



NEWSLETTER

No. 682
w/c Mon 14 September
Week B

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dear Parents and Carers

Next Week's Tweaks

- Devon County Council (improving on national guidance) want face coverings on all school buses, and we are happy to support this – in fact, a high proportion of Clyst Vale students are already doing this. It's not mandatory though, and clearly exceptions will apply (SEND, asthma, etc).
- We want students to use masks more during lesson changeover and at social times (except when eating). They do not see the risks, and will need reminding. At lesson changeover they are mixing, and distancing is not often 1m; and at lunchtimes indoors they are in close groups, so coverings will help.
- Linked to this, students will be reminded (and need to remember) to stick to their Year Groups during lesson changeovers and aim for 2m distancing from other groups. This will mean at times they will need to wait a few seconds for others to pass or go ahead.
- Marquees and the field are not to be used at break. This was always the case, so is a reminder not new news. (Unless it is wet, in which marquees only, not the field, can be used as extra shelter. Next week I will issue a lengthy document defining "wet"...).
- This won't be popular. Ball games on the field can be only "passing" games NOT competitive, which automatically rules out any football or rugby involving two sides and tackling. If students can't stick to this, the really unpleasant alternative which I wish to avoid will be to ban all ball games.
- Students will be allowed to wear PLAIN black or navy tracksuit bottoms (ie not tops). This does not include "jogger" style or material tracksuit bottoms; and plain means that great big logos or large brand names or stripes aren't ok. We've been really pleased how the PE/College uniform hybrid has worked, and the ingenuity of young people, so while we're happy to introduce tracksuit bottoms we don't want to spoil the overall "look".

This Week's Peaks

Starting with the "Tweaks" gives a false impression. This week has overall been a great success. We have an attendance rate of 97% which is fantastic and way above the national 89%, we have inducted Year 7 who have been brilliant, we have introduced a load of new routines (some of which don't make much

sense if you're a teenager who in general go from A to B by the shortest possible route almost irrespective of what might be in the way). This shouldn't be under-estimated: it's all very well designing complicated one-way systems on a diagram, but there was a real sense of nervousness when 930+ pairs of feet road-tested it, and a huge sense of relief when it more-or-less worked! We are teaching proper lessons again. It has been a real pleasure to see the students again, and the College feels like a school again. So many things have gone right: the PE Kit variations have looked good, older students have been magnificent in helping the new ones and demonstrating that traditional Clyst Vale ethos. As anticipated, our new colleagues are providing new energy and new ideas. Some students haven't coped quite so well, but fewer than we were expecting, and colleagues are putting in plenty of support.

“Covid-Safe”

We have done what we thought was our best to be as safe as possible, to reduce risk as much as we can, and in light of the 1860+ feet arriving will continually look to tighten and improve, hence the tweaks above. Students should be reporting that for most of the day they are in their year group, although classes might vary. They should be reporting that they can sanitise their hands every lesson, and should be reminded to do so. At the end of every lesson (and sometimes the start) tables and chairs will be wiped down, sometimes involving them, sometimes not. They should be seeing cleaning staff now and again throughout the day as they clean on a rotational basis around the site especially after breaks, not just from lunchtime onwards from before lockdown. Students are being great about face coverings on transport, but we need to see greater use outside lessons, especially indoors at lunch and breaktimes. This is the sharp end of helping to protect adults.

It is really helpful and adds immensely to covid-safety if students have their own equipment. Lists have been circulated previously, but in a summary list: black/blue pen and spares, pencil and spares, ruler, eraser, calculator, red pen. A gluestick and a small pair of rounded safety scissors (the ones barely capable of cutting paper, they are so safe) will be added to this list in future.

This Week's Bleaks

We have had significant difficulties this week with Stagecoach as they struggled to adjust to the new term and the absence of any services for six months. I'm touching wood as I type, but I believe these have all been resolved. There will be big enough buses in the morning; children won't be directed to get off; they will be on time; we will have at least three buses in the evening with at least one here by 3.20 at the latest, ready for boarding at the end of the school day. It's really easy to be critical, and I was furious that students were late, inconvenienced, in tears, phoning parents to rescue them at 4.00 pm on Monday, or having a sardine-like socially undistanced journey. We have had good relationships with Stagecoach over the years, and one small comfort is that their Operations Team has done well to resolve all these issues.

Not a problem yet, but I am concerned that unless test-and-trace improves significantly and rapidly we will be in for some challenging times. Booking a test does seem to be a lottery; one person gets through immediately, another is sent to Bristol or Southampton or can't actually book one. So, if a teacher has their own child sent home with suspected symptoms, and it takes a couple of days to get a test, and then a couple to get the result, that teacher is setting cover work from home for maybe a week. Where possible, they will try to live teach Post-16 groups, and we are developing ways that they could beam into College, although this would be hard to make interactive; this is what the government meant by “blending remote learning with classroom teaching”, and is going to be one of the next challenges for all schools to develop. Going forward, there could be several “tests pending” at the same time, and possible 14 day self-isolation. Potentially, this could be very difficult to manage and disruptive. Worst case, we could have insufficient staff to open fully on a given day – like a snow day. Once again, we will be doing our absolute best to put the students' interests first, and react to specific circumstances. (There are big cost implications for schools, too, but that's another story). Let's hope that the government's Moonshot successfully lands in a Sea of Tranquility.

Exam Grade Controversy Rumbles On: Centre-Deflated Grades

There are a few outstanding appeals I need to attend to. More widely, I am still writing to various politicians and trying to keep this issue alive in support of ASCL who have more clout than me but who are also pressurising. I hope that the issue will be raised at the Education Select Committee on 16th September before it becomes too late.

Exams and Revision

Especially useful for anyone taking the Autumn Exams, but also for anyone in an exam year or their parents/carers. In the student section on the College website there is a drop down for exams and revision, on this page there is a section titled exam boards with lots of information and further links.

Comms

The first CV&CC update went on the website on Tuesday, and will continue on Tuesdays until and unless it's not needed. Parents may not be aware that I also produce a Student Bulletin on a Friday. It often contains the same things as the Newsletter, but is more directed at students, and sometimes has different content. Now we're back, it will be much more directly influenced by student comment and feedback. It's for the students, so you will need to ask to see it!

Thank you very much indeed for all your support at this demanding time: we see the outcomes in the sense of properly clad and clean students, with equipment and books and snacks or lunch. We don't see the skill and efforts which result in these outcomes every day!

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn
Principal

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD



Library:



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



YELLOW SCHOOL

7YEM	Jasper Forty
7YPN	Lauren Shelton
8YDS	Dillan Burt
8YSP	Aaron Morley
9YNS	Charlie-Mae Hancock
10YRB	George Wright
11YZKH	Harrison Coles

RED SCHOOL

7RZB	Peyton McKenzie
7RHPI	Ruby Hopkins
8RAO	Daniel Horn
9RGG	Noah Roberts
9RER	Kaleb Harris
10RSS	Reagan Seagrave

GREEN SCHOOL

7GABR	Max Clements & Freya Sheats
7GDH	Theo Barefoot
8GBA	Harry Smith
9GSW	Aaron Hole
9GNB	Dan Baynes
10GMN	Charlie Wood & Charlie Norman
11GHE	Eleanor Francis
11GIM	Natalia Hannaford

Roald Dahl Day!

Who's Reading Dahl?

Do you know who these members of staff are?

If you think you do, tell the librarian and if you guess correctly you will be entered into the prize draw!



Closing Date, 17th September



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.