

NEWSLETTER

No. 698
w/c Mon 25 January
Week B

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default."

J.K. Rowling

Reporting of Covid-19 positive test results throughout Lockdown **(including evenings and weekends)**

To report a positive Covid-19 test result during normal school hours, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or email: studentabsence@clystvale.org

If out-of-hours, we have a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends. This isn't for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, or advice.

07818 212 931

We would prefer you to text positive Covid-19 test result information to this number, including:

Name of student; Tutor group; Dates of 1. When symptoms appeared; 2. Test; 3. Test result

If necessary, someone will contact you having received this information. Thank you!

Dear Parents and Carers

There are perhaps four "standing items" which are regularly popping up most weeks: remote learning, Keyworkers' and Vulnerable Student provision, covid testing, and student welfare. This week we can add speculation about the summer exams, and about how and when schools will return. It's no wonder Newsletters are so long these days.....

Remote Learning

- Overall, this continues to go very well indeed, and we (students included) are managing to sustain five hours of learning a day. Earlier this week I published the remote education statement for the College. Remote Learning's not perfect, but I believe my colleagues are doing an excellent job and, as time goes on, we as teachers are individually and collectively improving. One thing which students and parents can expect is more requests for cameras to be on, at least for parts of lessons; this is partly because we like our students and actually want to see them not their school photo; partly because we can tell better if they are ok; and to make sure that they are remaining engaged during the lesson! This does mean that students/parents need to think about background at home, and possibly changing out of the PJs or onesie.....

Appropriate Use of Social Media

- Making Tiktok videos is a current obsession for certain age groups. Within this, there is a current national trend to record teachers while live teaching and make these into a Tiktok video with appropriate soundtrack. Some people might think "well, that's what kids do, it happened with Snapchat, it happened when mobile phones had built-in cameras, what's the harm" but it's much more serious than that. One of the reasons Clyst Vale's remote learning is so good is that my colleagues are putting themselves out on live platforms, interacting with students for up to an hour at a time. The preparation for live teaching is hard work, requiring more thought and different resources; for colleagues who are naturally a little more introvert, it can be emotionally demanding as well. We rely inherently on trust. Trust from students, parents, and each other. We have put in all sorts of safeguarding checks and balances to protect students (and staff); the Teams are closed groups. So, it undermines the whole structure if anyone "breaks the wall" and shares material from Teams on social media. It is hurtful and worrying. In themselves, Tiktok videos are often quite tame, but they might not be; some are deeply offensive, and a legitimate worry is what could have happened as much as what did happen. OK, some teachers nationally are using Tiktok to teach, but that's not the point; these teachers are choosing to use the platform themselves. If your embarrassing moment in a work Zoom meeting appeared on social media without your permission or knowledge, you would be rightly upset. Prevention is better than cure, so I won't go on about sanctions; what is far more use is for parents to reinforce the messages about social media and take an active interest in what their children might be doing. I don't want my colleagues being put off running live lessons and interacting with students because they are afraid that their genuine efforts will be plastered all over social media; the result would be that many students would lose out. There is another side to Tiktok, too: it is increasingly becoming an internet safety risk exploited by on-line groomers, so it is worth checking student usage for that reason alone.

KWV Provision

- Again, overall, this is going along quite nicely as routines are becoming established and relationships are building; we are continually looking to make improvements, and responding to fluctuating but gradually increasing numbers. Two notable changes for next week: students are expected to be in full uniform as we are in College, running five lessons a day, and the focus is on learning and maintaining as many norms as we can. (This may change slightly in future if we introduce more organised PE lessons requiring "PE Kit uniform"). Secondly, students are allowed but not encouraged to have smartphones at break and lunchtime; this will be reviewed regularly, and will not continue after the end of lockdown! I have written to "KWV" parents and carers separately in more detail.

