

NEWSLETTER

No. 701
w/c Mon 22 February
Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be some kind of library."
Jorge Luis Borges

If your child or a household member tests positive for covid-19 during half-term, please let us know ! Ideally, contact the emergency out-of-hours number AND phone/e-mail StudentAbsence (details below). For students we need to know the dates when symptoms started, which symptoms, date of test, and date of result. For household members just the date of the result and when students will be free from isolation.

The College will re-open to KWV students and staff on Monday, 22nd February. It will be Week A.

Dear Parents and Carers

That was the week that was

- There's no point using fancy words, we have had a Covid-19 outbreak. However, hopefully there will be no more associated cases: in total, seven of my colleagues and three students tested positive. Most are over the worst and recovering; three are still quite unwell at home; two are over the symptoms but are struggling with tiredness and recovering more slowly. I know that several families have experienced a positive case: it really can be a nasty virus, although in many cases, especially among young people, it's incredibly mild. It's not comfortable, but there have now been fourteen deaths from covid among relatives of members of our Clyst Vale community; almost all were relatives of colleagues, and almost all were old. I honestly do not believe that my colleagues and I had become too relaxed – tired, maybe – but we have had a sharp reminder that this is a very infectious virus once it gets a foothold.
- It was one of the trickier weeks in my years as Principal, so I was bowled over by the amount of parental support for the decision to close, including keyworkers who were inconvenienced, and even Devon Live facebook page was surprisingly overwhelmingly in favour. Thank you again to everyone who contacted me. I felt I had no choice: with 25 colleagues and testers isolating, it just wasn't safe to open, apart from the risks of an outbreak becoming a torrent. We might have theoretically managed a dozen or so children in a computer suite without lunch and no decent breaks for a day or two after cleaning, but it could have looked like a scene from "Oliver" and would have been miserable. (And how to prioritise the dozen?).

- What can we learn? We'll never know how the virus came into College, or how exactly it spread, but this appears to have been mainly a "staff" issue. Parents must be reassured that after a very long meeting with Public Health, the measures we have in place are what can reasonably be expected of a school. robust, and some go beyond the norm (cleaning regime, LFT testing). The challenge is making sure that everyone follows them at all times, and develops a "covid mindset". In all workplace settings, there are danger spots: informal conversations which edge within two metres apart; not opening windows on a freezing February day; not religiously wiping down shared items like photocopiers, kettles, fridge handles, even the milk bottle; "I won't need a mask as I'm only nipping to the loo and there aren't many people in yet"; maintaining the obsession with hand sanitising on entry/exit from every room. Clearly, we will be reinforcing this for students and staff when we return on February 22nd. As further assurance, we have had the Main Block and rooms of the Y8 girls' bubble and Additional Support bubble thoroughly cleaned with recommended anti-bacterial products. Further, almost all of the rooms used will have remained unused for two weeks.

That was the half-term that was.

- It has been very hard work compared to normal, and I include parents and carers in that. Even so, I have been really pleased with what has been accomplished, very proud of my colleagues, very grateful to parents, and very impressed by Clyst Vale's wonderful students. Humans are very good at focusing on the negatives and the problems, which overshadows all the successes. We (all of us) have sustained a remote learning provision which has nearly always been 5 lessons every day, most of which have been live and/or interactive. Students, by and large, have maintained their learning and are not falling behind in the catastrophic way the press is reporting. We are actively supporting families who are facing difficulties: FSM vouchers, technology, general advice. 15% of students are attending KWV, well above national and local averages for secondary schools. We have worked hard to sustain a sense of belonging to the Clyst Vale community. Yes, we're in lockdown, it's hard, everyone has good and bad days, students miss their friends, staff (secretly) miss the students, remote teaching and learning will never be equal to face-to-face, but in that context I am delighted with what we have achieved, and I include parents and carers in that.

