



NEWSLETTER

No. 738
w/c Mon 24 January 2022
Week B

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"The great aim of education is not knowledge but action."

Herbert Spencer

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid Rates

At present, there are 30 students isolating and two members of staff. These figures are reasonably low, but there is a rising trend. Since the start of term 14 school days ago, 69 students have had covid; in September it took 24 days to reach that figure which could support the idea that Omicron is more transmissible. Or attitudes are more relaxed. Or it's winter and people are indoors more of the time.

Face Masks in Classrooms

You'll know that face masks are no longer required in classrooms. You'll also know that some schools are resisting this, and the Department for Education is talking tough about dealing with such schools. I'm reasonably happy with the new guidance. Masks get in the way of good teaching, and here at CVCC most students face forwards in lessons in mostly well ventilated rooms. Plus, while masks are not required, if students wish to wear them that is absolutely fine. There are students who health-wise are a little more vulnerable than others; who have family members who are clinically vulnerable; and there are plenty of students in exam years who actually don't want to catch covid and have 5-10 days out of their education at an important time.

Face Masks in General

I'm less convinced about the lifting of masks in schools from next Thursday. In fact, we will continue to strongly recommend the use of masks until February half-term (but re-think if and when our rates decrease). Clearly, this can only be a recommendation, but I hope that the majority of students and parents will understand the need for caution and that this is a respectful thing to do on behalf of others.

There are several factors: rates in London might be plummeting, but they are not falling as fast in the South West (and our CVCC rates are going up). We have had a pretty good start to the term largely because of very low staff absence rates, and remaining cautious will help keep regular teachers in the classroom, at a time when it is very hard to secure supply teachers. The points above about vulnerable people and students in exam years apply. Experts are divided as to whether the restrictions are being lifted too early, and Devon's Director of Public Health is urging caution. We don't fully know the response of Stagecoach or School Transport yet, although common sense suggests they will adopt a "recommended" approach.

Back to Plan A

There is a risk that the lifting of restrictions could be seen as “Freedom Day #2”. You may have missed it in all the boosterism about boosters, but even the Prime Minister said we’re just going back to Plan A. In schools, this means we maintain hand sanitising and washing; good ventilation; wiping tables; enhanced cleaning regimes; twice-weekly LFT testing; strict observance of testing requirements; and prompt action if a student or staff member displays covid symptoms. The point is that we will still be expecting students to take certain actions. Government guidance for parents and carers can be found here:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19)

Year 11 Parents’ Evening

Thank you very much to all parents and carers who attended last night’s virtual parents’ evening. It is always one of the best attended evenings, with over 80% of students represented. That’s because it’s a very important one. Just four months until GCSEs, long enough for students to consolidate on their achievements and build towards success or alternatively do the physically impossible and give themselves a kick in the pants. I can dress it up in all sorts of fancy ways, but the secret of exam success is old fashioned organisation, hard work, and putting the hours in at home as well as in College.

Sixth Form Applications

Mentioning Year 11, a reminder that the deadline for applications to join Clyst Vale Sixth Form is next Friday. Miss Haynes is visiting all of the Year 11 tutor groups to answer questions from students, and if you have any queries please e-mail on haynesc@clystvale.org During my career I have worked in all different age ranges, and I am convinced that 11-18, including a school sixth form experience is best. We provide high quality teaching and learning, but in a supportive and individualised environment; we also like our Year 11 students and every year do great things for those who stay!

Year 9 Options

It’s all systems go ! After yesterday’s Options Assembly parents will now have received the Options Booklet and a letter about joining Q&A sessions with teachers at the Options Evening next Tuesday, 25th . Further details will follow shortly, with links to join directly to the relevant meetings. Next Friday we hold our Options Fair, in which Year 9s can talk to Year 10s and 11s about the various subjects. With options, I can’t say often enough that students should take their time over their decisions, and even if they are sure to double-check. It’s really important that students make the right decisions and look forward to Year 10 confidently; and, being blunt, chopping and changing in September just won’t be possible for the most popular subjects.

