

# NEWSLETTER



**No. 661**  
**w/c Mon 23 March**  
**will be Week B**

## THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

*"In the modern globalizing world, information sows the seeds of prosperity, and those who are without access to information are at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to building a better future for themselves and for their children." Shashi Tharoor*

Dear Parents/Carers

### College Closure

Coronavirus will pass, but we just don't know how soon. Many commentators believe that we will be back up and running in September, possibly with a slim chance of July. Until then, I have asked my colleagues to ensure two major things happen: that there is frequent contact with students to maintain a sense of belonging with Clyst Vale, which is really important when students are isolated from school; a sense of "belonging" is very important in terms of well-being. This will largely be achieved through regularly sending activities and work to ensure that knowledge and progress are maintained, and more practically to give our wonderful young people something to do which does not involve social media or trying to annoy their siblings. Also, parents can still e-mail or phone us up. Phone calls are being converted to e-mail and diverted to colleagues' homes, so there might be a delay in getting a response, but we are still operating during normal College hours. We would prefer e-mail if at all possible, but I know that doesn't suit all parents, and we will call back.

This is new territory for all of us. We will be trying to maintain as much normal business as possible but remotely. We need to recruit staff for September; there are a calendar and timetable to prepare. Year 6 will become Year 7. Year 11 will become Year 12, hopefully here but also at various colleges. My colleagues will plan, prepare and "teach" lessons; assessment will be harder, but it can still be done to an extent via e-mail. Year 10 did not sit their mocks in the Hall, but have been given the papers. They can sit down and give the papers a go; teachers will produce model answers (after the Easter break) so that students can self-assess; this is not normal, or ideal, but students can gain from the experience and learn how questions are structured.

We don't underestimate potential challenges at home, either. For many *adults*, working from home is a challenge, and so it will be for a grumpy teenager who can't even escape the house to meet their friends. Some families have several computer users but only one main computer. If parents need to work from home in order to get paid and keep food on the table, this would have to take priority over students' work. That's why I've asked my colleagues to set a variety of work tasks which don't involve students being on a main computer or laptop for hours on end; some tasks will be done on paper, or exercise books, some can be done via smartphone.

Some schools and websites are producing detailed guidance about "how to help your child study at home". Much of this is common sense, but often based on reasonably well-off families. Ideally, students do need their own desk with their own laptop or tablet with internet access. A printer-scanner would be good, and a healthy supply of paper and stationery equipment. Again, we are well aware that this is not the reality. A defined space to work in, and a new daily Monday to Friday routine which builds in "school time" can be

achieved, though, and is the basis of success. We all know that although they moan about it like hell, most young people like routine and structure.

A big shift is that students really do have to take more responsibility for their own learning. Teachers will be there to explain and encourage and nag, but by e-mail, not physically in a room. It takes longer to type an e-mail than to quickly explain something in words. It will be different. Students will need to figure things out for themselves. I take some comfort from the example of Holsworthy during the foot-and-mouth crisis many years ago: the students were out of school completely for almost two months, but their exam results were a best-ever that year!

So, while we have thought about a lot of things, and what is likely to happen, it is an evolving picture and we may not have got everything perfect to start with. There will probably be mixed practice between subjects and tutors which we will try to iron out. There will be further challenges: the virus might get worse, or get better more quickly than anticipated. There might be more severe lockdown measures, so no-one (staff or students) can get to school at all. Sustaining remote learning for several weeks could mean it needs “refreshing” at some point. For students in some years, the question “why are we doing this” could nag away (for others, especially Years 10 and 12, it won’t!). I would say this, wouldn’t I, but **NO LEARNING IS WASTED LEARNING**. So keep in touch; if it’s going well, tell us. If it’s not, tell us, ideally with solutions which would work for you.

### **Next Steps South West Articulatory Project**

Last week 15 Year 9 students were chosen to take part in the Articulatory course, funded by Next Steps South West. Their brief was to deliver a presentation about their future aspirations, using audio-visual support and to then respond to questions. It was fantastic to see our students persevere over what was a very challenging but rewarding week for them. They presented their findings to three business representatives, as well as the other students in the group. They all worked hard and should be congratulated on their achievement.

“During the week I learnt to build my confidence, I learnt how to create a good CV and design a presentation for my dream job. I have also learnt to believe in myself. It was a really positive experience, we played games to learn to express ourselves – at the beginning of the week I could not do a presentation in front of anyone. After I felt really happy that I managed to do it but sad that the experience had come to a close. This has changed my way of thinking it is an amazing thing to do. I would love to do it all again!” [Ellis Tagg]

“During the week’s Articulatory course I looked, in depth, at the career I want in the future and designed a PowerPoint about it to present to a board of business people. I found this quite challenging and I was very nervous but I felt very proud afterwards. I also began to write my CV which will give me an advantage over others. This course definitely built my confidence and pushed me out of my comfort zone, I found it very helpful.” [Neve Hart]

### **Staff Changes**

Joining the College as School Librarian following interviews last week is Lucy Southard.

