



# NEWSLETTER

No. 692  
w/c Mon 30 November  
will be Week B

## THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

*"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel." Socrates*

### Evenings and weekends – reporting of Covid-19 positive test results

As a further precaution, we have introduced a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends.

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

Date of test

Date of test result

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

Dear Parents and Carers

This week's covid events: a quick summary

In general, rates locally and within the College remain low, with few positive cases among students (7 since Sept), staff (one) and parents/siblings (23). Our staff attendance is amazing, a real tribute to my colleagues' resilience and commitment; where schools have significant issues about remaining open, it's staff absence which causes it, although newspapers make students the headline. Please check the Tuesday update for precise figures. On Monday, there was a case reported in Year 7; with brilliant support from parents we managed to stop all but 6 Year 7s turning up on Tuesday as a precaution. We could then make measured decisions, allowing us to bring back 125 Year 7 students on Wednesday, and fulfilling our obligation to be open for as many students as possible but still be as safe as possible. Year 9 returned this week. Crossing my fingers while touching wood having put away all the ladders, there have been no further positive results among students since Monday.

## **Blended learning**

Thank you to students and parents, mostly but not entirely Year 9, who have commented that remote learning is substantially better than it was during the first lockdown. To be honest, I would hope so! In the summer my colleagues and I did a really good job, but were learning on that job, none of us (parents included) had quite worked out the mechanics of home schooling, and there was a huge amount of uncertainty about almost everything. Also, all teachers were working from home, with their own metaphorical (or real) toddlers swinging on their necks, but more relevantly it was harder for us to be cohesive in our approaches as we, like everyone else adjusted. So now, we are in a much better place. Teachers are in school; we are skilled up from the summer and learning more each week; bizarrely, although from a teacher's perspective the school day is much harder work, I think it's easier to plan lessons than it was in the summer and we are becoming more skilful at preparing one integrated lesson for school and home learning rather than two separate ones. Even on Tuesday, when Year 7 had a day absent at 12 hours' notice, many teachers delivered live lessons and students experienced up to 3-4 live lessons on that day. It's not perfect, there are still issues (I lost all sound in a Y7 live lesson on Wednesday, but we coped), if teachers are absent ill there will be more conventional work set, and it is unbelievably hard work in terms of mental concentration to teach five live lessons in a day. In the normal rhythm of school, teachers will have a quieter, less full-on interactive lesson every now and again; so it will be on Teams. So, I think my colleagues are amazing and deserve massive congratulations; that said, we are still looking to improve, and we had a training session on Wednesday evening to move everyone on to the next level of skills required. And, to state the obvious, just as different subjects lend themselves to different approaches in normal times, and different teachers have different preferred styles, this is the same on Teams. It would be dreadful and "boring" (to be said in mock-teenager accent) if every lesson in every subject was essentially the same.

## **Next Week's Big Event: Year 11 Exams**

There has been a lot of communication to Year 11 about this, as you might imagine, but there is an impact on the whole College. The impact in the summer is greater, with early lunches, and Year 7 and 8 students have not experienced this; but we'll cross that bridge nearer the time. Every day next week and Monday-Tuesday the following week there will be at least one Year 11 exam roughly between 09.00 and 11.00, and another one 11.40 – 13.40. These cut across early break and lunch for Years 7, 9 and 10. So, Year 7 will need to be quiet approaching and using the Canteen; they will need to use the canopy area or the marquee (even at break) to keep the playground clear to reduce noise. For Year 10, they too need to keep the playground clear and remain in the Giraffe House or go to their area of the field/marquee. All students going to and from lessons around the playground need to be silent. The main exam areas are the Hall, and rooms in the Additional Support end of the Maths block. The "Respect" part of RRS is important here: eventually, all students will be in Year 11 and want quiet to concentrate in their exams, and what goes around comes around. If younger students show respect now, they are entitled to expect it later. Again, the changed arrangements because of covid have some benefits: students in Years 8,9,10 (to some extent) and 11 are far less affected by the mocks than they would be in normal years

## **A-Level Certificates (summer 2020 exams)**

These have been posted out, registered post, so they will be tracked and will need to be signed for.

## **GCSE Certificate "Presentation"**

There was no presentation evening, of course. We have given certificates in person to all Year 11s who stayed on to Post-16, and posted the rest out as above. Some of the envelopes also contain additional certificates for being the student in a given subject who made the most achievement or progress, along with a token (literally) of our congratulations. In a low-key private ceremony, I was delighted to present two students with their awards for overall achievement and progress – not just a token, but something tangible to keep: Abigail Sansbury deservedly won the "Most Achievement" award, while Jack Hannaford equally deservedly won the "Most Progress" award (this is progress measured from Year 6 SATs to Year 11 GCSEs).

