



NEWSLETTER

No. 675
w/c Mon 29 June
Week A

SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK

"I Shall be Released" [Bob Dylan]

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hot Stuff

It's been a great week. It has been fantastic to have 80-90 students on site every day, around 15% of our current students on roll at any one time. Although they are all in Bubbles and spread around the site, there was just more life, noise and a feeling that we were becoming a school again. Although almost all of them were shell-shocked by the appallingly early 9.00 am start, students were overwhelmingly positive about being back, with quite a few saying they had felt apprehensive about returning. I am happy to report that they have been brilliant. I think we judged it correctly, with one relaxed discussion session about lockdown and remote learning skills in the first week, and after three months away hour-long sessions with more breaks than usual worked well. It also gave my colleagues a chance to answer questions and address some worries which students had: for example, there is a social media rumour that next year's GCSE exams will be cancelled, which has no truth whatsoever and would be enormously demotivating. Exams might be different, or delayed a month, but they'll go ahead.

And it has been extremely hot this week. Because of covid, all the doors and windows are open anyway, and we are using our coolest rooms. Given the heat, it's even more to students' credit that they have behaved and engaged so well. If your son or daughter is coming to site on days like we've had this week, please make sure they have a hat, sunscreen and a water bottle!

Three days on from the latest Big Announcement

- We await more detailed guidance from the government next week, although I suspect that this will focus on September and I also suspect that the Department for Education has almost given up this term as a bad job. We have had a Bulletin though, which says that schools should keep to the previous maximum limits of 25% of Years 10 and 12, and as many ECP students as are eligible and we can fit in. This means the two metre, one metre, one plus metre debate is irrelevant in schools. You could have a no metre rule (I'm not suggesting this, by the way), but unless the maximum limit is changed we can't take any more students.
- We have also had it confirmed that there is no expectation that schools will run summer schools or remain open for key workers/vulnerable children over the summer holiday .

- The £1bn funding announcement for catch-up is clearly very welcome, although more guidance is waited for this, too. I was disappointed that an existing catch-up scheme, for Year 7s, amounting to 5% of the £1bn has been cut, although we would look to replace it with the new funding, if permitted.
- So, while we will maintain our current programme and high standards for the next three weeks, the attention will shift to September, especially when the next lot of guidance pings into the inbox..... It's not happened often recently, but I am completely in agreement with the government that all students in all years should be back on all days in September; I don't have to be quite as relentlessly positive as they do though, so I will add "if it is obviously safe to do so". I think children have paid a high enough price in protecting the health of the nation, and we need government help on this. Press speculation has already started, mostly around social distancing. Following The Maths (rather than The Science) we can fit between 12 and 18 students in our differing-sized classrooms with 1m distancing. So, we have to find twice as many rooms and teachers, or repeat two six-hour sittings each day, teach four classes of 100 on the field with a megaphone, or social distancing goes. Only one of these is a practical solution. Meanwhile, the DfE are now claiming that 2m was never a thing anyway in schools, and every single Head and senior leader misunderstood the guidance: they could have told us – we've all spent a fortune on hazard tape and 2m stickers, although this has helped at least one sector of the economy. And one plan, apparently, is to increase the size of "Bubbles" in schools; we've already seen the talk of doubling bubbles to 30 in Primary Schools, but I was gently amused by another suggestion that in secondaries a whole year group could be deemed a bubble to get over things like option subjects and students in different sets simply having to mix groups. (I am waiting for the next stroke of genius of making whole schools into mega-bubbles so that students and staff can mix freely with no social distancing, provided we have no contact with other giant bubbles....You read it here first)

Next Week

Next week our core business remains remote learning. We, and I mean everyone, has done a tremendous job. Parental support, care and good sense has been invaluable; all of our students are in contact with us, and almost all have engaged to at least some extent. This contrasts sharply with the gloom and doom in the media, and is a reflection of parental skill and effort to maintain motivation. Clearly, both my colleagues and students themselves deserve praise, but this is technically a parents' Newsletter ! We will continue with ECP: numbers are still rising, and we will run (inflate ? blow ?) a fifth Bubble from Monday. Year 10 and 12 students will be in as they have been this week. We are maintaining our strict hygiene measures: separate Bubbles and groups, zones, 2m distancing, hand hygiene. Our only concession to lockdown easing is for three existing Bubbles to go to 12 students from 11, where we think the rooms will allow it. (Next week should have included the Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition, and the three Transition Days for Year 6; transition visits have been explicitly vetoed in government guidance, hence we are offering virtual substitutes).

Free School Meals

A couple of weeks ago following a campaign led by Marcus Rashford, it was confirmed that the government would continue to fund FSM through the summer holidays. This was brilliant news. Edenred, who have improved immensely, will run the scheme. We will upload the information needed to Edenred next week, and parents will receive an e-mail confirmation as normal. We are doing this now to make sure that there is time to sort out any problems.

