



# NEWSLETTER

**No. 709**  
**w/c Tues 4 May 2021**  
**Week A**

## THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

*"People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost."*

Dalai Lama

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Signs of Normality?

It was great to see a handful of students leaving College to embark on the first of three Duke of Edinburgh practice days last Friday. Meanwhile, there is a little more sport appearing at different times, and some small-scale one-year-group only after-school activities linked to the curriculum. We are gradually re-introducing year group assemblies, and after half-term will do more – including using the amphitheatre weather permitting – because assemblies are an essential way of communicating our expectations and values directly.

### Meanwhile, back in schools...

...life is confusing for students. While there are just glimmers of normality in school, outside things have eased up considerably: meeting up in the park, seeing grandparents, going to a shop, getting a haircut. However, there is no equivalent easing in schools, and the adults are still enforcing all the rules from before Christmas. I think this is a growing challenge for young people, but our students are being really compliant and sensible, and thank you for your support in this. Hopefully there will be at least some relaxation following the May 17<sup>th</sup> roadmap milestone. We all know that masks are a bugbear, and this would get worse in warmer weather: warmth, sweat, trapping pollen for hay fever sufferers...I can understand why the Government are unwilling to announce anything early for fear that many students would jettison masks, but I am hopeful that the rumours regarding masks being made voluntary rather than compulsory are true.

### 28<sup>th</sup> May Closure Day

Thank you to those parents who have sent in messages of understanding for the decision to take an additional training day in order for subject departments to moderate Year 11 and 13 folders. I am sure that not all parents will be completely happy, but at least I hope you will understand the reasoning. Perhaps the timing of a Friday before a bank holiday weekend, will be less inconvenient and possibly helpful to some families. I gather that students are very pleased with the decision, for some reason....

### Last day for Year 11 and Year 13 students

I will confirm the details early next week, and parents/students will be contacted by our usual messaging service. We are not envisaging that students will be required to attend College after May half-term (unless necessary because of issues concerning their evidence folders or related to grades).

## Road Safety and Bike Helmets

Maybe a touch of Spring fever, but a few students have got into the bad and dangerous habit of not paying attention when crossing the road at the end of the school day; admittedly only one or two, but some have even run between vehicles. This is obviously hugely dangerous. We will reinforce messages in College, but it would be appreciated if residents of Broadclyst could have a word with their children as well, especially in Years 7 and 8.

It's good to see students cycling to College. It is not good that many of them are not wearing bike helmets. In the most recent cycle accident involving a student (over a year ago from memory), wearing a cycle helmet made quite a difference when his head hit the ground. To me, it's obvious that students should wear cycle helmets: the traffic is difficult especially at the end of the day, and the various roadworks seem to push more vehicles up Station Road. Technically, it is a parental responsibility, and I would really rather not re-introduce the cycle permit scheme of the past.

## Lateral Flow Testing

We have had another bumper delivery of tests, which have been distributed to students. Please continue to conduct these twice-weekly, and report the results to TestRegister and the NHS site. Students (and staff) who had positive tests in the February outbreak will have completed their 90-day interval and should now use LFTs. If you have any questions regarding testing, please contact [hopkinsa@clystvale.org](mailto:hopkinsa@clystvale.org)

Unfortunately I was unwell for the first part of this week, which means that I am a bit behind on e-mails; please bear with me if you are awaiting a reply. On the other hand, it's an ill wind, and this Newsletter is one of the shortest for a very long time! Or, could it be another sign of normality returning?

Best wishes for the bank holiday weekend,



Kevin Bawn  
Principal

## Evenings, weekends and holidays— reporting of Covid-19 positive test results

We have introduced a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends

(At all other times, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or e-mail: [studentabsence@clystvale.org](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org))

The number is: **07818 212 931**

It is not for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, and is not an advice line.

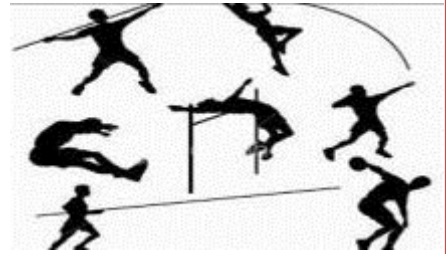
Please text positive Covid-19 test result information to this number, including:

- Name of student
- Student's tutor group
- Date symptoms appeared
- Which symptoms, or no symptoms
- Date of test
- Date of test result

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

## Athletics Club Thursday

After last weeks failed attempt at starting our highly successful athletics club we will look to run it again over the next two weeks. Due to the school calendar we are aiming to run the club on Thursday 6th May and Thursday 16th May. It was a real shame the first session did not run following heavy rain in the morning and then heavy rain forecast for 2pm which never arrived. Fingers crossed and we look forward to seeing the students next Thursday on the field from 3.20.



Mr J Powell  
Head of PE



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## **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
Sat 8th - 9th May	Bronze DofE Assessed Expedition
Wed 12th May	Y7 Parents' Evening
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	Half Term
Mon 19th— Fri 23rd July	Y10 Work Experience Week (tbc)
Fri 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

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



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Library:** 01392 464010

