



NEWSLETTER

No. 716
w/c Mon 28 June 2021
Week B

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

The proper response of any nation to refugees includes "OMG, we're so glad you survived!" and "Welcome." Get Bullish

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid Update

Sadly, the national picture is making this my lead story again. I'm reminded of the chapter in Winnie-the-Pooh in which Piglet is entirely surrounded by water....a few days ago there were covid school closures in Bristol but not Devon, then year group isolations in Devon, then a whole school closure in North Devon and further year group isolations. Here, we have had a couple of false alarms, then one or two isolations because of out-of-school activities, then on Tuesday a positive test in Year 12 (no self-isolations required because the infectious period was the weekend), and one or two students off school today for PCR tests. The water eventually came into Piglet's house "uninvited", but the good news is that there was a happy ending.

Year 9 Covid False Alarm

This was human error by a parent entering the Test Register result as positive when it was negative. It's an easy mistake to make. In fact, it has happened once before, but on a Sunday night meaning no need to scramble and isolate a year group as a precaution, and no-one is any the wiser. Did I make the right decision? Yes, I believe so. Had the result been genuinely positive, and I had allowed the whole of Year 9 to come in and mix with each other, this would have been much worse, less safe, and created a risk of transmission. Lessons to be learned? If you are aware that you have entered a positive by mistake, please contact our out-of-hours number immediately: text message is best. I was disappointed by DevonLive's coverage of this on two counts: one, the automatic assumption that the school made the mistake, and two, the assumption that saying sorry for the inconvenience is an admission of responsibility. I'm a parent, I remember the teenage years, and I know that yesterday's stop-starting will have been a real hassle for some families, about which I am sorry. By allowing students back when we knew it was safe, I hope that some of this hassle was lifted. I also hope that parents appreciate that for teachers it is difficult to turn on a sixpence and switch from class teaching to remote teaching to blended teaching, and did a fantastic job (again) in difficult circumstances.

Covid Symptoms

Although nothing much has changed, there is confusion and lack of clarity about symptoms; the media has widely reported that symptoms for the Delta variant are different from the "original" covid. This means a risk of students not being tested or coming in for one set of wrong reasons, or (reported today) clogging up A&E with covid symptoms that aren't covid.

So, I contacted Devon Public Health directly. Their reply is very helpful:

“ I would direct parents to the national guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

“ The national government guidance on testing and reasons for testing/symptoms have not changed so this advice still stands for accessing a PCR test with symptoms:

“The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

a new continuous cough

a high temperature

a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above, even if your symptoms are mild, stay at home and arrange to have a test.

“There are several other symptoms that **may** be associated with COVID-19, such as new onset fatigue, headache, and sore throat. However, these symptoms are common and often have another cause, so are not, on their own, a reason to have a PCR COVID-19 test . If concerned about your symptoms, seek medical advice.

“The key thing is to encourage twice weekly LFD testing for students and families in households; that way any asymptomatic cases can be quickly picked up when it really is coronavirus, as opposed to a cold.”

A good rule of thumb for parents is that “if their child is so unwell they would normally keep them off school, then they should continue to do that – and access PCR test if the key 3 symptoms of temperature, cough and loss of smell are present as highlighted above.”

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!

More covid clarity

Also from Public Health Devon: "Public Health England are advising that close contacts of positive cases should also get a PCR test to pick up potential cases. However, if the close contact's PCR result is negative this **does not release them from self-isolation** as they could still go on to develop covid in their 10 day isolation period." (This is confusing, as it appears to be at odds with travel restriction quarantine guidance and the guidance from one or two other non-school organisations). So in other words, if you're a close contact of a positive case in school or at your netball club (other sports and activities are available) or indeed "pinged" by Test and Trace, you should isolate for ten days even if you have a PCR test which is negative.

Deep Learning Day

Tuesday's DLD went exceptionally well. The Year 7 and 8 Moonbase activities were a hub of activity blending soft skills with creativity and fun, as well as making explicit the features of good leadership and good teamwork. Year 9's focus was on the major issue of sustainability, which is of course a sizeable part of Rights Respecting Schools. Year 10's programme was a series of sessions all related to sex and relationships education (very topical as it turned out...see the very last paragraph). Year 12 also enjoyed sessions on soft skills, based around Taskmaster, as well as some input about higher education. The test of a DLD is how positive students AND staff feel: the majority of the students I spoke to enjoyed the day, liked working with different people, enjoyed working on one big project; staff enjoyed the activities, too, and the opportunity to build some relationships in a way that is harder in more formal learning. As part of building more cohesion after a difficult year, the day was also a success. And what's wrong with a bit of fun every now and again ?

Big Bang Digital Fair

Parents will recall that Big Bang has run for many years as a national celebration of Science and Technology, with a central fair at Exeter University in our region. Like many things, covid has forced it on-line. So, the Big Bang Digital Fair took place this week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and Year 7 and Year 8 have been attending Live sessions in Science lessons.

