



# NEWSLETTER

No.801  
w/c Mon 11th Sept 2023

**“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself”**

**- John Dewey**

Dear Parents and Carers

## Happy New Year !

Welcome back, or a special welcome if this is your first Newsletter .... It has been a very good first week. There are always wobbles, nerves and tears on the first day, but young people are amazing, more resilient than often we think, and have adapted well. (For at least the 23rd year in succession, no-one has had their head flushed down a toilet, either). There will always be exceptions to the rule: if your child has not had the best of starts for whatever reason, please tell us otherwise we can't even try to help. The first port of call is your child's tutor (e-mail is best in the first instance). For specific SEND issues, please contact Additional Support. For more serious issues, including safeguarding, please contact the relevant Head of Year.

## The Newsletter (other communications are available)

Once upon a time, before Facebook had even been invented, the Clyst Vale Newsletter started as a one-term experiment. It copied the-then Primary School practice of a weekly newsletter from the Head, and has evolved from there. We also now have the website, and a Facebook page, but the Newsletter trundles on in its old-fashioned way. Sometimes the Newsletter is boring but useful; sometimes I have a rant about something; sometimes it's amazing because of what students and my colleagues get up to; sometimes I comment on national educational issues; sometimes it's not entirely serious. Parental feedback has always been very positive, possibly because the Newsletter feels a bit more personal ? Anyway, it will be e-mailed every Friday, can be found on the website, and there's even an archive...

## Rights Respecting School.

This is perhaps the most defining feature of Clyst Vale, and I make no apology for it being so high in the first Newsletter. I believe that we are still the only secondary school in Devon and Cornwall to have achieved Gold Status, of which we are immensely proud. It means that we have a genuine commitment to recognising promoting human rights and children's rights specifically, including explicit reference to the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).



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We have our own Charter. It boils down to the three words Respect, Participate, Learn, If everyone observed these perfectly all of the time, we would be the happiest school in the world. In reality, we reinforce these concepts constantly with the aim of producing tolerant, respectful young adults, through teaching in relevant subjects, C42 and CPS, the tutorial programme, assemblies, informally, through our choice of language, and even "Room 29" relates to our charter and to the CRC. The vision is that the RRS ethos and CVCC's ethos will become indistinguishable over time.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Parents should have been made aware of these separately, so this is by way of a reminder...
- o Next Monday (11th Sept) there is a launch evening for Duke of Edinburgh (see below), 5 pm.
- o Next Thursday (14th Sept) there is a Year 12 Information Evening, 6 pm.
- o On Thursday 21st September we will hold our Open Evening for Year 6 students and parents.

### **Camps International Cambodia Expedition**

You'll see a brief write up and some photos later in the Newsletter. I would just wish to pay tribute to our students and to Miss Govier and Mrs Shillingford for their superb leadership. I've spoken to a few students who went, and although in some ways it was challenging (heat, humidity, insect bites, mixing concrete with hand tools) all of them have said how amazing it was. The next opportunity will be Kenya in 2025 !

### **September Heatwave**

It's been hot this week, so we have adopted some of our normal approaches, last seen in June. Shorts are part of our uniform anyway, so that's not a problem. We have allowed ties to be removed, and shirts untucked. We have encouraged students to stay in the shade – there are plenty of areas – and to keep hydrated. My colleagues have kept rooms well ventilated. Just for information, there are further things we would do if it was likely to get even hotter, but the weather is cooling down after the weekend. It's a bit annoying, because we like to start the autumn term well, congratulate students on the excellent standard of uniform, but we can start again next week. The forecast suggests no day above 22 next week, and even the chance of rain. Ties on, shirts tucked in, skirt waistbands unrolled.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

We have a long and proud record of success with the Dof E Award. For Year 9 students and their parents who are interested in starting the Bronze Award and, for Year 12 the Gold Award, our DofE Coordinators Mr Eales and Miss Barratt will be holding an information evening between 17:00-17:30 next Monday, 11th September in the Post-16 block. We will be going through the various activities, the nature of the training, and how we arrange the expeditions plus the costs involved.

This is short notice, although students have been informed of the date this week. We look forward to seeing you, but if you can't attend your child will still be able to do the Award. And if you can't attend, we would urge you to look at the DofE website – [dofe.org](http://dofe.org) – which covers all areas of the Award.



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## **Books !**

Many students in many year groups will have taken books home at some point last year: Library books, set texts, other subject-specific books. And many will have brought them back, too. However, some haven't. Please can we have them back? I realise this may mean a tidying up of a bedroom, or a scary exploration under a bed, but books cost money and we would like them back. We're not into punishing students or making them feel bad, in fact we'll be pleased to see the books. Thank you in advance. (Year 7 are excused for obvious reasons).

