



NEWSLETTER

No. 718
w/c Mon 19 July 2021
Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

Nelson Mandela

Dear Parents and Carers

An Eventful Week

It has been one of the most demanding weeks of the entire pandemic. Thank you so much for your support, especially Year 9 and Year 8 parents who had to drop everything and come to collect their children at very short notice. Although the Year 9 cases were false alarms and the students returned on Thursday, I do not know at the time of writing this what the position is for Year 8. The amazing thing is that we have managed to keep so much going along relatively normally. Most students will have had lessons with almost all of their class and their usual teacher. As well as this, my colleagues have managed to reintroduce some of the things we associate with the summer term at Clyst Vale.

Sports Days

The Sports Days have gone really well this week, in terms of the competitions and organisation, but far more importantly in terms of student attitude and behaviour. I think students really appreciated the opportunity to have a Sports Day, something different; they certainly appreciated being back in PE kit for the day....

Work Experience

Most of Year 10 go on work experience next week. I know I've mentioned this before, but thank you to parents for helping find placements and in some cases providing placements. Life goes on despite covid, and these young people will grow up, leave school, gain qualifications and enter the world of work. So I view it as an essential part of their education as a whole, and I really appreciate the hard work of Mrs Bennett in a particularly tough year.

Bonnie & Clyde at the Barnfield

The latest Clyst Vale show premieres on Tuesday night at the Barnfield. The run-up and final rehearsals are a bit stressful at the best of times, but with covid, self-isolation and false alarms one or two roles have had to be re-cast, and there hasn't been a rehearsal without someone missing. This is not to make any excuses in advance. Miss Williams, volunteer helpers, and the students are determined to maintain the high quality we're renowned for. Given a fair chance, it will be one of the best shows ever. I have been asked about the Barnfield's covid protection policy. This is being finalised and will appear on their website soon. It is likely that full seating will be available – although if the auditorium is not full people

can spread out; it is likely that face coverings will be required (except exemptions); and there will be hand sanitiser readily available. The layout of the theatre means that in some areas social distancing of a metre is not practical, although it is of course encouraged. There are some mitigations possible, for example waiting outside, and hopefully allowing more time for people to take their seats to reduce a crowd.

Non-uniform Day, Friday 23rd July

On Friday there will be a non-uniform day in aid of Water Aid. Made me stop and think: how do you wash your hands, cool a temperature or stay hydrated if you don't have water ?

Next Week: New Information and Reminders

School and Public Transport.

A lot changes in three days – on Monday we were anticipating throwing away our masks, yesterday this came from the Department for Education: We have updated our operational guidance for settings which now recommends that face coverings are worn on dedicated transport to school or college when prevalence is high. I doubt if anyone would argue that prevalence of covid is low at the moment, so students should continue to wear masks on school transport. The same argument applies to public transport: government guidance is that if a bus is pretty crowded, masks should be worn. Although..... it is not mandatory and a matter of individual responsibility. But, rates are rocketing, we are urged to be cautious, and mask wearing is not just about us but the welfare of others. There's no law to back me up, but frankly I would expect our students to wear face coverings on whatever bus is used to get to College.

In College

- In College, nothing will change next week. I see no advantage in changing everything around for just five days, and much more importantly there is a government urging caution and cases are rising sharply locally, with a handful of cases in CVCC in the past few days. Hand sanitising and cleaning desks remains essential. Standing a metre apart where possible is still obviously good sense. The one-way system stays, as do staggered lunches and breaks. I agonised over reintroducing masks, but decided to leave things as they are: next week there will be barely 550 students on site, we have been permanently blessed by our spread out site with fresh air every lesson change and better ventilation through the smaller buildings, and our covid measures have been highly successful throughout the year. Students (and my colleagues) can wear face coverings if they wish; I will be.
- These precautions are also wise if they can prevent any more positive cases. Next week, schools are no longer involved in track and trace. I have mixed feelings about this: I agree that the majority of self-isolating schoolchildren are self-isolating without need, and hundreds of thousands of hours of face-to-face learning has been lost, alongside a huge amount of family disruption. I can see the logic: if we send a child home with a bad stomach or heavy cold we don't immediately send 60 others home as well, and we will need to learn to live with covid. However, it's such an abrupt change it will feel strange and risky to send a covid case home and then basically not do anything while Track-and-Trace works its magic.

