

# NEWSLETTER

**No. 708**  
**w/c Mon 26 April 2021**  
**Week B**

## THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

*"Life is a great big canvas, throw all the paint you can on it"*  
*Danny Kaye*

### Evenings, weekends and holidays – reporting of Covid-19 positive test results

We have introduced a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends

(At all other times, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or e-mail: [studentabsence@clystvale.org](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org))

The number is: **07818 212 931**

It is not for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, and is not an advice line. Please text positive Covid-19 test result information to this number, including:

- Name of student
- Student's tutor group
- Date symptoms appeared
- Which symptoms, or no symptoms
- Date of test
- Date of test result

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families had a good couple of weeks, cheered further by some decent weather and the lifting of some covid restrictions on 12<sup>th</sup> April. We have had a very good start to the term, as well. There have been very few developments or changes for schools since before the holidays, so what follows are mostly reminders.

### Covid

The covid guidance for schools remains almost the same. As society in general feels more relaxed after 12<sup>th</sup> April, and with talk of further relaxations from 17<sup>th</sup> May (and 21<sup>st</sup> June) it is very important that students understand that in College, very little has changed, and that this is partly to reduce the risk of transmission *because* the rest of society is opening up. The key prevention measures for all schools, including Clyst Vale, are

- To stay away if a student or household member (or member of staff) has a positive covid result, or has covid symptoms (until tested).
- A positive Lateral Flow Test (home kit) can now be overturned by a negative PCR test (testing centre).

- Face masks should be worn at all times in school (other than exemptions). This will not be changed before the next government milestone of 17<sup>th</sup> May.
- Hand hygiene.
- “Catch it, bin it, kill it”.
- Enhanced cleaning.
- Minimising contact and encouraging social distancing. This means year group “bubbles”, staggered break and lunchtime, and the one-way system remain in place.
- Good ventilation
- Engagement with testing: the two LFT tests a week for students and staff will continue, with testing kits being distributed from schools. I am regularly asked by the DfE, Public Health and Devon County Council to stress the importance of twice-weekly testing **and reporting** the results to NHS Test and Trace and to us. There is a concern that numbers of reporting results are beginning to decline, so I am asked to encourage all parents to sustain both testing AND reporting.

The main relaxations for schools are:

- Organised day visits can now happen (no overnight stays).
- Outdoor sport can take place, including fixtures (not indoor sport).

If your child or a household member tests positive for covid, whether by LFT or PCR, please tell us! To report a positive Covid-19 test result during normal school hours, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or email: [studentabsence@clystvale.org](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org). If out-of-hours, please text 07818 212 931.

### **Exam Grades**

This is the issue which is occupying a huge amount of time and attention behind the scenes. Hopefully, this will have little impact on students beyond working hard and preparing for the different assessments and collection of work (called “evidence”). This is the immediate priority; however, we are also developing systems and paperwork which will satisfy the internal and external quality assurance requirements, and there are logistical challenges about the retention of evidence and forms in the event of appeals or Exam Board sampling of work. As I say, students shouldn’t worry about this, but concentrate on their work. The timetable for the exam board questions (AAMs) has been issued for GCSE, and will be confirmed today or early next week (there is only one change, the addition of a DT assessment); for Year 13 we have decided on more flexibility so assessment dates are determined by teachers. We are trying to remove the exam “feel” of these assessments by not using the Hall and by not issuing the detailed exam paperwork, but inevitably there have to be safeguards. So, students who are entitled to exam access arrangements will go to Additional Support according to their timetable. In classrooms, exam room expectations will be necessary: no talking, communicating, eating, clear desks, no smartphones, no internet-enabled devices, and all watches to be removed and placed on the desk.

I should also remind students and parents that the AAMs are available on the internet on the Exam Board pages. This will give a good idea of the structure and style of possible questions. Clearly, students will not know which specific AAM will be used.

### **“The Big Ask”**

I’m pleased to bring to your attention the biggest ever national survey of young people’s concerns and hopes for the future, especially after covid. It has been launched by the new Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza. The survey will be used to “identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve”.

All children from age 4 to 17 are encouraged to complete the on-line survey, and of course as a RRS promoting student voice we would be delighted if our students did so. The link is <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

There is a separate survey for adults who work with children  
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/adults/>

### **It’s Survey Season!**

Just like the flowers, surveys are popping up all over the place! I have also been contacted by Exeter University in similar vein to the Big Ask.