## **Site Issues**

### **RAAC**

We do not have any reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete. The main block is made of a substance so dense it damages drill bits, much of the site is post-1996, and we seem to have more pitch roofs than the average school (flat roofs are the concern). Plus, we have had almost all of the roofs replaced within the last three years. We might be all right Jack, but I did feel sorry for the 40,000 students, their parents and school staff who have this problem on top of lockdowns, strikes, and all the rest of it.

### **Works**

Remember all that rain in late July/early August? Unfortunately it caused delays to some of the roofing and other work so we have a bit of scaffolding on site and one particular no-through path. Longtime readers of the Newsletter know how much I hate scaffolding on site when students are in, but it should only be for a very small number of weeks. Obviously, safety is paramount, so the contractors have created compounds, erected safety fencing, and are very aware of their responsibilities. More positively, loads has been done over the summer by the contractors and our own site staff.

### **Staff Changes**

We welcome the following new colleagues and wish them every success in their time at Clyst Vale. It's always exciting to be joined by new colleagues, who bring different insights, experiences and questions which strengthens what we do.

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sandrina Alexandre | MFL                    |
| Mikaela Blows      | Receptionist           |
| Charlotte Boid     | Science, Chemistry     |
| Mark Connolly      | History (maternity)    |
| Aidan Davey        | Maths                  |
| Connor Fleming     | Geography              |
| Nymm Gratton       | ICT                    |
| Lisa Jones         | Early Help Coordinator |
| Nicola Poyner      | Science, Physics       |

Ollie Reed Teaching Assistant

Becky Sumner Assistant SENDCo

Charlotte Trestrail Teaching Assistant

Rosemary Tuthill Science, Biology

Becky Watts Teaching Assistant

With the move to Years from Schools, and the reorganisation of student welfare and support, a number of established colleagues are in new roles, as follows:

Bridget Adie Head of Year 11

Kerry Albutt HoY 7

Jemma Cresswell Student Services, trips

Pam Grant Student Services

Meghan McConnachie HoY 9

Maria Murch Behaviour Hub (Room 29)

Cath Prunty Attendance

Adam Pearce HoY 10

Claire Turner Behaviour Hub (Room 29)

Sara Watt HoY 8

Other established colleagues in new or additional roles include Zoe Brotherton (Coordinator for Gifted & Talented Students); Hayley Bugbee (Cover Coordinator); Maddie Nash (Coordinator for Priority Learners); and Ellie Roberts (RRS Coordinator).

Colleagues who left during the summer holiday are Claire Coleman (Teaching Assistant) and Jackie Wells (HR). We thank them for their contribution to Clyst Vale, and wish them every success in the future.

### **School Transport**

You'll normally find a Transport section of some description on every Newsletter.....

We have been told by Devon School Transport that there is a backlog in issuing Bus Passes; clearly, this becomes less of a problem each passing day. However, School Transport is also ramping up its "No Pass, No Travel" approach. So, if your child needs a temporary bus pass, please send them to see Mrs Grant or Mrs Cresswell in Student Services.

Sadly, there was an incident on a school transport bus yesterday. We take all incidents on buses seriously and will follow them up as best we can. If the concern is student behaviour, please inform us with as much information as possible – this can be done by a parent e-mail if the child is worried. We will investigate, and behaviour on buses is subject to normal College rules and sanctions; also, Devon School Transport can also take action in the form of warning letters and bans of increasing length up to and including permanently. If your concern relates to poor service or driver contact, again please let us know, but you can also contact Devon School Transport as well who hold the contracts with the various companies.

The above points are for School Transport, ie buses and taxis with a CV number. However, in terms of poor behaviour or concerns on Stagecoach buses, please inform us in the same way. Also, Stagecoach is a public company, so it is very helpful if you report concerns about service or driver conduct to them directly as well.

## Car Park Etiquette

When Clyst Vale was Broadclyst Sec Mod and built in 1960, it was not designed with cars in mind, so we make the best of a bad job, rely hugely on common sense and goodwill, and have safety as our first consideration. We are a RRS, which means all of us, so respect for our neighbours and local community is another big consideration.

Most of the time it works well. However, here are some reminders:

The staff car park (closest to Reception) is for staff, deliveries, and for parents/students with accessibility issues. Please don't use it for drop-off or pick-up at the beginning and end of the day.

Morning drop-off in the coach park: please pull down as far as possible before hovering. We need to avoid backing traffic up on to the road.

Evening pick-up. It is so much easier and safer if this is done after 3.30 when the buses have left and there is just less "busy-ness".

Tower View. Is a private road, so please don't park there at the end of the day.

Apologies for all the start of term information and reminders !

