



# NEWSLETTER

**No. 719**  
**w/c Wed 8 September 2021**  
**Week A**

Dear Parents and Carers

## **We Made It !**

I don't think many people will be too sad to see the end of this academic year. It has been very challenging for many reasons, and while my focus has been on Clyst Vale and education in general, I am well aware that the year has had serious implications for many families. I have regularly thanked parents for your patience, understanding, support and encouragement throughout the year, and I make no apology for doing so again. My good ol' tripod metaphor stands firm and true in the good times and the bad – all three legs of student, home and school need to be working well in order for the student to make progress and succeed. And for the vast majority of students, this has happened: yes, KWV and ECP before it undoubtedly helped many students, but all the help from home in terms of supporting learning and encouraging motivation and keeping in touch has been invaluable.

And I must emphasise it's not all relief that the doom and gloom wasn't worse than it was. On the contrary, paradoxically perhaps, I think we're in a really good place. We have maintained a strong sense of belonging to the Clyst Vale community. Our RRS values are still intact, and recovered well from a wobble earlier this term in terms of some student behaviour. We haven't just survived, we put on several big events: DLD, work experience, Bonnie & Clyde. We made some excellent appointments last September, and more from this September. Behind-the-scenes, we have made progress against many of the Ofsted issues for action from 2019. Student numbers continue to rise: we are full in most year groups, and with near 1000 on roll in September. The challenges of lockdown have improved our use of technology in teaching faster than a year of training sessions, and many teams have forged stronger bonds through adversity. Hopefully it will be September, perhaps later (who knows what the summer will bring ?), but it will be very exciting and fulfilling to start to realise all this promise and potential. It's been really tough, but Clyst Vale is a good place to be right now.

Thank you all again. It really would not have been the same without your support.

## **We Did It ! Bonnie and Clyde**

In normal times, this would be the Newsletter top item and I would write three pages. And it would be well deserved. Bonnie and Clyde is the best, or one of the very best, shows Clyst Vale has staged. The singing was outstanding with fantastic individual performances and duets. The acting was possibly the best ever. The orchestra were brilliant. The stage crew and technicians were accomplished and professional. Miss Williams' leadership and directorship has been inspirational. The team-bonding and sense of community between the students is a sheer pleasure to behold: they are so supportive of each other. Even in a smaller cast, all seven Year Groups were represented. More than anything we do, the community dimension is

emphasised: surrounding the performers are a team of volunteer helpers, some of whom now have no direct connection to Clyst Vale, and the orchestra in particular included current students, past students, parents, and friends of Clyst Vale. Stage Manager Mike Brown (volunteer and former student) has marshalled his two teams of set designers and stage crew as well as ever.

I do not have the words to describe how good it was; my only disappointment is that there isn't the opportunity next week for all involved to reflect on their success and truly appreciate what they have achieved.

The achievement is even more immense when one considers the context. Earlier in the year, we twice held our nerve by not cancelling the show when covid rates looked terrible and lockdowns were extended. This also meant that the cast had essentially six weeks to rehearse. During rehearsals, there were a number of self-isolations. As show week approached, some of the Principal performers were forced to drop out, although you would not have noticed this because of the quality of the replacements. And the replacements were prepared to assume new roles with just days to prepare. Clyst Vale managed to stage an annual production of the highest quality, far higher than many companies, during covid year. I simply do not have the words to express my pride, admiration and affection for everyone involved in this production.

### **Clyst Vale Annual Awards**

The winners of this year's Annual Awards were announced in a pre-recorded "assembly" today.

**The Caring Cup**, donated decades ago by former counsellor Dave Howell, is awarded to Mia Rice in Year 10. Mia has demonstrated a very supportive and caring attitude towards fellow students for four years now, including a role as a mental health ambassador; recognising this, she has been elected one of the Head Students for next year.

**The Ostler Award for Outstanding Personal Achievement**, donated by former students Matt and Chris Ostler, has been won by Sam Mills: Sam came second in the English National Schools Athletics championships, and will represent England in September. Sam runs middle distance events, in this case the 1500m; this is a superb achievement as there are thousands of highly competent athletes out there.

