



# NEWSLETTER

**No. 688**  
**w/c Mon 2 November**  
**will be Week B**

## THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

*"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts."* Dalai Lama

Dear Parents and Carers

Term re-starts on Monday 2nd November. It will be a Week B

### Thank you

Once again, thank you very much for your support since the start of term, and your patience and understanding. Thank you for recognising that although our starting point was "normal" and then we worked backwards to reduce risks, things aren't "normal" in a pre-lockdown sense. Thank you for putting up with twice-weekly communications, and an occasional rant from me. Thank you for being so good at communicating over absence, especially covid related absence, and over other issues. Thanks, too, for recognising that we didn't make the national guidelines or isolation periods or other restrictions, but have to be firm about following them even if it's inconvenient for families because of the safety to greater numbers. We have been lucky regarding low levels of staff absence, but there have been times when we have been slower than usual to respond, for which we apologise and thank you for your patience. Thank you for feedback from time to time as well: at the start of term you might recall that e-mails on the subject of mandatory masks was divided equally 50:50. In the last ten days or so, the e-mails on this subject remain firmly divided at 50:50!

### Half-term report

As I said, we set out to maintain pre-covid normality, but work backwards to mitigate risks. The five-period day has been maintained as the basic routine, and this is easily overlooked as fundamental to students' mental health and learning. We have maintained a full curriculum unless unsafe to do so; students are getting a good deal here, as some schools have scrapped all practical lessons entirely for years 7 to 9. Student attendance is an important measure: I am delighted that it has consistently stayed comfortably above 90%. It's common knowledge that social distancing just doesn't happen in any school, which is why the government dispensed with it in guidance (albeit recommending 1m+ for students); that said, we are managing reasonably successfully to keep year groups apart. I hope that students are reporting assiduous reminders about hand sanitising and table wiping. There are many benefits of the new routines: social time behaviour is much better, and although incidents still happen and are upsetting, there are fewer of them. The improvement in litter is significant. When AirOriginal filmed the promotional video, they were amazed at how cheerful and helpful our students were, so we haven't lost anything of the indefinable Clyst Vale ethos.

Due to six months out of the rhythm, students are visibly more tired than usual at this time of year, so it is even more to their (and your) credit that they are attending well, trying their best, and maintaining a good attitude and standards of behaviour (there are exceptions; there always will be exceptions). The daily timetable is more demanding on staff than students: there can be variations in lesson timings from day to day, there is a lot more supervision plus general alertness required, and while technology might be fantastic it is more demanding teaching classes AND setting work for legitimate absentees.

Sadly, there has been mixed progress on most of the issues which are beyond our control and which I raised in the first Newsletter of term. There are still gaps and contradictions in guidance between schools and the rest of society which make me wonder if we have a slightly different virus in schools. Test-and-trace just isn't "world-beating", although it has clearly improved; even so, teachers locally are still at times being directed to South Wales for tests. In terms of the 2021 exams, all we know for sure is that they will go ahead but three weeks later. The new timetable will come out at some point in November, as will the government's "Plan B" if exams are significantly disrupted nationally and regionally. So far, we have hardly had to send home any Year 11s to self-isolate; there are schools in badly-hit areas where the whole year group has missed four weeks this half-term. OK, Devon students would seem to have an advantage here, but it's hardly a fair system. The centre-depressed grades fiasco was just left to lie in the long grass, and I am truly sorry for the students who were affected by it, both ours and the few thousand nationally. We are presently in the middle of the Autumn exams; A-levels finish this week, and GCSE start after half-term.

So, all in all, the report card reads "trying very hard and doing well".

#### **After half-term....**

There are no major changes planned. School Transport buses will require face masks other than for students with medical exemptions (most of these are in place already, but if unsure please contact the relevant AtHoS). We will be keeping windows open although perhaps not as much or as widely, so it's well worth putting an extra layer on your child. If anything changes, you will be informed on a Tuesday, a Friday, or if urgent by e-mail.....

#### **Digital Audit**

We have received over 500 replies to this strictly confidential survey, which is excellent and much appreciated. However, many parents have not yet replied. The letter was sent out via InTouch on Friday 9th October, and the survey is quick and as I say confidential. To quote from the letter, "Given the ongoing uncertainty resulting from Covid19 there is a new emphasis on trying to ensure the College has a clear understanding of what levels of access households have to IT and the internet....By completing this short survey you will be helping the College prepare for and plan its future approach to home and remote learning. We'll be asking you about two things. Firstly whether or not your household has access to the internet... We'll also ask about what type of device(s) the learner(s) in your household have access to. This may include phones, tablets, laptop or desktop computers etc."

#### **"Giving Parents the Tools"**

...Is a new Toolkit developed to help parents understand and address challenging behaviours from their children. You can find it on the Safeguarding page of our website. It's well worth a look whether or not your child has challenging behaviours, as it's a very useful up to date summary of the issues facing today's teenagers, explains most of the specialist terms and has a good further contacts page.

