



NEWSLETTER

No. 724
w/c Mon 27 September 2021
Week B

Dear Parents and Carers

Open Evening

Thank you to all parents who loaned us your children yesterday evening as tour guides and demonstrators and helpers. The students were truly amazing and showed more about Clyst Vale and its values than any amount of speeches and promotional literature. We were a bit nervous, as the Open Evening nearly didn't happen, had lots of last-minute changes and also wasn't quite the full programme of pre-pandemic times, but the students more than made up for it. You would expect youthful enthusiasm, but they are so *knowledgeable*: hugely proud of them all.

Covid Update

As of yesterday evening, we have had 73 positive cases since the start of term, of whom 29 have now completed isolations and returned to College. This week we have had roughly the same number of students returning each day as there have been new cases, so on any day between 40-45 students are isolating. The Year 11 "outbreak" is subsiding, as just 9 of those isolating are in Year 11. On Public Health advice, we have asked Year 11 students to take a precautionary PCR test, and I am grateful to parents for your support in this. So, typical Clyst Vale, we are somewhere in the middle: schools local to us have lower rates, but we are nowhere near as affected as some schools which have 25% or more students isolating (we're around 4-5%), suffering dire staff shortages or are even closed.

Masks: most students are brilliant, and thanks to them and their parents for support; if 100 a day forget it's obviously not good, but it means 860 have remembered. We are still giving out large numbers of masks, though, and some students are becoming dependent on this.

Testing: please, please keep up the twice-weekly testing. It has picked up quite a few asymptomatic cases which has inevitably reduced the risk of transmission.

Reporting positive cases: please let us know by text on the out-of-hours number or e-mailing/phoning Student Absence. We really don't mind if you let us know by two or three means of communication. One or two parents have been irritated because we keep contacting them for information; we're sorry about this, but there is a certain amount of detail we need to report. Also, Test & Trace has virtually nothing to do with schools, so we are the only organisation detecting possible trends or affected groups within school (Year groups, friendship groups, a particular club, activity or bus route). So, please tell us the date of a LFT positive and any symptoms along with name, tutor group and ideally main method of transport to College (if it's not a school bus or taxi). Then please follow up with the PCR test date and result date, and confirm any end-of-isolation date you may have been given. We can work out the rest. Thank you!

Vaccination Update

You might need to read this twice! On Friday 1st October there will be the flu “vaccination” (in reality a nasal spray). This is for all students in Years 7 to 11 inclusive. You should have received the link to the NHS today, and the consents need to be returned by Tuesday 28th September. This is entirely separate to the covid vaccination. We don’t know when the covid vaccination will be; the original plan was for it to be on 1st October alongside the flu one, but there are issues over the levels of NHS staffing and availability of vaccines, so we won’t know anything until Monday. I might have grumbled now and again over the past 18 months, but I really don’t envy the NHS School Immunisation Team in organising thousands of vaccinations at short notice and in short order. IF (capital letters) the covid vaccinations are to be on 1st October, we will let you know; we will also send the NHS link for consent – which is completely separate from the flu consent. Government instruction is that vaccination consents should be asked for just 2-3 days before the event, and we will send the link as soon as practicable after we receive it.

Different Consent

We’ve noticed that quite a lot of students do not have parental consent completed for their names to appear in Newsletters, or photos, and so on. We will never publish a child’s name or photo without consent, but in reality most parents are very happy to see their child is Student of the Week or top-scorer in a fixture. To provide these consents, you will need to download the Edulink app (invitation previously sent, or please contact your child’s AtHoS). Once in the app, find Update Information, then click on your child’s name, and scroll to the bottom of the page where there is a drop-down of possible consents.

Harry Patch Day

This was celebrated on Wednesday this week, Harry Patch’s personal day of remembrance when he lost his close friends at Passchendaele and was nearly killed himself. Please see Willow O’Leary’s excellent article elsewhere on this Newsletter.

Science Club for Years 7, 8 & 9

This is starting up on Monday lunchtimes in SC2. Students should sign up on the sheet by the SC2 fire exit

Ten Tors (and Duke of Edinburgh Award) Meeting, Tuesday 5th October

Students interested in Ten Tors or the Bronze or Silver DofE Award are invited to MA8 at lunchtime on Tuesday week.

Year 10 Information Evening Cancelled

Usually at this time of year we hold an information evening for parents of our Year 10 students who are just starting their GCSE courses. Unfortunately, due to Public Health advice regarding Covid, it would be unwise for us to host this in its usual face-to-face format in College.

