



NEWSLETTER

No. 695
w/c Tues 5 January
will be Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"Great things never came from your comfort zone."

Evenings & weekends – reporting of Covid-19 positive test results

As a further precaution, we have introduced a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings, weekends AND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY UP TO 23RD DECEMBER.

(From 24th December to 4th January 2021 please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or e-mail: 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
- Date of test
- Date of test result

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

The start of term is Tuesday 5th January. It will be Week A. Only Year 11, Year 13, Year 12 BTec students, children of keyworkers (any year group) and vulnerable children (any year group). Other students will be taught by remote learning. ALL students may return to College on Monday 11th January.

Dear Parents and Carers

Most Importantly...

On behalf of my colleagues and myself, THANK YOU to parents and carers for all your support during 2020, especially through lockdown and when we resumed from September. I know I repeat myself a lot (although in my defence, research shows that repeated messaging is particularly effective in times of crisis, which sounds like an excellent excuse and I shall stick with it), but without that support, understanding, patience, common sense and reasonableness it would have been a far more difficult year. We may not get it right every time, but we will always try to put children first, and we will always try to do our best.

So, thank you for all that you do to support us. A proportion of all the praise we give to students also goes to parents: good attitude and behaviour, being properly equipped, correct uniform, clean and well-groomed, none of these happens by accident. We all know that students tend to hold in their emotions (and latterly, tiredness) at school, then collapse or explode at home [delete as appropriate]. There are also those who sail through largely unaffected, the young men and women for all seasons. My point is that teenagers don't come with a manual, they are all different, and we really appreciate parents and carers for your challenging but tremendous work!

And a particular "thank you" to parents who have sent in cards and e-mails of thanks and support for the work that we have been doing this term. I have passed as many as I could on to my colleagues.

Virtual Carols

Many of the end of Christmas term activities have become "covid casualties", although my colleagues have tried hard to be as festive as possible! There have been plenty of costumes around today including several Santas and superheroes, secret santa in tutor groups, and a variety of quizzes and games and special lessons. Even so, many of the big events just couldn't happen. Therefore, I am really pleased that several of our musical students and ensembles have produced a set of seasonal performances. These can be accessed on [CVCC Virtual Carols](#)

Mass Testing....

Regular readers will remember that I was angry about Dominic Cummings' drive-through eye-test, and similarly by the exams omnishambles in the summer. Once again, I find myself quite cross. Mass-testing is undoubtedly the way to go, and the right thing to do before massvaccination becomes possible; like most things, it won't be perfect, but it will be better than where we are now. However, like many Heads, I await the detailed guidance and support which apparently is due out next week, as what has been announced so far is almost impossible for schools to deliver, and possibly even unsafe. As someone more clever than me put it, "it's taken 7 months and over £22bn to get national testing capacity up to 400,000 tests per day (actual numbers tested per day are around 150,000); yet Heads are expected to create a parallel testing regime which can manage 500,000 to 1 million people tested a day in three weeks with no up front funding, also requiring thousands of staff who also need training into public health practitioners." There are more unanswered questions than answers, which hopefully can be resolved by January; from fundamental things like deliveries and volume of PPE/equipment for storage to recruitment and safeguarding of the volunteers to disposal of bio waste and whether we can even find a suitable area of the College under the present specifications. If students were allowed to self-test in groups in class, we might be able to manage it! (not a serious suggestion on my part, although who knows?). I actually don't know what to say to parents: we're at an impasse with nine teaching unions united against the roll-out in the first week of January, although not against the idea of screening itself. All I can say is "more on all of this in January".

....and Staggered Start to Term This is beyond belief, and I cannot imagine how many parents must be feeling. The government threatened legal action against schools wishing to have remote learning this week, prior to Christmas, but are now enforcing remote learning for the majority of students after Christmas. The reason, to give schools time to prepare for mass-testing, is disingenuous. With remote learning, all teachers will be teaching all students, wherever they happen to be. If all keyworkers and vulnerable children attend, with Year 11 and Year 13, we would have 35% of students on site anyway. Even though I await clarification, Year 12 students who have BTec exams in January will be able to attend, as an exception (if they are doing an exam in a matter of days, they must be in an exam year!). Children of keyworkers, and vulnerable students can and should attend. The latest definitions are in the link below, and although it is not clear in the guidance, children in receipt of free school meals should attend. As far as I know, there is no provision for food parcels or vouchers in the first week of term (well, at the moment, anyway), although the canteen in College will be operating.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educationalprovision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educationalprovision>

I honestly think all we can do is to wait for events to play out over the next few days. All I can say at present is that Year 11, Year 13, keyworker and vulnerable students should turn up on 5th January. However, they are unlikely to be tested on that day. If that changes, I will let parents know as soon as is practicable.

Exeter Food Bank: Superb Effort by 11RCM

You will have seen on the website that thanks to their coordination, tutor group 11RCM were able to send a grand collection of items to Exeter Food Bank. A picture paints a thousand words, so I would recommend taking a peek at the website! Well done to all concerned.

