



# NEWSLETTER

No. 739  
w/c Mon 31 January 2022  
Week A

## THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

*"...often, stepping outside your comfort zone is not careless irresponsibility, but a necessary act of obedience."* Andy Stanley

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although I begin with the usual covid news, this Newsletter includes much more positive and interesting items. This is more like it. A bit like the snowdrops pushing through the frosty soil, there is a sense of surviving the hard days, not quite there yet, but optimism that there are better days to come. Of course, students are a lot noisier than snowdrops.

### Covid Update

As of Friday morning, 40 students and 3 members of staff are isolating. This is an increase from last week when daily isolations were around 30 a day.

Exeter, East Devon and Mid Devon case rates are all increasing and are close to national averages (Exeter's is above).

We don't want absences to keep going up, especially as the relatively low absence among staff has meant a much more "normal" experience for students; compare this to the fortnight before the end of last term. And of course the six (or seven, eight, nine or ten) day isolation is disruptive to students and their families.

So, we are recommending that students and colleagues keep masks on indoors – except in lessons and when eating. This may carry on until half-term, even longer, but hopefully not: I am looking at the case rates on a weekly basis. (A reminder that masks are optional, but encouraged, in exams).

Schools are doing different things: one Exeter school is still making mask-wearing compulsory, while another in Mid-Devon has more or less abandoned them. As ever, Clyst Vale ploughs a middle course: right now, I think it's wise for as many people as possible to keep wearing them. Next week, or the week after, if local and school case rates fall then we'll review. This approach seems to be good enough for shops and supermarkets, so it's good enough for us. And although the science behind masks is disputed by some, common sense suggests that *every little helps*.....

Although I must sound like a broken record, please keep sanitising, twice-weekly LFT testing, reporting those test results, and encourage your children to be sensible and cautious.

The School-Age Immunisation Service will be delivering covid vaccines in schools before Easter. In our case, their plan is to double this up with the HPV vaccinations. Dates are being confirmed, but likely to be during week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> March. I mention this in case any parents wish or need to have their child vaccinated any earlier than mid-March, in which case it will mean a trip to a vaccination provider.

## **Year 11 Drama Performances**

These are the equivalent of “coursework” for other subjects and count directly towards GCSE grades, and were completed on Wednesday. Mrs Keene tells me that the students and technical team were exceptional in the way that they supported one another and achieved performances well above expectations. As with many things theatrical, the focus tends to be on the performers, but a lot of thanks is owed to the technical crew and additional performers– not all in Year 11 – some of whom stood in at a moment's notice. So, special thanks to Jake, Charlie, Riley, Ella, Alex, Cecily and Lucy.

## **More Success for Sam**

Once again, Sam Mills has done himself, his family, his club and his coaches proud, and reflected a little glory on Clyst Vale ! Last weekend Sam won the World Athletics Northern Ireland International Cross Country (under-20) race in Belfast. In other words, he was competing against runners up to three years older. Using his track experience over shorter distances, Sam’s sprint finish saw off the Irish athletes pair who had broken away with him. Run over 6km, Sam completed the undulating course in just over 18 minutes. This was exactly the same course used by the world elite runners on the same day where Kenya’s Hellen Obiri and GB’s Zak Mahamed stood on the same winning podium as Sam. Amazing.

[If you would like to see the footage, the link is on YouTube at 2hrs 53 mins <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57HaSXGR1dY>. There are also some photos on the College website]

## **Year 9 Options**

These are now in full swing. The virtual Options Evening took place on Tuesday this week, and many thanks to all parents and carers who listened in and, better still, fired in questions. Thank you to parents who have taken the time and trouble to feed back, and I am pleased that comments are so positive, praising Ms Jacobs’ presentation, and the emphasis on supporting the individual child.

Today Year 9 students had an “options fair” in which they were able to ask Year 10 students doing the various courses on offer for their opinions. The main purpose of this is to provide Year 9 with more information to consider, but it’s another good example of “student voice”. The Year 10 students were fantastic, and it was great to see their enthusiasm for their chosen subjects as well as their knowledge about the courses, exams and assessments.

Next week Year 9 parents will receive further instructions about how to enter the option choices on-line. This is a cunning strategy (not the same as a cunning plan) to prevent any rushed decisions and ensure students have a good think before any buttons are pressed.

## **Cultural Fortnight 31<sup>st</sup> January to 11<sup>th</sup> February**

This is an exciting new development which builds on previous work and was a casualty of lockdown last year. The intention is simple: to raise student awareness, encourage reflection and deepen understanding about a whole range of minority groups, both within the UK and world-wide.

