

NEWSLETTER

No. 707
w/c Tues 20 April
Week A

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"Mutual respect is the foundation of genuine harmony."

Dalai Lama

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)

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/Carers

That Was the Term That Was

- That was the strangest term in my career, and I am sure there are many different emotions as we reach the end of it; there may even be a parent or two thinking "Blimey! They're home again for two weeks – doesn't seem five minutes since they went back and I packed up the IKEA Home Learning Work Station..". Because of a training day on 4th January, we were spared the nonsense of students being in school for just one day before lockdown, but it was still a higgledy-piggledy start to the term. We switched quickly into remote learning, aimed at five interactive or live lessons a day, and this proved highly successful, if not perfect. I remain convinced that our provision was good, and has contributed a lot to so-called "learning loss" being reduced. Meanwhile, the Welfare Team kicked in and as a result many students were encouraged to engage with remote learning. We also ran an effective "KWV" provision for keyworkers' and vulnerable children: 15% of the College roll took part in this, three times the average for English secondary schools. The digital divide was substantially narrower than in the first lockdown, and we continued to issue kit where appropriate.

- You would expect me to be incredibly proud of the incredible work my colleagues have done, and I am; they have done an amazing job, and a stream of parental thank you messages throughout the term supports this, is much appreciated, and helped morale. Equally, I am aware that there have been glitches, that we could not compensate fully for all the demands and pressures of lockdown, and that there are individual students who have had a very tough time, have struggled to make the transition back to college, and have developed or deepened mental health concerns. The transition back to College has also been remarkably smooth and successful, especially when it was in the context of several thousand LFT tests (and another huge “thank you” to the 29 volunteers who made a significant difference). That said, it’s fairly clear that many students are tired, we are experiencing behaviours associated with teenage tiredness, and while we may not want a two-week break after being back for four, many students do need a break (and learning remotely is still learning, requiring concentration and more will-power than usual).
- And we wouldn’t have done as good a job without the support, patience and good sense of you, Clyst Vale’s parents and carers. I would be foolish to try and generalise across hundreds of families’ experiences. Providing that remote learning routine, keeping the fridge stocked, being encouraging and supporting learning on those “down” days, everything contributed. Many students will have been a bit nervous about returning on 8th March, especially where friendships had realigned during lockdown, and it will have been parents who played the leading role in easing that transition. And as I said, your understanding as we coped with the various changes of direction and the covid outbreak in February was greatly appreciated.
- If all goes according to plan, next term should start normally and begin to feel more like the summer term of 2019. Who knows, we may be able to hold some of the major events like Sports Day and the Proms; but I don’t want to be accused of “boosterism” and don’t like tempting Fate. More immediately, we need to get back into a good routine; while this term has been good, there is a bit of raggedness around the edges, and we will still need to be tight on covid security. Also, we will be firmly and gradually tightening up on uniform (shops open on 12th April, and on-line ordering never closed), certain behaviours, and reaffirming Respect, Participate, Learn. This is Clyst Vale, so we don’t do draconian clampdowns or isolation cells, but we do want high standards.

Grades

- For Years 11 and 13 (and some students in 12) next term will see a big focus on collecting together the evidence to support the grading for the various subjects. This is another reason we need them, and all of the College, to settle back into the routine as quickly as possible and ensure good behaviour around and about. Last Friday we received a lot of guidance from Ofqual and JCQ (who oversee exam boards) about how grades are to be awarded. Yesterday, the exam board questions/ “mini-exams” were published, and are essentially old exam questions with markschemes and other materials. There will be more guidance at the end of the Easter holiday, including more detail on the appeals process, and also more of the exam board questions. We have a new acronym: these questions are called AAMs, for Additional Assessment Materials.
- Schools are also Exam Centres, and there is much to do behind the scenes. A key document will be a Centre Policy, which will include information about the selection and retention of evidence (ie student work and assessments), objectivity, the grading process and appeals. This is a required document, which will be sent to the exam boards, and will be published on the website.
- We’re trying to take things one step at a time, and put students first. There was a Year 11 assembly today which was intended to reassure students. For GCSE, there will be two assessment weeks in May; these are for the AAMs which will be an important part – but not the only one – in the students’ evidence. Students will be provided with areas of the exam syllabus which are likely to be used for AAMs; these will be reasonably broad, as we cannot exactly tell the students the question and then claim this is strong, robust evidence. We’ve decided to do this because many students tell us they want something to focus on, something to do. Certainly, for those students, being able to prepare and revise will provide a feeling of control, and help mitigate anxiety.
- Of course, the AAMs are not full-blown GCSEs, and unlike exams not everything hangs on them as there will be other evidence including subject assessments, non-examined assessments (“coursework”), records of performance, mock exams. There will also be a sort of pecking order of evidence, too: more recent work, or work completed in controlled conditions scores more highly in the grading. Much more on all this after Easter. The use of AAMs will vary between subjects, depending largely on how much NEA contribute to the assessment; most will run two AAMs.

