

Open Evening

Tuesday 17th September 2024



Welcome to Clyst Vale Community College

Our aim, like yours, is to make sure your child is safe and happy, so they fulfil their potential and become ready for adult life.

Sara Jacobs

Principal

Programme for the Evening

6.00pm	Presentation from the Principal of the College in the Main Hall
	Departments open throughout the College
7.00pm	Repeat of the Principal's presentation
8.00pm	Close

Principal's welcome

Welcome to Clyst Vale Community College. I am delighted to introduce you to a school that is truly unique, with a long-standing reputation for outstanding pastoral care and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of every student. At Clyst Vale, students feel safe, supported, and happy, and this sense of security is the foundation for their academic success.

In 2022, our dedication to young people was formally recognized when we became the first secondary school in Devon to be awarded Gold Rights Respecting School status by UNICEF. This prestigious accreditation reflects our ethos of putting students at the heart of everything we do. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is woven into every aspect of school life—informing our pastoral care, curriculum, and policies. We believe that every child who attends Clyst Vale not only benefits academically but also leaves with a deep understanding of their rights and responsibilities as global citizens.

Academically, Clyst Vale continues to go from strength to strength. In our most recent OFSTED inspection in December 2022, we were rated 'Good', a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and students. This year, we celebrated another exceptional set of exam results. In Summer 2024, 69% of our students achieved grades 9–4 in both English and Maths, with 49% securing grades 9–5, placing us above the national average. There were some extraordinary individual achievements, including one student who earned six grade 9s and three grade 8s. Our Sixth Form students also excelled, with a 97% pass rate and several securing top grades, including one student who achieved four A*s and an A. We are incredibly proud of the fact that all students applying to university successfully secured a place on their chosen course.

At Clyst Vale, we believe that education is about more than just academic success. We are committed to developing well-rounded, confident young people who are prepared for life beyond school. We look forward to welcoming you into our community and sharing more about what makes Clyst Vale such a special place.

Thank you for considering our school, and I hope you enjoy exploring all that Clyst Vale Community College has to offer.

Rights Respecting School

Clyst Vale is a Rights Respecting School (RRS), and all students are expected to understand and act on this. Rights Respecting Schools is an initiative launched and accredited through UNICEF to promote understanding of children's rights, established through the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990).

The most important RRS document within Clyst Vale is the College's Charter, created by our students. This is our commitment to RRS, a statement of our values, our expectations, a checklist of how we wish ALL

members of Clyst Vale's community to act, the basis of our behaviour policy, and in many ways a contract to which we all sign up. The Charter is based on the three key areas of Respect, Participation, and Learning.

In July 2022, we were thrilled to achieve our Gold (Rights Aware) status, for the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools award. There are many areas of College life where we concentrate on embedding the Convention on the Rights of the Child, implicitly in the general everyday approach of staff and students and explicitly in our policies and practice.

Evening Activity: RRS Challenge

Make sure you have collected an entry card from the Hall.

As a Gold accredited Rights Respecting School we teach, promote, and aim to fulfil the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Each department in the College has been given a different article from the Convention. They have an activity for you to complete which links to this article.

Complete the activity and get your card stamped.

Collect at least 6 stamps so that you can be entered into the prize draw.

You are not expected to complete the whole sheet as it would probably take a couple of hours!

Go to the library at the end of your tour where you will find a post box. Put your name and contact details on the card to be entered into the prize draw. Prizes will be delivered to your primary schools.

Curriculum

At all key stages, lessons are taught as five, 60-minute lessons per day. The timetable is organised on a fortnightly rotation. To ensure the curriculum remains as broad as possible for as long as possible Clyst Vale Community College follows a three-year Key Stage 3 curriculum and a two-year Key Stage 4.

During Key Stage 3 (years 7, 8 and 9) students study a wide variety of subjects that will provide them with a secure foundation in each subject and equip them with the key knowledge and skills to be successful in their GCSE qualifications and to meet the overriding intent of the whole school curriculum. The content and skills that each subject delivers across Key Stage 3 has been carefully chosen and sequenced to ensure that it provides students with a rich learning experience, the opportunities to master key areas of subject content and increasing intellectual challenge and rigour as they progress from one year to the next. Teaching groups are organised according to the demands of each subject and the stage that students have reached; they range therefore from mixed ability to sets.

