



# NEWSLETTER

No.801  
w/c Mon 18th Sept 2023  
WEEK A

**“Peace is more than just an absence of war. True peace is justice, true peace is freedom, and true peace dictates the recognition of human rights.” - Ronald Reagan.**

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Year 12 Parents' Information Evening, Thursday 12th September**

Thank you to Year 12 parents for attending last night's evening; it was great for the Sixth Form team to meet you, especially those of you whose children are joining Clyst Vale this year (OK, they are older and have GCSEs under their belt, but it's still a transition to a new place). The evening covered life in the Sixth Form, expectations, and information about the forthcoming residential at Bude.

## **Year 10 Parents' Information Evening, Tuesday 26th September**

A date for Year 10 diaries. This session led by Deputy Principal Sara Jacobs includes information on the structure of Key Stage 4 and how you can support your child through the next couple of years of GCSE and Level 2 study. Students are very welcome to attend, as always, although they will have a similar session in school.

## **Metamorphosis Theatre Trip**

Sixty students went to watch Lemm Sissay's stunning adaptation of Franz Kafka's 'The Metamorphosis' by the Frantic Assembly theatre company in Plymouth yesterday. The play explores the themes of alienation, loneliness and dehumanisation. Gregor Samsa awakens one day to find himself undergoing a terrifying transformation into an insect. The shifting dynamics and relationships between Gregor and those around him holds a lens to the human condition.

Despite some mechanical issues with the bus our students were absolutely brilliant and enjoyed the experience of visiting the theatre to experience this challenging and thought-provoking work. Huge thanks are due to Miss Keene and Miss Ruscoe for all the work involved in providing such a super opportunity for CVCC drama students. [Thanks to Mr Bailey for this write up and for also attending !]



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## **Attendance**

One of the most blindingly obvious statistics in education is that there is a direct link between good attendance at school and achieving (or bettering) your academic potential, not to mention improved social development. However, nationally, attendance fell from around 95% pre-pandemic to 89-90%, and hasn't really recovered. At Clyst Vale we are generally in line with national figures, sometimes a bit up, sometimes below.

You may have seen that (rightly) the government are very concerned about this, and have issued all sorts of instructions and a very thorough toolkit for schools to use to improve attendance. The upshot is that schools, including us, will be a little more terrier-like in following up unexplained absence, persistent absence and sometimes asking for more evidence. By and large, this won't affect students with attendance above 90% (although 90% across a year means almost four weeks of schooling lost).

The children's commissioner, Rachel de Souza was really good about this, breaking down poor attendance into three main camps: students with SEND, students with mental health issues, and students who are just truanting. She also recognised that partly because of the pandemic and working from home being so much more common, there is more of a "relaxed attitude" among parents about school attendance. This is part of the government's thrust: to challenge the perceived "relaxed attitude" and demonstrate the importance of good attendance.

There will be revised guidance about illness. Basically, if a child has a common cold or snuffle, they should be in school. If they have a high temperature, they should not. If they clearly have an infectious disease, they should not.

It's not all stick and no carrot. If you have issues regarding your child's attendance, please talk to us. While we are expected to be tougher, in parallel we will try to be supportive and work with families to encourage students to attend.

## **Homework Club**

Homework Club will be up and running as from Monday in IT2. It's open every lunchtime from 1.30 pm to 2 pm, but of most interest to parents/carers is that it's open from 3.30 pm to 4.45 pm Monday to Thursday (ie not Friday). It's ok for students to be picked up earlier than 4.45, and they will exit through Reception for safety's sake.

## **Headlice and Nits**

Not a headline you see often in this Newsletter..... The amount of hair brushing and product used by teenagers nowadays means that nits hardly stand a chance. Even so, we seem to have a little outbreak of nits which I should bring to your attention. Guidance can be found in many places: this is from the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> . The bad news is that it can take up to 30 minutes to fine-comb very long hair, meaning a good excuse to spend even longer in the bathroom.....

## **News of Former Students**

There were three sisters who all excelled at performing arts: the Tapp family. Josie (Battle of Boat leading lady, Cinderella in Into the Woods) has graduated in Musical Theatre from Leeds Conservatoire and is currently the lead vocalist on cruise ship Marella Explorer in the Med. Jasmine is working for 'Offspring' in Bristol producing nature documentaries and Georgia is working in London at United Agents (James Corden, Kathleen Turner, Tom Hardy, Rosamund Pike on the books). Three great examples of what Clyst Vale students can achieve !

## **The College's Wider Community**

I have always believed that Clyst Vale has a responsibility for its wider community; we deliberately retained the name "Community College" instead of becoming "Clyst Vale Academy". This includes our catchment area settlements, and companies/ organisations with whom we work closely or regularly, including the bus companies. I am really disappointed that a few students are letting down the other thousand or so. We have had reports of loud, rude, anti-social behaviour at Westclyst Park, and there are behavioural problems on one bus in particular.

Blanket warnings and assemblies about respecting our community have some use, but we need to identify individuals. In some respects, schools haven't changed in centuries and despite our best efforts there is still a culture of "not grassing". We need to get beyond that, and parents can help. If your son or daughter can identify who is responsible, then you can e-mail us in confidence. It's not just about punishments, it's about educating students to do the right thing, about respect, and because we don't like our reputation being darkened by a tiny percentage of students.

