



NEWSLETTER

No. 722
w/c Mon 13 September 2021
Week B

Dear Parents and Carers,

CLYST VALE OPEN EVENING HOLD THE DATE: Thursday 23rd September 2021, 6.00 to 8.00

I am aware that you have already made the incredibly wise decision to entrust your children to our care and educational provision, but if you have any more children, or if your friends and neighbours have children in Year 6..... I should add that this will be on-site rather than virtual.

Welcome to the first Newsletter “proper” of the term and year.

- It’s been a great start to the term, and thank you for all your help in this – good uniform, equipment, decent breakfast, dinner money on the system, emotional support or calming-down. Potentially, it could have been a tricky week, but we LFT tested everyone who had consent, and had the whole College operational and in lessons by period two on Thursday. Roughly-speaking, we give ourselves the first couple of weeks to sort everything out and establish routines, while obviously cranking up the focus on learning, teaching and progress, especially for the exam years.
- Not every single child will have had a great start, and if you have concerns please let us know. Sorting things out quickly, nipping other things in the bud, makes a big difference. Please contact your child’s tutor in the first instance, although if it’s more serious contact the relevant School AtHoS. For safeguarding concerns, please contact a Head of School or my Deputy Paul Sutton.

Reporting positive covid results.

- If your child has covid symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste/smell), please don’t send them in. It’s advisable to do a LFT self-test as well, but with symptoms please book a PCR test. Then please let us know the result. For our purposes, we need to know the following: student name, tutor group and year, date of symptoms (if any), date of LFT test, LFT test result, date of PCR test, PCR result, and the end of isolation date from the NHS notification. This is quite a lot, so we may need to contact you !
- In brief, during “normal office hours”, please contact Student Absence, and any other time contact the out-of hours phone number.

LFT Testing

- Year 7 and the Sixth Form had their second in-College test today; Years 10 & 11 on Monday; Years 8&9 on Tuesday. Students are given the home-test kit following this. Please continue to do twice-weekly tests and report to TestRegister. These kits are the “old” ones (the government bought tons of them, as we know, and need to shift the old stock first); nonetheless, if students prefer the double nostril twizzle to the throat and single nostril method, the kit will do both. The important thing is to keep testing. Being serious, it is one of the main preventative measures remaining.

Vaccinations

- There is a huge amount of coverage in the media and social media, which is causing concern to some parents, especially those who are not convinced of the need, wisdom or safety of vaccines. Our position is that as a school, we will do what Public Health tells us. At present, no decisions have been made so everything is speculative. We could well be a venue as we are for other vaccination programmes, and we could be expected to help with the organisation of students. Dates would be known in advance. The NHS would deal with consent, not us. NHS staff would do the injections. There would be safeguards with consents and with CVCC staff on the day so students without consent are not jabbed by accident. It may be of some reassurance that we haven't tested anyone by accident in four rounds of mass-testing so far.

Masks/ Face Coverings

- Please let us know if your child is exempt or there is another reason they should not wear a mask. Otherwise, masks should be worn by students (and staff) almost all of the time. They are not required in lessons, or when actually eating or drinking. At lunchtimes, masks can come off for a game of football or similar outside; but huddles of students standing or sitting close together should be wearing them, whether on the field or in the Giraffe House or Canteen or anywhere, really. Anywhere includes corridors, even outdoors between lessons. This isn't me being a pain – well, it is – but on the instruction of Public Health because of covid rates locally.

The Bradninch and Cullompton Bus

- Stagecoach have confirmed that from Monday 13th, ie next Monday, the bus from Exeter to Tiverton will divert into the College to pick up students, who don't have to cross the B3181 and wait on a narrow pavement. This will be around 15.35, the same time as it would have stopped at the Dog Village stop plus a couple of minutes. This is excellent and surprising news: it is sensible, safer, and something I've been asking about for many years. Lockdown has had some surprising benefits.

The Old Normal

- We remain optimistic, and therefore things you would expect to see from previous Septembers are beginning to pop up:
- Sports Clubs will start from next Monday, 13th September.
- After-school homework club (Monday to Thursday, 3.30 – 4.45) starts from 20th September
- Lunchtime homework club starts from 20th September, too. Both will be in IT2.
- The Library is open for students every break and lunchtime.
- Smartphones should not be seen from the school gate in the morning until the school gate at the end of the day.

Head Students

- Congratulations to all of the Year 11 students who were elected to be Head Students for their respective Schools! They have an important role in gathering student opinions from their Schools, and in assisting Heads of School and AtHoS in a variety of ways, as well as the occasional ceremonial duty. The students are for Green School Livvy Carter and Sophie Elliot (deputies Keira Franklin and Charlie Norman) Red School Katie Goddard and Paris Prout (deputy Bracken Snell); and Yellow School Mia Rice and Michael Rothery (deputies Gracie Bauer and Saffie Moon). Last year was difficult for the Head Students because of lockdown and limitations on meetings, although they did a grand job in the circumstances: let's hope things are much easier this year and the current Head Students have the opportunities to make a difference.

Tokyo Olympics

- Once again, I was delighted to see former Clyst Valians and Olympians Abbie Brown and Sara Cox performing in the Womens' Rugby Sevens, as England co-captain and referee respectively. Very frustrating that the England squad missed out on a medal in the Bronze play-off.

Another Sporting First

- Maddy Ross, who left a year ago for Oxford University, was awarded a "Blue" for representing the University at cricket. Unless anyone has evidence to the contrary, Maddy is the first Clyst Vale student to win a Blue ! Congratulations to her.

Another Sporting Success: Well Done, Sam

- Sam Mills (Year 12) won the 1500m race in the English Schools Championship in August; this is a sort of mini-Olympics for English Schools. His next major meet is an international schools championship later this month. This is an achievement of the highest quality: athletics is a competitive sport, with many excellent participants.

Skirts.

- I blame Mary Quant. Ever since the mini-skirt was invented half a century ago, this has been an issue for schools. You'd think someone would have thought of a solution by now..... At Clyst Vale, we try to be reasonable and sensible and educative. There are skirts, short skirts and skirts which are rolled up too far, to reveal undergarments or shorts. Wearing shorts is possibly an indication that the wearer knows the skirt is too short. I'm very much in the camp which agrees women and girls should be able to wear anything reasonable; BUT we are in an organisation with a dress code (school uniform), with responsibilities to protect students' dignity and welfare. I also want my colleagues to focus on teaching and having nice conversations with students. So, any parental help would be appreciated in explaining the subtleties of short and too short. (A rough measure from the 1980s is that the width of the skirt-wearer's hand facing downwards between the point of the knee when the leg is straight and the hem of skirt is ok. This includes the ball of the thumb, and assumes an average size hand. I can't believe I write this stuff, sometimes.)

Proms

- On Monday, we said cheerio to last year's Year 13 at the Terrace in town. Unlike July events, they know their results and plans, and are very excited about going off to university in a week or two. I wish I was 18 again ! And last year's Year 11 have not been forgotten: their Prom is confirmed at Reed Hall on Friday 24th September and this time it looks like it will be going ahead.....

Best wishes,

Principal



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)

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!

YEAR 7 NETBALL CLUB



ALL GIRLS WELCOME!!



Junior Volleyball Training

Ages 11-18

Wednesdays 19:00-20:30

@ Exeter School (EX2 4NS)

Starting on 15th September!



exeterstorm@hotmail.com

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

For Year 12 - 13 Absences

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: barringtonj@clystvale.org

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



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

Principal: Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

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

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

Library: 01392 464010