This was an amazing opportunity for our students to experience the real world of science, hear from real scientists and have opportunities to ask questions! They have heard from companies like Openreach discovering how fibre optic cables work, the UK Civil Aviation Authority and Thales listening to STEM professionals working for these exciting jobs. They have watched interactive shows looking at the chemistry of burning fossil fuels and the physics and chemistry of storing electricity, met STEM role models online such as scientists, technicians, and engineers from a diverse range of backgrounds, that support the environment through their work. Our students asked some very interesting questions such as "What is most likely to go wrong in your job" [PB], "What is the most complex system you have worked with" [SG] or "How many years does it take to train for those jobs" [RN]. There was a lovely atmosphere in the classroom and an inspiring exposure to the world of STEM.

Exams Approaching

Next week Year 10, the following week Year 12, have a week of exams to test their progress, strengths and weaknesses, see how much lockdown has affected things, inform our planning for next year, and give students a realistic experience of what next year's GCSEs should be like. Most students get a bit anxious about exams, which is both normal and expected; however, if your child is particularly worried or cannot do the exams through injury or illness, *please contact us*. – AtHoS for Year 10, Miss Haynes/ Mrs Barrington for Year 12.

There was some good news and a possible outbreak of common sense at the department for Education: it seems likely that next year's GCSEs and A-Levels will be modified to some extent to reflect that at least a term's learning in school was lost. No details yet, although reasonable speculation includes omitting some sections and/or some optional questions, but even an announcement wasn't expected until the Autumn, so this is encouraging.

Sixth Form News

The Year 11 taster day on Monday went well, and we have had some grateful and positive feedback from parents, especially external students. Even if you're sixteen, it's still a big deal going to a new school.

As noted above, Year 12 students seemed to enjoy themselves on DLD, and again there was explicit reference and unpacking of skills needed for employability, including some TED talks.

Year 12 students have been issued with their exam timetables for 5th – 7th July.

There will be a Year 12 Futures Preparation Day on Thursday 15 July, when the UCAS process starts, including looking at personal statements. The day will also include Subject Awards.

Around now Miss Haynes would hold a Parents Information Evening, with a particular focus on the UCAS process and student finance. This is much better face-to-face than virtually, so with a dose of optimism it has been postponed until September ! Miss Haynes will also be writing to parents separately, with much more detail than I've included here.

Work Experience week is the last week of term, 19th – 23rd July, and many students have already secured placements. Students not attending work experience will need to be in Post-16 that week, and we have arranged that they will be starting their EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), worth half an A-Level, and valued by universities and employers, as it demonstrates a student's skills in researching independently.

Grades Update

You'll have seen in the media that Headteachers were angry with exam board AQA. I was one of them as we did not receive the names of the subjects required for sampling until 10 pm on Monday, the deadline was not reduced and then it was. All's well that ends well. We sent off the samples on Tuesday. In the next week or so, I will be writing to parents/carers about the appeals process.

Love Island.

You cannot have failed to notice this news story. Inevitably, there has been some misinformation which I should clear up for parents. This is what I am saying to the press: "Hugo Hammond was at Clyst Vale as a trainee teacher for just over eight school weeks earlier this year. This was his second school placement. He was on Exeter University's Postgraduate Certificate in Education course and so was never an employee of Clyst Vale."



Kevin Bawn
Principal

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.

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



CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Wed 30 June	AS Geography Fieldwork Trip - Slapton
Thurs 01 - 03 July	Gold D of E Practice Y12 & Y13 - CANCELLED
Mon 05 - Tues 06 July	Y10 Taster Days - Post 16
Thurs 8 - Fri 09 July	New Intake Induction Days - CANCELLED
Mon 12 July 6.00pm - 8.00pm	New Intake Parents' Evening - ONLINE
Mon 12 July Periods 2 & 3	Y7 Sports Day
Tue 13 July Periods 1 & 2	Y8 Sports Day
Wed 14 July Periods 1 & 2	Y9 Sports Day
Thurs 15 July Periods 1 & 2	Y10 Sports Day
Fri 16 & Sat 17 (all day) & Sun 18 July (half day)	School Production Rehearsal
Mon 19 July - Fri 23 July	Y10 and Y12 Work Experience
Mon 19 July - all day (9am - 9pm)	School Production: Technical Rehearsal
Tues 20 July - all day (9am - 4pm)	School Production: Dress Rehearsal
Tue 20 July - Fri 23 July	School Production Evening Performances
Mon 19 - Fri 23 July	Y12 & Y13 Gold D of E Expedition
Fri 23 July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM - NON UNIFORM DAY - WATER AID

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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

Tel: 01392 461407 **Email:** admin@clystvaled.org **Web:** www.clystvaled.org

Library: 01392 464010