**The Pope's Chalice for Performing Arts** is awarded to Laurie Walker and thoroughly well deserved. Laurie is an incredible singer, actor and musician, as you will have seen if you went to Bonnie & Clyde this week. Laurie took both BTECs and both GCSEs in Music and Performance/Drama. He is an incredible role model for young male performers and always supportive. Laurie has been in every show since year 7 playing anything from a dumb New York cop to Joe Casey in Our House and most recently Clyde Barrow. Laurie has shown incredible commitment and dedication throughout his time here.

**The Rights Respecting Shield**, donated by the College Governors, is awarded to Annelise Smith in Year 10. This award is for a student who has made a real commitment to RRS issues, human rights, citizenship, or student voice. Annelise has done all of these things over her three years at Clyst Vale, through active membership of Amnesty, active membership of several student groups, and through a strong personal commitment to these issues. Just one thing which marks her out is that she has done her utmost to keep this commitment going throughout lockdown.

**The Tolman-May Award**, donated by the Tolman-May family in memory of their daughter Maddie, a former Clyst Vale student, is awarded to a student who has overcome really serious obstacles, demonstrated resilience and perseverance well above most people, yet who remains a role model and support for others. The obstacles could be special educational needs, disability, physical health challenges, or mental health challenges. This year's winner is Isabelle Burgess, who has done really well to get to College on many days, but is also a great support to younger students experiencing the same issues as her.

**The Spirit of Clyst Vale Award**, originally donated by Devon County Council, is awarded to Rebecca Muscat. This award is for the student who has made most academic progress from Year 7 to the end of Year 9, but who also has contributed something extra to Clyst Vale during that time. So Rebecca has indeed made excellent progress, but has also contributed in other ways, particularly performing arts.

I love our collection of annual awards, so different from traditional achievement and effort pots. As an ensemble, they summarise our values so well: caring, RRS, personal achievement, progress, resilience, the Performing Arts. It's all about recognising the individual, and that achievement is not just measured in grades.

### **Looking Back on this Week**

**Students.** It has been a peculiar week. Years 7 and 8 are missing a sizeable chunk of self-isolating students; Year 9 are mostly in; there is a large handful of Year 10 and 12 students rattling around. Less than half of the College is on site. There is blended learning for Years 7 and 8, which has led to a reinvention of end-of-term quizzes and activities. Some big events are going on. And it has been extremely hot. And every day someone else tests positive or self-isolates. So, all in all, I must praise students and my colleagues for everything they have done this week to maintain a positive, cheerful atmosphere. We're all exhausted, but at the same time it has been a much calmer week, and a much more fitting end to the term.

**Work Experience.** This is going very well, judging by reports received. We were bracing ourselves for last-minute covid cancellations and related problems, but these have been few and far between.

**The Army Elite Activities.** On Tuesday, the hottest day of the year until Wednesday, Year 9 and 10 students completed a whole assortment of leadership, team-building and problem-solving activities run by the Army. Our students were amazing, a real credit. The army commented on what lovely students we had, and all adults present were highly impressed with their attitude towards the session.

**Heatwave.** It has been ridiculously hot, and we have adapted as best we could. Most uniform requirements were dispensed with, fans appeared in many rooms, we re-roomed to cooler classrooms, the PE dept changed outdoor activities, and we were less stressy about students being late because of queues to fill up water bottles. Again, most students are sensible about this, and stay indoors or in a shaded area.

### **Looking Ahead.....**

**Exam Results Days.** These will be on Tuesday 10th August (A-level, AS-level, L3) and Thursday 12th August (GCSE, L2). The doors will open at 09.00 a.m. and we will be using the Post-16 Block. Separate detailed information about the appeals process has been sent to all exam candidates.

**Summer Camp.** Over 140 Year 6 students going into Year 7 are attending the week long summer camp w/b 23rd August. A couple of CVCC staff are helpers at the camp, and various staff members will join the camp for a day or two. We see the camp as valuable in itself, but also something which will help transition in a year when we once again had to cancel the induction days. Confidence is everything, and mundane things like knowing where the toilets are may not seem important to adults, but are very important. (Actually, when you get to your fifties, it suddenly becomes very important for adults, too...)