As a rights respecting school we want to move forwards with equality and diversity and we have decided to run a fortnight of activities to promote awareness across the school across students and staff.

‘Cultural Fortnight’ came about as a idea to ensure that we are preparing students to be a global citizens and accepting of other students around them.

Each group has an identity and “culture”, hence the name: it’s not just about race or religion, although both are highly important. The fortnight will include a tutor time activity each day, lunchtime activities and different foods in the canteen; each lesson 1 will have a relevant starter activity and other lessons will, where practicable, make any cultural issues a focus.

Advance warning there will be a cake and sweets sale on February 8<sup>th</sup>, to raise money for our designated charity UNICEF, especially the humanitarian and growing human rights crisis in Afghanistan.

## **B&V Visit to Gurdwara Sri Singh Sabha, Southall**

Another covid casualty which has been restored is this visit to one of the Sikh Gurdwaras in Southall, London. The visit is very much a curriculum-based one, as Sikhism is one of the major religions at GCSE. Our students were wonderful, impeccably behaved and highly respectful, and stoically put up with the long journey and delayed return (thank you to their parents, too). I was allowed on this trip a few years ago, and it's great. The Sikh culture of langar – community service including a free community kitchen – is inspiring. And the vegetable curry was excellent...

## **Careers News**

Please see Mrs Bennett's very useful update lower down in the Newsletter. As a College, we have been long committed to the importance of careers education, and Mrs Bennett with Ms Knowles do a great job in helping our students. As well as the experiences provided, it's well known that young people with a sense of direction are usually better motivated, work harder, and achieve better.

## **Stop Press: Year 8 Visit to Bude**

A one-liner to say that this will go ahead in the last week of the summer term; thank you for all the parental replies, and thank you to Mr Hewlett who has taken on the leadership and coordination.

## **Sixth Form News**

Next week sees mock exams for Year 13 and assessments for Year 12 students sitting AS exams in the summer. Both the exams and the assessments will be retained in case for any reason the summer exams are cancelled. Year 13 exams will be in an exam room, Year 12 assessments in class.

The Sixth Form tutor team and Miss Haynes are very aware of students who struggle with exams, and are already working with them. However, if parents have concerns please contact us.

The UCAS deadline has now passed - the majority of students have applied for higher education places, and some have already received offers dependent on grades.

The second round of assessments in case the summer exams are cancelled will be from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March and into the following week. Again, these will be fuller exam-style assessments for Year 13, and shorter exam-question based assessments for Year 12. The third round would only take place IF summer exams were cancelled, would be in May, and would be fuller assessments for both Year 12 and 13.

## **Sixth Form Applications**

The deadline is today, Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. This explains a sudden flurry of application forms appearing in the Giraffe House this week, where Year 11 students tend to congregate at lunchtime.... If your Year 11 child misses the deadline, it's a case of better late than never, so please send the form in. The disadvantage of a late submission is like the Year 9 options: subject preferences may not be taken into account when sorting out timetable blocks, and other parts of the process could be delayed.

## **Attendance**

We can all expect Attendance to become an increasingly important issue in the coming months. It almost goes without saying that students need to be in school for their educational and wider development, and lockdown provided strong evidence of this. Nationally Attendance is a huge concern and a priority for the Department of Education. Already, schools and local authorities are being "reminded of their responsibilities"; what that means is a flurry of warning letters to parents whose children have poor attendance.

There is more to come. The DfE is now consulting on further measures from September, including more demanding thresholds for attendance, different but increased fines, and also including persistent lateness. Schools will be expected to have separate attendance improvement plans.

So, putting aside the fundamental question of whether it's a school or a parent's responsibility to get their child to school, the challenges of transport in a rural area, and whether more fines will make children with health or mental health issues suddenly recover, the overall intention to improve attendance is clearly a good one. Students need to be in school.

For most CVCC families, this holds no terrors. Our overall attendance is in line with national (above it in some weeks at the moment). Most students attend well, and the occasional absence here and there for illness is not a problem. However, we will continue to support those families and students for whom attendance is an issue, and for whom fines will not be sufficient motivation.

### **Home Time Stagecoach Buses**

At 3.20 p.m., there is no need for any student to leave the site to catch a bus. We have a long-standing arrangement with Stagecoach that buses to Exeter (3 of them) come into the site; and the Bradninch/Cullompton bus now does the same. This is because we can supervise students much more effectively and safely if they are on site.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour in Cranbrook**

I have been asked by Cranbrook Town Council to draw parents' attention to the following miserable news. There is no suggestion whatsoever that CVCC students are responsible, as it is clearly a request for information. We will always work with local authorities and the police, and will take action ourselves where appropriate, because the "Respect" part of our ethos extends to our local communities as well.