### **Parking (again)**

I know that Shakespeare said "parting is such sweet sorrow" but can parents dropping students please speed it up a bit, especially in busy areas like the coach park and the Sports Hall car park in the mornings? I understand that there is sometimes a need for last-minute instructions, but Clyst Vale was never designed with hundreds of cars in mind, so we have to make the most of it. One misplaced car can cause traffic chaos, delaying other people, while my colleagues need to park to get to work. Thank you !

Best wishes,



**Kevin Bawn**



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# **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**



## **RED SCHOOL**

<b>7RER</b>	No permission to print name
<b>7RGG</b>	No permission to print name
<b>8RDFE</b>	No permission to print name
<b>8RTMA</b>	Halle Baker Holmes
<b>9RBAT</b>	No permisso to print name
<b>9RNS</b>	Ella Wright
<b>10RZB</b>	Jasmine Large
<b>10RSGA</b>	No permission to print name
<b>11RMA H</b>	Evie Halliwell
<b>11RCMO</b>	Lois Harker

## **YELLOW SCHOOL**

<b>7YCBO</b>	No permission to print name
<b>7YCFL</b>	No permission to print name
<b>8YGGA</b>	No permission to print name
<b>8YBHA</b>	Joshua Stamp
<b>9YMBR</b>	Daiey Wilding-Webb
<b>9YSWA</b>	No permission to print name
<b>10YSS</b>	Jasmine Harris
<b>10YADA</b>	Ben Sandford
<b>11YDST</b>	Emily Bunday
<b>11YEHA</b>	Holly Phillips

## **GREEN SCHOOL**

<b>7GRTU</b>	No permission to print name w/e 8th Sept—no permission to print name
<b>7GHE</b>	w/e 15th Sept—Charlotte Phillip
<b>8GMNA</b>	Ollie Pratt
<b>8GLT</b>	Jacob Evans
<b>9GCMC</b>	No permission to print name
<b>9GDJ</b>	-
<b>10GABR</b>	Freya Shears
<b>10GDH</b>	Zack Saunders
<b>11GAWO</b>	Olivia Taylor
<b>11GGT</b>	Isabelle Bradley

# CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Sunday 24th to Wednesday 27th September	Y12 Bude Trip
Thursday 21st September	Y6 Student and Parent Open Evening 6-8pm
Friday 30th September	DofE Gold Training Walk
Thursday 5th October	Y7 Tutor Parents Evening
Tuesday 10th October	Camps International Parents Presentation 6pm
Thursday 12th October	KS4 Evening for Parents—Y11 Revision Programme 6-7.30pm
Wednesday 18th October	Y13 Geography Trip to Slapton Ley
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October	Half Term

The Clever Chefs autumn menu is available  
on our website via the link below:

**[CleverChefs Menu – Autumn Term 2023 – CVCC](#)**  
**[\(clystvale.org\)](#)**



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## Library



Mock/GCSE pencil cases. Available from September. £4.50 per pencil case. We also sell calculators for £10- although prices may vary. What's included? A clear pencil case, 1 pencil, a blue, black, and red pen. 1 highlighter. 1 ruler, a compass, a protractor, a rubber and a sharpener. **Cash only** unfortunately.

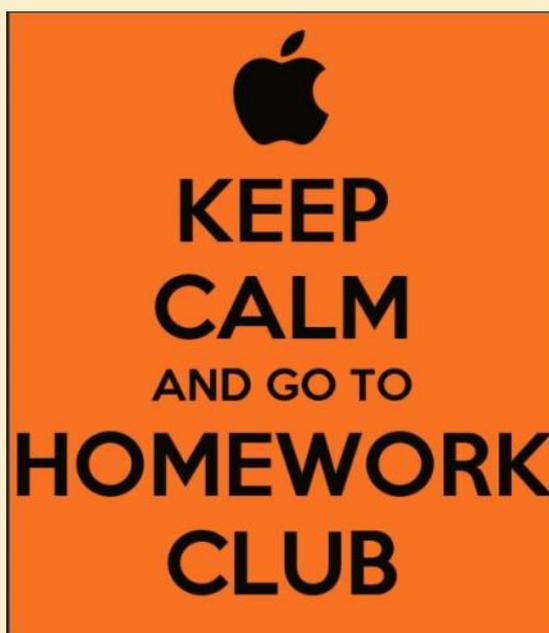
The library does sell stationery all year round.

Homework Club

Every day in IT2

Lunchtime 1.30-2pm

Afterschool 3.30—4.45pm



## **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:

Sharon Leaman (Attendance Officer)

Direct line: 01392 463911



Clyst Vale Library is a dual use library located within Clyst Vale Community College. The library is open to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and is open to the students at Clyst Vale Community College throughout the week.

The entrance to access the library is through Clyst Vale's main entrance (reception,) then turning right, from there you will see the libraries entrance.

Public opening hours; Monday **3.30 – 5.30pm**, Wednesday **3.30- 5.30pm** and Thursday **4 –6pm**

### **EduLink and contacting the College**

Please do not address emails, or replies to EduLink messages, to [EduLink@clystvale.org](mailto:EduLink@clystvale.org). It is an unmonitored mailbox and will not go to anyone. Parents/carers need to reply to EduLink messages via the app, online, or via email, as this will then be directed to the staff member who sent the message to you. Or, please contact the relevant school ATHOS or the teacher.

There is also a contact form and details here: <http://www.clystvale.org/contact-us/>



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