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For more information on our Admissions Policy, uniform, further curriculum details and general day to day approaches, please visit our website at [www.clystvale.org](http://www.clystvale.org) or request a further information booklet. (This booklet will also be provided to all new parents.) If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the College.



# Welcome from the Principal

Dr Kevin Bawn



## Safe, happy and successful.

These three words sum up what parents expect from their child's school. Therefore, these major priorities underpin everything we aim to do at Clyst Vale, reflected in this prospectus. Safety is always paramount, and the curriculum, range of extra-curricular activities and other opportunities all contribute to students enjoying their time at Clyst Vale, improving their learning or personal skills, and in most cases both. In this introduction, I highlight a handful of Clyst Vale's particular characteristics.

Visitors to Clyst Vale usually comment on the friendly, orderly atmosphere,

the courtesy of our students, and the purposefulness in lessons. This is fundamental to learning, and does not happen by chance. We have clear expectations and systems, but far more important are the excellent working relationships we establish between staff and students, as well as staff and parents.

Clyst Vale is very successful in academic terms, reflected in above average results in both GCSE and A-level in 2014 and 15, recognised by Ofsted's "good" judgement in 2015. We are also successful in competitions, sport and drama; in developing students' confidence; in supporting students with special educational needs or difficult challenges. This recognition of the individual child is essential to our overall ethos.

We have maintained a very strong commitment to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) for many years, including as a specialist College. Results are consistently strong in these areas. We have had particular success in the Jaguar Landrover 4x4 competitions,

with two teams in the 2015 World Final. Many Sixth Form students progress to university degrees in the sciences, or with a scientific or mathematical base.

Clyst Vale has a strong community focus. We retain one of the last dual-use libraries in the region, open to the public (as a fully public library) on three days a week. Broadclyst Sports Hall has shared use between Clyst Vale and the community. We contribute to the Local Authority's Hearing Support service, and have strong links with a variety of local organisations and businesses.

We place great importance on partnership with parents. Students attend school for just a quarter of their waking hours per year, so what happens out of school has a major impact on their educational success. We will always aim to work with parents to overcome challenges, and of course we keep parents regularly and fully informed about their children's progress.

## The College's Mission

To raise standards of achievement through improvements to teaching and learning.

To provide extensive opportunities for members of the College and wider community to participate and succeed.

To prepare members of the College community for life, and for the next stage of their lives.

To use current and future technology to its maximum effect for the whole community.

Clyst Vale's site has improved dramatically over recent years, most recently with a new building for Science and Humanities. This was the first phase of a three-phase masterplan to transform the site, and we will continue to press for capital funding to fulfil our vision.

From your viewpoint, the right choice of secondary school is a significant decision. This prospectus shows the opportunities available here, and something of our spirit. There is a wealth of current information on our website, [www.clystvale.org](http://www.clystvale.org) including our weekly newsletters and news stories. However, to get a true feel of the College, there is no substitute for a visit. If you were unable to attend our Open Evening, Post-16 Open Evening, or organised visits, please contact us to arrange an individual visit where you will see how we ensure the children in our care are safe, happy and successful.

Kevin Bawn, July 2015.

# College life

## Four Schools, one College

Clyst Vale is one College, structured around four 'Schools'. Each School has the responsibility for the welfare and academic progress of its students. We believe in a holistic, integrated approach to maximise student progress and achievement: an unhappy or worried student does not learn well, but equally we cannot call ourselves 'caring' if students are performing below their potential. Schools will form the basis of in-College competitions, similar to the 'house' system common in English education; however, they will also provide pastoral care, monitor academic performance and lead interventions where necessary. The Clyst Vale 'School' is much more than the modern 'house'!

Each School is led by a Head of School, supported by a team of tutors and a support staff Assistant to Head of School. All members of staff belong to one of the Schools, and a member of the Senior Leadership Team is associated with each School.

### **Our four Schools are:**

Green School, Yellow School, Silver School, Red School.

## Classroom expectations - IPC

We expect high levels of commitment from our students, so they can achieve their full potential. We ask students to always remember to be independent learners, purposeful and co-operative in all aspects of their lives and we use these values to monitor and assess student performance in College.