Have a good weekend in the last of the heat,

Best wishes,



**Kevin Bawn**



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# CALENDAR DATES

| DATE                                    | EVENT  |
|---|--|
| Monday 11th September                   | DofE launch evening 5-5.30pm   |
| Thursday 14th September                 | GCSE/BTEC—Plymouth Theatre Royal Trip<br>Y12 Information Evening 6-7pm |
| Sunday 24th to Wednesday 27th September | Y12 Bude Trip  |
| Thursday 21st September                 | Y6 Student and Parent Open Evening                                     |
| 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<br>6-7.30pm             |
| Wednesday 18th October                  | Y13 Geography Trip to Slapton Ley                                      |
| Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October      | Half Term  |



**Clyst Vale Community College Kenya Scuba 2025**

Come along to our Parents Presentation

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in the Main Hall**

Please register your interest via [Student Registration Form \(campsinternational.com\)](https://campsinternational.com)

**School code : 8601**



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## Clyst Vale Community College Kenya Scuba Expedition 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

COMING SOON - AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY  
FOR OUR STUDENTS

We are very excited to announce that we are partnering with Camps International again to offer students the opportunity to go on a life-changing, 4-week expedition to Kenya, during the summer of 2025. Students will work on a variety of meaningful and sustainable projects as well as undertaking the personal adventure challenge of a PADI Open Water Scuba Diving Course.

SAVE THE DATE TO COME ALONG AND FIND OUT MORE:

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in the Main Hall**

During our Parents Presentation you and your child will be able to hear more about Camps, the expedition and fundraising, as well as how to join the team.

In the meantime, to get an insight into the expedition, you can see photos from previous teams on the Camps Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/campsint/>

As students are encouraged to raise the funds for this expedition themselves, why not get started straight away with some helpful tips and advice:

<https://www.campsinternational.com/fundraising-for-your-expedition/>

We look forward to letting you know more about the expedition soon.

Kindest regards,  
Clyst Vale Community College



Camps International Group Limited

Unit 10 Kingfisher Park, Redlands Business Park, Basingstoke, Hampshire, BH24 3NU  
campsinternational.com | schools@campsinternational.com | +44 1425 485 365



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## **Camps International expedition to Cambodia**

For four weeks in July and August, Clyst Vale students from years 10,11 and 12 embarked on an amazing adventure.

They SCUBA dived in tropical seas and saw turtles, sting ray and sea horses. They helped local communities by digging wells, making concrete, building playgrounds and teaching English in schools. The students visited amazing places, learnt new skills, made new friends and helped other people.

This was a life changing experience.

For information on how you can be involved in the next adventure please see Mr Gardiner.





# Online Safety Newsletter

September 2023

## The W App - Anonymous polls

The W App is rated as 12+ in the App store and as 'Parental Guidance' on Google Play. Once an account has been created, the user picks their school and participates in polls.

A user can choose any school (no verification takes place) and then you can see all users at that school (includes their name/year group and profile picture if that has been added). In the polls, users are asked a question (for example 'Hallway crush') and then the user selects one of four random people from that school. Whilst the app says that it is anonymous, users can purchase a membership that allows users to see who chose them in a poll.

You should be aware that this app does include in app purchases and can be linked to other social media accounts. You can block and report other users.

### Further information

Internet Matters have produced an article outlining what you need to know about anonymous apps in general and the risks your child might face in using them, including cyberbullying.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/anonymous-apps-guide-what-parents-need-to-know/>

## Social Media Guides

The UK Safer Internet Centre have a Social Media Hub on their website that provides advice about the more popular social media platforms. For each app, it states their age requirement, the safety tools and advice available, the app's terms and conditions as well as links to further resources and advice from the UK Safer Internet Centre themselves. So, if you would like to find out more about the likes of Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat, then this hub is a great starting point:



<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides>

## Nude selfies

CEOP have published an article answering the questions that they get asked regularly regarding young people taking and sharing revealing pics of themselves, such as "is it illegal to send nude selfies?". You can find the article here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/7-questions-parents-ask-about-nude-selfies/>

## Meta introduces more parental supervision tools.

Meta have announced new features for some of their products. Firstly, they have added parental supervision to Messenger (users must be 13+), which includes the ability to see who your child interacts with. Also, Meta have added a feature to encourage teens to set time limits on Facebook (users must be 13+) and new parental supervision features on Instagram (users must be 13+). Find out more here:

<https://about.fb.com/news/2023/06/parental-supervision-and-teen-time-management-on-metas-apps/>

## Threads (13+)

Threads was launched by Meta (creators of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp) in July and is similar in design to Twitter. As with Twitter, users can share text posts (with images and videos) and then other users can respond to create a thread. You need to have an Instagram account to login to Threads and **you must be at least 13 years old to create an Instagram account.**



For everyone 13 – 17 years old (in the UK), their account will automatically be set as private when they join Threads. As with Instagram, users can choose specific words to filter out of replies as well as hide comments that may be offensive. Users can also unfollow, block and report a profile. Any accounts that you have blocked on Instagram will automatically be blocked on Threads as well. Users can also change their settings on Threads so other users are unable to mention them in replies.

