



NEWSLETTER

No. 697
w/c Mon 18 January
Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default."

J.K. Rowling

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@clystvale.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!

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank You for the Thank You Messages

The past couple of weeks have been a bit hectic and confusing, and it's only now that we are able to start to take stock as things settle down. Therefore, not only have parents been patient and understanding, but quite a few of you have found the time in your own busy lives to write in to thank my colleagues for all we are doing. I do pass these on, and they are much appreciated.

“Situation Report”

As you know, I do a situation report weekly in the Tuesday “CV&CC” update in announcements, on the website front page. In a sentence, covid rates locally to us are still well below national averages but continuing to rise. However, since Tuesday, we have had one positive case, which I am required to report. It’s a student in Year 7 who has not been attending the provision for keyworkers’ or vulnerable students [KWV], so there is no need for anyone outside the household to take further action or isolate.

Lateral Flow Testing [LFT] Consent Forms Deadline

Thank you to the 428 parents who have already responded. The deadline is today, although I can see that if schools aren’t returning until at least the end of February this might have slipped down the parental “to do” list. However, we **MUST** have permission to do the test, and once you have done the form you won’t have to do it again and it’ll be out of the way ! ☺ I’m sorry about the form itself – it’s a bit clunky, but we are not allowed to amend it or shorten it. In fact, we shouldn’t really have added the option to withhold permission, but it is much clearer for our use and saves potential embarrassment for the children. Here is the link to the form: [Student Consent form for Covid-19 testing](#), and you can find the accompanying letter and Privacy Notice on our website, at <http://www.clystvale.org/c19/>

Lateral Flow Testing

Despite quite a bit of trepidation, this has started well and is already quite a slick operation. During KWV, we will be testing (screening) anyone who comes on to site, even for a day, with the exception of exam candidates who have enough to contend with without having to stick a swab up their nose. Testing is weekly. Screening is fine; it is a useful additional precaution, even if the tests are not fully accurate.

At present, we are waiting on clear, robust, medical advice and guidance about using LFTs for testing close contacts of positive cases, and for mass testing when all students return. For parents, this would mean that IF we have a positive case in College, *any close contacts will need to isolate for ten days*, as happened with Years 7,9 and 10 last term. The British Medical Journal is opposed to LFTs’ use; a number of research papers raise similar concerns; and at least fifteen local authority Directors of Public Health have instructed schools not to use LFTs for this purpose. Practically, for seven days, we would need to collect together all potentially contagious ‘close-contacts’ and present them, one at a time, to be tested by the volunteers or school staff who are providing the LFTs and who could become close contacts in turn. The students would then need to be kept separate until the test results are known. As well as increased risks of transmission among close contact students, there would be risks to College staff and volunteers. Regarding mass testing, yesterday the Medicines Regulator announced that it does not approve the use of LFTs for mass testing, especially by people without healthcare training. Further, even with volunteers, it will logistically be very difficult to implement mass testing: it will take several school staff off normal duties all day every day for most of a fortnight. So, once again, we are watching developments closely. My first priority is safety of students and staff: I believe that LFT screening adds to that safety, and enables us to protect further our KWV provision, but am concerned that close contact testing and mass testing might not. Watch this space.

Life Goes On: Year 9 Options

Year 9 parents should have received a separate letter about the options process, which has inevitably had to change because we are in a national lockdown! It’s another great shame, because I really like the Options Evening and the atmosphere is always fantastic. That said, the key principles of the process do not change. Students should not rush any decisions, seek the maximum amount of information, challenge any pre-conceived ideas they may have, and not be influenced by peer or (dare I say it) family pressure. It’s impossible to make a bad choice which ruins anyone’s life chances, although it is advisable to pick GCSEs in subjects if students are considering A-level (this is essential with Languages). Next Wednesday is the Year 9 parents’ evening when the focus will be on students’ progress; it isn’t really part of the options process although inevitably a student’s aptitude for certain subjects could come up. Following this, there will be the options booklet, subject presentations (on line), an Options presentation by Ms Jacobs, Deputy Principal, and an online Q&A session.

