

Prospectus
2024

Clyst Vale
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Contents

Welcome from the Principal	03
College Life	04-05
Year 7: A new beginning	06-07
Year 8: Learning lifelong skills	08-09
Year 9: Making choices	10-11
Year 10: Becoming leaders	12-13
Year 11: The next chapter	14
Broadening Horizons	15

For more information on our admissions policy, curriculum, uniform and general day to day approaches, please visit our website at www.clystvale.org

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the College.



Welcome from the Principal

Sara Jacobs

Safe, happy and successful.

These three words sum up what parents expect from their child's school and underpin everything we aim to do at Clyst Vale.

At Clyst Vale Community College, we are dedicated to ensuring that every student's journey through secondary education is enriching, fulfilling and transformative. We take immense pride in our status as a UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School, a recognition of our deep commitment to embedding children's rights into every aspect of our policies, practices, and ethos. Our nurturing and stimulating environment supports students' academic, social, and emotional growth, enabling them to thrive in all aspects of their lives.

We celebrate diversity and are dedicated to meeting the individual needs of each student, empowering them to reach their full potential. Our curriculum is thoughtfully designed to challenge and engage, providing high-quality classroom experiences that foster a love of learning. Beyond academics, our committed staff offers a wide range of extracurricular activities that not only enhance students' learning but also help them develop essential personal skills.

Clyst Vale is a school with a strong community focus. We are proud to maintain one of the last dual-use libraries in the region, which serves as a public library three days a week. Our Broadclyst Sports Hall is another shared resource, benefiting both our students and the wider community. We also cultivate strong partnerships with local schools, organisations, and businesses, enriching the educational experience we offer.

As parents and carers, your involvement in your child's education is invaluable. We encourage open communication and collaboration between home and College to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child. Together, we can create a supportive and successful learning environment where every student can thrive.

Choosing the right secondary school is a significant decision. This prospectus highlights some of the opportunities at Clyst Vale, and reflects our spirit and ethos. For more information, visit our website www.clystvale.org where you can find our weekly newsletter and news stories.

We look forward to showing you how we ensure the children in our care are safe, happy and successful at our College Open Evening.



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 effort for the whole community.

College Life

The Pastoral structure at Clyst Vale is based on Year Groups. There are 6 tutor groups in each year group (7-11). Each year group is lead 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.

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. As well as a Head of Year, students will belong to a House. Houses will form the basis of in-College competitions as well as encourage a sense of competition, belonging and promote happiness. Students will be allocated to either Red, Green or Yellow Houses (*Students are currently in the process of choosing new House names*)

Respect, Participate & Learn

We expect high levels of commitment from our students, so they can achieve their full potential. Clyst Vale students have distilled the College's ethos into three simple words: Respect, Participate & Learn. These underpin the qualities our community believes makes happy and successful learners.

Student Voice

We believe in working with our students and in the importance of student voice. The Student Board exists to give that voice to the students. Elected representatives from each year group meet regularly with the Principal to discuss all aspects of College life and to make recommendations and suggestions fed back via Tutor Captains. The Student Board has three representatives from each year group who often represent the student body at public events and also interview candidates who have applied for roles within the College.





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

OE

YEAR 7

“The Met Office Trip was amazing and we all had a great time.”

BC

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

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

MF





“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.”

LEB

“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.”

HB

“I really love this school and I am glad I choose to come here.”

JB

Learning Lifelong Skills

The College offers a wide range of extracurricular activities from sports and music to drama and clubs. These opportunities enrich students' experiences, helping them to build confidence, team-work and leadership skills. We encourage and support all students to take part in the wider life of the College as we believe these activities play a vital role in the development of happy and successful young people.



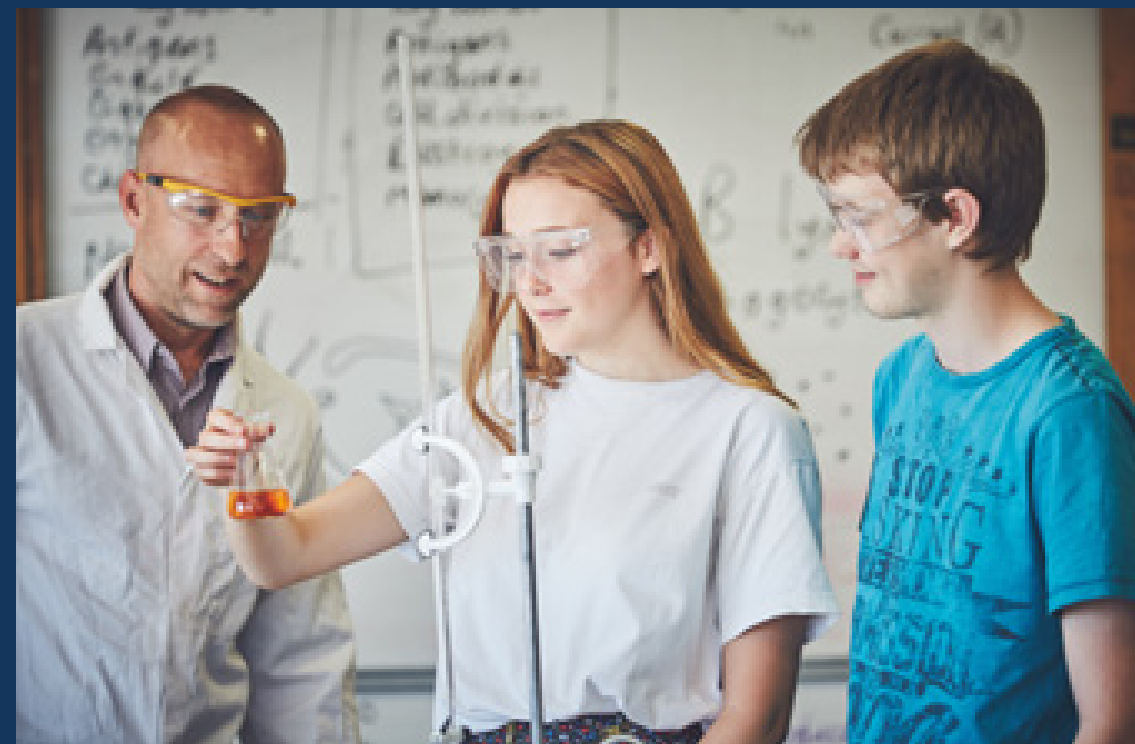
"I enjoyed 'Take Your Child to Work Day'. I enjoyed it because I was exposed to real business and it was exciting to think what my career would be."

