



NEWSLETTER

No.807
w/c Mon 1 January 2024
WEEK A

**“You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”
- Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The End of Term

Once again, on behalf of my colleagues and me, many thanks to you for all your support and help this term. I have never underestimated the challenges of parenting throughout the secondary school years, which of course coincide with the most rapid physical and psychological development (“you don’t know what it’s like to be ME”, volume 10). So thank you for the counselling and mentoring; study support; taxi service; pointing out that school rules are fair and there for a reason; for being there at events and parents’ evenings; for sending your child in clean and smart, and letting us know when they are unwell. For one last time, I’ll wheel out the metaphorical tripod: it is firmest when the three legs of home, student and school are all doing their bit. Thank you for doing your bit, and encouraging your child to do theirs !

The Next Chapter

There’s a lot of tidiness about the timing of my retirement. The Newsletter for example started in January 2003, so it has now reached 21 exactly and it’s time it grew up; I was never so proud of the Newsletter as during the covid period when quite a few parents said they relied on it more than government announcements for information !). That was the chapter before last, though.

I can’t do justice in a few words (or even a few chapters) to how much I have loved being Principal of Clyst Vale, the thousands of people I have encountered, or even the high spots and the not-so-good ones. Specialist School status provided the financial impetus to modernise a lot of the College; the Microsoft Partnership helped develop IT; Academy status allowed us to sustain our own ethos and end any risk of being shifted lock, stock and barrel to Cranbrook. I fought hard more than once to keep the public library on site. The Kenya exchange in 2015 was a lifetime memory for all involved. The RRS journey was so important for us, and with world events, the lingering legacy of lockdown, and increasingly nasty, misleading social media is more important than it was when we started.

Schools are complex, never perfect, and there will always be exceptions to the rule. I have done my best to keep “safe, happy, successful” at the forefront of my mind all these years. They may not be grandiose corporate statements about “raising standards tirelessly” or “excellence for all”, but if a young person isn’t safe or happy their standards won’t rise as fast let alone reach excellence. Schools are also much the same, and becoming increasingly so with Multi-Academy Trusts. I took over Clyst Vale as an unusual, quirky, independent-minded school, and I like to think that I am ending this chapter with those features largely intact.

Enough about me. Clyst Vale was 40 years old when I turned up, and will continue long after today. Life goes on. It’s a new chapter for the institution, and inevitably Clyst Vale will have to adapt to the external demands of finance, government, Ofsted, and those (random) slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. Clyst Vale is a good school, with RRS Gold Status; in January there will be a full complement of staff (the first time for a few years); we have adapted to changing demands of society by strengthening pastoral and welfare, which may need to continue. There are worries of course, for example funding, the increase in SEND, and behaviour of a minority of students, but these affect the whole sector not just CVCC: I am confident that Clyst Vale is as well set as anywhere to address these issues.

The support I have received from parents over the years has been truly humbling. Please transfer it unconditionally to Ms Jacobs and her colleagues.



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Thank You

Mentioning support, I must thank all of you that have sent in cards, gifts (you really shouldn't have, but much appreciated), or e-mails. Clearly, if you used a child to act as delivery personnel, I thanked them profusely and asked them to pass on that thanks – but in the excitement of a haribo-fuelled last week, they may have forgotten. So, thank you very much.

Special Assembly

I just wanted to share an incredibly special event yesterday. Miss Ruscoe and the Performing Arts department assembled as many of the cast and orchestra of the 2012 production of Les Miserables and some later productions. It was probably the best assembly I've ever been in, and one of the nicest things anyone has done for me. It just confirms how important opportunities for students are, the value of teamwork across the year groups, the sense of community among the performers, and pretty much epitomises Clyst Vale at its very best. Thank you to all concerned.

Christmas (and other) Charity

Exeter Food Bank Tins Collection. Thank you to students, parents and colleagues for your generosity – in total we were able to give 175kg of tins to the Food Bank !

CVCC Tree at Killerton Chapel. Well done to the Year 7 SLG groups who were involved in creating decorations for the Killerton Community Tree this year. Students in year 10GABR also helped out with some additional ideas. Our theme was based on reusing paper, string, felt and buttons to create a sustainable and impactful tree. This is part of the Christmas Tree festival at Killerton over the festive period. Well done and thank you to all those involved!

8RTMa put together and collected items for St Petrocks, for whom the Carol Service also raised £55.