## Student Voice

We believe in working with our students. The College and Schools Councils exist to give a voice to the students. Elected representatives from each year group and School meet regularly, and also with the Principal to discuss all aspects of College life and to make recommendations and suggestions. College Council has an executive of four members and Councillors often represent the student body at public events. For example, the Council devised a student questionnaire on bullying, achieved Fairtrade status, advised on the 2013-2014 Build Project, and was consulted on the new uniform for September 2013. The Council also interviews prospective job applicants and regularly discusses teaching and learning issues.

## Kenyan partnership

We have established links with Ndururumo High School, a school in Nyahururu, Kenya. This provides our students with a unique and excellent opportunity to experience different cultures and further develop the facilities and curriculum, both in Kenya and here in the UK. Our students will observe the similarities and differences between Kenya and the UK in the upcoming years and many will have the opportunity to experience the Kenyan culture through regular contact, including visits, with our partner school.





Joining the school is easy, everyone is nice and supportive. Bullying is not a problem, it is a happy safe place at Clyst Vale.

Owen Elliott

## YEAR 7

The Met Office trip was amazing and we all had a great time.

Beth Carter



We are expected to be responsible and organised. It has given us a great skill for life.

Megan Farnhill

# A new beginning

Here at Clyst Vale, we recognise the importance of students settling in from the outset and being part of the Clyst Vale Community.

We introduce ourselves to new students and parents many times before the start in September, from our Primary School partnership events to our Intake Days and Parents' Evenings.

At the same time we encourage students to develop their own sense of individuality, by expanding their opportunities through new exciting subjects and a range of numerous extra-curricular activities. Year 7 is the beginning of an exciting and challenging journey, full of opportunities.





Clyst Vale is very supportive in learning. When you first come to high school you start new subjects that not everyone understands. Clyst Vale explains things well and makes sure you understand and work to your highest standard – all the teachers at Clyst Vale are awesome!

**Lauren Eve Bennellick**

I think sports opportunities at Clyst Vale are really good, because there is a huge variety of choice. The sports change every half term, so you get a chance to do a variety. There are also clubs to take part in, so you can do as much sport as you want! There are lots of different locations to do sports in to suit the weather.

**Hannah Burnett**

I really love this school and I am glad I chose to come here!

**Jade Blackmore**

## YEAR 8



In Year 8 I have enjoyed Bude, it was great fun! There were lots of enjoyable activities. I only wish it lasted longer.

Erin Shaw

# Learning lifelong skills

I enjoyed 'Take Your Child to Work Day'. I enjoyed it because I was exposed to real business and it was exciting to think what my career would be.

John Thurley







Year 8 at Clyst Vale provides students with a range of new opportunities, by combining adventure and learning. Our students develop key skills, strong friendships and learn how to work as part of a team in environments outside the classroom.



## Bude residential trip

A major contribution to this is the Year 8 Bude residential trip, where our students gain invaluable experience. In addition, Year 8 students have the opportunity to discover the working world through 'Take Your Child to Work Day' and by spending a day assisting in Clyst Vale's Reception.

## Deep Learning Days

On Deep Learning Days students take part in a wide variety of experiences, with a strong emphasis on broadening and enriching the curriculum. These include anything from off site activity days (for example visits to @Bristol, Paignton Zoo and the Globe Theatre), taster GCSE lessons for Year 9s, historical re-enactments and enterprise activities.

Roy Leach from Business Navigators, who has run enterprise activities in schools across the country, was most impressed with our students.

"Year 8 are a really great year of students to work with, everything from their work ethic to their creativity; behaviour to their desire to do well; when working individually and in small teams.

In 10 years of running the programme, I have never seen so many groups practising their presentations. Many of the presentations/presenters were truly excellent, across all mixed abilities, many stood up with an enthusiasm, originality, sense of fun, and delivery well beyond their years.

It was a real pleasure working with all of the teachers and students, who importantly seemed to really enjoy the day and we had a bit of fun and laughter along the way as well!"

# Making choices

Discovering the next stage of their journey through the College is exciting and many Year 9 students start taking on leadership responsibilities, through mentoring Year 6 students on Intake Days to starting leadership courses in PE.

Students also choose their GCSE subjects this year. We recognise that this is an incredibly important decision and therefore Clyst Vale offers a raft of information and support to allow students to make the most informed choice about their future.

