



# NEWSLETTER

No. 666  
w/c Mon 27 April  
Week A

## SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK

*"Who Knows Where the Time Goes ?"* [Sandy Denny]

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Remote Learning: Expectations

- I think and hope that most parents are happy with our approach of aiming at 2-3 hours' work (more for Year 10) to keep students' brains ticking over, staying familiar to some extent with learning and school, but not being so prescriptive and demanding that the whole day is ruined, and respecting that many families are juggling working from home, family demands, more than one child and in some cases a lot of worries.
- We will not get it right for everyone. Please let us know if this is the case, and we can work round it. Please don't let it build up into a big deal and launch a lengthy complaining e-mail. We are genuinely doing our best. It's really hard for teachers to know how 28 individuals are reacting, although we do know if there are special needs or other circumstances. Also, many of my colleagues are parents, too, working from home and home-schooling their own children. We are learning, too: for example, a lot of households don't have a printer, so setting work which requires printing instantly disadvantages several students in a group, so that sort of work will not now be set.
- As I've said before, if your child is struggling in any way, please contact whoever you would in normal times: subject teachers for single-subject issues, tutors, AtHoS, Additional Support.
- Next week we hope to move to setting work through Microsoft Teams, a learning platform which is more flexible than e-mail. I have attached the guidance sent to students with the Student Bulletin of 17<sup>th</sup> April. It is also on <http://www.clystvale.org/teams>. Again, if you have problems with this, please let us know. Teachers will still continue to e-mail reminders, and many will use both e-mail and Teams for a little longer.

### Year 11

Next week we are winding down on any remaining coursework for completion. I am still determined to not abandon Year 11, and at the absolute least there should be contact between tutors and students. Setting work is now difficult, especially lesson-by-lesson, so we will be focusing less on work which has to be done, and providing a number of activities and opportunities to help Year 11 look forwards. So, we are collating a list of resources which we will maintain and update on the website. This includes bridging materials for Clyst Vale post-16 (also relevant for other A-level providers); links to Exeter College's Flying Start programmes, which are bridging materials for their courses; and other on-line courses. Students are also encouraged to complete GCSE courses which are relevant to their courses next year: even though there are no exams, course tutors will assume that the work has been covered and understood.

And for our most able and engaged students, this time is a fantastic opportunity for study and research into their areas of interest. In short, I am asking Year 11 tutors to keep in touch; Year 11 teachers to continue to provide ideas and activities if not lesson-by-lesson; and Year 11 students to use their brains so that they are not faced with a huge learning gap in the autumn. This gap could be a huge problem for some students.

### **Year 10 Work Experience**

I am very sad to say that this has been cancelled. Even if we are back by mid-July, all the necessary paperwork and checking will not be in place; some employers may not be in a position to open, or even if open to support work experience students; if we have only a couple of weeks back in school, we would wish to keep students in to refamiliarise themselves with the routines. As Del Boy might say, “you know it makes sense”.

### **Some rapid fire updates**

Most of these are in the twice-weekly updates on the website.

- Free School Meals: this has now been sorted out, and settled down. We book four-week blocks, which are issued directly to parents as codes to select a supermarket and redeem.
- Emergency Childcare Provision: numbers are small, almost all Year 7 or 8, but growing slowly. Vulnerable students have been specifically invited. We have evolved a smooth and very safe model of operation which allows 2-3 hours of schoolwork, and the rest on activities chosen by the students.
- Exams Grading: we are working on our internal processes. The Ofqual consultation does not close until Sunday, so we anticipate more guidance after that. There is still no decision about Year 10 exam entries for GCSE, or how vocational qualifications will be graded.
- Exam Results have been confirmed as the original dates. Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August for A-levels, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August for GCSEs.
- Government Laptop Scheme. This sounded fantastic when announced, and will undoubtedly benefit many students nationally. Who can receive a laptop or 4G dongle is very limited, however, and don't believe what you read in the papers. The criteria are care leavers, children with an assigned social worker, and disadvantaged students in Year 10 (if they do not have a laptop or dongle already). We await confirmation, but believe we might have been allocated 11 laptops.

### **Unhelpful Reporting**

Another flurry of activity in the press last week: schools to return on 11<sup>th</sup> May. No we won't. Within hours, we hear schools to return on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Who knows? We may have an idea after the next 3-week review on 8<sup>th</sup> May or so. Meanwhile, in other announcements, social distancing measures could last until December, although this doesn't appear to include schools.

### **One final plea**

PLEASE encourage your child to log on to College e-mail every day. PLEASE encourage them to “check in” with their teachers: reply to the e-mail, or “like” a post in MS Teams. For all students, we want and need to know that they are engaging on a weekly basis; for other students and families we will be contacting more regularly.

## Thank You

...for all of your support and encouragement of your children at home, for keeping them safe, and making sure they are obeying the “stay at home” requirement. Thank you to many of you for your thanks and appreciation of what we are trying to do to support your child at this time. To repeat myself again, we are not expecting parents to become unpaid supply teachers, but if you have any concerns or need for advice, we are still here and happy to hear from you.

Best wishes,



Dr Bawn

## Safeguarding

During the closure, we encourage all parents to be responsible for safeguarding children in our communities. If you have any concerns, please contact the school and ask to speak to a **Designated Safeguarding Lead** (Mr Sutton, Mrs Albutt, Miss McConnachie, Mr A Pearce).

If this is not possible please contact **MASH, The Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub: 0345 155 1071**.

Further information on safeguarding children can be found by visiting

[www.devon.gov.uk/childprotection](http://www.devon.gov.uk/childprotection)

**Alternatively** contact the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

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



## **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 (Attendance Officer)

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.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

**Email:** [admin@clystvale.org](mailto:admin@clystvale.org) **Web:** [www.clystvale.org](http://www.clystvale.org)

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