JT

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

I only wish it lasted longer."

ES





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.

Y8 Residential Trip

A major contribution to this is the Year 8 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."

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

Students will also study non-GCSE courses in:

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

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



A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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

DS

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!

RW

Harry Patch and our Belgium Trip

Every year on 22nd 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 Americans, Canadians, British and even Germans. We played football with Russians, Australians and South Africans - we got to know them very well.

BM

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

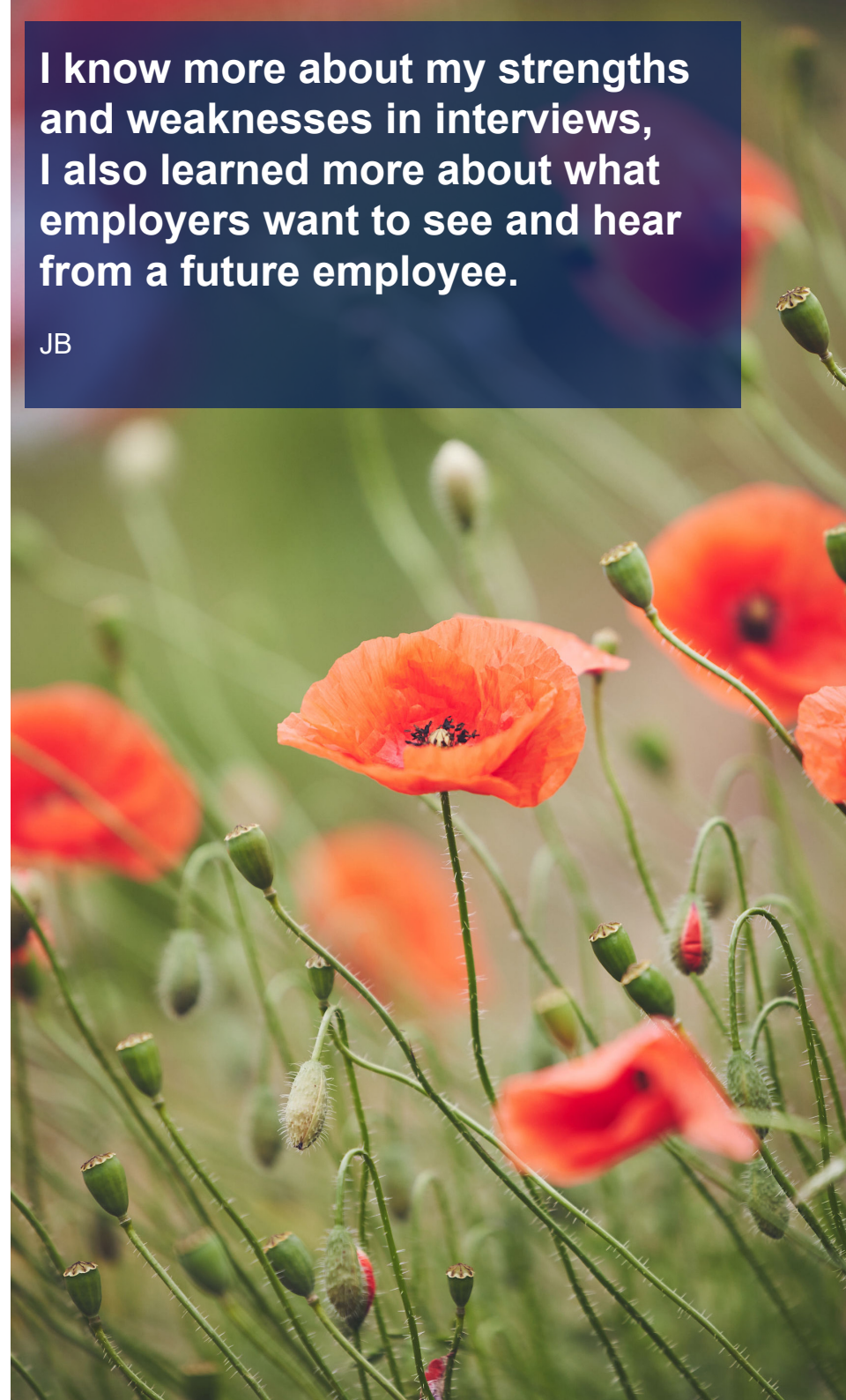
Here at Clyst Vale we offer students the chance of completing all levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, from Bronze up to Gold (many state schools only offer one level of the award).

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.

JB





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

CH

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.

LB

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

EB

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

AW

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

LC

The next chapter

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 the next stage of their journey brings.



Year 11 Words of Wisdom

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

“You only get out what you put in. Work hard but enjoy it; it really doesn’t last long!”

“It goes by so quickly but I’ve enjoyed every moment of my time at Clyst Vale”

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 Miserables - performed here at Clyst Vale - to Sweeny Todd and the Addams Family, both performed at the Barnfield Theatre.





Clyst Vale Community
College

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www.clystvale.org