### **Food Practicals, Years 7 to 9**

With perfect timing, just as Bake-Off ends on TV, food practicals are back after lockdown ! We are intending to resume practical lessons in years 7-9 on Thursday 3rd December, when the current lockdown is lifted. Parents have been contacted separately with a brief reminder letter; please remind yourself and your child/children of the changes that were made due to covid, so that practical lessons could go ahead. Full details of practical lesson requirements and expectations can be found on students' Team page for Food where the 'Hygiene and Safety' assignment has a pdf document with all the necessary information. I will also say again that quite a few schools have just stopped food practicals entirely, so I am grateful to my colleagues for their extra work in maintaining them and giving our students the broadest experience possible, even if there are some things which can't be done, as well as adding to the variety in the curriculum.

### **DofE and Ten Tiers Expedition Cancelled**

I meant Ten Tors; hope no-one in government reads this and gets any ideas. Due to the new restrictions on Devon, regrettably next Saturday's expedition walk is cancelled. We all know why, but it's still sad that when there are so few opportunities for young people at the moment we have to cancel another one.

### **Food Collections**

You wait ages for one of these, and then two come along at once... Seriously, Clyst Vale has always had a good record for supporting charities, which pre-dates and sits foursquare within our RRS ethos. Every year, tied into the Year 8 B&V curriculum about social justice, specifically homelessness, Year 8 students bring in items for a collection which goes to St Petrocks. (The special assembly was held virtually, precautions are in place for handling the items, which will sit for 72 hours before being collected). In a separate initiative, tutor group

11CM have organised something similar for Exeter Food Bank. The deadline for donations was today, but we can manage last-minute donations on Monday morning.

### **Make Your Mark – Nov 2020**

This has already been publicised through tutor groups. This is a consultation and vote to identify the most important issues to young people throughout the UK, from a list of ten. Students vote for one national and one local issue. In the past, we ran this as a traditional vote with ballot papers and ballot boxes, but for covid reasons this year it is on line. Students can follow this link to vote:

[Make Your Mark - click this link to cast your vote](#)

The closing date is Monday 30th November 2020. The voting process is simple and should only take a minute or so of your time. Get involved!

### **Free School Meals provision over Christmas holidays (from Devon County Council)**

DCC, not schools, has responsibility for the "Holiday Hunger" schemes including Free School Meals. Their latest update reads: "We can confirm that the DCC Communities team is currently working to ensure that Free School Meals continue to be provided to eligible families throughout the two week Christmas Holiday period. The final details are still to be agreed, however we are assured that the roll-out will be managed through DCC and the organisation and any vouchers/deliveries will not fall to schools to manage. We will be seeking support from all schools to actively promote the scheme to ensure that all eligible families will have access to the free meals over the Christmas break. Further details will be circulated shortly."

### **Last Week of Term**

Students and parents are asking if we could close a week early at the end of term, or at least set remote learning from home for the week. This would seem to make perfect sense, as the government are advising people to stay at home as much as possible and be cautious for the couple of weeks before the Christmas rule-relaxation; even though all the shops are open. But no. Once again, schools are the exception. Government guidance is, for once, unusually clear: "Nurseries, schools and colleges should not change their Christmas holidays or close early this term. Parents should continue to send their children to school during term time and students should continue to attend school right up until the end of term..."

A time-limited change to social restrictions over Christmas does not require any children to be taken out of school prematurely.” And this is from the DfE letter sent to schools and trusts who even suggest it : “[Proposals for finishing the autumn term early] are not aligned with our guidance, which has been very clear that limiting attendance at schools should only be done as a last resort, even in areas where a local alert level is ‘high’ or ‘very high’. Given the impact already felt on children’s education since March, it is not appropriate to extend the Christmas holiday, given the knock-on impact that this can have on lost learning.” Who knows? Three weeks is loads of time for another U-turn. And I will spare you my rant about the increasing centralization of education practice to Whitehall, not just policy, which seems to run diametrically opposite to the whole Academy and MAT initiatives and localism; in effect, the government have removed the power for any school to set its own holiday decisions or even lop two days from this term and add them to another.