DofE/Ten Tors

47 students took part in their first overnight expedition last weekend – that’s 5% of the whole College ! They faced some classic Dartmoor weather, including rain when packing up camp on the second morning, then thick mist. Special congratulations go to the Year 10 girls group, who were the only team to complete the additional distance. The next expedition goes out on 5th/6th February.

With 47 students, we need quite a support team ! Huge thanks to Miss Barratt and Mr Eales for their continuing organisation and leadership, but there were also six adult volunteer helpers and two Sixth Formers. They all regularly give up their weekends to support our students, and we are incredibly grateful.

Legally Blonde

This year’s musical will be Legally Blonde, to be held in the Exmouth Pavilion from 29th March to 1st April. We are hoping for a much smoother ride than last year, when Bonnie & Clyde was bedevilled by covid restrictions (but was a triumph nonetheless). Anyway, the first major all-day rehearsal is tomorrow. Break a leg to all concerned (which I discovered refers to bowing or curtsying after a successful show, not a macabre wish for someone to get hurt).

Summer Exams and Contingency Plans

Strange times: it now feels disconcerting when there aren't any changes to report. In terms of the summer exams, a few subjects have already had some modifications (English Literature, History, Geography GCSE). Information about other subjects is expected on 7th February. However, realistically, very few significant changes are likely; in particular, it is extremely unlikely that any syllabus content will be reduced, and it is very likely that the 7th Feb information will concentrate more on revision. The direction from the Department of Education has been clear: other than the exceptions above, schools are expected to teach the full specification.

In terms of contingency plans, again there are no changes. All students facing exams in the summer are expected to have three assessments "in the bank" if the summer exams are cancelled for any reason. Year 13 (and 12) will be w/b 31st January and from 14th March; Year 11 from 7th March. A third assessment window would be needed in May only if exams are cancelled. We are doing our best to integrate these additional requirements into our normal routines.

It is looking increasingly likely that exams will not be cancelled. There are only two grounds, really. One would be if there was another VoC (variant of concern) resulting in national or regional lockdowns. The second one would be on the grounds of fairness, in that different parts of the country have experienced different degrees of disruption. My understanding from my professional association is that the DfE aren't really interested in this approach and are taking the majority utilitarian view that exams really ought to go ahead. Of course, this does not differentiate for an individual student who perhaps had covid, long covid, a relapse or two and missed a lot of learning; normal special consideration could apply in some cases.

Rough Play

Every year.....When we first have some Spring-like weather, as this week, the rough play starts. It's mostly boys, mostly in Years 7, 8 and 9, and mostly within friendship groups. It's not usually bullying, and it's not usually random. But just because it happens every year and students grow out of such behaviour does not make it ok. Pushing, shoving, over-enthusiastic hugs, football tackles and the like risk hurting someone else. Occasionally, there have been some quite nasty injuries. We will impose field bans and further sanctions where necessary. Duty staff will intervene, but I firmly believe that students also have a responsibility to manage their own behaviours and tell others if they are not comfortable.

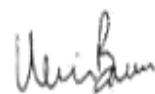
And a Heartwarming Story to End...

On Monday morning, a Year 7 student was on his way to school when he came across an elderly lady in her 80s who suffers from dementia. She had left her home and was wandering in a confused state. Our student stopped to help her.

He assisted by using the lady's phone to call some of the numbers stored in it, and in the end spoke to the lady's daughter, who was able to arrange for someone to come and collect her mother.

The lady's daughter said she was most impressed by the student's maturity and presence of mind. Also his compassion – as he agreed to stay with her mother and make sure she was safe until help came, despite the fact that this would make him late for school (we let him off!).

We are really proud of this young man. He is a credit to himself and his family; and he has shown the values we strive to develop here at Clyst Vale.



Kevin Bawn
Principal



Good luck Sam!

