

NEWSLETTER

No. 706
w/c Mon 29 March
Week B

THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

"Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance."
George Bernard Shaw

Reporting of Covid-19 positive test results throughout Lockdown (including evenings and weekends)

To report a positive Covid-19 test result during normal school hours, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or email: studentabsence@clystvale.org

If out-of-hours, we have a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends. This isn't for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, or advice.

07818 212 931

We would prefer you to text positive Covid-19 test result information to this number, including:

Name of student; Tutor group; Dates of 1. When symptoms appeared; 2. Test; 3. Test result

If necessary, someone will contact you having received this information. Thank you!

Dear Parents/Carers

Clocks go forward one hour at 01.00 on Sunday morning ! Be ready for grumblier-than-normal offspring at breakfast on Monday morning....

Next Thursday, 1st April, will be a non-uniform day for FORCE, the cancer charity. This is serious, not an April Fool...

Where are we? A quick summary

- Overall, the return to College has been fantastic; students have settled brilliantly (with one or two exceptions) and the LFT testing went well. Kits have been distributed for the next few weeks. The isolation of 48 students has been difficult for everyone: students plunged back into remote learning after the excitement of returning, teachers trying to sustain high quality remote teaching when half, or all but one, of their classes were in College.

- We are inching through the fog regarding grades: students already know or will know soon the topics on which to focus attention. We hope to have a specific assessment “timetable” out before Easter. For Year 11 assessment weeks will be 3rd and 17th May (in-class, not mock exams in the Hall), for Year 13 the four weeks from 26th April: we anticipate that Sixth Formers will have preparation lessons earlier in the week and assessments later in the week. 65 pages of guidance has just arrived as I write this...
- There is some easing of lockdown from Monday, and more possibly on 12th April. However, the **guidance for schools has not changed one word** since the “opening of schools” guidance of 5th March. Everything remains the same: masks, social distancing, hand sanitising, preventing year groups mixing, ventilation, all of it. This is a challenge for students: “outside” things are getting a bit looser (and the sun is shining, and we’ve been cooped up for most of a year), but in schools nothing has changed. There may, of course, be further guidance to come. Thank you for your help in explaining this apparent contradiction!

Home Testing Kits for Students

The government’s expectation is that students will continue to test twice weekly during the holiday – no using the swab to eat creme eggs... So, you will need more kits. These have been given out in tutorial today (Friday), unless you have indicated you withhold consent for testing or your child has tested positive for covid within the past 90 days. If your son or daughter was away today, for example 48 students are currently isolating, then they will be given kits next week.

Registering LFT Home Test Results

The government guidance expects parents and carers to report all results including voids and negative ones to both the NHS website and their school. We are using TestRegister to do this. A separate communication has gone out about this, and if you experience any difficulties please contact hopkinsa@clystvale.org

School Transport Update: Change in Dept for Transport Guidance

The Department for Transport have yet again updated their [guidance on home to school transport](#), and managing a response to an infection. Previously, everyone on a bus with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) would be classified as a “close contact” and asked to self isolate. This has changed, so it is now only close contacts.

There are implications: students should stick to seating plans, wear masks properly, and not close coach windows.

BTec Performing Arts Assessment

Perks of the job, I suppose, but I was 33% of the audience for 40 minutes’ worth of BTec performances from Sixth Form students. They were brilliant – some really excellent performances of extracts from Grease, Chicago and Bonnie & Clyde. It’s no secret I enjoy drama and musicals, so this was a real delight and a glimpse of “normality”. A personal thank you to all concerned!

Sixth Form News

The major focus at the moment is interviewing applicants to the Sixth Form in September, which is going well. External applicants are having their interviews by Teams, and hopefully can visit when restrictions ease.

The other big issue is exam grades; exactly the same as GCSE but with university places an additional worry, students are understandably anxious about what’s happening. Things are becoming clearer if not completely clear: most subjects will run 3 or 4 assessments, roughly one per week over four weeks, not including the first week back. They will be given topics on which to concentrate before the Easter break.

Careers Opportunities-

It is exciting to be able to offer students some face to face opportunities for the summer.

- NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE. Year 11s have the opportunity to apply for the NCS programme in the summer to gain valuable experience and build up skills for the future. Letters have been sent to all year 11 parents and carers regarding this opportunity.
- WORK EXPERIENCE. Year 10 and 12 have been given information about going out on work experience for the last week of term, 19th-23rd July. We completely understand that this year it will be more of a challenge to find placements, we wanted to still offer students this valuable opportunity.
- Can you help? If you can support the Clyst Vale Community by offering one of our students a work experience opportunity, please contact bennett@clystvale.org. Businesses must have public and employer liability insurance.

Staff Changes

Starting after Easter we will be joined by two new colleagues: Jemma Cresswell will be our new Finance Assistant, and Sophie Halmey joins us as a Teaching Assistant.

Station Road Road Closure from next Monday, 29th March

Just a reminder that next week Station Road is closed by Broadclyst Station. There is a lengthy diversion. Further, Heaver Bros and FedEx lorries will be travelling past the College to and from their depots. There could be congestion by the Baptist Chapel in particular. There's not much we in Clyst Vale can do except advise parents to allow more time and be prepared for tricky traffic. We will be working with Broadclyst Parish Council and the Police to ensure student safety. There are implications for the CV003 and 007 buses which use Station Road twice a day; parents should have been informed of changed arrangements by either Devon School Transport or the Coach Company.

London Road/Old A30 Road Closure

We've only just been made aware of an even more significant road closure lasting the whole summer term and summer holiday. There will be extensive work in connection with the community heating for Cranbrook. A section of London Road (the old A30) mostly around Cranbrook will be closed for five months, which will have an impact on anyone travelling from the Rockbeare and Whimple direction. The road is to be closed in three stages.

- 5th April to 14th May. Junction of Younghayes Road to junction of Treasbeare Lane
- 7th May to 25th June. Junction of Treasbeare Lane to junction of Parsons Lane
- 28th June to 3rd September. Junction of Parsons Lane to junction of Court Royal

Diversions will be in place, but we have been told cheerfully that "locals might well be able to find shorter diversion routes, if they have some local knowledge of side-roads, lanes, etc."

School Transport is aware and will contact parents of students on the bus routes affected.

Financial support if you have to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating

You would need to claim from Devon County Council or Exeter City Council not from any school. This information will also be sent to parents/carers of close contacts in the event of any further isolations.

From government guidance: "If you are on a low income and you need to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating, you may be eligible for financial support from your local authority through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This is open to people who live in England and who meet the following criteria:

- They are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate; this is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- Are employed or self-employed
- Are unable to work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result

They are currently receiving or are the partner of someone in the same household who is receiving at least one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit

Their child or young person:

- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

If you are eligible, you will receive a £500 payment from your local authority in addition to any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay you receive currently. If you are unsure which local authority you should claim from, you can check on Find your Local Council on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Anti-Social Behaviour in Westclyst

I'm saddened to have had some reports of students in CVCC uniform, with students from other schools, being anti-social in and around Westclyst, mostly the toddler and skatepark. This is generally at the end of the day. If anyone has any information which helps us identify individuals, we would be delighted to hear from you. This is a very small number of students, but they are doing disproportionate damage to our reputation, and they do not reflect the values of Clyst Vale. These incidents might be after school and off the school premises, but we have the legal right to take action. Some children might be struggling because of a year of lockdown, and many get over-excited; but this behaviour is different and not excusable; there is never any justification for frightening little children.

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn
Principal

YR11 BADMINTON ASSESSMENT

Well done to the Y11 students who attended the badminton assessment session on Thursday. The competitive session was a key element in their GCSE PE course but also allowed some games against PE staff. Max and Will starred, although Lara and Emily soon got back to the form that carried them to the South West Finals just before the first lockdown.



Mr Powell

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.

CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Tues 23 - Fri 26 March	Y12 Geography Fieldwork Residential (TBC)
Thurs 1st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Tues 20th April	Start of Summer Term
Wed 12th May	Y7 Parents' Evening
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	Half Term
Fri 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

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