



NEWSLETTER

No. 661

SONG OF THE FORTNIGHT

"Maybe September" [Tony Bennett]

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reminder

The clocks go back an hour on Sunday morning. Yes, we lose an hour's sleep, but we'll be awake an hour earlier to prepare for the Joe Wicks workout!

The Main Points:

Well, that has been a very strange week, indeed. "Surreal" is a much over-used word, but looking out on beautiful early Spring weather, young lambs in the field, primroses out in abundance, just makes the whole situation, well, surreal. I have bombarded you with e-mails and daily updates, and hope they have been more of a help than an in-box clogger. My daily covid updates (website) are getting a bit repetitive, so they will go back to every 3 days or so, or as events change. To summarise the absolutely key points:

- Clyst Vale site is closed, except our Emergency Childcare Provision (ECP) for children of key workers (and deliveries, essential contractors, etc)
- ECP will run daily Monday to Friday 08.30 – 15.30 throughout the holidays (Bank Hols to be confirmed)
- Our first priority as a College is to "keep in touch" and maintain a sense of belonging
- Parents can contact us as normal, although we recommend e-mail
- Teachers are working from home to set work on the day your child will have their lesson. College e-mail is the standard method of communication, both for learning and for any other issues
- Teachers are not expected to set work during what would have been the holiday period (March 30th to April 13th inclusive). Many will maintain contact, suggest activities, and I have attached a list of on-line learning resources for those students who are hungry to learn. However, my colleagues have families too, and need a break.
- Free School Meals are being provided through weekly vouchers, and we have issued these in advance for the two-week holiday

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

Talking about Coronavirus with Children

This can be tricky, depending on your child, so you may find these links valuable and helpful: Particularly good for children: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/> This is aimed more at parents: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

Covis-19 Symptoms

If your child is ill with covid symptoms, please e-mail studentabsence@clystvale.org or phone in the usual way. This is for our information only, and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Royal Mail

The post is still being delivered and collected from the College on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Because of emergencies and staff shortages this may not always be possible. So, if you are sending any post, or expecting it from us, please be aware that it may be delayed.

Goggles

We had two boxes of new, unused science safety goggles which we have donated to the RD&E. I'm not sure how I feel about this; pleased to help in a very small way.

Phases

Last week, I described four unequal phases. The first was the week just gone, which has been a trial run for Phase Three. The second is the Easter holiday period. The third is from April 14th until whenever there are signs that the lockdown is easing and life is beginning to return to normal. This will overlap considerably with Phase Four, which will be preparing for our return to College, but the last phase will accelerate as signs become more optimistic.

Phase One: what we've learned from the first week of remote learning.

1. In general, our approach has been about right. We decided to use e-mail because it gave the most flexibility, work could be done at any time, and we were not forcing families into a routine based on the Clyst Vale timetable (thank goodness we didn't; imagine the tears as you dragged your children away from Joe Wicks to do some schoolwork). In some families, each child has their own bedroom and tablet, and the flexibility to follow the College routine; in others, children share rooms, share downstairs space, may have shared access to a computer, and their parents have priority over the computer because they need to work to earn money and hold their job down. Some families are in jobs where parents remain on full pay for the foreseeable future; for others, this uncertainty or lack of income is their major concern which will impact on family life. It is difficult to cater for all. We have had some parental feedback, but it's evenly divided between those who say we are not setting enough work, and those who say the opposite!
2. We are not expecting parents to "teach" in a formal sense, but the teacher's role in terms of watching out for a child's welfare has now been transferred almost completely to parents. This can be really hard depending on the number, age and personalities of your children! We hadn't perhaps fully realised how much parents need to feel confident and have the authority to make the best decisions about home learning. We do want your child to keep learning; however, we do not want them to become stressed over it, and ultimately come to dislike it because they will be back later this year! Teachers make many decisions every day about students' learning: whether to push, challenge, insist, encourage, back off, compromise. One reason we are not insisting that every piece of work has to be returned, and are including a mix of non-writing, non-computer activities, is to reduce this pressure. So, if your child is struggling, please cut them some slack. If they are thirsting for more work, I have attached a list of on-line possibilities, and they are free to contact their teachers.
3. We have been successful in getting work out. Much of this work is the same for all, so we need to work on differentiation, by including extension tasks/suggestions, and supporting some individuals separately.
4. Many students are responding to their teachers, which is exactly what we wanted to happen. However, we would like a bit more of this: students should not be afraid of sending a quick e-mail with a question, or a suggestion, or just to say hello. This week, we haven't encouraged students to send their work to teachers, but this will inevitably happen increasingly if the lockdown continues as suggested.
5. We are developing our practice very fast. After Easter, many more teachers will be teaching and communicating through Microsoft Teams. This is similar in what it can do to Google Classrooms, and practice will develop; it can be a closed chat room, a vehicle for sharing resources, links and video, and for setting assignments. It can be used for live lessons, but given that we want to give families maximum flexibility these can be recorded and be available later.
6. The EPC provision we have set up has not attracted large numbers of students. This is arguably good news, as parents will have followed the Government advice to stay at home and/or sourced appropriate childcare. Over the week, we have developed the provision to minimise risk, minimise the number of people on site, and collect a whole range of possible activities for a wide range of interests. As a bonus, we have a receptionist who can be phoned and speaks to people!