Covid Testing (Lateral Flow Testing: LFT)

- The national uncertainty continues, covered extensively in this week's news. We know that government/Public Health advice now means we won't be using LFT for daily testing of close contacts of anyone testing positive, but we don't know what will happen about mass testing when all students eventually return. At the moment, government/Public Health advice means we are required to test staff twice a week, and students not at all. This makes little sense to me; there are serious concerns and uncertainty nationally about rates of transmission.

So, to ensure the maximum safety of students and staff who are using the site, we will introduce twice-weekly testing for students as well as staff, starting next week. As I've said before, the accuracy of LFT may be open to question, but it undoubtedly helps as a screening exercise. Please contact hopkinsa@clystvale.org if you have any questions about this change.

- So far, we have conducted 456 tests (189 staff, 267 students) with no void and no positive results.

Student Welfare

- I've mentioned before we have re-established and strengthened the Welfare Team from ECP days last year. It took a couple of days to set up tracking systems, and a few days to identify and prioritise students, but this week calls have started to students who are finding it hard to engage, and welfare check/home visits have also started.
- Free School Meals. The main news is that families will receive vouchers every week. For the rest of term this will be through the government scheme run by Edenred; during half-term it will be through Devon's scheme; then it will be back to the government scheme.

Summer Exams 2021

- I wrote to parents earlier this week; if you wish to contribute to the DfE/Ofqual consultation, the link is below. While the proposals are broadly sensible, there is plenty of devil in the detail. The biggest positive is that it gives students in exam years some hope in the midst of their worries, and a reason to keep studying to the best of their abilities.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021?](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021?fbclid=IwAR1VHn9ECb9yj9DdOPNfIJQR1a2HXW4aYzlabn4xuud_HPfpO44Miswhv_g)

[fbclid=IwAR1VHn9ECb9yj9DdOPNfIJQR1a2HXW4aYzlabn4xuud_HPfpO44Miswhv_g](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021?fbclid=IwAR1VHn9ECb9yj9DdOPNfIJQR1a2HXW4aYzlabn4xuud_HPfpO44Miswhv_g)

When will schools return ?

- We don't know.
"Officially" no-one has said clearly that it definitely will not be after February half-term, but Gavin Williamson said yesterday he's hoping it will be before Easter, which suggests it won't be before Easter; that's what I'm assuming, anyway. The gloomier end of the medical experts are talking about even later than that. We don't know: it depends on the vaccine roll-out, any new variants, any significant research findings. Every family is different, so while some can cope with this uncertainty reasonably well, for others the demands of work, home-schooling, job-hunting, financial worries and everything else is very demanding. Increasingly, previously comfortable families are starting to struggle too, especially if work has dried up or people have been furloughed, and some families have their money tied up in their property rather than in savings. As a school we can't help with every thing, but if you think we can help please contact us.

A-Level "Visit" by Leading Judge

- A_level Politics and Sociology students had a great virtual visit from Vanessa Francis, former Governor and Clyst Vale parent, organised by Ms Brotherton. Our students were very engaged and asked loads of questions on a wide range of topics including the fairness of the justice system, demography of criminals, effectiveness of prison, gender differences, politicisation of the judiciary (or not) as well as youth issues including the impact of drill music, gang violence and the increase in young female offenders .

"Adolescent Immunisation Programme"

- (I would have preferred to use the word "vaccinations" but that might have caused confusion...). This refers to things like MenACWY, the 3-in-1 booster (tetanus, diphtheria and polio) and HPV; routine immunisations usually given in years 8 and 9. Due to lockdown in March 2020, many pupils missed these vaccinations, and the NHS has asked me to pass on a brief update. In short, the NHS will prioritise this year's routine immunisations where possible, along with a recovery plan to deliver the missed vaccinations from last year. We would continue to be a base for both routine and catch-up immunisations. No dates or details have been set, and clearly much will depend on what happens with the lifting of lockdown.