**This includes:**

- A comprehensive options handbook
- An options evening
- A further options fair
- An individual interview with each student

**In addition to the Core GCSE Curriculum which includes:**

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Beliefs and Values (full GCSE)

**Students will also study non-GCSE courses in:**

- PE
- Course 42 (which covers personal social and health education)
- Careers Education and Work - Related Learning

**Students also then choose from the additional options listed below.**

Throughout this process students receive all the advice, support and encouragement they need to plan a successful future for themselves.

Languages	Humanities	Arts	Technology	Vocational
French Spanish	Geography History	Fine Art Photography Music Drama PE Dance Textiles	Computing Triple Science Graphic Products Resistant Materials Food Technology	Business Studies Child Development Health & Social Care BTEC Sports (GCSE equivalent) Creative iMedia/ICT (GCSE equivalent) NVQ Level 1 at Exeter College Gateway ASDAN Level 1





Having the options interview helped me to focus on the choices I was making and helped me with my career path.

Daisy Selley

Year 9 brings forward lots of opportunities, one of the great things is you get to show Year 6 students around on Intake Days. When you are their mentors you start to become a school role model. With choice you also start to set up your life plans – so make the right decisions!

**Reece Whittington**

## Harry Patch and our Belgium Trip

Every year on 22 September we hold a 'Harry Patch Day' to remember the last surviving soldier known to have fought in the trenches of the First World War. When I last visited, Harry was insistent that the younger generation should remember the fallen on both sides. Clyst Vale Academy wanted to keep the memory alive through him and we teach History by means of his stories and letters. This is why our Year 9 Belgium trip is of incredible importance to our students' learning. It is an emotional trip, but extremely important and worthwhile.

**Mrs Padden**

The trip was interesting because we got to visit very important memorials that represent the fallen soldiers of the Americans, Canadians, British and even Germans. We played football with Russians, Australians and South Africans - we got to know them very well.

**Bayley Moore**

# Becoming leaders

Starting their GCSEs is exceptionally important. Students develop an understanding of subjects in more depth and can link their studies to the wider community and beyond.

However, students are offered many more opportunities in addition to their chosen subjects, including the option of gaining nationally recognised leadership awards and qualifications. These help students develop essential life skills, such as organisation, motivation, communication and working with others.

We want to inspire our students to think of their future careers, therefore students take part in various events including a work preparation day and their week of work experience. This is their opportunity to use all the skills learnt over the last four years during different career workshops and events to secure

a placement in an environment in which they are interested.

Students are encouraged to work with employers, learn from them, and develop the skills and attributes required to be successful.

## **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

Here at Clyst Vale we offer students the chance of completing all levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, from Bronze up to Gold (many state schools only offer one level of the award).

An impressive proportion of our students choose to take part in the award, even when compared with many independent schools where D of E is often part of the curriculum. It's a fantastic award, too - although the expedition element grabs the attention, there are three other components of volunteering, developing and using a skill, and physical activity. The Gold Award has a fifth element - residential trip.

Expeditions are based in East Devon (Bronze), the South West Coast Path in West Dorset (Silver), Dartmoor (Gold practice) and the Brecon Beacons or sometimes the Mountains of Mourne in Ireland (Gold).



I know more about my strengths and weaknesses in interviews, I also learned more about what employers want to see and hear from a future employee.

Jimmy Blakemore



It has made me more confident and helped me think about future interviews.

Caitlin Haydon

#### **Year 10 Work Preparation Day**

I have learnt how to do an interview and what it is like in the world of business. The most useful part of the day was learning to prepare for the future.

**Laura Beedell**

I have learnt how to prepare for adult life and job interviews, and that asking questions is good.

**Ellie Broom**

I have learnt the importance of first impressions and the most useful part of the day was talking to my mentor.

**Adeline Wild**

Experiencing a real interview and knowing what to write in a CV.

**Laura Cullen**

YEAR 11

# The end of a chapter

Ask questions, make  
good notes in lessons and  
attend revision classes.

Group 11GLA's Words of Wisdom

Thank you so much  
Clyst Vale, it has  
been amazing.

Liam Carey





**Group 11GLA's Words of Wisdom:**

“Try hard and accept homework as a pressure and a privilege”

“Work hard but enjoy it; it really doesn't last long!”