The Start of Next Year: Possibilities and Probabilities

Year 6-7 Induction Day

This will be on Tuesday 7th September, in other words a day before other students start to arrive back. The reason is fairly obvious: it reduces some of the anxiety of going to secondary school if students know they are the only year group, no big kids, they are all in together ! They will be absolutely fine, we will look after them as well as we always do, but the point is that the students won't know that until they've gone through the experience. We have another large year group joining us, which is excellent news

Mass Testing

The requirement is that we must prepare for this, even if we don't need it. Which would be fine, except it's more than putting up a couple of trestle tables and letting the queue form. Personally, my hunch is that we will definitely be doing it, and the rhetoric is clearly pushing in that direction. Plus, we have been sent dozens of boxes of mass testing kit. We are planning a similar operation to the March return. This will mean a staggered return for year groups; we're fitting five big year groups and the Sixth Form into four days, in a rural location whereby most students arrive in one fell swoop in the morning. We will let you know the details next week, but it is almost certain that after Year 7 on Tuesday, our priority will be exam years on Wednesday. The tests will be slightly different: there is no throat swab, but a double nostril twirl. The dunking in the fluid is longer, a minute, but this is more than compensated by the result "wait" time being 15 minutes, unlike in March when it was 30. Like many schools, we wondered about most students testing at home with LFTs; however, the Department for Education has expressly forbidden this.

Protection Measures in College

The usual caveats apply: everything will depend on what happens over the summer and what guidance for schools says at the start of September. By then, I will also have revised the risk assessment and our covid outbreak emergency plan. Our intention is to maintain the most basic protections: this means hand sanitisers everywhere, desk wiping at the end of lessons, and constant reminders about social distancing where possible. Masks will continue to be encouraged if people want to wear one. The outbreak emergency plan is in case local rates are really going through the roof and we have several cases in a few days, then bubbles, staggered lunches and face coverings could be reintroduced for a limited period of time.

Breaks, lunches and bubbles. The intention is that we will go back to one break of 20 minutes and one lunchtime of 55 minutes. The intention is that bubbles will not be necessary. However, if guidance changes or we have an outbreak, this could change. And bubbles and the one-way system have not been wholly bad; we are reflecting on which bits are worth keeping, for example the Humanities one-way system would work really well in normal times.

Covid Update

We have had at least one positive case in each of Years 8, 9 and 10. Two cases in Year 9 which were false alarms (negative PCRs) saw the year group isolate on Wednesday, but return on Thursday. Two cases in Year 8 saw the year group sent home Thursday and isolate today pending PCR results. There are students in every year group self-isolating because of family or community contacts: that said, overall attendance is very close to normal. Among staff, there are no positive cases, but like many businesses and organisations featured on the media, we are about 10% of staff down for covid-related reasons on any given day: again, mostly self-isolating because of household members, or childcare. Inevitably, this has an impact on our normal smooth rolls-royce operation.

Weather Warning

The forecast is extremely hot from tomorrow until Tuesday. So, please make sure your child has sun-block if they need it, a hat if they need it, a big water bottle, and clear instructions that they should make sure they do not get overheated. It is very hard for a heavily sweating beetroot-faced child to concentrate in lessons after 30 minutes tearing around in the sun.



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)

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!

Coming to the Silverton Recreational Ground on Saturday 28th August 2021

The Tuck Inn is a family event that re-tells the legend of Robin Hood

On Silverton rec you will be welcomed into The Greenwood by the irrepressible Friar Tuck, introduced to a band of merry men and women and treated to some fast-paced action, music and storytelling.



Workshops for young people from 4pm. Performance from 6pm.

Use the link below to find out more and buy tickets:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/common-players>

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

Trading Standards Farming Partnership

Mental Health and Wellbeing in Farming

Thursday 22 July, online from 6pm

Join us for an evening of talks about mental health, wellbeing and support for the farming community.

Farming can be a challenging way of life. Find out how you can support your wellbeing and get the right help when you need it.

There's no requirement to contribute – join us online, engage or just listen.

Speakers from Devon & Cornwall Police and Avon & Somerset Police will talk about domestic abuse, dog theft, dog attacks on livestock and new dog-related legislation, plus Stephanie Berkeley from the Farm Safety Foundation will talk about Farm Safety Week.

Can't make it? Register anyway and you will receive a recording after the event.

**Register for the event:
devon.cc/mhwfarmingjuly**



tsconnect

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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.

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



CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Mon 19 July - Fri 23 July	Y10 and Y12 Work Experience
Mon 19 July - all day (9am - 9pm)	School Production: Technical Rehearsal
Tues 20 July - all day (9am - 4pm)	School Production: Dress Rehearsal
Tue 20 July - Fri 23 July	School Production Evening Performances
Mon 19 - Fri 23 July	Y12 & Y13 Gold D of E Expedition
Fri 23 July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM - NON UNIFORM DAY - WATER AID

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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Library: 01392 464010