The Big Ambition (Student Voice)

This is a national survey of children and young people's views by the Children's Commissioner Dame Rachel de Souza. She writes that "We have had an amazing response and as a result I've decided to extend the closing date to Friday 19th January 2024 to allow even more children the chance to have their say. Children and parents can complete the survey here: [About this survey : The Big Ambition - Have your say! \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)

School Funding

I couldn't have a last Newsletter without a small rant about education funding. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has published its annual report on education spending in England. Rising costs mean that in real terms schools are still behind the level of resources in 2010. I've pointed out the gap between Rishi's rhetoric and reality: education is a silver bullet, but with nothing in the recent Autumn Statement to address this, it's more like a dried pea from a pea-shooter. In the New Year, or when the general election nears, please write to your MP.

Staff Changes

Leaving at the end of this term is Nymm Gratton, who has held two temporary posts with us, firstly in ICT and more recently in French. These were not easy posts to fill – the education recruitment issues mentioned in national media are very real – and we wish Nymm well. Somebody else is leaving, too, but it'll come back to me.

In January there will be three new teachers joining Clyst Vale: Lisa Martin will be Deputy Principal with responsibility for the curriculum, teaching & learning; Miriam Theeten will join the Languages team to teach French; and Graham Womersley-Westlake takes up a post as teacher of Maths.

Traffic News.

I was delighted to see that the Station Road Fords walkway has been completed, just in time for the end of term. I smiled ironically when the heavy rain and floods delayed the work.

And PLEASE make it a New Year resolution not to drop off or wait to pick-up students in the staff car park directly in front of Reception. Clyst Vale was designed for 300 students in an era when cars were less common, so it is a nightmare to park. However, we have on average two or three dented staff cars per year, and that's an expensive nightmare, not to mention the safety aspects of pedestrians at peak times. (You did well with last year's resolution to not park in Tower View – only one complaint in the whole of 2023)

That's it. I am not disappearing from the face of the Earth, or Devon, and intend to retain contact with Clyst Vale in a more arms' length way, special events, perhaps helping out with certain things to help with adult:student ratios ! So, I wish you a good Christmas and Happy New Year, and rather than goodbye I'll say "au revoir" or, common with young people, "see you later".

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn



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STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



RED SCHOOL

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 7RER | No Permission to Name |
| 7RGG | Kasey Saunders |
| 8RDFE | No Permission to Name |
| 8RTMA | Sophie Salter |
| 9RBAT | Sophie Magowan |
| 9RNS | |
| 10RZB | Charlotte Sillet |
| 10RSGA | Ava Martin |
| 11RMAH | Joshua Jones |
| 11RCMO | |

YELLOW SCHOOL

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 7YCBO | No Permission to Name |
| 7YCFL | No Permission to Name |
| 8YGGA | Skye Williams |
| 8YBHA | Lewis Sparks |
| 9YMBR | |
| 9YSWA | Oliver Eavis |
| 10YSS | No Permission to Name |
| 10YADA | No Permission to Name |
| 11YDST | Charlie Williams |
| 11YEHA | Phoebe Baines |

GREEN SCHOOL

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 7GRTU | No Permission to Name |
| 7GHE | |
| 8GMNA | No Permission to Name |
| 8GLT | No Permission to Name |
| 9GCMC | Finley Fleming |
| 9GDJ | Shai Blackmore |
| 10GABR | Ruby Morris |
| 10GDH | Cleo Symons |
| 11GAWO | Kadi Fofana |
| 11GGT | |

CALENDAR DATES

| DATE | EVENT |
|--------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 3 January 2024 | Students return to school for Spring Term |
| Thursday 11th January | Year 11 Parents Evening 4 to 7pm |
| Monday 15th January | Year 9 Nasal Flu Vaccinations taking place |
| Saturday 20th January | Ten Tors Weekend Camp |
| Thursday 25th January | Year 9 Parents Evening 4 to 7pm |



Year 11's Save the Date...

The Year 11 Prom is scheduled to be on 28 June 2024.



COOL
FOOD NOT
School
FOOD



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

<https://www.clystvale.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/>



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Can you help? Yes you can!

Here is a photo of some of the Year 8's with what they collected for St Petrocks. Thank you for your donations.



“Thank you so much for all the donations. They were safely delivered to St Petrocks this afternoon... Thanks again!!”



O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...

