



NEWSLETTER

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT:

“Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop” [Ovid]

No. 679
w/c Mon 24 August

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are enjoying your summer ! As you might already have heard said, we are living in unprecedented times, and it is unprecedented that the Clyst Vale Newsletter comes out mid-holiday. When I said I would be contacting parents from 21st August, I thought it would be a matter of helping you prepare for the return to school in September. I hadn't allowed for the unmitigated shambles which has been inflicted on our Year 11 and 13 students by the DfE and Ofqual, and has occupied the last two weeks of my life !

Exam Results

Please refer to the College website and to my press releases to Devon Live on 13th and 20th August. Our students are brilliant. They deserve every possible congratulation for what they have achieved in incredibly difficult circumstances, not least emotionally. They, and we, got through the exams debacle surprisingly well, and the two results days, although a bit muted, felt pleasantly normal. Our A-level students were fortunate in as much as they all secured university places, so did not experience the double agony of unfair grades AND university denied to them; subsequently, the grades reverted to centre-assessed grades and all's well that ended well. However, I think it's widely known that I was incensed by what happened, and was very active through my networks and with local MPs to express my feelings. This was absolutely no way to treat young people, and was shameful. I am happy and proud of our GCSE students as well, who have been similarly magnificent; it was really great to see so many of them and their parents on Results Day. I am far from happy with the process, though. The use of centre-assessed grades became inevitable, and it meant that GCSE students were spared the stress of A-levels day (39% of grades downgraded, and 75% of students affected). However, students still await over 100 results in BTec and CNat vocational qualifications. Further, like many schools, we followed the Ofqual guidance in generating centre-assessed grades in May, reflecting the infamous algorithm at the time. Now, like many schools, some parents are querying why their child's grade seems harsh in

one or two cases, and the answer is we followed the rules then, but the goalposts have been moved. To make matters worse, there are only very limited ways that parents or schools can make an appeal. So, while the overall picture has been very positive, it has been a torrid time for many young people, and there have been some residual unfairnesses. On the other hand some students have been upgraded, and the majority were pleased with the outcomes.

Returning in September

There are a thousand and one things to consider. We were able to outline a lot of important points before term ended in July, and we have taken the decision not to make any last-minute changes. I will be producing a lot of information over the next few days, and next week's Newsletter will be very important. However, here is a list of some fundamental points for parents.

- The start of term for students is Monday, 7th September (Week A). Students should arrive as normal, in uniform. There is no staggered start; students have been out of school for almost six months, and I can't justify any extra days off. The new Year 7 should go straight to the Sports Hall. Students do not need PE kit on the first day.
- We are aiming at social distancing of 2m from and between adults and 1m between students. The requirement in schools is actually 1+m and 0m respectively, but it's better to aim high in my view.
- We are aiming to run a full timetable as normally as possible. Students will move from lesson to lesson. Some subjects have to be careful about equipment, so students will notice some differences in PE and Science, for example.
- There will be a one-way system around the whole College: this is basically three anti-clockwise circles around the old Science block, around English, and around the playground. Each block will have its own one-way system with fixed entrances and exits. Students are used to lining up for Maths; they will be expected to do the same for English and Science, too.
- From Day Two (Tuesday 8th) students should enter the College through the gate nearest to their tutor room. Students must also go straight to their tutor room; there is no mixing in the Giraffe House or hanging around to wait for mates to arrive.
- Students will be allowed to wear PE kit on days they have PE, BUT there will be further detailed guidance about this so that we can maintain standards.
- We will keep students in year group "bubbles". "Bubbles" is a bit misleading, but what it basically means is that we will make sure year groups do not mix. This in turn means some changes to the College day: still five lessons, but slightly longer to allow for cleaning and movement; shorter lunchtime as most activities cannot run.
- There will be three eating areas, each assigned to one year group with two lunch breaks. The cashloader machine will be available, but we really want parents to pay on-line if at all possible. The machine will only be available at limited times, and students cannot just check their balance. Year groups will have designated areas for break and lunch; they cannot go anywhere on site or hang around in the Giraffe House (unless this is their area, of course). In a very exciting development, we will be putting up two marquees to provide extra covered outdoor space at lunchtime !
- We would like students to be properly equipped every day. They should be using their own stationery and equipment. We can issue pens and pencils, but these will need to be properly cleaned.
- Masks. Although government guidance does not require face masks in school, and is vaguely discouraging, we don't completely agree. If you probe "The Science" masks are of limited benefit and protect others, not the wearer. However, psychologically, wearing a mask makes some people feel better and more confident. So we are

proposing that we do not allow masks or coverings in the classroom unless a child has a particular medical or SEND need, but teachers may wear a face visor if they wish. Between lessons, and at breaks, students and staff will be permitted to wear masks.

As I said, I intend to produce a lot more detailed guidance in coming days. I hope the above is useful for you in terms of thinking ahead. You'll notice I haven't mentioned school transport; this is because I am waiting on further information and I hope that parents/carers are being contacted separately. One thing that we're not doing is having staggered arrival and departure times; it's just not practical with our catchment area, buses, location, and site issues. And much as I would love to promote cycling and walking, that is not practical or safe for many of our students either, especially when the nights draw in. One thing that it would be really helpful for parents to do is to reinforce the general point to students that although we will be back in September, it will be very different to March, and they must be ready to learn and accept new routines. Students are here to learn, and to give them the best curriculum we can, we are having to mitigate all the health risks we possibly can, no matter how small.

Annual Awards

I know I mentioned this in the last Newsletter, but you might have missed it, and in any case the students deserve a second mention. For once, when term starts, I will be able to present them with their trophy *with their name engraved on it* ! So, very well done to the following:

- Outstanding Personal Achievement Award to Luana Dart (Year 10)
- Spirit of Devon Award for Progress in Years 7-9, to Maddie Firminger (Year 9)
- Tolman-May Award for Perseverance despite significant challenges to Riley Beer (Year 10)
- The RRS Shield (for championing RRS issues) to Joe Hartley (Year 11)
- The Caring Cup for care and support for others to Emily Pattison (Year 10)
- The Pope's Chalice for Music to Megan Newbery (Year 11)

Former Students

Delighted to hear from Caitlin Tyrrell who has just graduated from the University of Birmingham with a first class degree in politics and international relations, and has managed to secure a place on a graduate scheme with Network Rail.

We are always pleased to hear from former students. Not only are we interested in their progress and achievements in life, but they are excellent role models for our current students!

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 (Attendance Officer)

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

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



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

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