Life Goes On: Sixth Form Applications and “Next Steps”

There is a pleasing amount of interest in staying on, with a few applications being received before Christmas ! If your Year 11 child wishes to apply to join the Sixth Form, please remember that the deadline is 29th January. For further information, please contact barringtonj@clystvale.org

Year 11 parents and carers will have received a letter which begins, “at this time of year students need to be seriously considering their next steps and despite the unprecedented circumstances students still need to be planning where they are going to continue with their education. This should hopefully give them something positive to focus on at this challenging time. After the recent parents evening and report students should be well placed to be making decisions about courses which are available to them and in which they will be successful.” I would echo this wholeheartedly: students who have a plan or even a direction are generally happier and more successful than those who don’t.

Most students have been able to access careers guidance interviews in school since September, and this is increasingly becoming virtual. If you need more guidance, or if you are considering an apprenticeship, please email bennetttn@clystvale.org with your enquiry. We may not be physically in the building, but we are still able to help!

2021 Public Exams: the Latest

Despite Gavin Williamson’s published letter to Ofqual, there is no change from last week. There will be no exams in GCSE or A-level, there is uncertainty about vocational qualifications, grades will be centre-assessed grades which won’t use an algorithm, otherwise there is no definite information yet, but suggestions of some sort of external assessment. I imagine that Years 11 and 13 might be feeling anxious, in limbo, bewildered and stoical, possibly in rotation or all at the same time. It’s not a good place to be. However, unlike last year, there is time for the government to put in better, fairer plans, and the worst lessons from last year will be learned. There will be more information reasonably soon. And at the risk of repeating myself, students must focus on what they can control, which is maintaining a high quality of learning and engagement.

Welfare Team Update

During ECP in the first lockdown, one of our successes was the Welfare Team, which supported families struggling with various issues, and chased up students who were not engaging with learning for a variety of reasons. We have reintroduced the Team, and as remote learning is significantly better and it is even more important that students engage, we have strengthened the Team and increased its numbers. If students have missed two or three lessons in a subject, and this is a pattern across other subjects, the Team will make contact. This is not at all heavy-handed, or Big Brother checking up. Sometimes it’s connectivity issues, or a need for a device, or changed circumstances at home.

Free School Meals Update

This is a hot topic at the moment. We (wisely) didn’t go down the route of food parcels, and while waiting for the government scheme to be implemented, used another voucher scheme to cover last week and the next two. This isn’t as flexible as the government scheme, but it can be used for on-line ordering, and certainly allows better value for money to families than the food parcels. We should be reimbursed for this (although time will tell). The latest row is about FSM during February half-term; I anticipate another u-turn on the decision not to fund FSM, but if not we will use the other voucher scheme again. There really does need to be a national change of policy on this issue as the non-funding of FSM during holiday periods makes no logical sense whatsoever.

Timings of breaks and lunch

A few parents have asked why we can’t restore the College day timings to pre-pandemic times, with the same lunchtime for all students. Superficially, this makes sense: most students are at home, and if families have children in different year groups, then a staggered lunchtime is awkward. However, one in six students is in College, and we still need to maintain the highest levels of covid security. One of our most important mitigations is to keep year groups in separate bubbles, and staggered lunchtimes mean that we can keep the bubbles apart extremely effectively.

“Ask for ANI” Domestic Abuse Codeword Scheme

On Thursday 14 January, the Home Office launched a domestic abuse codeword scheme in thousands of pharmacies across the UK. The Ask for ANI codeword scheme allows those at risk or suffering from domestic abuse to discreetly signal to pharmacy staff that they need help accessing support. A trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services or a helpline. For more information, please visit www.gov.uk/domestic-abuse or email AskforANI@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn
Principal

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](#)

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
Weds 20 January 4pm - 7pm	Y9 Parents' Evening - to be held online
Thurs 04 February 4.30pm - 7pm	Y9 Options Evening - to be held online
Sat 06 - Sun 07 February	Bronze D of E Practice - CANCELLED
w/b Mon 08 February	Y13 Mocks - CANCELLED
Thurs 11 February 4.30pm - 6.30pm	Y12 Parents' Evening - to be held online
Fri 12 February	Non-Uniform Day - CANCELLED
Sat 13 - Sat 20 February	Ski Trip - postponed to 2022
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

