



# NEWSLETTER

No. 597

w/c Wed 5 September 2018  
will be Week A

*"Good judgement comes from experience, and often  
experience comes from bad judgement."*

Rita Mae Brown

Dear Parents/Carers,

The first day of term for students will be **Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September**. Students are not required to bring PE kit on that date. New Year 7 students should go straight to the Main Hall. It will be Week A, although obviously they won't have their timetable beforehand !

A-Level and BTec L3 Results Day will be Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August from 09.00

GCSE and L2 equivalents Results Day will be Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August from 09.00

## **"Frantic Friday"**

Apparently, 3.8 million extra car journeys will start today as people rush off on their hols, providing the name "Frantic Friday". I almost headed this paragraph "Frantic Fortnight", but although the last couple of weeks have been unbelievably busy, they've actually been incredibly successful and well-organised, so that many students will have some great experiences recorded in their Clyst Vale memory bank. My colleagues have been fantastic, and deserve enormous thanks and praise. There will always be an individual exception here and there, but this week has been brilliant. The Year 8 residential was one of the best for a long time: that does not mean the students were quiet and submissive, but that they were very positive, enthusiastic, supportive, respectful of themselves and staff, and as a result had a very good time. The "Big Day Out" to Woodlands was in many ways a trip to Woodlands, but again students behaved very well and most thoroughly enjoyed themselves. As I write, forty Year 9 students are enjoying their last day in Belgium with the History trip. Not every student is able to go on these trips, so we have also attempted to provide a good range of enjoyable different activities for them. The "Small Day In" included a number of sport, Art and technology activities (definitely not lessons), while for Year 8 there was a good enterprise day designing and marketing trainers. On Wednesday, as part of our partnership with Careers South West, Devon Education-Business Partnership and the engineering firm Arconic, Year 7 really enjoyed a whole day on robotics. Because of our excellent relationship with CSW, we were used as the trial school for this day, and it went really well. I thought the students would most enjoy using a robot arm to grab and retrieve a chocolate item, but many of them said they loved designing their own robot and presenting the design to others. Meanwhile, Year 10 students have been out on work experience. This is valuable in itself, as it develops a whole range of qualities, skills and character-building traits, but I have long-believed its value is also a realisation that it won't be that long before students need to think seriously about their career direction (if not specific job), and those that have a goal, no matter if a bit fluffy, will always do better than those who don't. Once again, I must thank all parents and carers for your help in securing placements, and especially to those of you who provide placements.

## **Review of the Year**

2017-18 has been quite challenging in some respects, as we adjusted to the staffing reductions made last summer. We have also had more staffing adjustments than usual, partly because of six maternity/paternity leaves (10% of the teaching staff!) and a couple of long-term absences. Fortunately, we have been able to recruit sound replacements, because recruitment is a growing concern for many schools. We are not rolling in cash, and I remain both concerned and angry about national funding of education, but we have a balanced budget and if frugal will do so for at least the next three years. Ofsted came in April, and while it was reassuring that we remain a “good” school, there are things to be worked on: attendance, priority learners (most places call them “disadvantaged”), A-level outcomes, and Maths outcomes. We have a simple, focused plan to improve these, with our other major priority being Rights Respecting School which I believe could be transformative over the next few years.

“Safe, Happy, Successful”. We had three road accidents to students this year, fortunately none serious, and only one clearly the student’s fault. Therefore, we have emphasised road safety and asked you for your support in this. The explosion of social media and invention of new on-line games is putting students at even greater risk, so again we have strongly emphasised internet safety (and the phone ban also contributes a little). It’s great to see Attenborough’s Army in action: there is a tenuous link to litter and safety, but the group are certainly improving the place and increasing the happiness quotient. Both productions this year have been amazing: 39 Steps and The Battle of Boat. Recently, both Sports Day (and Festival on the Field) and the Year 11 Prom could be nominated for “the best ever”. The exam process was superb. In sport, there have been major individual successes, team successes (especially u-15 girls rugby and our badminton players), and commitment from many students. Sports Day was fiercely contested, and the School Cup takes on more and more meaning each year. So many successes: Readathon record fund-raising, 4x4 team, Sound of Siren workshops, Deep Learning Days, trips and visits. The year has ended very positively with recognition as a Rights Respecting School. There have been quirkier moments: “the Great Stink” emanating from Post-16 in September, repeated invasions by the Community Farm cows, three snow days and a heatwave, and a hole appearing from nowhere in the ICT technicians’ room (it’s fine now – we looked into it). Thank you so much for all your support with many of these activities.

## **Staff Changes**

There are just two colleagues leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Broomfield has returned, so Sophie Shire, her maternity replacement leaves; she takes up a full-time PE post at Crispin’s School, Taunton, in September. Sarah Lush has been with us for two terms in the English Department, and will go on to a post at St Luke’s in September. We are very grateful to both colleagues for resolving some staffing challenges, for their contribution to Clyst Vale this year, and we wish them well for the future.