## Social Media

In pre-covid years, around now there is an increase of unsettling or upsetting social media use. It coincides with the onset of winter, tiredness and some naivety among younger students. Clearly, internet safety is a significant topic which is covered regularly in the curriculum, in ICT and Course 42 in particular. If students are upset by anything, they should report it to a parent or to us. There is useful advice in "Giving Parents the Tools" about how to block the most common social messaging sites. Please remember that all sites have age restrictions: most are 13, but some, for example WhatsApp, are 16. General advice for parents includes:

- Have open and honest conversations about social media as a family, focusing on both the negatives and the positives. Young people may not always be honest with you with what they are doing, but if you can get some important messages through to them about safety then that's better than not discussing it at all
- Role modelling - young people learn from what they see. Create a healthy relationship yourself with social media.
- Speak to your young person about their privacy settings. Make sure that your young person's social media is as private as possible and they have to 'accept' friend request or follows and cannot be followed by anyone
- There are parent controls and separate apps that you can use to ensure your young person is safe on social media
- Be inquisitive and ask your young person what social media sites they use and how they work
- Stalking and harassment is illegal. If your young person is experiencing any stalking or harassment via social media you can report this to the police by calling 101. You can also report to the social media site itself. Talk to your young person about blocking anyone who is harassing them or sending nasty messages

## Autumn Safety

I have put the following in this week's Student Bulletin: We have an unusual "community" including hamlets, villages, housing estates and more. Nonetheless, "Respect, Participate, Learn" should apply to all students at all times, and I have always been keen to support and promote autumn safety.....

***It's going to be different this year. Big Halloween and Bonfire parties shouldn't happen (the rule of six), and there will be a lot less "Trick or Treat". Think about it: groups of more than six, lots of touching of gates and doors, and sharing sweets from a bucket. Even so, please respect yourselves and your neighbours in your communities. Evenings will be darker earlier: if you're walking or cycling make sure you can be seen and safe (hi-viz, lights). When you are out and about, please behave in a way which respects your neighbours: some may be old, or have very young children, or are very anxious.***

**End on something cheerful.....** We all need a smile, so a big thank you to Librarian Mrs Southard for her "interesting" competitions. And congratulations to Amelie Isaac for winning the "most unusual place to read a book" competition. She took the competition to new heights, digging into her creativity. If this hasn't spoiled it, the photo is on the website front page scrolling news.

Best wishes for a good half-term week!



Kevin Bawn  
Principal

## Active Devon Survey Results

Over the summer, many Clyst Vale students got involved and completed an Active Devon survey to assess student activity patterns and trends.

The responses have been analysed and we can now reveal the results!

Clyst Vale closely mirrors much of Devon and in most areas we have a more active population than the rest of the UK.

Key findings were:

- 52% of our students engage in vigorous activity for 60 mins per day, which is 6% higher than the national average (46%).
- Our girls are more active than our boys.
- Despite lockdown, the majority of our students reported they were happy, satisfied and felt their efforts were worthwhile.
- Outside school, walking, cycling and gym/fitness work are most popular.
- Outside school, involvement in football is surprisingly low compared to national averages.
- Our students had much greater positive trust of their peers than national averages.
- Our students showed lower resilience than national averages - an area we will look into developing, through our PE programme.

A big thank you to all those who completed the survey. The findings will benefit PE planning in all areas and help us to provide the right additional support, where it is needed.

**Mr J Powell**  
Head of PE

## “Reading In a Strange Place Winner”

The winner of, 'a strange place to read' goes to... **Amelia Isaac!** Well done Amelia! Amelia's idea was just so amazing!!

I had to do a second place because I thought the idea was just brilliant. Second place goes to **Sebastian Pilling**, well done Sebastian. Can winners come to the library to collect their prizes.

So many amazing photos. All students and staff that took part were so creative. Thank you!



**Lucy Southard**  
Library Manager

## **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)



# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



## YELLOW SCHOOL

7YEM	Oscar Martin
7YPN	Jamie Salter
8YDS	Jack Darbey
8YSP	Oliver Hawke
9YMPR	Alice Norris
9YNS	Evie David
10YCW	Natasha Hopf & Amaryllis Shelley
10YRB	Nicky Hopf
11YMBR	Hafina Clavey
11YZKH	Joseph Tandy

## RED SCHOOL

7RHPI	Ruby Hopkins
7RZB	Lottie Bawden-Prouse
8RAO	Millie Mills
8RAR	Daisy Mitchell
9RGG	Sally Greaves
9RER	Addison Drinkwater
10RSS	Paris Prout
10RTMA	Stan Pott
11RCM	Ellie Norris
11RGK	

## GREEN SCHOOL

7GABR	Mikey Trehearne
7GDH	Ella Coward
8GAW	Rebekah Adams
8GBA	Rilley Harris
9GSW	Lucy Massey
9GNB	Benjamin Kingdom
10GGT	Harriet King
10GMN	Maddie Grabham
11GHE	Lara Gimbuta
11GIM	Miyuki Brown

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 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 23 October - Fri 30 October	Half Term Holiday
Tues 10, Wed 11 & Thurs 12 November	Y13 Geography Data Collection Day Visits
Thurs 12 November	Post-16 Open Evening (online)
Thurs 19 November	Y13 Parents' Evening (virtual)
w/b 30 November - all week	Y11 Mocks
Fri 04 December	Y12 Geography Fieldwork
Sat 05 & Sun 06 December	Ten Tors/Bronze D of E Event
w/b Mon 07 December - all week	Y13 Mocks
Tues 08 December	Y8 Parents' Evening (virtual)
Fri 11 December	Human Rights Day
Sun 13 December	D of E Gold Y12 Dartmoor Day Walk
Weds 16 December 7pm - 9pm (tbc)	Christmas Carol Service, Whimpe Church
Fri 18 December	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM St Petrock's - Non-Uniform Day
2021	
Tues 5th January	Start of Spring Term
Fri 12th February	Force Cancer - Non-Uniform Day
Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	Half Term
Thurs 1st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Tues 20th April	Start of Summer Term
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	Half Term
Fri 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM Water Aid - Non-Uniform Day

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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**Library:** 01392 464010