**Transition Day.** This will be on Tuesday 7th September. Students should be dropped at 08.45 or at 09.15 (to stagger queuing for LFTs). Most of the day will be spent with tutors and exploring the site. Again, this is to build confidence more than anything else, and the requirement for mass-testing takes up almost two hours.

**Testing in September.** At present (it may change, who knows ?) the expectation is that every child will be tested before they can set foot into the buildings on their first day. (“How was your first day at school, darling ?” .“We stood in a queue for half-an-hour and then had two sticks put up our noses”. “That’s nice, dear”.) Details about this have been sent in a separate communication. In a nutshell, Years 7, 12&13 come in on Tuesday 7th; Years 10 & 11 on Wednesday 8th; and Years 8 & 9 on Thursday 9th. As in March, it would be great if students who walk, cycle, or have a flexible Mum/Dad’s taxi service can come in a little later to spread out the queuing, hanging around and student management. Thank you.

**Testing in September: volunteers.** In March, we would not have coped without our 29 superb volunteers. Things were different then, with schools open but the country in lockdown, and many of the 29 now have jobs to go to. Therefore, if you are able to volunteer to help on any school day 7th-14th September, please contact [hopkinsa@clystvale.org](mailto:hopkinsa@clystvale.org) It is massively appreciated: the more volunteers, the fewer staff we need to take off their other duties and - also unlike March – this will be the first week of the term and year, when there are more issues than usual.

**Communications.** I will send out an update to parents towards the end of the week before we are due back, most likely on Friday 3rd September.

### **Staff Changes**

The following colleagues are leaving Clyst Vale this summer; as ever, we thank them for all their contributions to the College and the lives of young people during their time with us, and we wish them every success in the next chapter of their lives.

Penni Ball (Attendance Officer) is leaving us to take up a post as a Primary School administrator. Emily Moore (Spanish) leaves to relocate to Bristol because of new opportunities for her partner. Sara Parker (Data and Exams Assistant) is retiring after many years’ behind-the-scenes service in a variety of support staff roles; we will miss Sara’s versatility and accumulated knowledge. Henry Pickett (Science, Physics) is returning to his former school, Kingsbridge. Brittany Smart (Geography) has secured a post at Sir John Hunt School in her hometown of Plymouth; Brittany had the unenviable task of joining us on the day of the January lockdown, and her first term was spent teaching students remotely whom she had never met !

Special mention must go to Helen Coley (Head of Languages), who leaves after 24 years’ service. Helen started in 1997 after a few years at Uffculme, teaching French and German. For many of the 24 years, Helen has been Head of Languages, and managed the significant changes to languages teaching: the switch from German to Spanish, compulsory languages for all, then 80%, then 50%, then not compulsory, then strongly encouraged through the EBacc. Helen has contributed enormously to Clyst Vale as teacher, tutor, organiser of foreign trips and visits (remember them ?). Far from retiring, Helen will be helping out with a family business, and developing something agricultural or equestrian with some land just acquired. As with all colleagues leaving us today, we wish her every success.

### **Skillsbuilder Bronze Award**

Thanks to the superb coordination of Mrs Bennett, Ms Knowles and support from a wide range of colleagues, we have been awarded the Bronze Award for the Skillsbuilder programme: this comes under the Course 42 and Careers Education umbrella. The citation reads, “This is a significant achievement and puts you in a select group of schools and colleges who have demonstrated their effectiveness in building the essential skills of their students.” A very good example of Skillsbuilder was the activity completed by Years 7 and 8 on the June Deep Learning Day.

### From Devon & Cornwall Police: Warning about the app “Monkey”

With the holidays looming, spare time to fill, and increased screen time, there are serious concerns over the nature of this app, which is publicised as a cross between Omegle and TikTok, and how it might be used to exploit children. It allows users to have video calls with strangers, and contains large amounts of inappropriate, disturbing, and harmful content transmitted via web cameras.

The standard on-line safety advice applies for parents. Build a trusting relationship with your child so that you know what they are doing on-line, and that they know they can speak to you when anything alarms them.

