

# NEWSLETTER

**No. 699**  
**w/c Mon 1 February**  
**Week A**

## THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

*"Follow your own passion - not your parents', not your teachers' - yours."*

Robert Ballard

## **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](mailto: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 and Carers

### **"8th March at the earliest"...**

...is when schools could reopen, according to the Prime Minister on Wednesday. This will depend on vaccination rates, NHS capacity, and mortality rates, which could also dictate whether the return is of certain year groups only, or region by region. At least we have something to work with: there will be at least five more weeks of remote learning, and decisions about 8th March will be made on 22nd February.

### **Five more weeks of remote learning**

I can't imagine anyone is thrilled about this, and for some parents and families it's a huge challenge. There are still shortages of technology in some homes, including where the number of children exceeds the number of devices not to mention the bandwidth. Parents still have to work. Being a parent, teacher, teaching assistant, form tutor, caretaker, and cook all rolled into one is challenging. This is more challenging depending on the age range of the children. Above all, the relationships between child:parent and student:teacher are very different. You are doing a grand job, and many of the stresses are simply because you want to do the best you can for your children. And children develop and change all the time, so the little angel of lockdown#1 is now pouty and grumpy (or, if you're lucky, vice-versa). It can be incredibly hard motivating teenagers, doubly so with no clear end-date in sight. So, don't be too hard on yourselves, and let us know if there are particular difficulties.

Could schools ease off a bit? Well, we're not supposed to; in fact, we're supposed/required to step up considerably from lockdown#1. Government guidance stresses 5 hours a day for secondary schools, plus Ofsted visits will be restarting after half-term (I have a lovely image forming in my mind of inspectors with clipboards driving frantically to find teachers' houses to watch them teach, and then sitting at students' kitchen tables to discuss their learning with them...). And we have stepped up considerably with a 5 lesson a day offer, in which teachers are live for all or part of those lessons almost every time. In lockdown#1 there were some criticisms that there wasn't enough work being set; no such complaints this term. (Of course, we cannot and must not "ease off" with students who are not engaging, which is probably the single biggest challenge of all; we will actively seek to make contact, build bridges, support those students, and get them ticking along again). On the other hand, our current offer is very demanding for some students, especially those with SEND, so we are modifying the work for them. I know I keep saying it, but communication from parents is so important.

Remote teaching and learning is hard work for all concerned. This is partly because it's relatively new, and we're all learning the short-cuts while experimenting with the features which will ultimately achieve the same quality for much less effort. However, remote learning requires greater concentration and self-discipline. Most teenagers (and a fair proportion of adults) can't concentrate for a full hour unless highly interested, and definitely not five in succession. That's why in school we vary activities within lessons, and the natural variety from subject to subject helps; for a student at home, this natural variety is reduced – everything comes through a computer – and a real skill of a teacher in chivvying a whole class along with a word here, a look there, a touch of humour at the back, routines and control words, is also greatly reduced.

We have another five weeks of this, maybe more, so what CAN we do?

- As in lockdown#1 parents must feel empowered to take the lead role in looking after the emotional health of students at home; teachers can't see them as in school, or notice little changes. This means communication is more important than ever; if a child is struggling, please tell us. We can relieve some pressure, and in many cases do more than that by different means of support.
- We've had a lot of feedback that there are not sufficient breaks in the day; lessons often run into the next, and unlike being at school there isn't even the five-minute walk between blocks. Even Ofsted have noted that shorter lessons might be a way to improve remote learning. So, from Monday, I am asking that teachers prepare ten minutes' less work for each lesson (ie 55 minutes for lessons 1,2,3 and 5; 50 minutes for lesson 4). We will keep the lesson timings and lesson start times will not change – they are confusing enough as it is without adding further temporary changes. This does mean 270 minutes of learning not 320; but legitimising some downtime should aid concentration, and allow a few more breaks away from the screen. Also, if they wish, students can use this time to tidy up their work, finish off, send an e-mail to their teacher, get their working area organised; we're all different.
- While we will not give up on students who are not engaging, it must be stressed that our approaches are supportive not punitive. Next week parents will be notified through the Parent App if their child has not attended a lesson. This is for parents' information; in some cases we will be well aware of the situation and already be in extensive dialogue but I'm afraid our computer management system isn't that sophisticated. It also has a "point" attached to it; please disregard this, it is not a behaviour point, and we will not be imposing a tariff of sanctions. However, it does allow us to track engagement overall and for individuals. Hopefully the information will start a dialogue ! It will be nearly nine weeks out of College by 8th March, and that would be a huge amount of learning to have lost.