Teams: Homework for Parents

- Well, that got your attention....I'm delighted with the way that my colleagues have adapted in difficult circumstances to the challenge of setting remote learning and of the way the vast majority of students have engaged. That said, we're still learning, improving and striving to address the supportive feedback from parents. A good example is a request for more information about how their child is engaging and completing work set. So, we've been working on a "weekly digest" feature and will trial it over the next three weeks.

- Each Sunday morning this “weekly digest” will be sent by email to all adults with parental responsibility for a Clyst Vale student. This will show the assignments set for them in each lesson and indicate if those assignments have been completed. Unfortunately, no solution will properly capture the full range of student engagement across the range of subjects in a secondary school. Not all tasks are set as assignments; some are posted as messages, others as taking part in live lessons. Even so, I’m sure that parents / carers will welcome this additional information which can only help to improve remote learning and parental communication.

Year 7 Passport Control

Just a reminder to about twenty Year 7 parents that we still have your child’s passport from the cancelled Paris trip in March. You may want it back, now that there are air bridges everywhere and British beaches seem to be best avoided at the moment. We really don’t want to post out such an important document, so please drop in and collect it from Reception. If this is a problem because of shielding or clinically vulnerable relatives, please let us know and we can work out a special arrangement (01392-461407 or admin@clystvale.org)

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Consultation

RSE is now a statutory part of the curriculum with effect from 1st September 2020. Schools are now required to consult parents about the curriculum content of the RSE curriculum; we’re happy about this, because it makes good sense. So, Mrs Bennett has sent out a letter and four accompanying documents to give you information about how RSE is currently delivered through our Course 42 and Deep Learning Day programme which we hope parents agree covers all areas of the curriculum. Initially we will be asking parents to complete an online survey which will inform the draft policy; the full policy will be in place after September 2020. There is further information on the website as well.

Exam Grades

One of the issues which is troubling Year 11 (and very likely Year 13) students is not really understanding how their grades are being calculated by the Exam Boards and Ofqual. This isn’t helped by troubling (and yes, speculative) media stories. Neither are schools helped in building reassurance by another lack of clear guidance about what information students can and can’t receive, and the appeals process. I’ll say where we are up to regarding Results Days next week. The grading is not an easy thing to explain, but perhaps these two links will help.

The first is from the AQA Exam Board:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Drkd7EAoAgw&feature=youtu.be>

and the second is from education teacher blogger Mr Sailes Teaching English:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WD8vmn8z2pE>.

Uniform

This is currently another media storm in a t-shirt (plain white, no logos, only to be worn as an undershirt). Should blazers and ties be banned because they harbour the virus? Or is the value of school uniform so important it overrules the minor health risks? Right now, at Clyst Vale, we will not be expecting any student to be wearing school uniform for the rest of this term; judging by some of the growth spurts we’ve witnessed, some would look like they belong to the Bash Street Kids, and we have to consider self-esteem. We are anticipating that we WILL be expecting school uniform in September. Fortunately, we don’t have blazers, and we can leave any snap decisions about clip-on ties to the last minute. If there’s a second spike, local lockdowns, Thomas Moore closes, new medical evidence, we would reconsider.

Early Help Work Coaches

I have been asked to bring the following to the attention of parents and carers, which I am pleased to do. “These past months have been a difficult time for many families across Devon and has seen parents furloughed, sadly lose their employment and families struggling financially. I am therefore pleased to announce that our 4 Department for Work and Pensions, Early Help Work Coaches have returned to support our Early Help offer in Devon full-time. Our coaches bring with them knowledge and expertise of the local labour market, skills provision, employability support and work benefits, and can provide a direct advisory role for families. They can support families navigating the benefit system; provide on-going support for those looking to return to work; work alongside partners agencies to support the whole family. The coaches can take direct referrals from agencies or can be accessed as part of a request for additional services (RFAS) <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/early-help/early-help-information-for-workers/early-help-resources-and-downloads/> . The Mid&East Devon Coach is Mark Spinney, tel 07795 453139, mark.spinney@dwp.gov.uk”.

Very best wishes to you all.



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



Kooth, Your online **mental wellbeing community**

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-  Kooth Magazine & Help Articles
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-  Journal & Self-Help Tools

We're Celebrating **Pride Month 2020!**



Sign up for free at **Kooth.com**

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



「space*」

Call Back Offer

Chat with a Youth Worker
by phone or text

Are you 13 or over?
Would you like to speak to
one of our youth workers via
text or a call-back?

All you have to do is fill in this form
Which is also available on our
website:
<https://spacepsm.org/>



Attendance, Absence and Requests for Absence

DURING THE COLLEGE CLOSURE FOR COVID-19, PLEASE CONTACT THE COLLEGE ON THE CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR HAS ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT ILLNESS WHICH HAS AN IMPACT ON THEIR ABILITY TO LEARN EFFECTIVELY WHILE AT HOME.

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

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: WE WILL BE BACK EVENTUALLY !!!

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Email: admin@clystvale.org **Web:** www.clystvale.org

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