- Arrangements for the Sixth Form will be very similar. The main difference is that at A-level students take fewer subjects, and therefore will complete 3-4 AAMs. A-level students have more lessons than GCSE, so the assessment calendar will be more of a rolling programme than two fixed weeks; we envisage AAMs towards the end of the week across four weeks. We are trying to avoid the pressure of recreating an “exam week” when there is no need.
- A special note on students who are entitled to Access Arrangements (AA). For the AAMs and other significant assessments, students will receive their normal AAs. If for any reason this does not happen, then their teacher would have to make an allowance for this when grading their evidence. This also applies to any assessments done before 24th March this year: if AA were not allowed for these assessments there needs to be a readjustment. (A key word is “*allowed*” – if a student chooses not to take their AA extra time, for example, then there would be no readjustment).

Testing Times (Lateral Flow Testing)

- The expectation is that all staff and students will continue to test twice-weekly and especially on the day before term starts.
- Please report positive cases urgently to the out-of-hours number 07818 212 931, and to Student Absence.
- Please report all results to TestRegister, and to NHS Track and Trace.
- As of yesterday (31st March) anyone with a positive LFT result from a home test *should get a PCR test* to confirm or disprove it. Until the PCR test is done the household should isolate (and so should any close contacts).
- We have issued sufficient home testing kits to see you through the Easter holidays! (In a small number of cases, these have been posted out to you)

Face Masks

- More confusion, I’m afraid. In the government guidance issued last Friday, it clearly stated face masks would continue to be worn “after” Easter. This was amended by Sunday to “until” Easter, *subject to review [NB]*. Presumably we will know one way or the other by 20th April, when students return, but probably best to assume they will still be expected so it’s a pleasant surprise (for most students but not all) if they are not.

Technology Block Is Grade II Listed!

It can only happen at Clyst Vale! We’ve just been notified that the Technology Block (ROSLA block to older readers) is being considered by the Secretary of State for DCMS for grade II listed status under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Normally when you think of Grade-II listed, you think of grand, historic buildings. You probably also know that ROSLA blocks were built in many schools in the early 1970s when the school leaving-age was raised, and schools needed additional accommodation quickly. However, typical CVCC, ours was built a little later than most of the others, to a particular specification, and apparently there are only three of these left in the whole UK. So, it might well qualify as being of special architectural interest. I remember many years ago when we had all the asbestos removed, the design of the building did not meet the contractors’ “standard” plans for ROSLAs, causing a few problems; so that would fit. Of course, there are all sorts of limits on Grade-II buildings, so we would be restricted in adapting it if schools ever get any money for capital development!

Free School Meals over the Spring Break

Once again, we have subscribed to the scheme run by Devon County Council, who will have contacted eligible families directly. If there are difficulties with which we may be able to help, please contact longr@clystvale.org

From Devon County Council: Easter Holiday Activities and Food Programme – Website now live

Please see the attached link which gives details of the Easter Holiday Activities Programme which is available for children in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/document/free-easter-holiday-activities-and-meals-for-children>.

Details of the locations and nature of the provision available can be found via the link and bookings should be made directly with the provider, not through your child’s school.

Clyst Vale Masks

At the moment it looks like masks are here to stay, so we're introducing a Clyst Vale version in the traditional blue and gold colouring. They would be great to reinforce a sense of community and promote the College on the way to and from College. These quilted three-ply masks (not medicinal standard) will be available after Easter. Because we can discount VAT, they are at the slightly unusual price of £14.14 for three. Following the general government line on masks, we won't be making them compulsory uniform, but are highly recommended.



Very best wishes to you and your families for the Easter weekend and spring break,

Kevin Bawn
Principal

Food Lessons - KS3

Many thanks for your understanding over the seemingly ever-changing situation, regarding food practical lessons. We are intending to return to alternating theory and practical lessons after Easter, commencing on THURSDAY 22nd APRIL (Tuesday & Wednesday, DT3 is in use all day for GCSE Practical exams). More than ever, we need to operate using strict hygiene controls. This means that food can only be dropped off 1st thing in the morning, if the group has been told to do so by the class teacher. All food and containers must be taken home at the end of the day we are not able to keep food or containers in fridges or on the side, due to cleaning procedures.



We would also like to remind you of the following ways of finding out in advance, what your child is making and when the lesson is:

1. Details of ingredients for each term's topic, is posted on the lesson team page at the start of the term. Practicals are then followed in order (all though sometimes a lesson is missed out if, for example, it falls on a non-pupil day (as will occur Monday A in May) or a day when a Year group or whole school activity takes place and normal lessons are suspended)
2. Practical lessons are posted on Teams and include the recipe and the ingredients needed (some students are bringing their own printed copy of the recipe to the lesson, which is a great idea, if you are able to do that).
3. To work out which lesson is which, your child's timetable will have two food and nutrition lessons; one timetabled in DT3 which is the practical lesson and one timetabled in DT4, which is the theory lesson.
4. The practical should also be written in their planner (time is given at the start of the lesson for this).
5. An outline of Food and Nutrition topics for each year group can also be found on the College web site.

We hope this will be of help and look forward to completing a more normal pattern of lessons, next term.

Many thanks

Mrs Crook and Mr Krasko

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 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tues 20th April | Start of Summer Term |
| 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 @clystvalem to find out what's going on in the College community.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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