Kooth

- Kooth is a service for young people aged 11-19 in Plymouth and 11-25 in Devon offering free, safe and anonymous wellbeing support and advice, accessible from any internet enabled device. It is well established, has a strong track record, and I am very happy to publicise it. The address is www.kooth.com.

Requests from DCC to publicise surveys

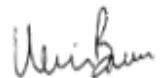
There have been two:

- MIND (the mental health charity) are asking young people, aged 13 to 25 years old in England, to take this [survey](#) to help us find out about mental health and secondary schools. This is part of Educating Mental Health: Mind's inquiry into mental health in schools. The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete and closes on March 31st 2021. There is an opportunity to enter into a free prize draw for the chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher. Parents and carers can fill in the survey about your child's experiences.
- And from Devon itself.. "Calling all parents living or working in Devon. We need your help! Whether you use childcare or not, your voice counts. The answers you give in this short survey will help the early years and childcare team in Devon County Council to plan and make sure that there is enough childcare for you to work or train: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ParentsChildcareSurvey2021/> "

Sixth Form News

- Year 12 AS Level Exams. Normal practice – although it's getting harder to remember ☺ - is that most students enter AS exams in most subjects. With no actual exams taking place, there is little to be gained from this. However, we will enter students who are dropping an A-level to focus on three next year, or who are leaving. All subjects will have end of year exams instead of AS exams - so every student will still sit an exam in your subject (where relevant) and in exam conditions.
- The Year 13 mocks in February have been cancelled, as clearly we won't be in College, and we are waiting on further clues from the government before we rearrange.
- UCAS, the university application process, closes next Friday. Miss Haynes and her tutor team have done a great job, and all is on track, with a very small number of late entries to deal with.
- **Year 11 Applications to the Sixth Form are also due this Friday, please!**

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn
Principal

Broadclyst Parish Area – Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Our Parish
Our Plan
Our Choice



Broadclyst Parish Council is inviting residents to have their say on the Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation period began on 4th December and runs until the end of next month (Sunday 28th February).

There are 3 elements to the Plan – the vision, the policies and the projects.

The feedback form invites you to rank how important you feel various aspects of the Plan are, as well as having plenty of space for ‘free text’ feedback.

Policies include the proposed Community Sports Hub, heritage trails, renewable energy production, housing, pedestrian and cycle routes and protecting woodland and green spaces. Projects include public transport and active travel initiatives, regenerating orchards and addressing flooding.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives communities direct power to

- develop a shared vision for their Parish;
- allocate sites and shape development for their Parish;
- shape growth by design codes for their Parish, and
- protect and enhance special places within their Parish.

The Parish Council is now seeking your views on that shared vision, policies, community actions and projects that will shape the future of the Parish.

To access further information and the feedback form, please click on the link below, which will take you to the relevant section of the Broadclyst Parish Council website: [Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan Community Consultation](#)

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
Thurs 04 February 4.30pm - 7pm	Y9 Options Evening - to be held online
Sat 06 - Sun 07 February	Bronze D of E Practice - CANCELLED
w/b Mon 08 February	Y13 Mocks - CANCELLED
Thurs 11 February 4.30pm - 6.30pm	Y12 Parents' Evening - to be held online
Fri 12 February	Non-Uniform Day - CANCELLED
Sat 13 - Sat 20 February	Ski Trip - postponed to 2022
Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	Spring Half Term
w/b 08 March	Y11 Core Subject Mock Exams - CANCELLED
Thurs 11 March 4pm-7pm	Y7 Parents' Evening - probably online (TBC)
Sat 13 & Sun 14 March	Ten Tors/DofE Practice Weekend (TBC)
Weds 17 March (TBC)	Deep Learning Day (if back in school!)
w/b Mon 22 March	Y10 Exams (TBC)
Tues 23 - Fri 26 March	Y12 Geography Fieldwork Residential (TBC)
Thurs 1st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Tues 20th April	Start of Summer Term
	Half Term
Fri 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Library: 01392 464010