COVID-19 scams identified include:

Doorstep crime

- Criminals targeting older people on their doorstep and offering to do their shopping. Thieves take the money and do not return
- Doorstep cleansing services that offer to clean drives and doorways to kill bacteria and help prevent the spread of the virus

Online scams

- Email scams that trick people into opening malicious attachments, which put people at risk of identity theft with personal information, passwords, contacts and bank details at risk. Some of these emails have lured people to click on attachments by offering information about people in the local area who are affected by coronavirus
- Fake online resources – such as false Coronavirus Maps – that deliver malware such as AZORult Trojan, an information stealing program which can infiltrate a variety of sensitive data. A prominent example that has deployed malware is ‘corona-virus-map[dot]com’

Refund scams

- Companies offering fake holiday refunds for individuals who have been forced to cancel their trips. People seeking refunds should also be wary of fake websites set up to claim holiday refunds

Counterfeit goods

- Fake sanitisers, face masks and Covid19 swabbing kits sold online and door-to-door. These products can often be dangerous and unsafe. There are reports of some potentially harmful hand sanitiser containing glutaral (or glutaraldehyde), which was banned for human use in 2014

Telephone scams

- As more people self-isolate at home there is an increasing risk that telephone scams will also rise, including criminals claiming to be your bank, mortgage lender or utility company

Donation scams

- There have been reports of thieves extorting money from consumers by claiming they are collecting donations for a COVID-19 ‘vaccine’

Loan sharks

- Illegal money lenders are expected to prey on people’s financial hardship, lending money before charging extortionate interest rates and fees through threats and violence

Take care!

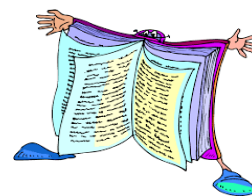
Best wishes



Dr Bawn

Scholastic Book Club

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/clyst-vale> (<http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/clyst-vale>) to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you send on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 25p in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your orders by 25th March, 2020.



Lucy Southard
Librarian

School Transport

1. Clyst Vale supports the (DCC) Devon County Council's "No Pass No Travel Scheme" that operates on transport to and from this College.
2. Only students who show a valid travel pass to the driver **on every journey** will be allowed to travel. Students must travel on the vehicle indicated on their pass.
3. **Please ensure that your child has their travel pass before they leave home every day.**
4. Please ensure that your child knows what to do in the event they are not allowed to travel or the bus does not arrive (e.g. because of breakdown or traffic conditions or severe weather). College attendance is very important and it is best to be prepared for any of these eventualities.
5. DCC will carry out regular pass checks throughout the year.
6. Drivers are not allowed to carry passengers who cannot show a valid pass.
7. If your child loses their pass during the day they should go to the AtHoS offices to ask for a 10 day temporary pass. Replacement passes cost £5 each and can be ordered online, or by sending a cheque with a replacement form.

Further information is available at: http://www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport

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

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).
- **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