Best wishes,

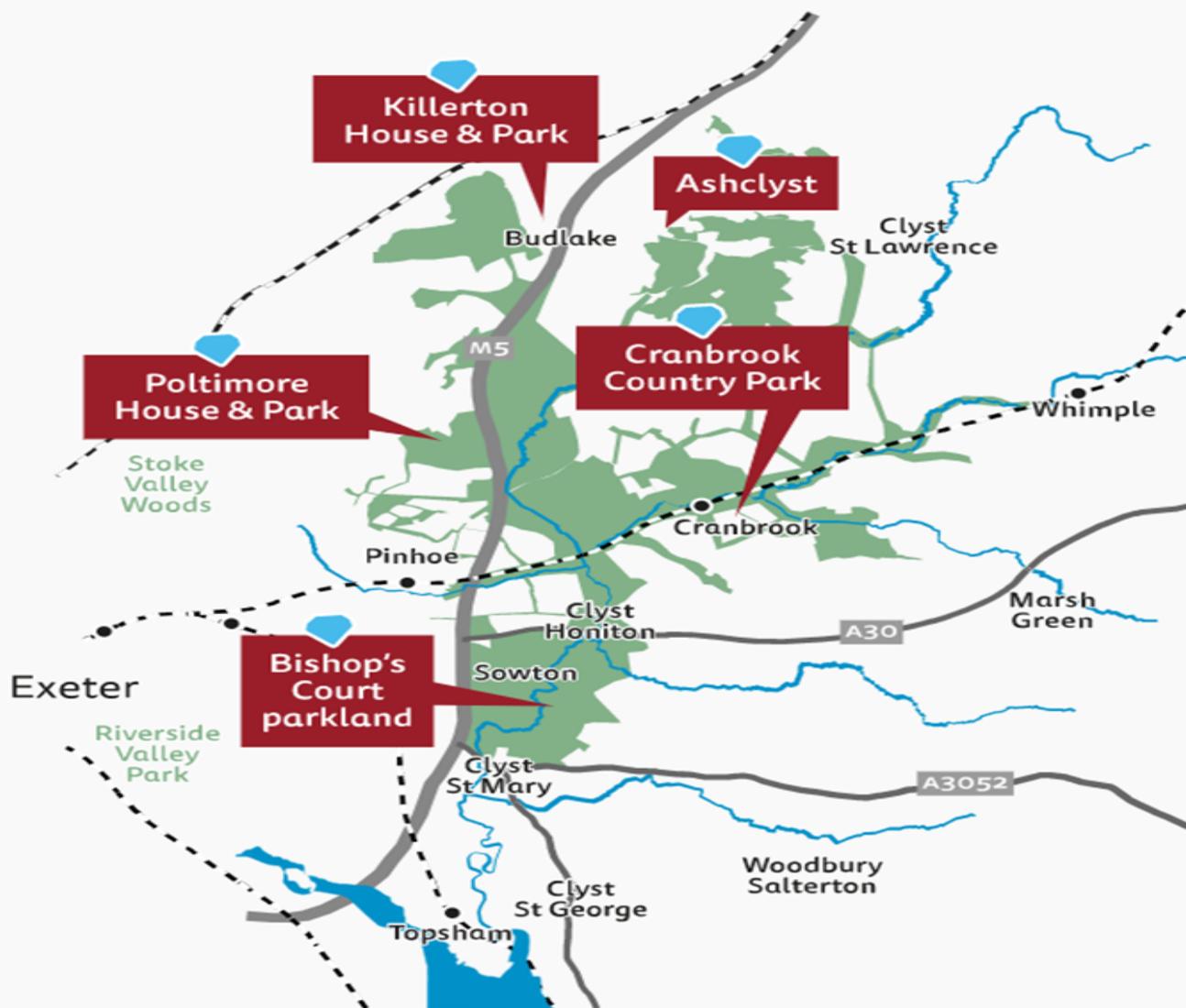


Kevin Bawn  
Principal

## Clyst Valley Regional Park - Consultation

East Devon District Council would like to encourage local residents to contribute to their masterplan consultation, regarding the proposed **Clyst Valley Regional Park**, which is a new public green space in

### Where is the Clyst Valley Regional Park?



To view a copy of the draft masterplan, and to take the opportunity to make your views known about the plan's priorities, please look online at the links below.

[Clyst Valley Regional Park Masterplan](#)

The Clyst Valley National Park has its own website, here:

[Clyst Valley Park](#)

East Devon District Council have also produced a short film about it, which can be found on YouTube, here:

[Clyst Valley Park - short film](#)

You have until **midday on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021** to comment.

Having taken feedback into account, the finalised masterplan will be submitted for approval by the District Council at a public meeting, next spring.

## **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](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org)

#### **For Year 12 - 13 Absences**

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: [barringtonj@clystvale.org](mailto: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 - Trutex Senior stitched down/Taylor Tartan (blue) skirt 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](http://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
w/b 30 November - all week	Y11 Mocks
Fri 04 December	Y12 Geography Fieldwork
Sat 05 & Sun 06 December	Ten Tors/Bronze D of E Event
Tues 08 December	Y8 Parents' Evening (virtual)
Fri 11 December	Human Rights Day
Sun 13 December	D of E Gold Y12 Dartmoor Day Walk
Weds 16 December 7pm - 9pm (tbc)	Christmas Carol Service, Whimple Church
Fri 18 December	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM St Petrock's - Non-Uniform Day
2021	
Tues 5th January	Start of Spring Term
w/b Mon 8 February	Y13 Mocks
Fri 12th February	Force Cancer - Non-Uniform Day
Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	Half Term
Thurs 1st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Tues 20th April	Start of Summer Term
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	Half Term
Fri 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM Water Aid - Non-Uniform Day

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



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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

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

**Library:** 01392 464010

