



NEWSLETTER

No. 671
w/c Mon 01 June
Week B

SONG TITLE OF THE WEEK

“(I’ve got to leave old) Durham Town” [Roger Whittaker]

Dear Parents/Carers,

I think I have recovered my natural poise and non-political balance after last week’s major news events, but if it pops up occasionally in this Newsletter, please forgive me.

Thursday’s announcement

I’ll be quick, before I get drawn in to making political comments or my Chair of Governors interposes to enable me to focus on my proper job. The government has met its own five tests so that the easing of lockdown can continue cautiously. For the well-being of young people the ability to meet with five other friends in a public space or garden (and even use each other’s toilets!) is absolutely brilliant news, as the single biggest negative issue for the teenage age group and a contributor to mental health being affected is not being able to see friends in real-time live 3-D. It’s also heartening for many young people that football is due back on the telly in three weeks’ time. As far as schools are concerned, nothing really changed with the announcement. It confirmed that Primaries will “open” for Reception, Years 1 and Year 6; and that Secondaries will “open” for “face-to-face” with “up to” 25% of Year 10 and Year 12 “if it is safe to do so” and there are no local spikes in the transmission rate or new cases.

Direction of Travel (south west via the A167 and A688)

I’m sticking with The Plan. Next week we will see a big expansion of ECP, and have worked hard to establish accurate numbers. We will require 3 “Bubbles” of 11 (see the summary risk assessment attached to this email) and reserve capacity as keyworker children and vulnerable students remain the priority. This means we have some, limited, capacity for Year 10 and Year 12. However, this does NOT mean that all Year 10 and Year 12 will be returning on 15th June. In fact, my estimate of capacity is that we could manage maybe 20% at any one time. There is also a dilemma which is troubling me: should I be strongly encouraging parents to send in their children as per the government’s wishes and guidance? Or (and I am genuinely not trying to be funny or provocative) should I be strongly encouraging them to follow their parental instinct? There are two pieces of information I need to know before finally deciding: one is the availability of staff, and more importantly an idea of parental intentions. It could be that 100% of Year 10 parents would like their children to return even if it’s just one day a week; or 50%; or none.

Despite the evident optimism at Thursday's briefing, the scientists were extremely cautious, and in schools we are implementing very strict measures for health and hygiene at the very time that, emotionally, young people are feeling a little more carefree than for some time, and the sun is shining, and it's summertime when the living is easy. So, I'm sticking with The Plan. We have prepared the site for Monday's expansion of ECP. I have attached a summary risk assessment to this Newsletter and the full version is on the website. I will contact Year 10 parents and staff early next week to identify availability and intentions. And I intend to give clear decisions next Friday about "reopening" for Year 10 and Year 12; this is not definitely going to be on 15th June.

Rhetoric, Reality and Tough Decisions

It really pains me to be so negative. However, Year 7 to 9 students (unless in ECP) will not be returning before September. If you are a parent of a Year 7 to 9 student who is not a key worker (in other words, most of you), we cannot take in your child for ECP or because we are "reopening", even if your employer wants you back at work. We simply do not have the capacity to cope with this, and the priority children reinforced by the guidance are vulnerable, key workers', Year 10 and Year 12. If you are a parent of a Year 10 or 12 student, there is a possibility of a couple of days' return before September, but this will not resemble a normal timetable. There is no obligation or compulsion for parents to send their children in, although there are undoubted social, emotional and psychological benefits of doing so. Colleagues and students coming to CVCC after a few weeks locked down have all said it feels strange (at best) to scary and guilty when they first return.

Remote Learning

Last week a few parents commented that their children were getting a little jaded. Not surprising: even if they were in school, students usually become jaded towards the end of a half-term. However, there is undoubtedly more variety in school, plus all the interactions with friends, other students and staff which stimulate the other parts of the brain and help sustain concentration; there is a structure to the school day which ebbs and flows in a way not achievable at home. We will be seeking to refresh remote learning, especially with more audio and video material. Several parents have enquired about live lessons through Teams, and this is something we will be cautiously exploring. One or two teachers and groups are already doing this, but the group sizes are very small. There are several issues of which we have to be mindful; student and teacher confidence in using Teams live; teacher union guidance that teachers should not be conducting live lessons for safeguarding reasons, and because video material of a teacher could be misused by students; the practicalities of getting 25-30 students on-line simultaneously (although lessons would be recorded); and the likelihood that live lessons would further widen the educational gaps between "haves" (good wi-fi and internet connection, own room, own laptop) and "have-nots".

On the subject of remote learning, there are some very useful tips in this document from the Education Endowment Foundation. There is tons of this stuff out there, but I am trying very hard to be selective and emphasise the most useful ones. The EEF has a very good reputation in educational circles. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_schools/Parents_and_carers_engaging_in_home_learning_-_A_checklist_for_schools.pdf?mc_cid=932932a66b&mc_eid=9ecb3ea21d

Trips and Visits (Cummings and Goings ?)

There was a national news item this week that a number of school travel companies are being extremely difficult about refunding money, and that some schools are not refunding parents for cancelled trips because they are concerned that if they use insurance, premiums will rise in future. Therefore, I am even more pleased than I was last week; through hours of phoning and e-mails (which, sadly, is what it takes) my Finance colleagues have refunded all parents and carers for all trips, except the Year 7 visit to Paris. Even then, we are winning the battle. As for delaying payments to parents in a national emergency when a quarter of the workforce are furloughed on government pay because insurance companies might increase premiums, I really would rather not comment on such political matters.

Year 11

In case you have a Year 11 child and they missed it, there is a virtual leavers' assembly on a newly-created Year 11 Team in MS Teams. It is classic Clyst Vale: heartfelt and emotional goodbyes, musical numbers, some humour, thoughtful mini-speeches all wrapped up in a delightfully random order. Hoodies and Yearbooks are well advanced, and there are rumours of a special Year 11 song. No, not "We'll Meet Again" or, worse, "We don't need no education" (which in reality has a double negative, of course, not always noticed by students).

Why doesn't CVCC use Zoom?

Because of incidents such as this dreadful news story from Plymouth. This is a link from the Police. <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/News/NewsArticle.aspx?id=57053af8-a722-47ca-8299-eb311d48a740>

What's school going to be like?

Although aimed at Primary children, this BBC video is an excellent summary of our health and hygiene provision, too <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-52842040/coronavirus-we-answer-kids-questions-about-going-back-to-school>

Back to home-schooling next week: we are striving to refresh remote learning, and from 8th June Year 9 will be taught in Year 10 option groups. Please remember that if you are experiencing any sort of difficulty or challenge, you can always contact us, and we have managed to help a wide range of families and students in some surprising ways!

Best wishes,



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

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



*someone to talk to

「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

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

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

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Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

