



NEWSLETTER

No. 683
w/c Mon 21 September
Week A

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

"One Day at a Time..."

It's exhausting keeping up with the news, and trying to maintain a balance between the prophets of doom and the perennial optimists, while "The Science" oscillates. Ten million people in local lockdowns, R rate rising nationally, test-and-trace not meeting the test as appointments disappear without trace, concern that moonshot is moonshine, possibilities of more stringent national responses next week. The south west R number is below national, but believed to be hovering above 1, although urban areas like Plymouth, Bristol and Swindon are worse affected than more rural areas. Not too many alarms at CVCC so far, mostly quarantines and isolations because of primary-aged siblings, but staff and parents are reporting difficulties in securing tests and at least one trip to Cardiff to get one. What does seem pretty clear is that the government are determined that schools should remain open, and while my reasons might be different to theirs, I completely agree with this basic point. If you battled all the way to the end of the Handbooks issued a couple of weeks ago, you will see that it is only in dire circumstances that schools would close for any length of time (and not even then for ECP).

So, we stick to our basic principles, take one day at a time, one week at a time, avoid being bounced into rushed decisions, but be on continual alert and review as things change. In a school, "things" include students and colleagues hitting a mini-wall after the first few days of term; the weather, which has been glorious but won't last for ever; changing patterns of behaviour – for example the breakfast service has barely been used at all, but overall numbers using the canteen at the various breaks have increased as confidence returns. For teachers, perhaps the biggest single issue is blending classroom teaching with remote learning. At present, attendance is relatively normal in the mid 90s%, although there was a dip last Monday to 86%. This means that the vast majority of students are in class, those that aren't are mostly ill, and so classroom teaching works well. If we did have part-closures, or year groups being isolated, or absence levels which were high across all year groups, then we need classroom and remote teaching of the same lesson at the same time. This would be a significant hike in teacher workload, so we are developing ways around it. The basic idea is to get the resources and activities for all lessons on Teams within a day or two of the lesson happening. Then, as time permits, we can introduce more "live" or recorded lessons. It's a process of evolution: some schools are ahead of us, others way behind. We were very successful in the rapid acceleration of the use of remote learning during lockdown, and this is the next stage of our development.

I should stress that our students continue to be brilliant coping with the changes and inevitable confusions. And thank you to parents and carers for all that you are doing, too. Trite but true, we're all in this together.

Face Masks and Coverings

This is what I have put into today's Student Bulletin:







What's happening about masks and face coverings? Are you going to make them compulsory?

At the moment, no. As I said, I think they will become compulsory on school transport fairly soon, but in College everybody has divided opinions. Other schools have made it compulsory for lesson changes, but most of our lesson change are outdoors, which is a lot safer. Year groups are getting better at not mixing with other year groups in the pinch points. In the zones at lunchtime for most of the time students are in bubbles, and are eating anyway. I am most worried about students who would like to wear a mask, but who feel scared because no-one else is. So, my colleagues and I are keeping a close eye on what's going on. I can't win! Some people are angry that we don't have compulsory masks already, while others are angry that we're even thinking about it!

I think this issue is probably the most divisive and controversial issue at present. I've rehearsed all the arguments before, and there are many contradictions in both The Science and in guidance. It is under weekly, almost daily review.

Symptom Checker

One of the big questions this week (nationally, but also here to an extent) is "how do I tell whether to send my child to school?". This is because so many of the symptoms of covid-19 could be symptoms of lots of other things. One expert on the telly basically said that if the child is snotty and their symptoms are "wet" it's probably not covid. However, there are now many different checklists flying around. We have put some on the covid page of the website, some FAQs into Tuesday's update, and here is a useful symptom checker from the BBC.

Symptoms	Coronavirus	Flu	Cold
 Fever	Common	Common	Rare
 Cough	Common	Common	Mild
 Loss of taste and smell	Sudden	Rare	Sometimes
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Headaches	Sometimes	Common	Rare
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common

	Runny/stuffy nose	Rare	Sometimes	Common
	Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
	Sneezing	No	No	Common
	Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No
	Diarrhoea	Sometimes for children	Sometimes, especially for children	No

Source: WHO, CDC

BBC

Open Evening

If you're reading this, you're probably part of the Clyst Vale community already. This means that you know that the inside of the College is a bright, lively and welcoming place quite unlike the impression created from the country road opposite the allotments. We also are spread out like a village, with vast fields and a feeling of space. Anyway, I was really hoping to have an Open Evening to allow people in to experience even a bit of this. Unfortunately, the "rule of 6" has kicked in, and anyone who has attended one of our Open Evenings knows that the idea of 2cm social distancing let alone 2m is an impossible challenge. So, tell your friends and neighbours that we are going virtual. In the first week of October we will be putting a variety of information and communications on the website, to demonstrate our fine credentials as a chrome-and-glass slick corporate messaging machine.....

Certificate Presentation Evening

With the "rule of 6" and headlines proclaiming that the Prime Minister is the new Grinch who stole Christmas, the GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening in November is looking decidedly precarious. We are assuming that it won't run; yet another unavoidable disappointment for the long-suffering Year 11 Class of 2020 (distinct from the Year 13 Class of 2020). We will, however, maintain the tradition of additional certificates and a small prize for subject prizewinners in achievement and progress, and overall winners as well. Normally, there is an element of surprise to this as names aren't announced until the night; this time the element of surprise will come when students open their envelopes which will be sent by recorded post!