### Finally,

So the year ends with confusion over national policy, conflicting scientific evidence, education in disarray with a million students at home, a testing regime for September which could be changed at the last minute, and a silent Department for Education (the most recent announcement was cutting subsidy funding to London universities). However, I refuse to end on a negative, and will restrain myself from a rant.

It has been an incredibly tough year, but students, parents/carers, staff and the whole CVCC community has risen to the challenges and battled through the really hard bits. We have much to be proud of. All that remains is for me to wish you a good summer.



Kevin Bawn  
Principal

### Evenings and weekends – 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.

You may also use this number if you have accidentally recorded an LFT result as positive – please always notify us if this has happened in error.

(During the school’s normal opening hours, please contact Student Absence on **01392 463911** or email: [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.

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
- Which symptoms, or no symptoms
- Date of test
- Date of test result

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

# Sports Day(s)

A very big well done to all the students from Years 7 to 10 who were involved with this year's series of sports days. To keep the age groups separate the competitions were run on Tuesday through to Friday and involved only traditional athletic events. What occurred was a number of mornings of great rivalry, athletic endeavour and fabulous support.

In Year 7 the winning tutor group was Mrs Broomfield's tutor, Year 8 was won by Mr Workman's team, Year 9 was taken by Ms Watt's group and in Year 10 the trophy was won by Mrs Shillingford's tutor group. As the results suggest, the overall Sports Day Shield was presented to Green School.

Awards for all round involvement went to Izzy Cocking, Harriet King (Sara Wynn trophy) and Jamie Horwell (Trevor Green trophy) Trophies for outstanding achievement were awarded to Polly Hurren (Victrix Ludorum) and Josh Blatchford (Victor Ludorum).

The students performed superbly showing pace, power, skill and endurance. Equally, the effort and commitment shown by many individuals ensured extra points for their tutor groups, despite not finishing in the top three. Of note was Oliver Hargreaves in Year 8 who broke the Boys 100m record with a fantastic 12.24sec. Also praiseworthy was the excellent Year 10 Girls 100m with a field of fast girls who all finished within a second of each other to get the spectators screaming and on their feet. It is fair to say that the students supporting did so in the true spirit of sport and a Rights Respecting School; always positive, attentive and prepared to cheer home the last student as much as the first. Next year we can look forward to a return to the more inclusive Sports Day and Festival on the Field which will involve all the other group activities such as tug-o-war and rounders that older students have come to expect. But for a series of events at the end of a difficult year it was a welcome day in the sun with friends.



**Mr J Powell**  
**Head of PE**

## **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.

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







Friends  
Of BYC

FRIENDS OF  
BROADCLYST YOUTH CLUB

# Photo Competition



Theme: What Makes Me Happy!

First prize is £50

with further prizes of

£25 for 2nd, and £10 for 3rd place!



Open to Year 6 to Year 13

Two age categories:

Years 6-9 and years 10-13.



Runs from 23rd July - 22nd August 2021

For details visit: [www.broadclyst.org](http://www.broadclyst.org)



Friends of Broadclyst Youth Club



@friends\_byc

**Ready, Steady, JUMP... for Broadclyst!**

**Have you ever wanted to Skydive? Now is your chance!**

**'JUMP FOR FREE'\***

**in aid of beautiful Broadclyst Church**



\*To secure your place pay £68.74 (£50 Deposit & £18.74 for Insurance). Minimum sponsorship required:£395

Visit: [www.skydiveukltd.com/charity-profile?charity=1057](http://www.skydiveukltd.com/charity-profile?charity=1057)

Here you can book your tandem skydive, complete the medical form you will need to bring on the day and find our official fundraising partners (Stewardship) through whom we ask everyone to collect their sponsorship money.

Have an exciting day and help support Broadclyst Church

For more info: Text Penny on 07972 387391



**Coming to the Silverton Recreational Ground on  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**The Tuck Inn is a family event that re-tells the legend  
of Robin Hood**

On Silverton rec you will be welcomed into The Greenwood by the irrepressible Friar Tuck, introduced to a band of merry men and women and treated to some fast-paced action, music and storytelling.

**Workshops for young people from 4pm. Performance from 6pm.**

Use the link below to find out more and buy tickets:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/common-players>

#### 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

