



NEWSLETTER

No. 691
w/c Mon 23 November
will be Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." Abigail Adams

Evenings and 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 and weekends.

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!

Dear Parents and Carers

Brief Coronavirus Update

As we all know, everything can turn on a sixpence, but this week has been relatively calm. Most students on CV01 returned today, despite yet another bus blunder outside our control (we even reminded them on Wednesday!); Year 9 will return next Tuesday. I give the number of cases and covid incidents in my weekly update on a Tuesday evening; there have been two or three more positives among family members since then, and therefore several students self-isolating, but none in students. There are still no cases among staff, although four are shielding and four more are self-isolating because of a family member. For many Clyst Vale families the position is what it is, a worry, an inconvenience, but young people won't get very ill and it's possible to work from home. However, there are other families for whom any case at all is a real source of anxiety, if there is a vulnerable family member, or it is not possible to work from home.

So, we will apply the rules and regulations to the very best of our ability, and remind everyone that good covid practices are not just about you, but everyone else. Each passing day more and more students are responding to the reminders, and the College becomes even safer as a result.

Face coverings

Students are being absolutely brilliant about face coverings. Compliance is excellent, and no student is being “difficult” when challenged. The main problem is – hold the front page – 11 to 16 year olds are forgetful. Some forget to bring a mask at all, Some lose it. Some forget between lessons. A lot forget to put one on when they have finished eating. And some forget when they are outside but talking in a tightly huddled group and not socially distanced. I must stress that the vast majority at any one time don’t forget. A lesser problem is that a minority of students don’t like masks, and find subtle ways of “sort of” wearing them, or make a muffin last an hour. We are constantly reminding students about face coverings, and there are signs everywhere. Anything you can do to reinforce the message at home is hugely appreciated, and please check the mask situation before they leave home. We will give out disposable masks, but we’re not teaching organisational skills and social responsibility by doing this.

Uniform

Pre-lockdown, our uniform was brilliant, parents highly supportive, students very good and (unlike years ago) I barely had to put out any reminders at all. It’s still very good, especially in Years 7-9, and especially when the outer layers come off. Thank you very much for your support in this. The problem is the onset of colder weather combined with allowing PE kit on days when students have PE. The expectations have not changed: students should be wearing plain black or navy blue tops and leggings/bottoms. There should not be big logos. Things should not be red, green, or bright colours. Leggings and tracksuit bottoms should be plain black or blue, certainly not grey, and certainly not jogger-style material. Coats should be coats, not hoodies. When we started allowing PE kit the standard of uniform was amazingly good, and this continued pretty much until half-term. I doubt that lots of students have suddenly outgrown their clothes all at once ! If there is a financial reason why your child is not in correct uniform or kit, please contact us in confidence; we may be able to help.

Coats and Ventilation

I have been asked to clarify this. Government advice from the DfE is that ventilation is one of the best ways of reducing the risk of transmission of coronavirus in the air. Therefore, classrooms will have doors and windows open as much as possible. When it’s cold outside, teachers should give students the option of keeping coats on. There are exceptions: in labs or workshops where the extra bulkiness presents other risks; or where an individual student has abused the privilege of wearing a coat in some way, perhaps by using a mobile phone. It is far better, and my recommendation, that students wear an extra layer underneath; for example a plain white t-shirt. As I say above, no hoodies, thank you.

Sixth Form News

- Last night’s parents evening went well, and thank you to parents and students for “being there”. Year 12 were here at the end of the summer term, but lockdown has had an impact, and the recent exams generated the usual triumphs and disappointments. Therefore, dialogue with parents is more important than ever. We were nervous in that it was our first video-linked remote one, but the technology worked! Unfortunately, one or two parents were unceremoniously cut off by the said technology, and we are very sorry that this happened: lessons learned for next time!
- A correction from last week, and an apology. I got my deadlines mixed up: while university applications for Oxbridge has indeed passed, the general deadline for UCAS is not until January. Year 13 students and parents know this, so will have politely ignored me.
- Letters have been sent to Year 11 parents this morning with regard to applying to the Sixth Form for next September.
- In similar vein, if you haven’t yet seen the Post-16 promotional video on the website, you really ought to check it out. Its purpose is recruitment, but it also shows a key part of Clyst Vale which younger students do not always see or fully appreciate. There are also a series of “talking heads” who describe their A-Level and Level 3 BTEC courses. Follow this link: <http://www.clystvale.org/sixth-form/>

· There has been one positive case of covid in the Sixth Form, in October, of a student who was already isolating and presented no risk in College. However, there have been several students self-isolating, and colleagues have been able for the most part to sustain live lessons as part of blended learning. All that practice in the summer paid off!

Year 11 Parents & Carers

You have had a small flurry of letters via In Touch. One is from me, with regard to the mock exams. In it, I try to tread the fine line between making clear that the mocks are an important indicator of progress, but they are a means to an end not an end in itself. As mentioned above, the other is from Miss Haynes with regard to considering studying A-levels or Level 3 courses here, the benefits of doing so, and how to apply.

As always, very best wishes,



Kevin Bawn
Principal

BRAMBLE WARD CHRISTMAS BOX APPEAL.

After spending last Christmas on Bramble Ward with my daughter, I know first-hand how hard it is to be in hospital at Christmas when your child should be at home, unwrapping presents and pulling crackers.

This year, I would like to help give back to those who gave so much to us when we were there. Many local families had put together bags and boxes to help make the stay more comfortable.

Items could include:- Small box of chocolates or cookies, Herbal teabags, coffee or hot choc sachets, Porridge Pots, Sweets/choc bars, Slipper socks- adult or child, Colouring books and crayons/pens, Pack of playing cards, Sticker books, Small soft toys, Small rattles for a baby, Toothpaste and toothbrushes- adult and child, Hand cream, Lip balms, Small hair brushes and bands, Deodorants or body sprays.

If this is something you and your family would like to get involved in, please drop your donations/ boxes to Clyst Vale Library. Please can all donations be with us by Thurs 10th December so they can be quarantined in time for Christmas.

Many Thanks



Kate and Hattie

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 30 November - all week	Y11 Mocks
Fri 04 December	Y12 Geography Fieldwork
Sat 05 & Sun 06 December	Ten Tors/Bronze D of E Event
Tues 08 December	Y8 Parents' Evening (virtual)
Fri 11 December	Human Rights Day
Sun 13 December	D of E Gold Y12 Dartmoor Day Walk
Weds 16 December 7pm - 9pm (tbc)	Christmas Carol Service, Whimple Church
Fri 18 December	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM St Petrock's - Non-Uniform Day
2021	
Tues 5th January	Start of Spring Term
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

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

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Library: 01392 464010