This year's Community Christmas Tree which along with other community decorated trees, is currently adorning the chapel at Killerton.



Post 16 Enviromental Challenge.

Well done to all of Post 16 tutor group 12JP who last week ran a Year 7 quiz. It raised enough money to purchase a weeping willow tree that was planted by Dr Bawn this week. Once mature it will add to the lovely grounds Clyst Vale enjoys and provide shade to the students on the field in the Summer months. I am told it will also provide a home to many insects and bugs as well as a resting place for birds. A huge thank you to all the lovely staff at St Bridget's Nursery in Clyst St Mary and especially to owner Tammy Falloon for her advice and discount!

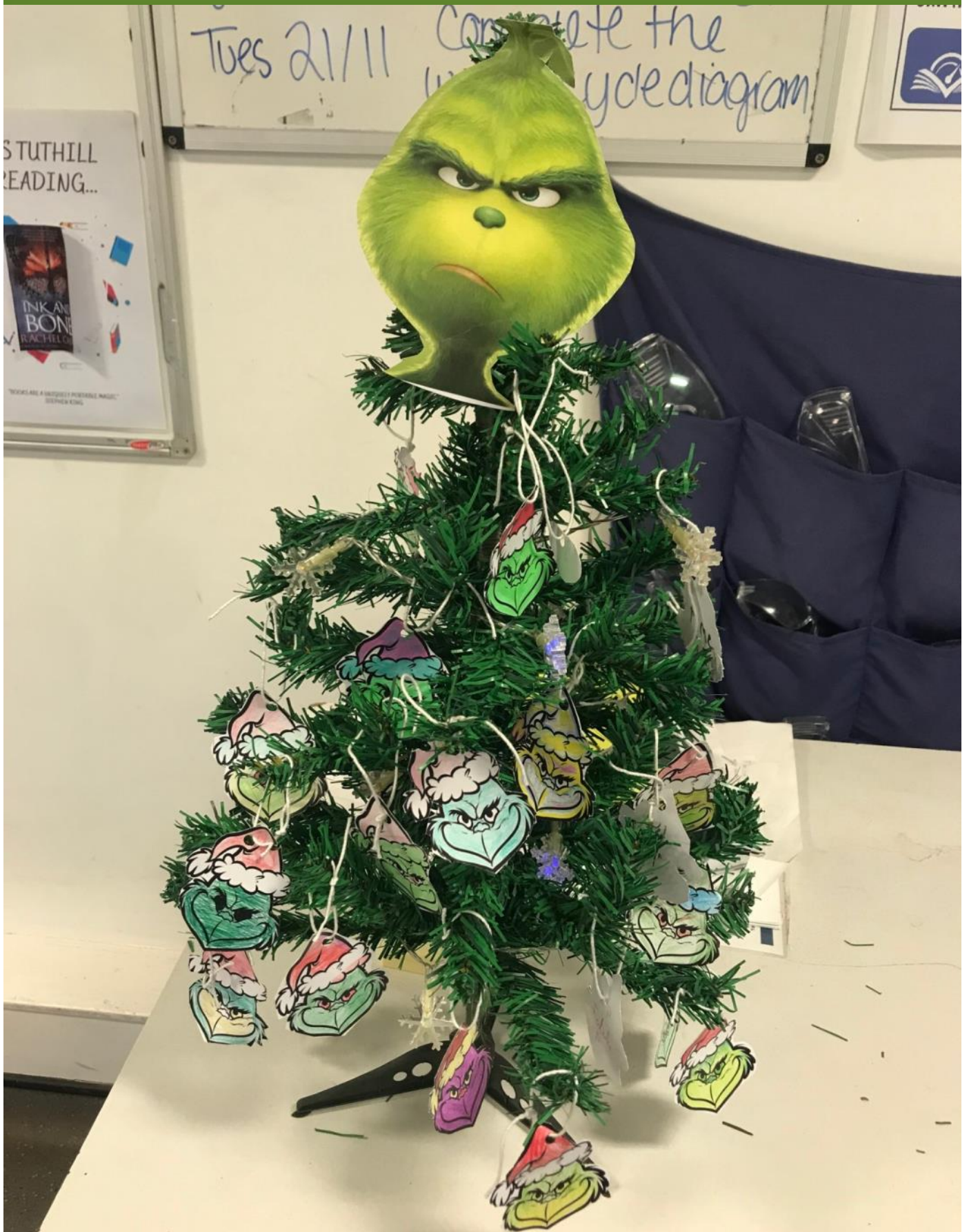


Year 7 Christmas Tree Competition

“Well done to all six tutor groups for their creative designs. This years winner was 7GRTU Congratulations!!

