

NEWSLETTER

No. 705
w/c Mon 22 March
Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance."
George Bernard Shaw

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/Carers,

Late News. After I had finished writing the Newsletter came news that we have had a positive Lateral Flow Test for a student in Year 8. You will have received separate communications about this. This was one of the very last in-College tests, and the first positive case from over 4000 tests. There is a chance that it could be a false positive, but we have no alternative but to follow Public Health guidelines and instruct nearly 50 students to self-isolate for ten days. It is also a timely reminder that we are still in the pandemic, as it is easy to be lulled into a false sense of security, and therefore that all the measures we are taking in College are still highly relevant.

It has been an unusually quiet week in terms of national educational developments! Which in most ways is good, as we continue to adjust to returning to College, normal hours, sleep patterns, routines and expectations. It is less good for exam year students, families or teachers who still await more detailed guidance about exam board grading and assessment, which is due at the end of this month; the media abhors a vacuum, so there has been a flurry of speculative articles about assessments which are to be taken with a pinch of salt.

The Return to College, Week Two

- Everybody's experience is different, so I can only generalise. For most students, the return has been as good or better than expected, and this continues. Inevitably, there has been more tiredness this week, but nearly everyone has coped well. We are aware of students for whom returning has been a concern, and are not underestimating this: if a child has been in KWV and made new friends, how do they deal with the awkwardness when old friends return and expect things to be just the same? It might sound trivial, but if you're an underconfident 12 year old it can cause you anxiety. Please let us know of any concerns. A very small number of students have had significant difficulties in readjusting, reflected in their behaviour, and clearly we are addressing these on an individual basis. But overall, it has been an excellent return to College: the atmosphere is good and positive; attendance is very high; even the weather is picking up, which is always provides a lift bearing in mind the nature of our site.
- Regarding covid-safety, it's a case of eternal vigilance and constant reminders. Mask wearing is really good (the one exception is at eating and social times); hand sanitising and wiping down is really good; social distancing is perhaps a little better than before Christmas, but not much – it is not in the average teenage DNA to stay a metre or more apart. Students are remembering the one-way system, although it's a struggle at times; again, teenage DNA, always take the shortest distance between two points. We're trying to emphasise the reasons for the rules – ie the one way system is to reduce year groups mixing or crossing rather than having arguments about someone going four metres the wrong way up a corridor. So, covid security is really good, but can always be better.
- The biggest frustration at the moment is uniform. We have had to have "PE Kit uniform" since September, which I will be delighted to see the back of in the future; shoe shops have been closed for ages; and students have outgrown uniform (although it is available on line). So, it's harder for all parents to maintain our standards; and very easy for some students to "take advantage" of the situation. It will get easier after Easter (shops open, warmer weather, fewer layers) but until then please can parents do all you can to support us. Normal uniform on non-PE days. PE kit can be worn on PE days; College PE kit or plain navy/black leggings or tracksuit bottoms. No hoodies, even if they do look sporty. Thank you.

Lateral Flow Testing Bloo-Roll of Honour

Being serious, a huge thank you must go to our LFT testing squad. They have worked wonders, developed a lovely camaraderie and rapport, made an impossible task achievable, and significantly reduced the pressure on school staff who had their day jobs to do as well as testing. It's a cliché, but we could not have done it without them. So, many, many thanks to:

Steven MacAndrews	Charlie Pascoe	Jo Tasker
Sherril Olive	Jemma Cresswell	Paddy Cocking
Emma Ford	Becky Perry	Rosemary Baines
Joanna Hall	Kim Morton	Hannah Gregory
Helen Muscutt	Sophie Poulton	Elisabeth Ostrom
Georgina Watson	Karon Bower	Robert Scott
Claire Edmondson	Katy Hill	Samantha Walker
James Grant	Sigrid Verschraeghen	Debbie Clarke
Lucy Topliss	Sheena Prout	John Narramore
Eileen Stuart	Sue Eakers	

The College staff involved were Ann Hopkins, Sara Parker, Emma Bullock, Pam Grant, Cath Prunty, Penni Ball, Mareena Anderson-Thorne, Sharon Down and Rebecca Dominy in the Hall; Sally Need and Claire Phillips in Additional Support. All are members of the support staff, meaning that no teaching has been directly affected by the testing.

When initial testing concludes with Year 9 on Monday morning, there will have been over 4500 tests conducted. That's an awful lot of nostrils.

Exam Grades: The Latest

There isn't much new to report. The Exam Boards and Ofqual have indicated that some more guidance and the bank of exam questions will be launched at the end of this month. At the moment, and until Easter, subjects will be rounding off syllabuses, completing non-examined assessment pieces, revising, using short assessment tasks based on exam questions, or a combination of these. This will vary between subjects, but the same approach applies to Years 11 and 13. Almost any work produced at the moment could be valuable "evidence", which is a very good thing as it gives Years 11 and 13 a sense of purpose in sharp contrast to last year's experience in lockdown#1.

