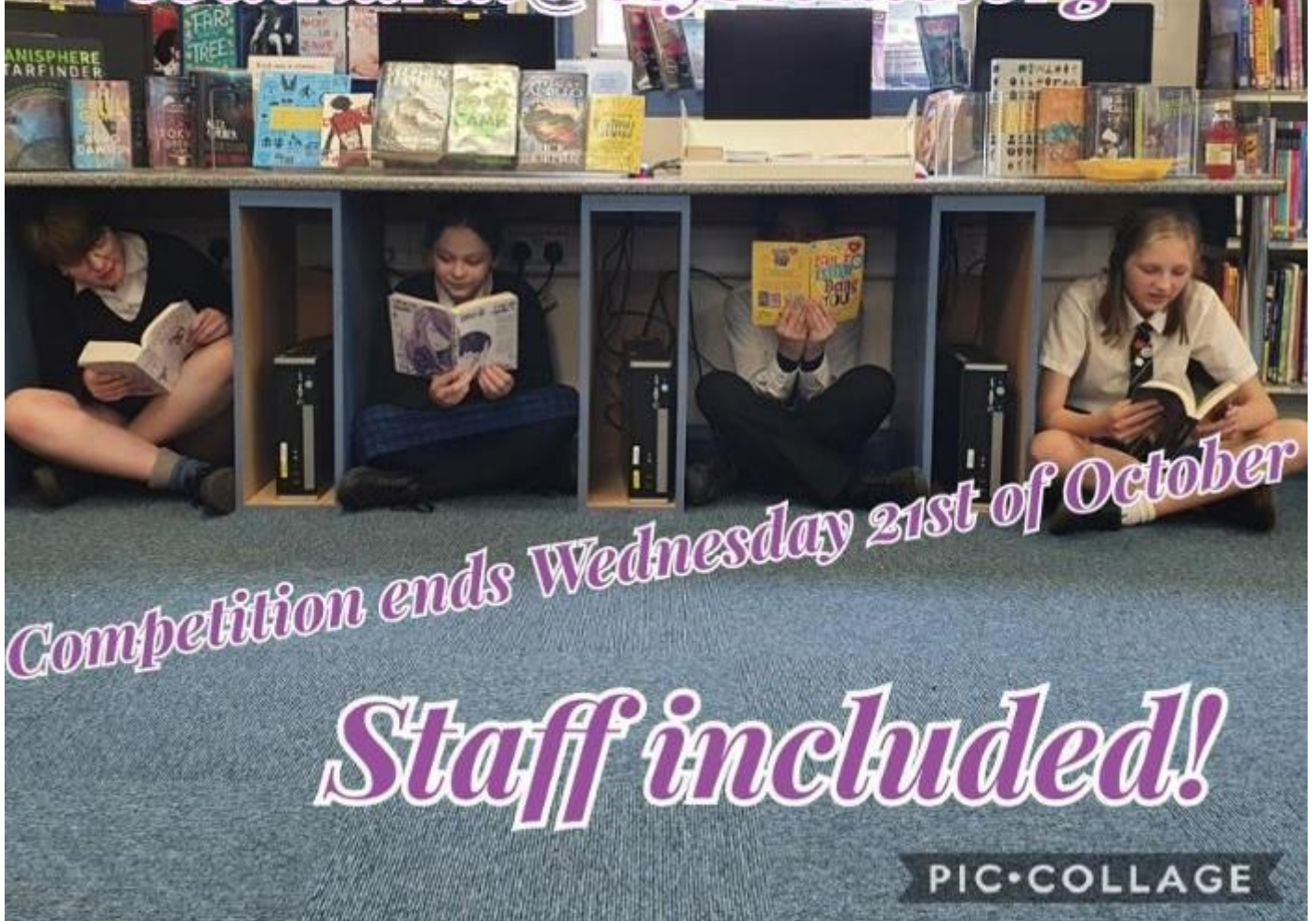
RED SCHOOL

7RZB	Abbie Batten
7RHPI	Isaac Corker
8RAO	Gracie Jones
8RAR	Joshua Jones
9RGG	Faye White
9RER	Poppy Bownern
10RSS	Jamie Anderson
10RTMA	Eliot Sibley
11RCM	Chantelle Hughes
11RGK	Lily Youel

GREEN SCHOOL

7GABR	Archie Cross
7GDH	Yasmin El Aboussi
8GAW	Olivia Raeder
8GBA	Louise Maby
9GSW	Jamie Southard
9GNB	Stanley Welch
10GGT	Libby Pearson, Izzy Cocking & Charlie Harrison
10GMN	Laurie Harrison
11GHE	Rachel Brown
11GIM	Libby Hallett

*Send me a picture of you
reading in a strange place.
southardl@clystvale.org*



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/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

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
Thurs 22nd October	Exeter Food Bank - Non-Uniform Day
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 4pm - 7pm	Y8 Parents' Evening
Fri 11 December	Human Rights Day Y11 Geography Fieldwork
Sat 12 December	D of E Gold Y12 Dartmoor Day Walk
Weds 16 December 7pm - 9pm (tbc)	Christmas Carol Service, Whimple Church
Friday 18 December	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM St Petrock's - Non-Uniform Day
Fri 12th February 2021	Force Cancer - Non-Uniform Day
Fri 23rd July 2021	Water Aid - Non-Uniform Day

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Clyst Vale Community College, Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon
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Library: 01392 464010

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