Good luck to Clyst Vale Post 16 student Sam Mills who is running the 1500m for England in Belfast this weekend. An outstanding athlete and hard-working student, Sam is only 17 but will be competing in the U20 race.

If you want to watch Sam's race tune in on YouTube.

World Athletics Northern Ireland International Cross Country LIVE

(<https://youtu.be/57HaSXGR1dY>)

Live action of all races from the Billy Neill MBE Country Park on the outskirts of Belfast

Mr J Powell

LUNCH CLUBS

| Day | Club | Time | Where | Changing Room | Teacher |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---|
| Monday | Year 9 to 13 Badminton | Lunchtime | Sports Hall | Sports Hall | Mr Powell |
| Monday | Year 10 & 11 BTEC/GCSE Dance | Lunchtime | Dance Studio | Dance Studio | Mrs Elliot |
| Monday | Year 10 & 11 Weights/Fitness | Lunchtime | Dance Studio | Humanities Block | Mr Pearce |
| Monday | All FIFA Tournament | Lunchtime | Meeting Room 2 | | Mr Stapleton |
| Monday | Week A – GCSE Art Club | Lunchtime | AR2 | | Mrs Walton |
| Monday | Week B – KS3 Art Club | Lunchtime | AR2 | | Mrs Walton |
| Monday | Year 11 RS Revision | 1.40pm | HU1 | | Mrs Battshill |
| Monday | Science Club | 1.30pm – 2pm | SC2 | | Dr Odunlade/Mrs Spencer |
| Monday | Mental Health Ambassadors | Lunchtime | VO1 | | Mrs Bennett |
| Tuesday | Year 7, 8 & 9 Basketball | Lunchtime | Sports Hall | Sports Hall | Mrs Needs |
| Tuesday | Year 7, 8 & 9 Dance | Lunchtime | Dance Studio | Humanities Block | Miss Hall |
| Tuesday | Year 10 & 11 Weights | Lunchtime | Dance Studio | Humanities Block | Mrs Elliot |
| Tuesday | All FIFA Tournament | Lunchtime | Meeting Room 2 | | Mr Stapleton |
| Tuesday | Ten Tors/Duke of Edinburgh Award | 1.30pm – 2.10pm | IT4 | | Mr Eales/Miss Barratt |
| Tuesday | Minecraft Club | Lunchtime | IT3 | | Mr Bailey |
| Tuesday | Post 16 Amnesty | Lunchtime | EN7 | | Ms Watt/Mrs Battshill |
| Wednesday Week B | 11A Practical GCSE Catch Up | Lunchtime | DT3 | | Mrs Crook |
| Wednesday | Year 7 & 8 Badminton | Lunchtime | Sports Hall | Sports Hall | Mr Powell |
| Wednesday Week A | IGBTQ + Group | 1.40pm | MF1 | | Miss McConnachie |
| Wednesday | Drug & Alcohol Information Drop In | Lunchtime | | | Mrs Gillespie |
| Thursday Week B | 11C Practical GCSE Catch Up | Lunchtime | DT3 | | Mrs Crook |
| Thursday Week A | GCSE Theory Catch Up | Lunchtime | DT4 | | Mrs Crook |
| Thursday | Year 11 Indoor Football | Lunchtime | Sports Hall | Sports Hall | Mr Stapleton |
| Thursday | Year 7 & 8 Football | Lunchtime | Field | Humanities Block | Mr Powell |
| Thursday | Year 11 Rosslyn Park 7s | Lunchtime | Field | Humanities Block | Mr Pearce |
| Thursday | Year 9 Netball | Lunchtime | Courts | Humanities Block | Mrs Broomfield |
| Thursday | Attenborough's Army | Lunchtime | HU4 | | Mr Zimble |
| Thursday | Yoghlo Club | Lunchtime | SC3 | | Mr Moxey |
| Thursday | Games Club | Lunchtime | HUS | | Miss Jenkins |
| Thursday | Year 11 Maths Higher Tier Drop In | Lunchtime | MA8 | | Miss Barratt |
| Friday | Various Inter Tutor | Lunchtime | Various | Various | Mr Stapleton Miss Hall Mrs Broomfield |
| Friday | KS3/4 Amnesty | Lunchtime | HU2 | | |
| Friday | Post 16 Indoor Football | Lunchtime | Sports Hall | Sports Hall | Mr Powell |