## **SIMS Parent App**

- With lockdown, we are more reliant than ever on good communication, and an important part of that is the Parent App. In this Newsletter alone, it is relevant to informing parents about non-attendance at lessons, and also the Year 9 options. It also does the following....
- Newsletters; Trip letters; Reports/TPR's (Termly progress reports); Notification of events - e.g. parents' evenings, options evenings etc; Data collection – update your personal details and give consent; Consent for trips and events; Year 9 Option Choices; Timetable; Behaviour/ praise information
- If you have not yet got the app, you will have received an invitation by email asking you to download the SIMS Parent app. The college will use your primary email address and mobile number that we hold for anyone who has parental responsibility.

## **Cameras on in Lessons: encouraged not compulsory**

- Things change rapidly (nationally, I mean). In March, good practice was “cameras off”. Now, it’s “cameras on”. So we are in a transition phase. For most students, this is not a huge deal, and of course the ability to be on screen for lessons, lectures, seminars, training, work is a good skill to develop. It’s a further incentive for youngsters to leap out bed with a spring in their step, joy in their heart, dive into the shower and get their hair straight before 08.50..... But on the other hand there is a minority of students who have a genuine difficulty with this, to the point that it would affect their learning and even cause them to miss lessons.
- There is a rumour that from Monday, it will be compulsory for Clyst Vale students to have cameras on. This is not true. Teachers will be encouraging students to keep cameras on, but will not be forcing anyone who is uncomfortable. If you are particularly concerned about your son or daughter, please contact us so teachers will know not to make a point.

## **Year 9 Options**

- All systems go, or most of them ! There is a lot of information for you to consult and enjoy on the website ! The link is <http://www.clystvale.org/options/>. Because we cannot hold an Options Evening, every subject area has produced a video about their courses, and Ms Jacobs is adding an additional overall presentation on Monday, 1st Feb. There will be a virtual options evening next Thursday, 4th Feb (attendance/ joining instructions to be confirmed by separate letter to Year 9 parents.)
- We are anticipating that options choices will be submitted on-line, although there have been some issues which required the involvement of Capita, who ultimately run College’s management system platform. Submission of choices to be confirmed, but there is time to sort it out as students are not due to have made their choices until 22nd February. (If students cannot choose by this date, there will also be the chance of 1-to-1 meetings in week beginning 22nd February.

## **Station Road Closure 8th – 19th February**

We’ve just had notice today that Station Road will be closed for drainage work from 8th to 19th February. We’ll try to find out whether this literally does what it says on the tin, or whether the timescale is generous, or whether “road closure” could mean single file with traffic lights. Anyway, forewarned is forearmed.


## **The Money Charity**

We sometimes use the Money Charity in the Sixth Form, and they are now offering free virtual workshops on finances called ‘Your Money & Covid’. This workshop has been designed to help people reassess their financial situation in light of the pandemic. Tips will be shared on budgeting, how to make your money work harder and save on everyday expenditure, and where to go for further information and support. The workshops are free, 1 hour long, delivered virtually using Zoom by expert volunteers from [Punter South-all](http://PunterSouth-all). For more information, contact [belinda@themoneycharity.org.uk](mailto:belinda@themoneycharity.org.uk) to book. Only the first workshop (Your Money During Challenging Times) is currently available.

## **Trading Standards**

You’ll see elsewhere in this Newsletter a “Stay Scam Aware” flyer, which I’m happy to reproduce at the request of Trading Standards. Lockdown is hard enough as it is, without criminals taking advantage.

Best wishes to one and all,



Kevin Bawn  
Principal

# STAY SCAM AWARE

Trading Standards is warning us all to beware of scams following reports that fraudsters are sending fake texts offering a Covid-19 vaccine.

**Among the difficulties Covid-19 has brought into our lives, it has given rise to an increase in scams as fraudsters try to exploit our uncertainty.**

In one Covid-related scam, fraudsters are sending text messages containing a link to what police call an "extremely convincing" fake NHS website.