Breakfast "Club"

Almost nobody is using the breakfast service, so it is being reduced. Simple items like toast or yoghurt will still be available if students wish to drop in on an individual basis. When the weather gets darker and colder, and maybe there's more demand, then it's no problem starting it up again.

Homework Club

This will re-start next Monday, 21st September. It will be in IT1, and will be from 3.30 to 5.00 p.m.. It will be socially distanced, and we will have to see how many students turn up to work out the detailed arrangements to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can. From previous experience it will be possible to space students out around the room, which is ventilated, and of course will be cleaned thoroughly. If necessary we could introduce screens or face coverings (which would be permitted, anyway, as it's not formal teaching).

'Incident at School' Scams

Devon have asked me to draw the following to parents' attention. There have been several incidents in which a parent or carer has been called on the phone, allegedly by their school, to say their child has been involved in an incident or taken ill. The parent is then either asked to dial 1 or given a phone number to be connected to the right person to speak to. In both cases, the connection is not to the school, but to a premium phone line number. We will never ask you to connect via a menu or through an alternative number. The main switchboard and student absence numbers haven't changed for years, possibly decades: 01392-461407 and 01392-463911.

Good News Corner !!!

I look forward to when the Newsletter is mostly about stories like these.....

· I was thrilled to present to present the College's Annual Awards to five of the six prizewinners today. Full details are on the website. For very different reasons and in very different ways, they are all remarkable young people; what does connect them is that they are superb role-models for other people, and therefore all of them contribute significantly to making Clyst Vale a better place. So huge congratulations to Riley Beer, Luana Dart, Maddie Firminger, Joe Hartley, Emily Pattison and (in her absence) Megan Newbery.

· One of last year's prizewinners, Bethy Lawrence, along with Finley Burston and Charlie Crispin have built a BMX track...They enlisted some mechanical assistance from an adult or two, but literally spent days in the heat building a track in Broadclyst. An absolutely amazing achievement, which features (quite rightly) in the latest edition of the Broadsheet.

· We held the school photos today. I understand why some schools haven't, but I am really glad that we did. I am particularly glad that we did the Year 11 group photo, with as much social distancing as possible, out of doors to minimise risk. The students were just fantastic and so sensible. Understandably, they are worried that what happened to last year's Year 11 may happen again, so it was really important to have this actual example of "normality".

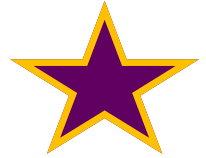
Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn
Principal



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



YELLOW SCHOOL

- 7YEM Isabella Wilson-Irace
- 7YPN Kye Brenchley-Stokes
- 8YDS Lilyann Ward
- 9YMPR Freddie Hancock & Emily Crawford
- 10YCW Natalie Zuczek & Michael Rothery
- 10YRB Freya Butler

GREEN SCHOOL

- 7GABR Andrew Brown & Ava Mackie
- 7GDH Rose Molins
- 8GAW Jack Jones
- 8GBA Tobias Hill
- 9GSW Daniel Kerslake
- 9GNB Matilda Cuerden
- 10GGT Joshua Brooks & Alex Goode
- 10GMN Ted Harrison
- 11GHE Finley Burston & Josef Welch
- 11GIM Natalia Hannaford

RED SCHOOL

- 7RZB Ryan Burrige
- 7RHPI Isaac Laramy
- 8RAO Lois Harker & Kieron Taverner
- 8RAR Alissa Viri
- 9RGG Edie Pepper
- 9RER Matthew Hill
- 10RSS Ben Porter
- 10RTMA Andrew Jabangwe
- 11RCM Kerenza Hurren
- 11RGK Jake Clements

*Thank you for taking part!
The winner of Roald Dalh day is...
Charlotte Goddard*

Ms Jones
Mrs Morgan
Mrs Grant
Mr Simpson
Mrs Prunty
Mr Pearce
PIC-COLLAGE
PIC-COLLAGE

BETHY, FINLEY BURSTON AND CHARLIE CRISPIN CAME TOGETHER TO BUILD THE ALL NEW AND IMPROVED BROADCLYST BMX TRACK

Broadclyst BMX Track

When the community came together to build a BMX Track

Many moons ago, the Parish Council dedicated a piece of land in the village for use as a BMX Track; over the years there's been a few attempts to bring it to life.

Then lockdown arrived and for me, a fifteen year old girl that loves to race my bike all across the country.... well let's just say my life, just like everyone else's came to a grinding halt. I started to ride locally with my friends Charlie and Finley and that's how the idea came about. We remembered the track and decided we should revive it.

But this time it would be different. During my race career I've watched people



aged 3 -70 ride BMX tracks, all coming together with a passion for cycling. So we knew that making the track suitable for all ages and abilities was the key.

We met with Officers of Broadclyst Parish Council, they loved our design for a new track and from there the magic started to happen. Me, my Dad,

Charlie and Finley formed a working party and started digging. For weeks we worked our butts off - we have the blisters to prove it, lol!

We put a shout out on Facebook for some help, and much to our delight we saw people coming across the field with wheelbarrows and shovels. They kept coming and in the blistering heat the community dug together. Matthew Curwood arrived with his digger and he gave up his entire day

completely transforming the track.

We had our first village day on Sunday 23rd August, when people of all ages came to ride and we had the biggest smiles on our faces, it was amazing to see our plan become a reality.

See you at the track!
Bethy, Charlie, Finley and Ben.



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



CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Clyst Vale Community College, Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon EX5 3AJ
Tel: 01392 461407 **Email:** admin@clystvale.org **Web:** www.clystvale.org
Library: 01392 464010

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD



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.