Clearly, we recognise that this is a really important stage in your child’s educational journey at Clyst Vale, and the Information Evening would include coverage of the curriculum, exam and non-examined assessments (NEAs, formerly known as coursework), good study habits, and how the College and parents can support students. We have issued the JCQ exam booklet of regulations by e-mail; and Ms Jacobs will send an email next week regarding the other matters.

Stagecoach

Mentioning educational journeys..... Just as the leaves begin to fall at this time of year, so we have teething problems with bus timetables. This year it’s the bus through Bradninch and Cullompton to Tiverton at the end of the College day. The service bus departing Exeter at 3.20 pm is supposed to swing by the College coach park around 3.35 – 3.40 every school day. I was very excited about this because it made common sense and is loads safer for the students. However, it has not been doing this on alternate days this week, causing confusion and delay to students, staff and very likely parents as well. The bus is supposed to swing by the College, and we are working with Stagecoach so this becomes a daily occurrence.

Silverton road closures, 18th October

More traffic news. Resurfacing work will be taking place in School Road and Park Road from 4th October with traffic lights, but from 18th October the two roads will be closed. Devon Highways have informed us that the timings of the closures should not affect the bus routes or journey to Clyst Vale. Let’s hope not, as the diversion is a scenic tour through Bickleigh, Tiverton and Cullompton.

Update from the Clyst Vale Canteen

In response to parent and student questions, this autumn there are various national changes which have affected what we do.

- **Natasha's Law** comes into effect, named after Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, who died in 2018 following a severe allergic reaction to an allergen in a baguette not listed on the product labelling. Natasha's Law means that items which are 'pre packed for direct sale' must have all ingredients (not just allergens) listed on the labelling. Food may only be sold without this labelling if it is not fully enclosed in packaging, or it is packaged after being sold to the customer. For more information, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natashas-legacy-becomes-law>
- So, **packaging** has changed for some everyday items like pasta, fruit and jelly. These are all made on site to keep food miles low and items are still prepared and served in accordance with strict food hygiene standards, but will not have lids. Similarly, wraps are now in small, recyclable cardboard collars, and salads in open cardboard trays. After paying, students may request a lid or a bag, especially if they are rushing off to a lunchtime club. A major benefit is that this change also means a reduction in single-use plastic, and an increase in recyclables.
- **Supply Chain Issues:** Clyst Vale, like every school in the UK (and all establishments selling food), is not immune to the national problems surrounding supply chains: haulage driver shortages and CO2 shortages. Our main concern here is disruption to deliveries. We won't run out of food, but it could be that students' first choices on a particular day are unavailable.
- **Special Dietary Requirements:** there are always options for students who have a vegetarian, vegan or gluten free diet. Please feel free to ask any kitchen staff if you are not sure what food is suitable for your particular needs.
- **Menus** for the autumn term are on our website: <http://www.clystvale.org/blog/2019/11/14/canteen-menu/>
- **Pricing.** Packaging, supply chain and other issues have had knock-on effects with pricing. We are keeping any increases to students to the minimum. We are also aware of possible pressures on students entitled to a free school meal. The current allowance can buy a main meal with fruit or yoghurt, or one of our sandwich meal deals.

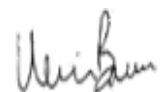
Legal News

We were delighted to welcome HHJ ("Her Honour Judge" for acronym afficianados) Vanessa Francis this week. Sociology and Politics students from Clyst Vale were joined by students from Sidmouth College in a Q&A session of the Criminal Justice System and Vanessa's career as a barrister and current role as a circuit judge in North London. This was an amazing opportunity for students to gain first -hand insight into this topic, helping students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of a complex institution.

Staff Changes

I am sorry to report that Mr O'Brien is unlikely to be returning any time soon, and we have been very fortunate to appoint Rachel Smith as his replacement; she is a very experienced English teacher who has worked for many years in Devon schools.

Best wishes as always,



Kevin Bawn
Principal

Evenings and weekends – 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.

You may also use this number if you have accidentally recorded an LFT result as positive – please always notify us if this has happened in error.

(During the school's normal opening hours, please contact Student Absence on **01392 463911** or email: 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.

We would prefer you to 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!