Happy Xmas - and I hope you enjoyed your sweets!! “

Mrs Albutt



Year 8 & 9 Cooking Club

'We have been making Christmas gingerbread biscuits and decorative Christmas mince pies over the last couple of weeks'



Year 9 Boys Rugby: Clyst Vale 22-19 Tiverton

Congratulations to the Year 9 lads who gained a very well deserved win over local rivals, Tiverton High School. Looking to avenge the defeat at home in September, Clyst Vale put on an outstanding attacking display in the winter sunshine, just edging out Tiverton, who played their part in a very entertaining display.

Skipper, Jacob K opted for the kick off at the start of the game, with Clyst Vale playing into the bright sunshine. Tiverton started the brighter of the two sides with an early score through their various strong and very physical runners which was not converted for a score of 5-0 to the visitors. Clyst Vale responded through a try for full-back George P who scathed through the defence and rather than putting the ball down under the posts, left fly half, Oli E a tricky conversion which was not converted. Strong, tall and very fast centre, Archie M scored two excellent solo tries, the latter him breaking from a scrum in his own half and dotting down in the corner. One of these were converted by Oli to leave the hosts a comfortable 17-5 up at the break.

A slow and error-strewn second period with the sunshine fading and the cold setting in, brought about a lack of scores for 15 minutes or so but then Tiverton sprang to life scoring two very well taken team tries, the latter of which was converted to leave Clyst Vale staring at a unlikely defeat as they trailed 19-17 with two minutes left on the clock. Skipper, Kyffin then rallied the troops and kicked deep off the restart, with somehow Clyst Vale regathering possession and shifting the ball to Archie M to score his hat trick try in the corner to win the game for Clyst Vale. Notable mentions must go to Aidan L at scrum half who was excellent in starting several of our attacks, Michael B and Oscar H for their work in the 'boiler room' of the second row. Owen's running and tackling was again outstanding, as was Rudy's in his first up tackles and bravery. Ethan R dominated front row proceedings and worked hard on the opposition line out disruption, with Oscar T also using his strength in the close quarters. Will J and Mason A provided some much needed width to proceedings with Dylan C showing outstanding ball carrying and tackling throughout the game. Well done to all of the squad.

Mr Pearce



HIGH-FLYING BASKETBALL ACTION
LIVE FROM THE PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS



LIVE PREMIER LEAGUE
BASKETBALL



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
PLYMOUTH CITY PATRIOTS.COM



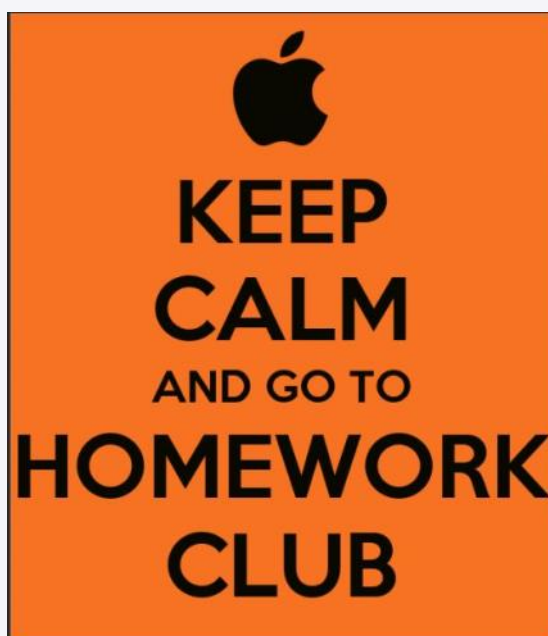
Library



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 in IT2
Monday to Friday Lunchtime
1.30-2pm
Monday to Thursday After-
school 3.30—4.45pm





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. 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 teacher or admin@clystvale.org.

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



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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/Cath Prunty (Attendance Officers)

Direct line: 01392 463911

Email: studentabsence@clystvaled.org

For Year 12 - 13 Absences

Please ring Sue Voysey—Assistant to Head of Post 16

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: voyseys@clystvaled.org and copy in Head of Sixth Form: haynesc@clystvaled.org