



NEWSLETTER

No. 677
w/c Mon 13 July
Week A

SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK

“Too close for comfort” [Peggy Lee]

Dear Parents/Carers,

Planning for September

Yes, we are doing almost nothing else, and it's quite complex. We're planning in the context of significant easing of lockdown nationally, which might be fine, although some experts are saying that it's too soon and risks a second lockdown. Devon & Cornwall will experience the highest number of visitors in the UK during the summer months, especially with nervousness about foreign travel. However, returning to school is what the vast majority of the country wants to happen (including me), amid a nagging doubt if these experts might have a point.

The guidance to schools is clear that all students must return and schools must offer a full curriculum. On that, I must correct a generalisation I made last week which caused alarm and despondency. Singing is NOT banned; choirs are. This is really important for GCSE Music students and keen younger singers; they can still sing. In secondary schools, a full curriculum means pretty much a normal timetable to provide access to all specialist teaching rooms (40-45% of the curriculum). It's theoretically possible to put a Year Group in a separate area, and keep them in the same classroom all day with the teachers moving. I'm sure some schools will do this.. This clearly reduces students moving, but means that a full curriculum is not possible: all Science, DT, Art, Music, Drama lessons would be theory lessons in a classroom. One could move students into specialist rooms for 40-45% of their lessons, displacing the students in the specialist rooms into general classrooms, but that breaks the fundamental point of zoning bubbles, so one could argue for a much better curriculum for only a slightly greater risk. Our spread out site is a further disadvantage here, and teachers will always teach better in their home area. We're still pondering: we have benefited from not rushing decisions so far.

At the moment, this is our current thinking: a normal timetable, with as many covid mitigating precautions that we can think of and implement: slight changes to lesson lengths to allow cleaning; breaks and lunchtimes split or staggered; maybe drop afternoon registration to save a whole movement; a giant one-way system and individual building one-way systems; the College flooded with hand sanitiser, sprays and cloths; strict 2m rules for adults; no assemblies or large gatherings; tape, barriers and signs all over the place; shortened lunchtime as many activities are not permitted. There are a myriad of details to sort out, too: many of our offices and meeting rooms are too small; finger-print systems; Library lessons; breakfast club and homework club (mixing years); Open Evening, Open Week. And no, I haven't forgotten about Transition, either – for nearly half a century we have gathered the new Year 7s in the Hall to set them up for the day, but we're not permitted to have assemblies or presumably assemblages for 180 students. However, the mists will clear; I'm always optimistic about logistical challenges, in that even if you can't solve them, you can reduce the problem.

So, we're planning for a full return in September. If the virus doesn't take the hint from the governmental optimism and there is a second wave/local lockdown in September, then our contingency plan will be to return to remote learning. Except that we are much better at it than in March; and we can assume that any lockdown will (probably) be relatively short. Therefore, our expectations will be higher; longer time to work, more routine turning in of work. There are other worse-case scenarios: staff shortages would be a particular challenge which could lead to closure or more-likely part-closure as it would be impossible to maintain safe levels of supervision or an adequate educational provision in school. Hopefully, this won't happen, and with our cover supervisors, supply teachers and internal cover we are generally able to withstand a highish level of staff absence in normal times. But it could happen.

Exam Results Days

Parents of students in Years 11 to 13 will receive a separate letter next week. However, our basic plan is that students will be given the choice of having results e-mailed, especially if they or family members have health issues, or (our preferred option in line with all Devon schools) collect them in person. This will be from Post-16, with appropriate hygiene and distancing measures in place, and provided it is dry we will use outdoors as much as possible as a further precaution. We anticipate that this will be from 09.00 on both days, but this will be confirmed. It is also very likely for GCSE that we will introduce something to space out arrivals – if we have 50 students and their parents arriving within ten minutes, there would be a queue to rival Tesco at the start of lockdown.