If you have supervision set up on Instagram for your child (aged 13 – 17) then it will automatically be set up for Threads and the same settings will be applied, such as time limits and scheduled breaks. You can find out more here: <https://help.instagram.com/658522825492278>

Threads is still being developed so new functions will be added but currently you are unable to direct (private) message other users.

You need to be aware that your child may come across content that is not appropriate for your child. If your child is using this app, then make sure they know how to use the reporting/blocking facilities, that appropriate privacy/safety settings are applied and they know to speak to a trusted adult should they need to.

### Further information

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/instagram-threads-a-guide-for-young-people-and-parents/>

## Roblox: new checklist

PEGI rate Roblox with a 'Parental Guidance' label (icon shown right), this is because of the huge level of user generated content within Roblox. It is rated for 'Teens' on Google Play and 12+ on the App store.



You can either use Roblox to create games or play games that other users have created. As a lot of the content is user generated, it may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. It is important to set up Parental controls appropriate to your child.

### New Roblox Checklist

The 2023 Roblox Checklist created by SWGfL and the UK Safer Internet Centre in partnership with Roblox is now available to download here: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/new-roblox-checklist-available/>

## Age ratings

There is so much that we can do online nowadays including playing games, chatting with others, watching TV or sharing our videos/photographs. One of the ways we can help keep our children safe online is by checking age restrictions/ratings as detailed below:

- **Films:** The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rate films. This page includes a link to a 'Parents' Guide to Age Ratings': <https://www.bbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>.
- **Video games:** PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration the chat facilities within games.
- **Apps:** Check the individual age ratings within the relevant app store. We also recommend that you download any apps and use them yourself to check their suitability.
- **Social Media networks:** All social media networks have a minimum age rating; they are all at least 13+.



## Does your child have speech, language and communication needs?

Parent Zone understand that talking about life online with a young person who has speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) makes it difficult, so they have created a selection of visual and spoken resources to help you. You can find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/TalkTech>

# WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER GRIEF SUPPORT WORKERS



## Role details

**Hours:** Flexible. Around 3 hours each week (usually school term-time only).

**Training:** One day per week over a three month period.

As volunteering and training are in school/office hours, this role is ideal for people working/studying part time, or with flexibility in their week.

**Location:** Various locations across Exeter, Mid and East Devon. The Balloons office is at Providence Court, Pynes Hill, Rydon Lane, Exeter

**Closing:** Recruitment ongoing, year-round. Next training course starts September 2023.

**An amazing opportunity for you to help change the lives of bereaved children and young people in Exeter, Mid and East Devon.**

**Balloons is a small, local charity, providing support for children and young people aged 5 to 25 and their families before an expected death, or following the death, of someone significant in their lives. We are looking for volunteers to train as Grief Support Workers. By volunteering for us, you really will make a difference to children who would otherwise be left alone with their grief.**

Here are some national statistics that show why we do what we do:



Every 22 minutes, every day, a child is bereaved of a parent



1 in 29 5-16 year olds has been bereaved of a parent or sibling - that's a child in every average class.



41% of youth offenders experienced childhood bereavement (the national average is 4%)



### Other reasons to volunteer for us

- As a Volunteer Grief Support Worker, you will attend our free training course, where you will be trained by Donna, a BACP accredited counsellor and trainer.
- Once you start your volunteering you will have full support and supervision with a clinical manager, as well as CPD opportunities.
- It provides you with an incredible opportunity to enhance your CV and develop personal and professional skills and experience.
- You will have many opportunities to meet and get to know other amazing volunteers.

### Want to know more?

Please visit our website at [www.balloonscharity.co.uk](http://www.balloonscharity.co.uk) for further information about the work that we do at Balloons.

For an information pack and application form, please email [admin@balloonscharity.co.uk](mailto:admin@balloonscharity.co.uk)

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

## 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. |

*Are you interested in making some fun and interesting dishes, desserts and treats? Are you creative and enjoy cooking and baking?*

Cooking Club



Email : [collinse@clystvale.org](mailto:collinse@clystvale.org) if you are interested.

Limited numbers. First come, first serve. Available to year 8 and 9 from Sept 21st to Christmas.

Every Thursday after school  
3:30 –4:30/5pm in DT3

# Players Wanted!

**Cranbrook Under 14's**

**Cranbrook U14's are looking  
for enthusiastic young  
players to join our team.**

**Training every Tuesday and  
Saturday**



**Contact below for more information**

**Paul 07481 454551**

**Ben 07900 198022**



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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