



# NEWSLETTER

No. 723  
w/c Mon 20 September 2021  
Week A

Dear Parents and Carers

CLYST VALE OPEN EVENING HOLD THE DATE: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, 6.00 to 8.00

I am aware that you have already made the incredibly wise decision to entrust your children to our care and educational provision, but if you have any more children, or if your friends and neighbours have children in Year 6..... I should add that this will be on-site rather than virtual.

## Covid Update

Sorry to start with a grumble (how unlike me...). This week we have given out almost 500 masks to students who don't have them or lost them; that's 100 a day, more than a tenth of students. You'll see below that we need to be even more vigilant about masks for the next two weeks. Whatever's happening in wider society, please help us by making sure your child has a mask to come to Clyst Vale. Right now, it's up there with pen and pencil as essential equipment.

We have had 32 positive cases since the start of term (29 students, 3 members of staff). Seven have completed their ten-day isolation and are back in College. Of the 25 current cases, over half are in Year 11, some of them are a friendship group. These numbers cross the threshold in the guidance for schools, so I contacted Public Health Devon.

There is no cause for *alarm*, and we are a very long way from bringing back bubbles, staggered lessons and breaks, or the full one-way system. 25 cases represents 2% of the whole College population including staff.

It's clearly a cause for *concern*, though. So, Public Health have advised the following measures:

- Students must use hand sanitiser every lesson
- Students/staff must wipe tables at the end of lessons
- Students and staff must wear masks at all times whenever in a group or communal area (unless exempt, eating or in lessons). You are *encouraged* to wear masks in lessons, too. This won't change for us, even if it does for Devon as a whole.
- People should socially distance wherever possible (no precise measurements, though). Students are encouraged to go outdoors at breaks and lunch.
- All staff and students to do a LFT at home test twice a week (except for recent covid cases and exemptions)
- Large group indoor activities for Year 11 (eg assemblies) are cancelled, which means Schools Assemblies will also be cancelled

- Additional measures in class re-introduced for Music and PE for Year 11 (but NOT “PE kit uniform”)
- There will be enhanced cleaning
- Full ventilation wherever possible (students can remind staff politely)
- Physical contact and hugging to be discouraged, especially Year 11
- Face-to-face meetings with parents on site are permitted, but parents will be asked about alternative (virtual, or telephone).

This will stay in place for two weeks, and hopefully can be relaxed if cases reduce.

It’s important to remember that there are 25 young people at the bottom of all this who are having to isolate because of covid. Fortunately, most have not been too unwell for more than a day or two, but it is a worry and an inconvenience for them and their families. In terms of remote teaching, this is tricky: a student with covid might feel perfectly ok, ill for 2-3 days, grotty and tired for the whole ten days, or feel fine and then have a bit of a relapse. So, my colleagues will set work on Teams or by e-mail rather than set up live lessons with no-one there. That said, students may be emailed to see if they are ok to do a live lesson over Teams; that’s what I have been doing, but it’s easier for me as I don’t teach five lessons a day. Also, students can e-mail us, and several are doing so. As for the whole of the last eighteen months, we will do our best to provide work and ensure students don’t fall behind.

### **Open Evening and Open Week Tours to go ahead**

Despite the increase in cases, both of these will go ahead. We will have to be much tighter about covid restrictions, though. A letter will be sent separately to Year 6 parents who have indicated that they would like to attend the Open Evening. In a nutshell, we have to avoid large gatherings on the night, reduce and spread out the number of people wherever possible, and ensure excellent hygiene standards on the night. Parents and students will still get a very good idea of what we’re about, but it will be less touchy (literally) than we would like. And I don’t get to make my speech about the tripod.....

### **Homework Clubs will go ahead**

Again, both the lunchtime and after-school homework clubs can continue. There are no restrictions on different year groups using the same room, and it is pretty much the same as a lesson. Students will be spaced out (literally, not in a glazed sense), can wear masks, and the room will be ventilated and with handsan and sprays.

### **Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds**

At last we know what we’re dealing with, and, whatever our views, at least most of the speculation can now stop. The headline announcement was on Monday, and the guidance was out on Tuesday. Here is the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-children-and-young-people-guidance-for-schools>

The plan for vaccination day (no date yet) is quite straightforward. The covid vaccinations will be run as other vaccination programmes. The College will be used as a venue. Clyst Vale staff will organise students. We will administer, issue and receive parental consents on behalf of the NHS, although without other responsibilities for consent. Consents are issued four days in advance of the date, which means that parents/carers will know the date in advance; there will be no snatch squads of nurses arriving unannounced with syringes at the ready as portrayed in some social media. Clyst Vale staff will not be performing vaccinations.

The best communication I’ve seen for ages came from our local School-Age Immunisation Team, about the issue of consent and the possibility that a child could go against their parents’ wishes even at the point of the needle; this has been a source of great worry to some parents. And bafflement to many: what’s the point of parental consent if their children (if deemed competent) can unilaterally overrule it?

Anyway, it reads: "We are aware of the concerns regarding self-consent nationally and we would like to reassure schools and parents that we will not be vaccinating their children without a positive consent form being completed by a parent/guardian. If there are any discrepancies between a child and parental view, we will call parents away from the vaccination session and arrange for vaccination to be caught up if required." This should be national policy (it isn't). In Devon, if there's the tiniest doubt, the child won't get jabbed; totally common sense as you can do an injection later, but can't take it out once it's gone in. Plus, it is crystal clear that schools have no responsibility for refereeing any arguments about a clinical medical decision. That said, I would never wish to imply that children do not have valid opinions or a voice; this is central to RRS. For example, at a recent webinar, a young person asked that if he refused the vaccine, would it go an adult in a poor country because he's unlikely to be very ill if he gets covid, and the adult needs it more. The answer is no, of course, if only life was that straightforward, but it demonstrates that young people have a very good grasp of the issues.

