



# NEWSLETTER

**No. 673**  
**w/c Mon 15 June**  
**Week A**

## SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK

“Land of Confusion” [Genesis]

Dear Parents/Carers,

### September

Not surprisingly, I’m beginning to receive a few e-mails asking what Clyst Vale’s plans are for September. For some reason I’m reminded of Donald Rumsfeld’s known unknowns and unknown unknowns, as well as things being in our control and other things not. It is also important to remember that despite all the rhetoric, Heads do not have quite as much autonomy as you might imagine. Two-metres is the absolute fundamental social distancing requirement at present, set by the government; this means that despite it all being down to my discretion, we can only have eleven students in our classrooms, not fifteen, unless I use my discretion to knock a wall out. Anyway, what are the known knowns about September?

- Everybody wants all year groups to have face to face school time from September;
- Key workers’ children and vulnerable children will still have priority for available places;
- The number of key workers requiring support is likely to grow further;
- Although there hasn’t been much guidance about this, except to prohibit transition visits this term, we will be expected to welcome the new Year 7;
- That schools will still be subject to social distancing and other medical health requirements.

So, if I’m correct, the implications are likely to be that

- Children will be attending on a rota basis of some sort; week-on, week-off as this might be better for employers seeking to recover
- We may need to review our organisation. It might be possible to put Year 7 and 8 in “bubbles” with fewer teachers teaching a range of subjects each, but for exam years it is inevitable that students require subject specialists and that this will be impossible without more mixing.

- Learning will be “blended”, in other words a mix between remote learning and in-school teaching.

Although we are not making a big fuss about it, we are steadily developing this area of work. Almost no-one used Microsoft Teams in March; now, almost everyone is using it. There is much more use of video and audio now. Several colleagues are experimenting with live lessons or briefer sessions, and this will continue. For September, this will be embedded. It would be fantastic if there was live teaching every day, almost replicating the College day; however, for this to happen students will need ready access to technology, and as I say below, this needs levels of funding we don’t have.

### **What is beyond our control ?**

- The virus itself. We do not know what course it will run, and therefore what response the government will make
- The need for a national plan if disruption continues, and a timetable for when decisions about summer holiday and autumn term provision; there could be more news about this in the near future
- A plan for how schools and colleges would be expected to respond if we see a second spike of the virus (beyond normal short-term school closure procedures, that is)
- Funding. We will need more cleaning, more staffing, ideally more toilets and hand-washing facilities
- There is a very significant “digital divide” which the current schemes for laptops and dongles are barely beginning to address
- Decisions about what happens to the 2021 exams: it’s obvious that they can’t be as normal, so will there be revised exams, lowered grade boundaries, or a similar algorithmic exercise to this year? Year 10 and 12 students, parents and teachers need to know
- Decisions about league tables and Ofsted. In our case, we’re due for inspection in October 2021; how on earth can this be done fairly unless the framework for inspection is significantly changed?

So, there is only a month to the end of term, and September is very much on my mind. However, with the wider opening for Year 10 and Year 12 from 22nd June, as well as preparing for the unknown with exam results, coupled with a national lack of clarity about September, our plans remain fluid and range over different scenarios. One visible and practical development with the future in mind is that your child will be experiencing more variety and experimentation with remote learning.

### **Year 9 Parents**

The move from Year 9 lessons to Year 10 options has gone very well. By now students will have worked out that they will be set work for Options A&C on one day, B&D on the next, in a rota. The full pattern is:

AMon	ATue	AWed	AThu	AFri	BMon	BTue	BWed	BThu	BFri
A, C	B, D	A, C	B, D	A, C	B, D	A, C	B, D	A, C	B, D

I suggest that students take their planners and physically overwrite their former Year 9 lessons with their new options. And please can parents remind/encourage their child to seek these lessons out. They are in new Teams. These are GCSE subjects; all work set will be relevant and useful, and certainly not just to fill in time. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to get ahead, rather than worrying about falling behind or learning gaps widening.

## **Live Lessons and Safeguarding**

The number of live lessons on Teams is increasing. Please can I remind students, parents and colleagues that students should turn off their cameras during live lessons? Teachers do not want to look into students' homes or bedrooms, and this has rightly been a major concern of the teacher unions that teachers are putting themselves at risk by doing so. The fact that students and parents may not want teachers able to look is equally relevant. However, we have to face the fact that going forward live lessons will be more common, and now is a good time to iron out the wrinkles.