“Exeter University would like to ask you to take part in our research into the impacts on Exeter pupils, parents/guardians/carers and staff over the 12 months from March 2020. We have devised 3 surveys *‘Have Your Say!’* - and the survey data will provide evidence as to what is needed *and* wanted going forward (if anything) - by the pupils, their parents/guardian/carers and teachers.

We are hoping then for an Exeter-wide strategic approach to help all pupils in the EX1-4 postcodes area (including yours being just outside!) with suitable support from the University, colleges, schools, trusts and other organisations between June and September.

All the results come direct to us, they are confidential and anonymised, so no child, school, or parent/staff member is identifiable. Please click on the links to have a look - click consent and you can read through it all without answering. The deadline when the survey ends is 5pm on 5th May."

[Teachers - Have Your Say! Exeter University Survey](#)

[Pupils - Have Your Say! Survey Exeter University](#)

[Parents Carers Guardians - Have Your Say! Exeter University Survey](#)

### **Holiday Newswatch**

Perhaps another example of things quietening down is that the only big education news during the holiday was that behaviour has allegedly declined in schools because of lockdown (which made quite a lot of parents bristle), and that schools should ban mobile phones. It emerged quite quickly that over 50% of schools have banned smartphones during the school day, and that includes us. This has been very successful in recent years, with almost unanimous support from staff and parents. As for behaviour, students here returned very well, better than we might have expected. Some individuals have struggled, and we are never complacent, but in general behaviour has been very good

### **Anti-Social Behaviour in Broadclyst Parish**

There have been further incidents of anti-social behaviour involving young people during the holiday, in Broadclyst village itself, Westclyst play park (again) and in at least one derelict property. I sometimes worry about these notices in the Newsletter. Over 75% of our students don't live in Broadclyst; of those who do, the majority would never dream of behaving like this; and at least some of the miscreants are from other schools. On the other hand, I have to make it plain that as a school, we are appalled by this behaviour; we will always cooperate with Parish Councils and the Police; in some situations, we can also take action against Clyst Vale students involved; and we are happy to receive any reliable information to identify the individuals. Because this really is about individuals or very small numbers; it is infuriating that tiny numbers can undermine all the great work, effort, pride, loyalty and success of the vast majority of students.

### **NSPCC Helpline for Sexual Harassment**

Following the awful cases of Sarah Everard and Lorraine Cox, and the actions of "Everyone's Invited", the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has set up a dedicated helpline for issues of sexual abuse and harassment. This is available to current or past victims as well as parents, carers or professionals with concerns. The number is [0800 136 663](tel:0800136663). The helpline is free and anonymous, and is open Monday to Friday from 8am – 10pm and Saturday to Sunday from 9am – 6pm.

### **From Devon: Health and Safety concern – magnet toys**

There is a new "playground craze" using very small, powerful round magnets. They are brightly coloured, look like sweets, are "traded" on the playground and easily hidden.

These have caused severe injuries to children when swallowed accidentally, when doing tricks to balance other magnets or magnetic items on the cheek. A recent incident locally left a child in hospital. The risk is that children will need abdominal surgery to remove the magnets which cause tears to the gut. Please be aware!

### **Apologies**

I apologise for including some spurious news in the First of April Newsletter: the Technology Block has not become a listed building, and we will not be introducing Clyst Vale masks as a compulsory or even recommended item. I was mildly surprised that some students seemed to quite like the idea !

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn  
Principal

## Athletics Club

From Wednesday 28th April the PE department are pleased to offer our successful Athletics Club from 3.20-4.30. Students will join us directly on the field and place their bags and coats in an area designated to their year group. All student of one year group will then join a member of staff at an event for 15 minutes activity, coaching and challenge. They will then move to a new event whilst any equipment is sanitised. At the end of the session students will be escorted to the school gates by the dance studio and sports hall. We are unable to offer choices in the events and students in a year group that do not want to participate in a set event can spectate or help officiate whilst their year group takes part.



This is our first major after school club and will act as a trial for future sessions. Students will need to come to school in full PE kit as they do for days that they have PE. If the session needs to be cancelled due to poor weather then all staff will be sent an email and students permitted to contact parents.

**Mr J Powell**  
Head of PE



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**AND SAVE OUR BEAUTIFUL PLANET!**

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Planet B



## **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](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)

## 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.

# CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Fri 23rd April	15:45—18:30 Silver DofE practice walk
Sat 24th—Sun 25th April	Silver DofE practice walks (2day walks)
Sat 8th—9th May	Bronze DofE Assessed Expedition
Wed 12th May	Y7 Parents' Evening
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	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