Ten Tors 6th – 8th May 2022 & Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Bronze & Silver)

Launch Meeting: Ma8 at 1:30pm on Tuesday 5th October 2021

In May 2019, Clyst vale teams participated in the annual Ten Tors challenge on Dartmoor successfully completing their routes, the last one before Covid. Due to their success, the Army this year have allocated us 2 x 35-mile team slots for the event due to take place in May 2022. If any year 9 or 10 students (35-miles) are interested in taking part in the 2022 event please come along to Ma8 at 1:30pm on Tuesday 5th October 2021. We're looking for six students to form each of the teams who are able to work well together, be determined, responsible and committed throughout the training as well as the main Ten Tors event itself. There is also an opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award too – Bronze year 9, Silver year 10 – which looks excellent on CV's and normally a lot of fun too!

Mr Eales

Harry Patch and the Legacy of Respect



Harry Patch shaking the hand of a German War veteran, both aged over 105 years old.

Most of you have likely seen and walked past the Harry Patch Garden everyday without quite understanding the meaning of it.

Who was Harry Patch, and how does the garden link to the First World War?

Harry Patch was the last remaining English veteran who fought in the First World War deep within the trenches. He joined the machine gun unit in Cornwall aged only nineteen years old, and the trauma from the trenches followed him for the rest of his life. The impacts of war are staggering; they follow people for the rest of their lives and more.

Despite this, war does not have to define people and country. Friendships can cross all sorts of boundaries, and Harry proved this. He became friends with another war veteran, however this man had served in the German army firing mortars at the British soldiers. Despite their positions across each other on the battlefield, Harry and this German soldier, Charles Kuentz became close friends later in life. The photo above shows the two of them shaking hands.

The Harry Patch Garden was created as a way to understand and respect the impacts of War. Every aspect of the garden has been crafted to respect every person who took part in and suffered because of the World War. All nations that were affected by the war are represented within the garden, either by flowers or emblems.

Roses stand for England,

Daffodils stand for Wales,

Cornflowers for France,

Tulips for Austria,

Daisies for Russia,

African Lily for the African Nations,

Stone Elephant for India,

Metal Kiwi for New Zealand,

And a Koala for Australia.

The garden has also brought people together; by tidying up the garden, students from different countries have made friends and been brought close together (as can be seen in the image below!)

Perhaps next time you walk past the Harry Patch Garden, take a moment to pause and think of all those who were impacted, and show respect.



Two Clyst Vale students and their German exchange friend in front of the Harry Patch Garden



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



GREEN SCHOOL

7GCMC	No permission to publish name
7GIM	No permission to publish name
8GABR	No permission to publish name
8GDH	Sam Cowie
9GAW	No permission to publish name
9GBA	No permission to publish name
10GHE	No permission to publish name
10GSW	No permission to publish name
11GGT	No permission to publish name
11GMN	No permission to publish name

RED SCHOOL

7RBAT	No permission to publish name
7RHSP	No permission to publish name
8RZB	Alfie Thompson
8RSGA	No permission to publish name
9RMAH	Edie Long
9RAO	No permission to publish name
10RER	No permission to publish name
10RGG	No permission to publish name
11RTMA	Katie Goddard
11RSS	No permission to publish name

YELLOW SCHOOL

7YMBR	No permission to publish name
7YTZI	Poppy Andrews
8YSSC	No permission to publish name
8YPNE	Kye Brenchley-Stokes
9YDST	No permission to publish name
9YSP	No permission to publish name
10YMPR	No permission to publish name
10YNS	No permission to publish name
11YCW	No permission to publish name
11YRB	Freya Butler

CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
w/b 27 Sept—Tues, Thurs & Fri	Y7 CAT tests, P1
Mon 27 Sept—Fri 01 Oct	Y6 Open week—Every day, 10am—11.30am
Thurs 7 Oct	Y7 'Meet the Tutor' Parents' Evening, 4pm—7pm
Tues 12 October	Y11 Group Photo
Thurs 21 October	Y8 Parents' Evening, 4pm—7pm
Mon 25 - Fri 29 October	HALF TERM
Thurs 11 November	Post 16 Open Evening, 6pm - 8pm
Sat 13 November	Ten Tors/Bronze D of E Event *Single day walk*, all day
Thurs 25 November	GCSE Celebration Awards Evening, 6pm - 8pm
w/b 29 Nov	Y11 Mocks, all week
Thurs 02 December	Y13 Parents' Evening, 4pm-6.30pm
Sat 04 December	Ten Tors/Bronze D of E Event *Single day event*, all day
Tues 09 December	Y9 Parents' Evening, 4pm-7pm
Weds 15 December	Christmas Carol Service, Whimple Church, 7pm-
Friday 17 December	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM
Sat 18 December	DofE Gold Day, all day
Mon 20 December - Tues 04 Jan inclu-	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

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

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).
- 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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Library: 01392 464010