## **Motivation**

This is a huge issue for parents and carers at the moment. I was sent a link of BBC Breakfast on Wednesday which covered this topic. To start with, lockdown was quite good fun, then it was the Easter hols, then remote learning went pretty well for the short half-term, and it's only now that many parents of older Primary and secondary are running into difficulty. This is across the whole ability and socio-economic range. Previously high motivated, conscientious, eager to learn youngsters are becoming surly and harder to prise away from the breakfast table, Netflix or whatever their favourite distraction is.

This is really hard for everyone. Teachers rely on face-to-face contact to motivate students, and we haven't got that. The people on the front line for this are parents and carers. From our point of view, we can send out more audio, video, try more live lessons, encourage more Chat, but if a student hasn't switched on the computer, it's going to make no difference whatsoever. How do you motivate a teenager? I had three of my own, and I am asking lots of people what they do with the modern version, which essentially hasn't changed. There is no magic bullet. It boils down to lots of carrots and as few sticks as possible. Teenagers need a routine, but give them some slack; it doesn't have to be like the Swiss railways, and if they fall off the routine one day there's always tomorrow. Teenagers need encouragement, positivity, praise, and rewards (this is why teaching can be so knacker: the relentless smiling and patience). They need this even when they are shooting laser stares from one eye beneath the fringe. In lockdown, it's worse: no or limited access to friends; no opportunity to escape the family when teenage DNA strives for some independence. So, while it is counter intuitive, they may need more time on their phone, more downtime. Education is unbelievably important, and the more they can do, the better. Remote learning is simply not as good as school because of the lack of human interaction, and even live lessons won't solve this; there are undoubtedly learning gaps developing (although I think some of the doom and gloom headlines in the media are overstating this, especially at secondary level). But if you like your metaphors as much as I do, it's a war not a battle, a marathon not a sprint. It is really hard work at the moment, and all any of us can do is our best. All that said and done, if you have individual concerns about your son and daughter's welfare or learning, please contact us: unlike normal school, we cannot possibly see the little signs which will trigger a warning bell, a conversation, or a phone call home.

## **Au Revoir, Year 11**

It would have been Year 11's last major GCSE exam today!! Thanks to the talent and skill of Mr Pearce and Miss Williams, we are able to mark this sad occasion with a special and very unique goodbye song. Year 11 will all have their own memories, of course, but here are a few to share. Although Year 11 (and 13) have had a rotten deal, with the year cut short and many rites of passage simply not possible, we hope that the virtual leavers' assembly and this song will help. Who knows? There may be future opportunities for one last gathering.

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/777f1b3c-dcbb-4042-9de1-c1a85da4104e@stu>

## Free School Meals

Edenred (the government contractor) has contacted schools to advise parents that they will be carrying out essential maintenance work from 08.00 a.m. on Saturday 13th June to 19.00 p.m. on Sunday 14th. Schools will not be able to access the online ordering website and parents/carers will not be able to access the [www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk](http://www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk) website during this time. In fairness, after its shambolic launch, the scheme now works well, but I have my fingers firmly crossed and will be avoiding both ladders and cracks in the pavement this weekend.

Speaking of weekends, have a very good one.

Best wishes,



Dr Bawn

## Year 8 Eiffel Tower Competition!

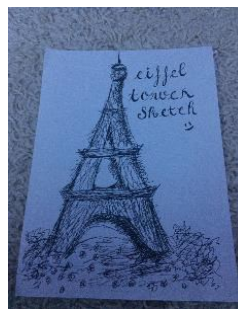
I recently set the Year 8 French classes the task of a 'Build Your Own' Eiffel Tower competition. Well done to everyone who entered and took part – all of your entries were fantastic! Praise points will be awarded to everyone who got involved and the winners below will receive a prize once we return to school.

8B winners: Erin Davey, Finn Duffy and Sally Greaves

8R winners: Lewis Voysey, Isla Cowie and Alice Munro

Special mentions go to: Bill Ramsay, Lily Rose Burwood, Alice Norris, Nicholas Gawler-Collins, Faye White, Grace Anning, Cecily Marsh, Adam Cross, Tabitha McLennan and James Guerin.

Here are the pictures of the winning entries:



Miss McConnachie

## 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](http://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.



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### Call Back Offer

Chat with a Youth Worker  
by phone or text

**Are you 13 or over?**  
**Would you like to speak to  
one of our youth workers via  
text or a call-back?**

**All you have to do is fill in this form  
Which is also available on our  
website:  
<https://spacepsm.org/>**



## **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](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org)

### **For Year 12 - 13 Absences**

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: [barringtonj@clystvale.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:admin@clystvale.org) **Web:** [www.clystvale.org](http://www.clystvale.org)

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