If you would like to find out more about teaching and learning and the curriculum, please visit the library and speak to Lisa Martin, Deputy Principal.

Behaviour & Student Welfare

The Pastoral structure at Clyst Vale is based on year groups. There are 6 tutor groups in each year group (7-11) and each year group is led by one of the Heads of Year (HOY) who stay with the year group throughout their time at the College. They are responsible for all pastoral matters; praise, behaviour, wellbeing, and attendance; they also have oversight of Academic progress working alongside Heads of Departments. For most enquiries relating to pastoral support, students and parents can contact tutors; when an issue needs to be escalated, the Head of Year will support as appropriate.

Student Services

The student services team, situated just inside reception, provide logistical support for students and parents on daily basis signposting them to the appropriate area. If for example your child loses a tie or bus pass, if you change your details, or have query around a parent's evening, staff will be able to help you.

Early Help

Sometimes students and their families need access to support outside of school. Early Help is a vital intervention for families in this situation. Our Early Help Coordinator works closely with families and partner agencies to provide appropriate support and advice.

Subject Presentations

Art in AR1

The Art department's aim is to give you confidence in your own creativity so you can express yourself in diverse ways. You will be encouraged to develop your skills in Art using a varied materials and you will explore new techniques. Art and Photography are very popular subjects at CVCC where students consistently achieve high grades, exceeding independent targets. Please feel welcome to come along to one of our Art rooms to view the exciting work inside and get a flavour of the imaginative and creative work produced by some of our students.

Beliefs and Values in HU1 and HU2

Come and take part in our philosophy tree activity. Beliefs and Values provides challenging, varied and enriching lessons that effectively prepare our pupils for life in a culturally diverse modern world. Our department aims to promote an awareness of the usefulness of Beliefs and Values to everyday living, to encourage enthusiasm for interest in the study of other people's beliefs and to promote mutual respect, tolerance and understanding across different cultures and communities.

Course 42 in VO1

Clyst Vale Community College calls its PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic) education Course 42, from The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. 42 is the "Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything". We cover the three areas of the PSHE curriculum, living in the wider world, relationships and health and wellbeing throughout the course. This is where the students will cover the statutory RSE

curriculum. We deal with different topics and concepts with the aim of developing the skills we need to lead a healthy and happy life.

Computing and Digital Media in IT5

The Computing and Digital Media department aims to prepare students with the IT skills required for College and work. Students have the opportunity to gain experience in computing and programming and to develop their multimedia skills from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5 through a range of different applications such as photoshop, photopea, flowgorithm, makecode arcade and minecraft.

Design and Technology in DT1 and DT2

In Design and Technology students develop their designing and making skills, whilst also considering environmental and social implications. Students work with wood, metal, and plastics on a range of projects including making fridge magnets, board games, wooden toys, clocks and electronic games. Traditional tools are used as well as the latest manufacturing technology, including laser cutters, 3D printers and CNC routers. CAD (Computer Aided Design) is integrated within all of the projects at KS3 and beyond.

Please do visit the workshops, sample the excitements of our creative subject and speak to some of the Design and Technology staff. We look forward to meeting you!

Drama in PA1

The Drama department aims to give students a wide variety of opportunities to take part in throughout the year. Drama club runs weekly afterschool throughout the year, is open to all and explores a variety of topics, projects, and plays. Workshops run at various intervals for those students with a more technical interest and our Tech club students support our GCSE classes through their performed units. We are hugely proud of our students' achievements from their showstopping performances in large scale college productions performed at the Barnfield Theatre to smaller groups devising showcases at the Northcott.

In the Drama studio tonight and around the college you will see our drama club and GCSE students exploring extracts from a few plays, our technical students giving you an insight into what they do and students using improvisations techniques to devise drama around the topic of Article 13: Sharing thoughts freely.