Year 10 BTec PE

I am really pleased that thanks to our Exams team, IT team and the PE department we were able to salvage a tricky situation for the students studying BTec PE (including seven Year 11s). A technical problem meant that the on-line test could not be done at the scheduled time on Monday, but it was completed on Tuesday morning; this meant that all the build-up and preparation work had not gone to waste and students were not disadvantaged as they would have been with a rescheduling to January.

“Situation report”

These can always be found in the Tuesday CV&CC updates. The information here was updated on Thursday. About 80 families opted to withdraw children this week, mostly from Wednesday onwards. This means that student attendance this week has been 89%. Over the term, it has been 93.2%. This is above Devon as a whole and way above the figure for England. Since September, there have been a total of 32 positive tests among parents or household members resulting in students self-isolating for 14 days; 20 of these 32 have been since October half-term. Local rates are currently below national averages but with some signs of increasing. According to the BBC, East Devon has 136 cases per 100,000 people, and Exeter 101. The national average is 172/100,000. Low rates are good, but we all need to carry on being really careful and cautious, and stick to all the covid rules.

Asking Young People - what advice they need right now

Devon have asked schools to publicise this. “We’ve heard from children and young people that during the country’s first coronavirus lockdown earlier this year they sometimes felt confused, ignored or forgotten, and that not enough communication was made available about issues that directly affected them. We have heard this, and we want to make sure that things are done better. So, if you are a child or young person in Devon (or are currently living elsewhere), what information or advice do you need right now? Let us know by emailing participation@devon.gov.uk.”

Communications Over Christmas

I propose to send out a special Newsletter just before the start of next term. Hopefully by then there will be greater clarity on post-Christmas covid rates and lockdowns (if any, let’s be positive), on mass testing, and certainty over the staggered start on 5th January. I anticipate this extra Newsletter won’t happen until Monday 4th January, but it’s unwise to be too definite about anything right now!

I am sorry that through no fault of our own we are ending the term with a couple of very loose ends untied, and flapping in the breeze like the marquee in the half-term storm. Please be assured that there is no information which is not being shared with you! I am frustrated and dismayed that we are all in this position, and I hope that you know that we will always do our best with the students’ best interests at heart. Once again, thank you for all your support; best wishes for Christmas and especially the New Year.



Kevin Bawn
Principal

CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
2021	
Mon 11th January	All students return
w/b Mon 8 February	Y13 Mocks
Fri 12th February	Force Cancer - Non-Uniform Day
Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	Half Term
Thurs 1st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Tues 20th April	Start of Summer Term
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	Half Term
Fri 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM Water Aid - Non-Uniform Day

Autumn Term PE

Thank you to students and parents who have worked hard together to make PE at Clyst Vale work so smoothly over this term. We have found the students very receptive to the new activities, adjusted rules and wearing of PE kit. This will continue in the Spring term unless guidance changes.

The PE teachers have asked all students to log into a website called QUIZIZ via a link sent through teams. On Friday I will release an End of Term Quiz which is a trial run for our future assessments in PE. Please ask your child to complete the Assignment by logging on, then have a go over break. It should take no more than 10 minutes and contains some funny Memes of Clyst Vale and the PE staff.

Many thanks and have a lovely break.



Mr J Powell
Head of PE

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



THANK YOU FROM 11RCM

11RCM would like to give a shout out to all you wonderful Students and Staff. We had loads of food donations. It just proves what we all suspected, you all are so kind and caring. Thank you!

GOOD WILL TO ALL!

On behalf of Exeter Foodbank, thank you to everyone for your very kind gifts!

9GSW donated the most food and therefore will receive chocolates and a Caring certificate.



Online wellbeing support and counselling for farming people



Community Support

Relate and connect with others by sharing similar experiences, and gain valuable self-care tips and tools from our engaged community and professional team.



Professional support

Our team of professionals aim to provide early response to emotional well-being as well as emerging mental health needs via our online site and counselling sessions.



Self-help

Helpful articles, personal experiences and tips from our community and professional team. You can also set personal goals, write in your journal, or start a discussion with the community.

Visit rabi.org.uk/kooth



CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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



Clyst Valley Regional Park - Consultation

East Devon District Council would like to encourage local residents to contribute to their masterplan consultation, regarding the proposed **Clyst Valley Regional Park**, which is a new public green space in East Devon's Clyst Valley.

Where is the Clyst Valley Regional Park?



To view a copy of the draft masterplan, and to take the opportunity to make your views known about the plan's priorities, please look online at the links below.

[Clyst Valley Regional Park Masterplan](#)

The Clyst Valley National Park has its own website, here:

[Clyst Valley Park](#)

East Devon District Council have also produced a short film about it, which can be found on YouTube, here:

[Clyst Valley Park - short film](#)

You have until **midday on Thursday 7th January 2021** to comment.

Having taken feedback into account, the finalised masterplan will be submitted for approval by the District Council at a public meeting, next spring.

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 - Trutex Senior stitched down/Taylor Tartan (blue) skirt 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.