We are planning assessment timetables for the weeks after Easter with two or three possible scenarios in mind. This will not be in the form of exams in the Hall, but short assessments completed in class; we expect this to be a mix of the exam board questions and ones of our own choice, but we won't know that until the end of the month, nor the ideal number of these more formal assessments (but it will be in the region of 2-4 per subject, we think). We also intend there to be prep weeks and assessment weeks for GCSE, although this might be different at A-level. It's difficult. A few schools have been more decisive than us, and produced plans and timetables early; however, most of them have already scrapped or altered the plans as new information is released.

Home Lateral Flow Testing

- Years 10-13 should ideally have already conducted one home test this week, Years 7 and 8 on Sunday evening/Monday morning, and Year 9 (who have one more test in College) next Thursday.
- Parents have asked when should the home tests be performed. There are no hard and fast rules, and it partly depends on your family dynamics and routine.
- The best case would be to test on a Monday and Thursday morning before College. It might be easier and less pressured to do Sunday and Wednesday nights instead. It's also fine to do Tuesday and Friday mornings (or Monday and Thursday evenings). The point is to have two tests 3-4 days apart which provides the most protection to others in the College.
- There is a lot of information, links and guidance in this week's CV&CC update in "Announcements" on the home page of the website.
- It has still not been confirmed by government whether parents are expected or required to report home test results to schools.

Staff Changes

We are pleased to welcome Emma Gultiano and Becky Hall as Teaching Assistants. Mrs Gultiano is a full-time appointment, Miss Hall part-time although she will sometimes also appear as a supply teacher in PE.

Sixth Form News

- We have had a few more late applications to join the Sixth Form in September, so it's not too late to apply! The main disadvantage of a late application is that option block best-fits are based on the applications before the deadline.
- Miss Haynes has started meeting all applicants to discuss their option choices; students will have received an invitation through the post and parents an e-mail to help them remember ☺.
- Some Sixth Formers received BTec results from January in Applied Science and Sport; I am delighted to say that everyone who entered achieved a Distinction.

Car Park Safety

- A small number of parents are still in the old "KWV" habit of picking up students from the Staff Car Park. Then, exiting through the Coach Park, whether or not there are students leaving the site or queuing for buses. This needs to stop, please. It's really dangerous. The only students who should be picked up in the Staff Car Park are those who have accessibility issues. And the only exit should be through the entrance you drove through. Once upon a time there was a bollard to prevent this "drive-thru", and we haven't really missed it until recently. Let's put the whole thing down as a transition issue as we return from lockdown, and hopefully it won't need any more reminders. Or bollards.

Station Road closure: reminder

The tell-tale yellow signs have appeared. Just to remind anyone who uses Station Road from the Exeter Airport end that Station Road will be closed from Monday 29th March to Friday 9th April, ie affects us during term time from the Monday after next. There will be a lengthy detour in place. The “fun” will be just outside the College where the Heaver and FedEx/TNT lorries weave their way past the former Baptist Chapel. Police and local volunteers will be in attendance every morning and afternoon. As they say on the radio, “please allow some extra time for your journey”.

Ofqual Consultation

Schools are asked to bring the latest Ofqual consultation to the attention of students and parents. The consultation will be open until 9 April 2021.

“Ofqual is seeking views on how an autumn exam series for GCSEs, AS and A levels should run this year, in a [consultation published today](#) (17 March).

We are keen to hear from students, teachers, exam boards and the wider education sector on our proposals, which include:

- the autumn series being open to any student who entered or who had intended to enter to take exams this summer
- holding AS and A level exams in October and GCSE exams in November/early December
- grades being determined by a student’s exam performance only
- students being able to use the better of the summer or autumn grade
- the use of the normal reviews of marking and appeal arrangements

The consultation follows the cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A level exams this summer because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. When the government set out its [policy on how grades would be awarded](#) it also confirmed it wanted students to have the opportunity to take exams in the autumn.

...Community College

Reports reach me of some minor anti-social behaviour (noise, littering) from a very small number of CVCC students after they have got off their buses. Understandable: students have been cooped up for weeks, are supposed still to be cooped up at weekends, so want to enjoy a few minutes of freedom. But not anti-socially. We will do what we can to reinforce messages about respecting your community; we also have some jurisdiction if students are in uniform because the good name of the College is being damaged; but parents/carers have a responsibility for their own children and to their own community, so please make sure you reinforce these messages too.

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn
Principal

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
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
Wed 12th May	Y7 Parents' Evening
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	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

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

Address: Clyst Vale Community College, Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon
EX5 3AJP

Tel: 01392 461407 **Email:** admin@clystvale.org **Web:** www.clystvale.org

Library: 01392 464010