English in EN1 and EN5

Come and find your voice in EN5! What are your views on English? What famous orators do you know? What books are banned? In EN1 - you can find out all about English at Clyst Vale and what we have to offer. There will be a range of activities based on Article 12: Respect for Children's Views.

Food and Nutrition in DT3

All students in years 7-9 take part in two food lessons a fortnight, throughout the year. One of these is theory-based and the other, a chance for them to make their own version of the dish. Food and Nutrition is a popular and extremely successful subject at GCSE.

Come and try samples of some of the dishes that you will make in Year 7 Food & Nutrition lesson and join in the food ingredient challenge!

Geography in HU3

Please visit Mrs Klampfer-Hall, Mr Thomas and Mr Fleming in HU3 where you can take part in the “Guess the Flag” challenge and discover which counties are facing environmental issues.

History in HU5 and HU7

The History department at Clyst Vale believes that it is essential for students to understand how the world has changed in some areas and stayed the same in others. It is also vital for us to understand where we come from, the place we live in and the wider world. Visit the History Department to meet Miss Nash and her team and look at some historical artefacts and see if you can link them to article 6 (non-discrimination).

Mathematics in MA8, MA5 & MA4

The Maths department is committed to providing high quality maths teaching for all students. We will help learners to secure knowledge and skills they need for future success. Confidence and resilience are key to learners achieving academic standards of excellence. We will be doing an algebraic code breaking activity relating to article 17 (access to information).

“Without mathematics, there’s nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers.”— Shakuntala Devi

Modern Foreign Languages in MF2

“Bienvenus” and “bienvenidos.” Come and learn a little about the many countries where French and Spanish are spoken.

Both French and Spanish are studied in Year Seven. Students learn Spanish for the first half of the year and change to French after the February half term. At the end of Year Seven, students choose which language they would like to specialise in. Students continue with this language until the end of Year Nine.

During students’ time at the college, they will have the chance to learn about French- and Spanish-speaking countries around the world. We offer lunchtime clubs for Spanish conversation and basic German for beginners.

Music in PA2

In the Music department we have a variety of clubs that encourage students to form their own bands and write their own music, or they can participate in one of the college groups such as Choir or Jazz Band. Some of our more able musicians often go on to form the production orchestra when we stage our musical productions. We have an annual Christmas Carol Service, and each summer, a rock festival on the field! In the music department this evening, you have the opportunity to talk to the music teachers and listen to students holding an open rehearsal.

PE in the Dance Studio

Challenge yourself with some fitness activities and find out about the wide range of sports and courses available at Clyst Vale Community College.

Science in Lab 7 (SC7)

Bonkers about Biology? Curious about Chemistry? Passionate about Physics? Join us for a range of exciting hands-on activities, all linked to article 6 (Life, Survival & Development).

In the Science department we have a strong team of eleven teachers with specialists in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We teach a balanced curriculum incorporating the three Sciences at Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4, we offer GCSEs in Combined Science and Separate Sciences. Practical work is an essential part of our teaching across all years.

Library

As an integral part of the College, the library encourages students to use the excellent range of resources to support learning and helps them to develop an appreciation of reading for pleasure, which has been proven to help individuals understand and empathise with others, build confidence and improve cognitive development.

The College library catalogue, Accessit can be accessed by students at Clyst Vale and at home and is an excellent resource for study and reading for pleasure. Each student is assigned a library account, where they can review books they have enjoyed, reserve items and create personalised reading lists.

The library has a fantastic variety of books and resources and has the added benefit of being one of only two Dual Use libraries in Devon. This means that we are part of Libraries Unlimited and are open to the public for three sessions a week throughout the year (including school holidays). The students therefore benefit from access to all the public stock, including books, audiobooks, eBooks and the excellent selection of online resources.

We hope that you enjoy your evening. Thank you for visiting Clyst Vale.

If you have any queries, please contact our Transition Coordinator, Izzy Matthews at matthewsi@clystvale.org or by telephone on 01392 461407.