There are wider issues regarding vaccination. Some parents have expressed concern that we (and schools in general) will be promoting, encouraging and putting pressure on children to have the vaccine. We won't. Equally, we won't be discouraging them either. The DfE has not asked or required us to promote the vaccine. It's not part of any planned activities or programmes. It may come up in conversation; students may ask a member of staff for their view; but as with any controversial topic we will make it clear that there are two sides. As with testing, and masks, I suspect that the majority view, possibly overwhelming, will be to vaccinate; however, we also respect the views of those families who have a different view.

It was reported on national media that Heads have been threatened with legal action for allowing vaccination teams on to site. I have had a few of these, which aren't helpful. There appears to be no legal basis for any action, and vaccinations have been done regularly at schools several times a year long before I had my polio sugar lump at Holy Trinity Juniors. It would be nice if the DfE made a statement on this to indemnify schools.

### **Enhanced Response Area and Masks**

I was expecting some information on whether masks and other restrictions are continuing, but true to form this will probably arrive after this Bulletin is sent. To be honest, it doesn't make much difference, as we're required to keep them all in place and strengthen them where possible. Think of Clyst Vale as a mini Enhanced Response Area for a couple more weeks....

### **Staff Changes**

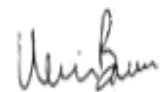
It was very remiss of me not to introduce our new colleagues last week, so apologies to them and to you! Starting this term are George Gardiner (English), Steve Gascoyne (Science), Archie Lamprell (Drama), Caroline McConachie (Head of Languages), Stephanie Schmitt (Languages), Rosie Salter (History), Theo Zimble (Geography), Emma Harris (Finance Assistant) and Eleni Karapostoli (Cover supervisor). We wish them every success in their time at Clyst Vale, however long that may be....

During the holiday, Zoe Dunn (Teaching Assistant) has left us for an exciting opportunity in sports psychology. And congratulations to both Tash Beer and Izzy Matthews on the births of a son and a daughter respectively!

### **Vacancy for a Parent Governor**

A "heads-up" that within a week or two we will be sending out communications about this; we seek nominations and there is an election process. The Governors (or Trustees as they should really be called, and which gives a more accurate flavour of the role) would welcome financial experience or ability to strengthen the skill-set, but this should not deter anyone from putting their name forward in due course.

That's quite enough from me. I'll keep you posted about covid developments and vaccinations as information comes through. Have a good weekend.



Kevin Bawn  
Principal

## Evenings and weekends – 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.

You may also use this number if you have accidentally recorded an LFT result as positive – please always notify us if this has happened in error.

(During the school's normal opening hours, please contact Student Absence on **01392 463911** or email: [studentabsence@clystvale.org](mailto: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.

We would prefer you to 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!

## Congratulations to Clyst Vale student photographers!

Over the summer holidays, a number of Clyst Vale students entered the 'Friends of Broadclyst Youth Club' photography competition, on the theme of 'What Makes Me Happy'. The results were announced in the first week of September, and the winners were invited to collect their prizes at the Youth Club on 9th September, where parish councillor Liz Straw made the presentations.

We are delighted that 4 of our students won prizes across the 2 categories. Judges included local professionals in photography, videography and marketing. Winners are listed below - well done!

### Year 6- 9

1st Prize (£50) – "Pebbles" by Joshua Y9  
2nd Prize (£25) – "Freddy" by Charlotte Y9  
3rd Prize (£10) – BCPS student

### Years 10 – 13

1st Prize (£50) – "BMXing" by Lewis Y10  
2nd Prize (£25) – member of Broadclyst Youth Club  
3rd Prize (£10) – "Hannabelle the cat" by Daniel Y11

Thank you to Friends of Broadclyst Youth Club for organising the competition, and many congratulations to our prize-winners for their varied, interesting and creative entries – a couple of which are included here!



# ***STUDENTS OF THE WEEK***



## **GREEN SCHOOL**

<b>7GCMC</b>	<b>Leo Bradley</b>
<b>7GIM</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>8GABR</b>	<b>Max Clemens</b>
<b>8GDH</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>9GAW</b>	<b>Jack Woods</b>
<b>9GBA</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>10GHE</b>	<b>Millie Leaman-Bissett</b>
<b>10GSW</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>11GGT</b>	<b>Keira Callard</b>
<b>11GMN</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>

## **RED SCHOOL**

<b>7RBAT</b>	<b>Blair Wills</b>
<b>7RHSP</b>	<b>Lily-Mai Pattinson</b>
<b>8RZB</b>	<b>Jack Lowry</b>
<b>8RSGA</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>9RMAH</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>9RAO</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>10RER</b>	<b>Tobias minchinton</b>
<b>10RGG</b>	<b>Eleni Luckhurst</b>
<b>11RTMA</b>	<b>Stan Pott</b>
<b>11RSS</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>

## **YELLOW SCHOOL**

<b>7YMBR</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>7YTZI</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>8YSSC</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>8YPNE</b>	<b>Kira Sprague &amp; Gethin Rees-Lee</b>
<b>9YDST</b>	<b>Holly Phillips</b>
<b>9YSP</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>10YMPR</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>10YNS</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>11YCW</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>
<b>11YRB</b>	<b>No permission to publish name</b>

## **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](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

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).
- 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

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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EX5 3AJ

**Tel:** 01392 461407 **Email:** [admin@clystvale.org](mailto:admin@clystvale.org) **Web:** [www.clystvale.org](http://www.clystvale.org)

**Library:** 01392 464010