Exams in 2021

Before the Chancellor's Big Announcement on Wednesday, the headlines were "Headteachers across England call for exams to be cut back next year". This was from the "Worth Less?" organisation (punctuation very important here), to which I belong as a small cog. I couldn't agree more. For Year 10 and 12 students they need to know what they're facing next summer, and when – May, June or into July? There is yet another consultation out about this, but in my view something has to give. It is totally unreasonable to expect Year 10 and 12 students to miss 20-25% of their courses and then give them exactly the same exams as if they'd done all of it. The Government go on about the psychological damage done by lockdown, so it strikes me as a bit hypocritical to inflict more damage by not reducing the exam burden in some way. Hopefully we will have clarity before September. The questions can be just as hard so as not to lower intellectual standards, but less of them, and ideally optional to reflect that whole units and topics will have been unavoidably missed.

September: School Transport

In their guidance the government (who mostly live in big cities) recommend that schools can use staggered start times (where a single school has different year groups starting at different times of the day). This is to reduce students mixing and thereby reduce the risk of transmitting the virus. Devon CC advises us that "While we will try to support schools with transport arrangements it is highly unlikely that we will be able to support a staggered start. This is because the bus routes collect children of all ages from a geographical area to transport them to school, sometimes dropping off at more than one school. It would not be possible to have an additional bus collecting children from the same route at a different time. Please also note that the Local Authority is having to plan to provide transport for any pupils who would normally use the public bus service but who, due to the restrictions still in place on public services which limit numbers, may no longer be able to obtain a place."

Once my colleagues and I have planned the curriculum, teaching, and the hygiene protection measures, lunchtime and breaktime, this issue of transport needs serious thought. Devon go on to recommend "schools are strongly advised to seek other ways for example allocating different entrances for different pupils, ensuring one bus allows a pupils to disembark before allowing the next bus to open the doors etc.". We can do these. But we have maybe 50% of students arriving on school buses, 20% by public transport, 20% in cars, and 10% walking and cycling. If lots of the "bus children" travel by car in September (which I think is very likely and wholly understandable) then given our site access coupled with not many safe drop-zones near the school, we may have some tricky issues.

Ironically, one solution would be staggered drop off times, although immediately there will be issues with this for parents who have to start work early but who have a late drop-off time, or for parents with siblings. We will do our best.

Communications to Parents

You will have worked out that it will be impossible by next Friday to have constructed all the plans, dotted the “i”s and crossed the “t”s (not using that expression again, punctuation’s impossible). I will have to communicate throughout the summer holiday. We will sort out Exam Results Days next week. However, the position for September will not be known for a while: the Government have indicated a Big Announcement on 11th August; exam results days are on 13th and 20th August; our admin staff are back in from 24th August. So, please keep an eye on your e-mails and the website at regular intervals from mid-August, and particularly from Monday 24th onwards.

A Second Cranbrook?

Shock news (to me anyway) on the Devon Live website of a ‘second Cranbrook’, and possible expansion of Clyst Vale. First I’ve heard of it. It’s one of 39 possible and competing developments all over “Greater Exeter” as part of the “Greater Exeter Strategic Plan” (GESP) delivering 18,000+ homes by 2040, and in the very early stages of being unveiled. Obviously, it would be great to expand, have some serious modernisation and new buildings, and sort out all of our access issues. Call me an old cynic, but I’m not holding my breath. We were going to be expanded in the very earliest proposals for the first Cranbrook, and then moved into it, but we’re still here in sunny Broadclyst with sheep (and now alpaca) in the adjoining field.

From Devon County Council: Finding Childcare and Summer Provision

I have been asked by DCC to advise parents that they will be able to find out what childcare will be available on the Pinpoint Site. If parents cannot find childcare they can complete the Unable to Find Childcare Form and the Early Years team will contact them. Updated information on those settings that will be open in the summer holidays will also be posted on the Devon County Council website. Please note this is parent funded provision.

Youth Parliament

We have some amazing young people at CVCC, and our Youth Parliament members are no exception. They have been involved in a variety of campaigns. Joe Hartley (MYP) has been championing Greener Devon, focusing on the climate crisis for 0-18 age group, part of the YP national campaign; Jake Gregory (Dep MYP) is also involved with this campaign. A logo competition has concluded, and Greener Devon is developing a kitemark award for schools to demonstrate environmental commitment.