• Colour coded refers to Ten Tors/Duke of Edinburgh only

CALENDAR DATES

| DATE | EVENT |
|--|---|
| Sat 22 January | Legally Blonde Rehearsal |
| Mon 24 January | Y11 Presentation of GCSE Drama Work: 6pm - 7.30pm |
| Tues 25 January | Y9 Options Evening (Virtual) 4.30pm - 7pm |
| Thurs 27 January | Y10/Y11 Trip to Southall Gurdwara |
| Fri 28 January | Y9 Options Fair |
| w/b Mon 31 January | Y13 Mock Exams |
| w/b Mon 31 January | Week 1: Cultural Fortnight |
| Sat 5 February & Sun 6 February | DofE Overnight 2: Bronze All day |
| Sat 5 February | Legally Blonde Rehearsal |
| Thurs 17 February | Y12 Parents' Evening 4.30pm – 6.30pm |
| Mon 21 – Fri 25 February | SPRING HALF TERM |
| Fri 25 February | Legally Blonde Rehearsal |
| Tues 1 March— Thurs 3 March | Y11 Food Practical Exams |
| w/b Mon 7 March | Y11 GCSE Assessment Week |
| w/b Mon 7 January | Week 2: Cultural Fortnight |
| Sat 12 March | DofE/Ten Tors Overnight 3 |
| Sun 13 March | Legally Blonde Rehearsal |
| Mon 14 & Tue 15 March | Further Y11 GCSE Assessment |
| Thur 17, Fri 18, Mon 21 & Tue 22 March | Y13 Assessments |
| Sun 20 March | Legally Blonde Rehearsal |
| Wed 23 - Fri 25 March | Rosslyn Park Rugby 7s Tournament |
| Fri 25 March | Production: rehearsal in school All day |
| Sat 26 March | Production: rehearsal in school All day |
| Sun 27 March | Production: rehearsal in school Half day |
| Mon 28 March | Production: technical rehearsal & evening dress |
| Mon 28 March | Production: remaining cast to join rehearsal |
| Tues 29 March - Fri 01 April | Legally Blonde - Musical Production |
| Tues 05 April | LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM |
| Wed 06 April - Wed 20 April | EASTER HOLIDAYS |



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



GREEN SCHOOL

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7GCMC | Nat Kempton |
| 7GIM | Freddie Norman |
| 8GABR | Eve Van Het Bolscher |
| 8GDH | No permission to publish name |
| 9GAW | Jemima Plank |
| 9GBA | Leah Green |
| 10GHE | Hollie Mitchell |
| 11GMN | Keira Franklin |

RED SCHOOL

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7RBAT | No permission to publish name |
| 7RHSP | Lucia Dollman |
| 8RZB | Erin Byrne |
| 9RMAH | D'Arcy Pearce |
| 10RER | Poppy Bownern |
| 10RGG | No permission to publish name |
| 11RSS | No permission to publish name |

YELLOW SCHOOL

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7YMBR | Owen Clarkson |
| 7YTZI | Daisy Andrews |
| 8YPNE | Jamie Salter |
| 9YDST | Alex Eynon |
| 11YCW | No permission to publish name |
| 11YRB | Gracie Bauer |

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:

Sharon Leaman/Racheal Long (Attendance Officers)

Direct line: 01392 463911

Email: studentabsence@clystvale.org

For Year 12 - 13 Absences

Please ring Maria Murch on 01392 462697

Email: murchm@clystvale.org

copying in: haynesc@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).
- 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

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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EX5 3AJ

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

Library: 01392 464010

