



NEWSLETTER

No. 714
w/c Mon 14 June 2021
Week B

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"The greatest nations are defined by how they treat their weakest inhabitants." Jorge Ramos

Dear Parents and Carers

Where to Start?

There's been a lot happening last week, this week and next. Let's do it in order.

- Last week wasn't a good week for the education sector, with the resignation of Sir Kevan Collins, the government's education recovery tsar. It also seems that the £15bn needed for a comprehensive and robust programme has been reduced by 90%, although there are vague promises of more funding in the future. Although most of the talk is about recovering lost learning, many educationalists (including me, for what it's worth) consider that the impact on social, emotional and psychological development is arguably just as concerning, and arguably more expensive to do well.
- This week we returned to College after the half-term break. The backdrop – as you know – is the daily “will he, won't he” debate on the extent to which restrictions will be lifted next week. My sense is that this is causing a widespread nervousness in society in general, and some sectors in particular. Children pick up on mood, and there has been a sort of unsettled feel this week which can't really be attributed to anything specific; teachers are commenting that many students seem tired, which is unusual after a week's break. Linked to my comments above, one legacy of lockdown is that some students have not progressed in social skills, so we are seeing more squabbles. Talking to Headteacher colleagues, this is quite a widespread issue, even in Primary schools. Students are not “playing nicely” compared to pre-lockdown. However, as usual, the vast majority of students here are fine and doing well; poorer behaviour tends to be within subsets of students or friendship groups, and is very rarely random, which is reassuring. Needless to say, we are alert to this, proactive, and following up the issues.
- Next week there will be the Prime Minister's roadmap announcement on Monday. I've said before, for schools the devil is in the detail of the revised guidance for schools. Schools could benefit from a general loosening of restrictions; or still remain covid-secure to allow other sectors of society to open; or see no change at all. Amidst all the speculation and uncertainty, you can at least be sure that there will be another Clyst Vale communication to parents next week, when we know the schools' guidance! I just hope for students' sakes that there are no disappointing impacts on the big events planned for later in the term.

Year 10 Exams

- Year 10 Parents and Carers will have received a separate letter about this, and students will also have received their timetables. If not, please let us know! The exams will be week beginning 28th June, and (covid guidance-permitting) will be in the Hall.

Grades Update

- From Year 11, Year 13, and some Year 12 students' perspective, this is all finished, work is done and handed in, forms signed, and the next significant event will be Results Day. Before then, however, they will be contacted about the appeals process, which we received earlier this week. Our immediate priority is to complete our internal quality assurance checks, and submit all grades before next Friday; after that, the Exam Boards will be doing a sampling exercise, so a number (don't know what it is yet) of student folders will be scanned and sent off by Wednesday 23rd. We have followed all the advice and guidance closely, and believe we have a robust and efficient process in place which balances professionalism, objectivity and above all a fair chance for students; however, like a number of things this week, we are in the uncharted territory cliché, and there is that teeny little doubt which hangs around until it's all over.