Twitter: @UKYPDevon, and for more information and monthly updates please sign up to our newsletter at: <https://facebook.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=08e6ff243a3ff50d24b20d1d9&id=2abd2f241a>
Saffie Moon (Dep MYP) is involved with Exeter YP’s Mental Health Awareness Campaign. They’ve set up an Instagram account (@exeterinsight) and post daily. Initial feedback has been very positive. Fuller details on YP activities are on the website.

Head Boy and Head Girl Elections

We have some amazing young people at CVCC. Although the pandemic prevented many annual events from taking place, nothing interferes with CVCC HBHG elections.....

It needed a couple of tweaks. Year 10 students were asked to write a formal letter of application to their Head of School, as usual. Instead of hustings, the candidates produced fantastic, professional power points and videos uploaded onto MS Teams for other students to view. Votes were then cast on-line. And no, we didn’t strengthen our filters to ensure there was no Russian interference in the elections; not there was any in the USA anyway.

So, many congratulations to the following students who are duly elected.....

	Head Girl	Head Boy	Deputy Head Girl	Deputy Head Boy
Green	Lara Gimbuta	Tom Massey	Lily Roberts	Adam Muscat
Red	Lara Gulec	Robin Wellaway	Maddie Phillips	Jack Belworthy
Yellow	Martha Bolt	Adam Champion	Emilie Atwell	Ed Harris-Baty

I am really looking forward to working with them in the student College Council; last year's made fantastic progress in developing student voice and it was so frustrating that we locked down before they could bring this to a conclusion. Two of the HBHG were on last year's Council, which will be great for continuity.

Internet Safety

There is a growing popularity for Anime among young people. However, a parent has shared a concern with us about a game called Gasha Studio (Anime dress up) – this is a game where people can choose avatars and create scenarios. Looking at the game's reviews, there are comments about inappropriate poses (pole dancing), that it is “not for kids”, you can't turn off the chat feature, and that the content includes child abuse, suicide, bullying and murder. Please be aware! And this is a specific example of the general reminder that although difficult, parents should be aware of their child's on-line activities and be prepared to talk.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Mrs Long has ordered all of the vouchers for the Summer Food Fund and they will be delivered today, Friday 10th July. This covers the seven weeks of the summer holiday. Clearly, this allows a week until we break up if you have any questions or problems. Please e-mail longr@clystvale.org. I should add that Racheal Long has done such a brilliant job with FSM that parents with children at other schools are now contacting her for advice.

Active Devon and Sport England

Just a reminder to the e-mail you have received to ask if your child could complete a short survey for Active Devon and Sport England. It would be brilliant if as many students as completed the survey by the end of next week. The information will then be to better plan PE curriculum provision and the best use of extra-curricular resources. In other words, this will help shape the future experience your son or daughter has in PE at Clyst Vale Community College. The all-important log-in is <https://ipsos.uk/MDZEF>

Y11 End of Year Event

We still have not given up on the idea of an end of Year 11 event of some description; we're well aware that a number of prom dresses are hanging forlornly in wardrobes (forgive the lazy stereotyping, but most lads don't think about suits until the week before), and we're doing our best. As you know, gatherings are still restricted. One or two schools have “announced” proms for the early autumn, but these are looking improbable. I believe that one has provisionally gone for a Christmas date, and another one for a sort of one-year reunion next summer. The longer it goes into the 2020-21 academic year, the greater the chance that our students will have “moved on” to their new courses and institutions. So, it's frustrating that I can't offer anything clear and definite. We're in fairly regular contact with our normal Prom venue, Reed Hall, but they are in largely the same boat as we are.

Best wishes,



Dr Bawn

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

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

DURING THE COLLEGE CLOSURE FOR COVID-19, PLEASE CONTACT THE COLLEGE ON THE CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR HAS ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT ILLNESS WHICH HAS AN IMPACT ON THEIR ABILITY TO LEARN EFFECTIVELY WHILE AT HOME.

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

For Year 12 - 13 Absences

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: barringtonj@clystvale.org

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



COLLEGE DRESS: WE WILL BE BACK EVENTUALLY !!!

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