The scam message reads 'we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine' and prompts you to click on a link for further information or to 'apply' for the vaccine.

Once on the website you are asked to input your bank details to register for a vaccine. Remember, the NHS will never ask for payment details.

There are lots of other Covid-related scams too, such as:



**Test and Trace scams** – criminals contact potential victims claiming to be from the Test and Trace service but are really trying to get their personal information or trick them into handing over money.



**Doorstep crime** – there are many genuine groups assisting the most vulnerable, however, be alert for individuals who may take your money under the false pretence of helping.

## Tips to help you stay safe

- If you get a text or email that asks you to click on a link or provide information such as your name or payment details, delete it.
- Never give out your bank/card details, PIN or passwords over the phone, online or on your doorstep.
- Don't ring the number a caller has given you to check it's genuine. Always look the number up for yourself.

## What to do if you've been scammed

Report scams and get advice through Citizens Advice. Call **0808 223 1133** or visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/what-to-do-if-youve-been-scammed/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/what-to-do-if-youve-been-scammed/)

Report the scam to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or at [www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime)

For more information visit [www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/scams-rogue-traders-and-doorstep-crime/](http://www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/scams-rogue-traders-and-doorstep-crime/)

**tsconnect**

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## Broadclyst Parish Area – Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

**Our Parish**  
**Our Plan**  
**Our Choice**



Broadclyst Parish Council is inviting residents to have their say on the Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation period began on 4<sup>th</sup> December and runs until the end of next month (Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February).

There are 3 elements to the Plan – the vision, the policies and the projects.

The feedback form invites you to rank how important you feel various aspects of the Plan are, as well as having plenty of space for 'free text' feedback.

Policies include the proposed Community Sports Hub, heritage trails, renewable energy production, housing, pedestrian and cycle routes and protecting woodland and green spaces. Projects include public transport and active travel initiatives, regenerating orchards and addressing flooding.

### The Neighbourhood Plan gives communities direct power to

- develop a shared vision for their Parish;
- allocate sites and shape development for their Parish;
- shape growth by design codes for their Parish, and
- protect and enhance special places within their Parish.

**The Parish Council is now seeking your views on that shared vision, policies, community actions and projects that will shape the future of the Parish.**

To access further information and the feedback form, please click on the link below, which will take you to the relevant section of the Broadclyst Parish Council website: [Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan Community Consultation](#)

## Thank You From Exeter Foodbank

Exeter Foodbank got in touch to say a big thank you to Clyst Vale Community College for all of the donations that we collected and passed on before Christmas. The food collection was organised by 11RCM.

They told us that the items we collected amounted to 157kg – which is the equivalent weight of two baby elephants!

They also said:

“Thank you for being one of the organisations who donate food to Exeter Foodbank. During the challenging times of 2020 we always knew we would have enough food to feed people in the Exeter area who came to us. This is because we are so well supported by members of the community, we couldn't do this without you!”



**THANK YOU....**  
**from EXETER FOODBANK**

To everyone at **CLYST VALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** who has so generously given food to help feed local people in crisis.

The food you have donated is making a very real difference to many people's lives in Exeter.

Donation in last 12 months: **157 kgs**

Equivalent to the weight of approximately **TWO** baby elephants!



## **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 - 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.

# CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Thurs 04 February 4.30pm - 7pm	Y9 Options Evening - to be held online
Sat 06 - Sun 07 February	Bronze D of E Practice - CANCELLED
w/b Mon 08 February	Y13 Mocks - CANCELLED
Thurs 11 February 4.30pm - 6.30pm	Y12 Parents' Evening - to be held online
Fri 12 February	Non-Uniform Day - CANCELLED
Sat 13 - Sat 20 February	Ski Trip - postponed to 2022
Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	Spring Half Term
w/b 08 March	Y11 Core Subject Mock Exams - CANCELLED
Thurs 11 March 4pm-7pm	Y7 Parents' Evening - probably online (TBC)
Sat 13 & Sun 14 March	Ten Tors/DofE Practice Weekend (TBC)
Weds 17 March (TBC)	Deep Learning Day (if back in school!)
w/b Mon 22 March	Y10 Exams (TBC)
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
	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

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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

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

**Library:** 01392 464010