Non-Engagement Incidents

- This is causing a little bit of contention. The reasons are simple enough: we wanted to let parents know whether students are engaging and submitting work. It is not supposed to be punitive but supportive; to start a dialogue at home, and to let us know if there are barriers we could help with. It is not a behaviour point which will be saved up to beat students at a later date, and nor is it a reflection on the quality of parenting. We know what (some) teenagers can be like. It *is* to raise the issue of engagement, because students who persistently don't engage are jeopardising their own futures, as educationalists we can't just allow that to happen unchallenged, and I won't make any apology for that provided we are sensitive to the small number of genuinely difficult cases. And we are sensitive: teachers have been instructed to not make a non-engagement note on the back of one missed lesson, and to exercise professional judgement. For example, if a student has technical issues but e-mails the teacher to explain, they should not receive a referral. Another practical reason for the system is that it was proving really difficult to track student non-engagement, and this was a simple way for teachers without creating much additional workload.
- So far, around 1400 incidents have been recorded from around 100 students. Therefore 770+ students have not been issued with one. Some students are reporting that the notifications are demotivating; I can understand that, but it needs breaking down a bit. If a student is receiving a lot, it's a sign that they probably need some help and advice. If it's in one or two subjects, especially if it seems unfair, then again please let us know so we can look into it. It's not a behaviour point. We will try to be supportive.
- We won't be stopping this, because we have a duty to encourage engagement and to inform parents of any problems. However, as I said, it's not an end in itself but a means to an end. At the very minimum, we need to start a dialogue to try to build up engagement. Yes, we have some students who are facing real difficulties in engaging; but we have just as many who started lockdown badly and are now engaging well; and 770+ students deserve every congratulation for their hard work and perseverance, even on drab, down days.

Year 9 Options

For Year 9 students who are ready to submit their Options choices, the SIMS Options module is now ready to use! Parents and carers can use the SIMS Options area of the Parent App to help complete the subject selections. Parents & carers have been sent a letter that explains the process in full, available here [Year 9 Options – CVCC \(clystvale.org\)](http://www.clystvale.org/Year9Options). The deadline for submission is 9am on Monday 22nd February.

Sixth Form News

- Yesterday was Year 12 Parents' Evening. Thank you to parents for taking part! Inevitably, there were a couple of connection issues, but it seems to have gone really well. Miss Haynes spoke to many of the year group, and the vast majority was very positive about the provision we have been offering during lockdown.
- There's a student voice survey live at the moment, to which 30 Sixth Formers have responded. The more the merrier, if that expression is permitted under social distancing regulations.
- The (much reduced) AS entries have been made.
- Year 13 narrative reports are due out in the next half-term.
- Understandably, with no firm information yet about how grades will be awarded, against the background of pandemic uncertainties and the experiences of university students since March, there is more anxiety than normal. Things will get clearer by the end of February, and the Sixth Form team will be actively supporting students.

Free School Meals

For half-term FSM vouchers have been provided through the Devon County scheme. These have been e-mailed or posted. If you or any of your families have any queries or issues relating to the vouchers, please contact Devon's free school meals team on 01392 383829 or email freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk

Station Road Road Closure

This has been postponed from this week until next, starting on Monday, 15th February. This coincides with half-term, of course, but for some reason people drive up and down Station Road even when Clyst Vale isn't open.....

Late News: Congratulations to the Pearces

I've just heard that Mr Adam Pearce and his wife Amy have a son, Tommy, and all are doing well. Congratulations!

Finally, thank you all very much again for all your support and patience during the past few weeks, which has been invaluable. We anticipate important announcements in the week after half-term, to provide more clarity and certainty for the rest of this school year. Boris Johnson, hopefully unaffected by Station Road's closure, will unveil his roadmap to lifting the lockdown including return to school; Gavin Williamson about education specifically and the summer "exams").

In the meantime, I know we continue in lockdown, but nonetheless very best wishes for the half-term week.

Yours thankfully



Kevin Bawn
Principal

Reporting of Covid-19 positive test results throughout Lockdown (including evenings and weekends)

To report a **positive Covid-19 test result during normal school hours**, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or email: studentabsence@clystvaled.org

If out-of-hours, we have a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends. This isn't for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, or advice.