## **Smartphones**

By now you will have received the policy and procedures, and hopefully everything is crystal clear for September. Essentially, if a student has their phone out during the College day, it will be confiscated (unless specifically directed by a teacher to use it). I have received feedback of two sorts: most has been unbelievably positive and supportive, while there have been one or two concerns from families where care arrangements are very fluid. As I have said before, if there are very exceptional circumstances why your child simply has to pick up messages at lunchtime, and these messages cannot be phoned in to reception, then please contact your child’s AtHoS. Similarly, if there is a major family crisis, for example serious ill-health, again please contact the relevant AtHoS. We are indeed being very robust about implementing this policy, but this is Clyst Vale and we will always do our best to support children in crisis. We also need (a minority of) parents to break the habit of texting their child throughout the day.

## Uniform

Thank you for the very positive feedback about allowing more than two styles of trousers provided that the alternative looks pretty much the same as the two styles, and is made of trouser material, and is not stretchy or skinny or jean-style. A word on “jean-style”: these are trousers that look like jeans, whatever they’re made from, ie two patch pockets on the rear, possibly a pronounced and/or double-stitched seam, small (non-CVCC!) rivet on the hip, and so on. In the last week of the summer holiday, between 10.00 and 14.00, we are offering a drop-in and check the trousers service. If you do not remove the labels and keep your receipt, in the event that the trousers fail the MOT (Mode of Trouser) test you can return them. Anyway, you have received more guidance than you could have ever have dreamed of throughout the year, and it remains on our website. Thank you so much for your support!


## Attendance

This is a big priority for us next year. A statistic to bear in mind: once a student has missed nineteen days (or thirty-eight sessions) they are deemed a persistent absentee. No matter if their attendance is 100% after this, they will remain a persistent absentee. Nineteen days sounds like a lot, but almost a sixth of our students had this much absence last year. I mention this because we are obliged to be more challenging about absence and attendance next year, starting immediately.

## DfE Traffic Count: Advance Warning

I have just been advised officially by the Dept of Transport that a traffic count will take place between 07.00 and 19.00 hours on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September outside the College. So, we can expect to see two unfamiliar people in hi-vis jackets sitting in a car on that day. Given our customary issues on Station Road, I hope they park sensibly or they might get a false reading....

On behalf of my colleagues, thank you once again for all your support, and very best wishes for the summer.



Dr Bawn

## CALENDAR DATES

<b>AUTUMN TERM 2018</b>	
<b>Wed 5 Sept</b>	<b>Start of Autumn Term</b>
<b>Mon 22 Oct - Fri 26 Oct</b>	<b>Autumn Half Term</b>
<b>Fri 21 December 2018</b>	<b>Last day of Autumn Term</b>
<b>Mon 7 January 2019</b>	<b>Start of Spring Term</b>
<b>Mon 18 - Fri 22 Feb 2019</b>	<b>Spring Half Term</b>
<b>Fri 5 April 2019</b>	<b>Last day of Spring Term</b>
<b>Wed 24 April 2019</b>	<b>Start of Summer Term</b>
<b>Mon 6 May 2019</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>Mon 27 - Fri 31 May 2019</b>	<b>Summer Half Term</b>
<b>Fri 19 July 2019</b>	<b>Last day of Summer Term</b>

## Attendance, Absence and Requests for Absence

You need to let the College know of any absence on the first day it occurs. If you do not notify the College, then your Assistant to Head of School (AtHoS) will contact you to identify the reason for absence.

This will help 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.

### For Years 7 - 11 Absences

Please contact the relevant AtHoS

Yellow School: Claire Turner (01392 463914; turnerc@clystvale.org)

Green School: Catherine Prunty (01392 463913; pruntyc@clystvale.org)

Red School: Pam Grant (01392 463910; grantp@clystvale.org)

### For Year 12 - 13 Absences

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington Post-16 PA

Direct line: 01392 462697

(answerphone available)

email: barringtonj@clystvale.org

## 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](http://www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport)*



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

## 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 School colour logo.
- Trousers should be plain, black, formal and full length. This means no jeans, leggings, chinos or any trousers with rivets or studs. Trousers must be worn on the waist.
- Skirts should be plain black, and may be worn just above the knee. Skirts must be A-line or straight, but not stretchy or “skater” style.
- Knee length black tailored shorts may be worn in the summer.
- Black sturdy shoes or all black trainers.
- Clyst Vale reversible jacket or other outdoor coat.

**Main uniform, PE kit and reversible jacket can be purchased from Thomas Moore.**

- 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

**Address:** Clyst Vale Community College, Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon EX5 3AJ

**Tel:** 01392 461407 **Library:** 01392 464010

**Email:** admin@clystvale.org **Web:** www.clystvale.org

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