Ofsted Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges

- This report was released earlier this week, and has rightly generated a lot of interest and concern. Although initially the media focused on how schools were failing, it has quickly become accepted that sexual abuse and harassment is an issue for society as a whole, and while schools must play an important part, there are heavy responsibilities on government, local government, families and individuals too. The question at times like these is "what are you going to do at Clyst Vale?". The answer is that we will read the report; attend specialist webinars and training; read the recommendations for schools; review our current curriculum and approaches; inform and involve all members of our community; and stress that sexual abuse and harassment are wholly wrong and contradict the rights of girls and women (not forgetting that sexual abuse can also be against boys, men, and those without a gender identity). One thing we will definitely be doing is holding firm to the RRS principles. The media talk about a culture change in schools; that's exactly what we are trying to do with RRS. Its values form the culture we want to establish, which firmly includes opposing and ending sexual abuse and harassment.
- A major danger area highlighted in the report is on-line activity and social media. In schools, we frequently address the issues of on-line safety, although how much this relates directly to sexual comments and images will need review; as the report acknowledges, many teachers are not comfortable, experienced or trained to discuss sexual issues with their teenage students. In most schools, such as CVCC, smartphones are banned, so their use is out of school hours. As with all on-line safety, there is a potentially difficult role for parents to monitor what their children are doing on their phones.
- In our favour is that we are a Rights Respecting School, so talk openly and often about rights, equality and respect. Our Course 42 and CPS provision reflects a strong Sex & Relationships Policy, and includes up to date issues such as pornography in its provision. That does not mean we are complacent, though; all of this will be reviewed in due course. Also in our favour is the strong pastoral relationships we have with students, which means that issues and concerns can be raised sensitively with a trusted adult. When issues are brought to our attention, we deal with them. Do I think there is an issue at Clyst Vale? I would never pretend that there is no bullying or harassment along sexual lines, and have some sympathy with the view that if you say "doesn't happen here" you're not looking hard enough. I have issued exclusions for sexually offensive language this year. The question is, how widespread is the issue? This is one of the things we will be investigating, sensitively, through our S&RE programmes.

Rail Safety

- Network Rail in partnership with Learn Live are working to help raise awareness to students across the UK about the dangers of trespassing on train tracks. We are told that it is becoming quite a concern in the Exeter and East Devon area. We will soon be using the safety videos provided in tutorials, but if you are interested, or particularly concerned about your own child's safety, the secondary school version is on:-

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/>

Sixth Form News

- Year 13 students have now left the building, although a number are still in regular contact with us.
- Subject to covid, their prom will be on 30th June. Special mention to Jasmine (Year 13) who has coordinated much of this, and who even has a Plan B!
- Year 12 Exams will be from 5th to 7th July. Timetables have been sent, and an introductory session on revision plans undertaken.
- Next Wednesday Year 12 students will have a revision skills session with external company “Exams Made Easy” .
- The following Monday, we will be welcoming some of Year 11 back again for a Sixth Form taster day. Attendance is building nicely.

Best wishes,

Kevin Bawn
Principal



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



GREEN SCHOOL

7GABR	Charlie Cartwright
7GDH	Oliver Hynd
8GAW	Alice Davis
10GGT	Sophie Elliot
10GMN	Eleanor Hartley

RED SCHOOL

7RZB	Kaine Abbott
8RAR	Alissa Viri
9RGG	Jena Bentley
10RSS	Rhys Burt-Jones

YELLOW SCHOOL

7YPN	Owen O'Mahony
8YDS	Alex Eynon
8YSP	Toby Brooks
10YCW	Michael Rothery

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)

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!

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.

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



CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Sat 12 - Monday 14 June	Silver DofE Event
Tues 15 - Thurs 17 June	AS Geography Fieldwork
Thurs 17 June 6.00pm - 7.30pm	Y6 Non-Feeder Schools' Evening (TBC)
Fri 18 June	Deadline for Grades to Exam Boards
Tues 22 June	Deep Learning Day
Thurs 24 & Fri 25 June	Y10 Geography Fieldwork
Fri 25 June 6pm - 11pm	Y11 School Prom
Thurs 01 - 03 July	Gold DofE Practice Y12 & Y13
Weds 07 - Fri 09 July	New Intake Induction Days
Mon 12 July 6.00pm - 8.00pm	New Intake Parents' Evening
Mon 12 - 13 July	Y10 Taster Days - Post 16
Weds 14 July	Sports Day
Thurs 15 July	Sports Day (reserve date)
Fri 16 & Sat 17 (all day) & Sun 18 July (half day)	School Production Technical Rehearsal
19 July - 23 July	Gold DofE Expedition
19 July - 23 July	Y10 and Y12 Work Experience
20 July - 23 July	School Production Performance
Fri 23 July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM - NON UNIFORM DAY - WATER AID

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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Library: 01392 464010