“Try your best and have respect for everyone around you”

“You only get out what you put in”

“Work hard in silence and let the success make the noise”

**England Netball Youth Umpiring Awards**

“It gave me a better understanding of the rules, I gained another qualification and most importantly I enjoyed the opportunity”

Reflection on academic success and extra-curricular achievement in Year 11 highlights the outstanding accomplishments made by all of our students. The opportunities provided by the College throughout the years help develop students into well rounded individuals, with a sense of pride and

achievement. From collecting exam results to celebrating at the end of year prom, students can enjoy the success of finishing five years of secondary education and can begin looking forward to the independence that Post 16 brings.

# The next chapter

Students have the benefit of carrying on their Post 16 education at Clyst Vale in a friendly and supportive environment which is also challenging and simulating. We are a happy, caring community with small class sizes and excellent teaching.

We hold several year group events, including a residential in Bude at the beginning of the year, which is designed to improve self-awareness, confidence

and group work. There are trips to universities, development days and, at the end of Year 13, we hold a prom with very alternative awards!

If you would like more details about our excellent Post 16, please see our prospectus or contact the Post 16 office on 01329 462697.

“Family atmosphere but with a very strong urge to work”

“The teachers are great, they respect students and vice-versa”

“A lovely friendly place”





“Teachers treat us as the young adults we are becoming”

#### Community Sports Leadership Award

This is a fantastic qualification, offered to all Year 12 students. Students work with all our feeder primary schools to gain a nationally recognised leadership award. Students grow in confidence and learn essential life skills to become capable leaders.

“Fantastic opportunity to work with young children.  
Looks brilliant on your CV/personal statement”

“Really rewarding and a good experience of teaching  
– skills learnt can be applied throughout your life”

“Gives life experience to use in the future and is very rewarding”



“A fab sixth form,  
I’m going to miss  
it huge amounts.”

It was a fantastic opportunity to play in the Barnfield Theatre.

Robbie Palmer

# Broadening horizons

Our students achieve great success in a number of extra-curricular activities of which we are extremely proud.

**Highlights include:**

## National U18 Rugby 7's Champions

Clyst Vale girls were crowned winners of the girls' national under 18 Rosslyn Park 7's competition. The win reinforces the magnificent progress made by the girls at Clyst Vale and the well established link with Exeter Saracens Girls' Section which have girls playing for the U13, U15 and U18 teams.

## Ten Tors

Ten Tors this year was great. Crossing the line has got to be one of the best feelings I will experience! Once we had collected our medals we all sat down to a much deserved warm pasty! Overall the weekend was a great success and a truly unforgettable experience.

Team Leader Amalia Gimbuta

## Theatre Productions

The students are involved in spectacular productions, ranging from Les Misérables – performed here at Clyst Vale – to Sweeney Todd and the Addams Family, both performed at the Barnfield Theatre.



Guy Newman Photography

# The secret of our success is teamwork.

Team member Willow Tatman

## 4X4 Challenge National Champions

Clyst Vale has achieved great success in this competition, which has inspired team members and other students to look into engineering as a possible future career. Two Clyst Vale teams represented the UK at the very first World Finals.

- 2013 Regional & National Class 2 Champions
- 2014 Regional & National Champions
- 2015 Regional & Nationals Champions (1st Team)
- 2015 Regional Class 2 and 3rd placed Nationally (2nd Team)
- 2015 World Finalists finishing in 2nd (Clystians Team) and 10th positions (Supacat Team).

The Jaguar Land Rover 4x4 in Schools Technology Challenge is an international challenge for young people aged 11 – 19 years old. The challenge involves 4 to 6 team members working together within defined specifications to design and build a radio controlled 4-wheel-drive (4x4) vehicle. The vehicle must successfully negotiate a specially designed test track which emulates real life and what a full scale 4x4 vehicle can do. The challenge is an excellent opportunity for young people to work in teams and gain an awareness and understanding of project management using key skills. Students are assessed on their design, driving skills, engineering knowledge, team presentation to the judges, “pit stop” display, and portfolio.

Support from a range of local companies has been invaluable in the success of the two teams, who have learned much about developments in technology and application of industrial manufacturing techniques. Clearly, the aim is to maintain the College’s successful reputation, raise student aspiration, and continue to forge strong industrial links.



A photograph of a modern, two-story building with a mix of white, wood, and glass facades. The building features a flat roof with a metal railing. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The foreground shows a green lawn and a paved area.

Clyst Vale Community College

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