07818 212 931

We would prefer you to text positive Covid-19 test result information to this number, including:

Name of student; Tutor group; Dates of 1. When symptoms appeared; 2. Test; 3. Test result

If necessary, someone will contact you having received this information. Thank you!

Bonnie and Clyde Auditions - UPDATE!!!

The remaining auditions for the Summer production will now be by self-tape. The audition material is the same as before, but we would like you to film your audition and email it to us. The deadline is **Sunday 14th February** and all the instructions and information is on the ALL STUDENTS TEAM. This also includes any Year 7-9 who missed their auditions prior to Christmas (not those already offered a recall - we are hopeful that these may still happen live, in school). We are really looking forward to watching your audition tapes.



GOOD LUCK!!!!

Miss Williams

Broadclyst Parish Area – Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Our Parish
Our Plan
Our Choice



Broadclyst Parish Council is inviting residents to have their say on the Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation period began on 4th December and runs until the end of next month (Sunday 28th February).

There are 3 elements to the Plan – the vision, the policies and the projects.

The feedback form invites you to rank how important you feel various aspects of the Plan are, as well as having plenty of space for ‘free text’ feedback.

Policies include the proposed Community Sports Hub, heritage trails, renewable energy production, housing, pedestrian and cycle routes and protecting woodland and green spaces. Projects include public transport and active travel initiatives, regenerating orchards and addressing flooding.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives communities direct power to

- develop a shared vision for their Parish;
- allocate sites and shape development for their Parish;
- shape growth by design codes for their Parish, and
- protect and enhance special places within their Parish.

The Parish Council is now seeking your views on that shared vision, policies, community actions and projects that will shape the future of the Parish.

To access further information and the feedback form, please click on the link below, which will take you to the relevant section of the Broadclyst Parish Council website:

[Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan Community Consultation](#)

STAY SCAM AWARE

Trading Standards is warning us all to beware of scams following reports that fraudsters are sending fake texts offering a Covid-19 vaccine.

Among the difficulties Covid-19 has brought into our lives, it has given rise to an increase in scams as fraudsters try to exploit our uncertainty.

In one Covid-related scam, fraudsters are sending text messages containing a link to what police call an "extremely convincing" fake NHS website.

The scam message reads 'we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine' and prompts you to click on a link for further information or to 'apply' for the vaccine.

Once on the website you are asked to input your bank details to register for a vaccine. Remember, the NHS will never ask for payment details.

There are lots of other Covid-related scams too, such as:



Test and Trace scams – criminals contact potential victims claiming to be from the Test and Trace service but are really trying to get their personal information or trick them into handing over money.



Doorstep crime – there are many genuine groups assisting the most vulnerable, however, be alert for individuals who may take your money under the false pretence of helping.

Tips to help you stay safe

- If you get a text or email that asks you to click on a link or provide information such as your name or payment details, delete it.
- Never give out your bank/card details, PIN or passwords over the phone, online or on your doorstep.
- Don't ring the number a caller has given you to check it's genuine. Always look the number up for yourself.

What to do if you've been scammed

Report scams and get advice through Citizens Advice. Call **0808 223 1133** or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/what-to-do-if-youve-been-scammed/

Report the scam to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or at www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime

For more information visit www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/scams-rogue-traders-and-doorstep-crime/

tsconnect

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
Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	Spring Half Term
w/b 08 March	Y11 Core Subject Mock Exams - CANCELLED
Thurs 11 March 4pm-7pm	Y7 Parents' Evening - probably online (TBC)
Sat 13 & Sun 14 March	Ten Tors/DofE Practice Weekend (TBC)
Weds 17 March (TBC)	Deep Learning Day (if back in school!)
w/b Mon 22 March	Y10 Exams (TBC)
Tues 23 - Fri 26 March	Y12 Geography Fieldwork Residential (TBC)
Thurs 1st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Tues 20th April	Start of Summer Term
	Half Term
Fri 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

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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Library: 01392 464010