Over the last few months, incidents of vandalism in Cranbrook's play areas have increased, especially in Northwood Acres where signs and benches have been damaged, sometimes beyond repair. Remediating vandalised items is a completely needless public expense and means that something else probably cannot be funded to benefit the community.

More graffiti has also been appearing on benches, play equipment, lampposts, bins, bus shelters and table tennis tables which, again, costs the taxpayer needlessly for remediation – not to mention the spoiling of these items to the people who want to use them.

If anyone has any information or has witnessed any incidents, please do report this to Devon & Cornwall Police via one of their reporting channels <https://services.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting/>.

So, despite the last item, there is plenty of good stuff going on ! Have a good weekend, and look out for those snowdrops....



Kevin Bawn  
Principal

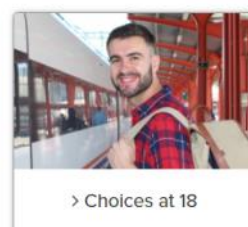
# Careers Update

**Year 9 Options-** Students have been busy considering their option choices and today have had the opportunity to speak to students currently studying options subjects. In lessons we have been using careers pilot and students have now made a personalised account and started creating their own profiles. The site has a 'parentszone' which has some great information regarding different career options. Please take a look and help your child to make informed choices now and in the future. [Careerpilot : Parent zone](#)



## What do you want to know?

Information to help parents and carers support young people in making the right decision about study and work



**Year 10 CVs and Work Experience-** We have had a good response from the year 10 students who have written their first CV this term and are actively seeking work experience placements. Drop-in sessions assist students with both these tasks and we are available to advice and guide students. The sooner they get their work experience organised the more likely they will gain a more meaningful placement. Please encourage your child to drop into the careers room on Wednesday lunchtimes if they need any help.

### Year 11- applications

Students in year 11 have again been considering their future options and submitting applications. Those who are considering vocational courses and who need further guidance please see Mrs Bennett who can support your application if needed.

Apprenticeship seekers will be given extra sessions in the next few weeks to give them guidance about their next steps. The link below to the parent pack gives you an update on the latest developments in apprenticeships and T levels. This will be of interest to parents of students of all ages not just the year 11s.

[Parent-Pack-Jan-2022.pdf \(ctfassets.net\)](#)

**Final thanks** to students in year 10 who were selected to represent option subjects and speak to our year 9s. It was great to see a face-to-face event and Clyst Vale students using their communication skills so effectively. It is also something to add to their CV- Certificates will be issued to our brilliant volunteers.

**Mrs Bennett—Work Related Learning Lead**



# LUNCH CLUBS

Day	Club	Time	Where	Changing Room	Teacher
Monday	Year 9 to 13 Badminton	Lunchtime	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Mr Powell
Monday	Year 10 & 11 BTEC/GCSE Dance	Lunchtime	Dance Studio	Dance Studio	Mrs Elliot
Monday	Year 10 & 11 Weights/Fitness	Lunchtime	Dance Studio	Humanities Block	Mr Pearce
Monday	All FIFA Tournament	Lunchtime	Meeting Room 2		Mr Stapleton
Monday	Week A – GCSE Art Club	Lunchtime	AR2		Mrs Walton
Monday	Week B – KS3 Art Club	Lunchtime	AR2		Mrs Walton
Monday	Year 11 RS Revision	1.40pm	HU1		Mrs Battshill
Monday	Science Club	1.30pm – 2pm	SC2		Dr Odunlade/Mrs Spencer
Monday	Mental Health Ambassadors	Lunchtime	VO1		Mrs Bennett
Tuesday	Year 7, 8 & 9 Basketball	Lunchtime	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Mrs Needs
Tuesday	Year 7, 8 & 9 Dance	Lunchtime	Dance Studio	Humanities Block	Miss Hall
Tuesday	Year 10 & 11 Weights	Lunchtime	Dance Studio	Humanities Block	Mrs Elliot
Tuesday	All FIFA Tournament	Lunchtime	Meeting Room 2		Mr Stapleton
Tuesday	Ten Tors/Duke of Edinburgh Award	1.30pm – 2.10pm	IT4		Mr Eales/Miss Barratt
Tuesday	Minecraft Club	Lunchtime	IT3		Mr Bailey
Tuesday	Post 16 Amnesty	Lunchtime	EN7		Ms Watt/Mrs Battshill
Wednesday Week B	11A Practical GCSE Catch Up	Lunchtime	DT3		Mrs Crook
Wednesday	Year 7 & 8 Badminton	Lunchtime	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Mr Powell
Wednesday Week A	IGBTQ + Group	1.40pm	MF1		Miss McConnachie
Wednesday	Drug & Alcohol Information Drop In	Lunchtime			Mrs Gillespie
Thursday Week B	11C Practical GCSE Catch Up	Lunchtime	DT3		Mrs Crook
Thursday Week A	GCSE Theory Catch Up	Lunchtime	DT4		Mrs Crook
Thursday	Year 11 Indoor Football	Lunchtime	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Mr Stapleton
Thursday	Year 7 & 8 Football	Lunchtime	Field	Humanities Block	Mr Powell
Thursday	Year 11 Rosslyn Park 7s	Lunchtime	Field	Humanities Block	Mr Pearce
Thursday	Year 9 Netball	Lunchtime	Courts	Humanities Block	Mrs Broomfield
Thursday	Attenborough's Army	Lunchtime	HU4		Mr Zimble
Thursday	Yoghlo Club	Lunchtime	SC3		Mr Moxey
Thursday	Games Club	Lunchtime	HUS		Miss Jenkins
Thursday	Year 11 Maths Higher Tier Drop In	Lunchtime	MA8		Miss Barratt
Friday	Various Inter Tutor	Lunchtime	Various	Various	Mr Stapleton Miss Hall Mrs Broomfield
Friday	KS3/4 Amnesty	Lunchtime	HU2		
Friday	Post 16 Indoor Football	Lunchtime	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Mr Powell