Jonathan Wild left us last week; during his time at Clyst Vale, he fulfilled several roles within Additional Support, including specialist teaching assistant and also helping in our Skills Room. We wish them both well.

### **“Our House” Lost Property**

After university and over three decades in teaching, I have now reached the lofty heights of lost property monitor for the College production. I have coats, tops, phone chargers, a water bottle, a Richard Dale “Chicago” sweatshirt, a complete school uniform, rose pink tweezers, one black Primark trainer size 6 in search of a companion, assorted tights, leggings and three individual socks. Our highly talented, wonderful performers can remember their lines but not their belongings, so I’m appealing to parents. If

you recognise any of these items, please contact my PA, Mrs Voysey, on 01392-463930. A full list is available on request, but it may now take some time to return any items.....

(Those of you who have been avid Newsletter readers over the years will realise that while a serious message, this has given me another opportunity to remind everyone about "Our House" and how brilliant it was. A happy memory at a tricky time. We have provisionally booked the dates for *next* year's production. The show must go on....)

### **Broadclyst Parish Council Buddy Scheme**

In response to the coronavirus emergency, BPC are coordinating a buddy scheme of volunteers to help support high-risk people who are self-isolating in their area; perhaps with delivering shopping or collecting prescriptions. We are also asking for volunteers to act as co-ordinators for each of the following areas: Beare, Blackhorse, Broadclyst Station, Budlake, Columnjohn, Crannaford/Saundercroft, Hele, Killerton, Longmeadow, Southbrook Lane, Tithebarn, Westclyst, Westwood/Ashclyst. Key contact details for Broadclyst are: <https://www.broadclyst.org/community/coronavirus> and [clerk@broadclyst.org](mailto:clerk@broadclyst.org)

I am aware that many villages are operating similar schemes, but do not have contact details. It would be an excellent thing for some of our older students to consider: they have energy to burn, would be glad of leaving the house, and are less susceptible to serious infection!

### **The Clyst Vale Newsletter....**

...will continue on every term-time Friday. If you're lucky, it might be a bit shorter than usual, as I won't be droning on about untucked shirts or rolled-up skirts or giant ear-rings.

Best wishes



**Dr Bawn**

### **Autism: Supporting Parents and Carers Workshop - 1 May 2020**

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition which affects the brain's development. It is a lifelong condition, with characteristics that appear in early childhood. This workshop is for families, carers, teachers and early years practitioners.

Date: Friday 1st May 2020 (10am – 2.00pm)

Venue: Colyton Caterpillars, Reece Strawbridge Centre, Coly Road, Colyton, Devon  
EX24 6PU

Delegate price £20

Parents/Carers FREE

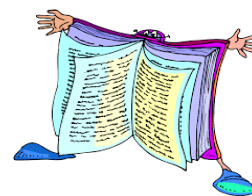
Tea & coffee included – bring your own lunch

Bookings please follow link: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/eycs/autism-supporting-parents-and-carers-workshop/> (<https://www.devon.gov.uk/eycs/autism-supporting-parents-and-carers-workshop/>)

**Mrs Long**  
**SENDCo**

## Scholastic Book Club

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/clyst-vale> (<http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/clyst-vale>) to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you send on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 25p in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your orders by 25th March, 2020.



**Lucy Southard**  
Librarian

## School Transport

1. Clyst Vale supports the (DCC) Devon County Council's "No Pass No Travel Scheme" that operates on transport to and from this College.
2. Only students who show a valid travel pass to the driver **on every journey** will be allowed to travel. Students must travel on the vehicle indicated on their pass.
3. **Please ensure that your child has their travel pass before they leave home every day.**
4. Please ensure that your child knows what to do in the event they are not allowed to travel or the bus does not arrive (e.g. because of breakdown or traffic conditions or severe weather). College attendance is very important and it is best to be prepared for any of these eventualities.
5. DCC will carry out regular pass checks throughout the year.
6. Drivers are not allowed to carry passengers who cannot show a valid pass.
7. If your child loses their pass during the day they should go to the AtHoS offices to ask for a 10 day temporary pass. Replacement passes cost £5 each and can be ordered online, or by sending a cheque with a replacement form.

*Further information is available at: [http://www.devon.gov.uk/school\\_transport](http://www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport)*

## **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 (Attendance Officer)

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).
- **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](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

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

**Tel:** 01392 461407 **Library:** 01392 464010

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

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