• Colour coded refers to Ten Tors/Duke of Edinburgh only

# CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
w/b Mon 31 January	Y13 Mock Exams
w/b Mon 31 January	Week 1: Cultural Fortnight
Sat 5 February & Sun 6 February	DofE Overnight 2: Bronze All day
Sat 5 February	Legally Blonde Rehearsal
Thurs 17 February	Y12 Parents' Evening 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Mon 21 – Fri 25 February	SPRING HALF TERM
Fri 25 February	Legally Blonde Rehearsal
Tues 1 March— Thurs 3 March	Y11 Food Practical Exams
w/b Mon 7 March	Y11 GCSE Assessment Week
w/b Mon 7 January	Week 2: Cultural Fortnight
Sat 12 March	DofE/Ten Tors Overnight 3
Sun 13 March	Legally Blonde Rehearsal
Mon 14 & Tue 15 March	Further Y11 GCSE Assessment
Thur 17, Fri 18, Mon 21 & Tue 22 March	Y13 Assessments
Sun 20 March	Legally Blonde Rehearsal
Wed 23 - Fri 25 March	Rosslyn Park Rugby 7s Tournament
Fri 25 March	Production: rehearsal in school All day
Sat 26 March	Production: rehearsal in school All day
Sun 27 March	Production: rehearsal in school Half day
Mon 28 March	Production: technical rehearsal & evening dress rehearsal (principals only) 9am - 10pm
Mon 28 March	Production: remaining cast to join rehearsal 5.30pm -10pm
Tues 29 March - Fri 01 April	Legally Blonde - Musical Production
Tues 05 April	LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM
Wed 06 April - Wed 20 April	EASTER HOLIDAYS

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





# **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**



## **GREEN SCHOOL**

<b>7GCMC</b>	No permission to publish name
<b>7GIM</b>	Maisy Beau Killian
<b>8GABR</b>	Alex Symons
<b>8GDH</b>	Eloise Hughes
<b>9GAW</b>	Max Taylor
<b>9GBA</b>	Lucy Grabham
<b>10GHE</b>	No permission to publish name
<b>10GSW</b>	Jake Gregory
<b>11GMN</b>	No permission to publish name
<b>11GGT</b>	Aiden Coates

## **RED SCHOOL**

<b>7RBAT</b>	Oliver Barwick
<b>7RHSP</b>	Ella Wright
<b>9RMAH</b>	Chloe Hoerning
<b>11RSS</b>	Evie Gilbert

## **YELLOW SCHOOL**

<b>7YTZI</b>	Zoe Troop
<b>8YPNE</b>	Owen O'Mahony
<b>9YSP</b>	Zoe Taylor
<b>11YCW</b>	Natasha Hopf
<b>11YRB</b>	Freya Butler



## **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:

Sharon Leaman/Racheal Long (Attendance Officers)

Direct line: 01392 463911

Email: [studentabsence@clystvale.org](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org)

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

Please ring Maria Murch on 01392 462697

Email: [murchm@clystvale.org](mailto:murchm@clystvale.org)

copying in: [haynesc@clystvale.org](mailto:haynesc@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).
- 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](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.

## 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](mailto:admin@clystvale.org) **Web:** [www.clystvale.org](http://www.clystvale.org)

**Library:** 01392 464010

