

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this rollercoaster half-term, neatly summed up by today's weather and Storm Eunice, I do want to pass on my appreciation for your continued support and understanding during these difficult weeks. The significant student and staff absence this half-term has been particularly challenging and I am aware that this has sometimes limited our capacity to always be as efficient and forward-facing as we would want.

This ability to reflect and re-set has also been the central theme of assemblies with students this week, details are in the **Fresh Starts Powerpoint** attached, which is also available on the school website [Beaminster School Letters and Information](#)

After a very unique and challenging start to the year for everyone, Mr Withers focused on the need to make positive choices and to leave things in the past that are unhelpful or unnecessary; for all of us to take responsibility for our actions and to be sure that we learn from them.

We have been disappointed that a small minority of students have not been treating our facilities as well as we would like, and there has been a need to reprimand several others for their behaviour, and inappropriate language, on buses, online and in school. As always, we are determined to swiftly and decisively address any such issues and so reminded all students that we all have a part to play in keeping our school a safe and enjoyable place to learn by reporting anything that they feel uncomfortable about. This will be followed-up next half-term with a **determined focus on behaviour, uniform and the absence of mobile phones in school** and your support with this is appreciated.

Meanwhile, **Year 9** showed all the positive qualities that we would expect from our students during their work with **Learning Performance**. Through two half-day sessions they engaged fully around the skills and techniques required to help their learning, with the presenter hugely complimentary about their behaviour. The **Year 9 into 10 Courses Booklet** was also published this week and so we hope that parents and carers will take some time to go through it with their Year 9 students during half term.

Year 10 Work Experience is now not far away, so thank you to all **Year 10 students** who have already confirmed their Work Experience placements and returned the necessary paperwork. For those students who only have a verbal agreement in place, this is an important reminder that the **paperwork is needed as soon as possible to confirm the placement**. Half-term week is a great opportunity for any students who do not yet have confirmed placements to be **pro-active** and put your own choice of Work Experience in place. For any students who have yet to secure a placement, or have not submitted their paperwork, please see Mr Donovan straight after half term and we will be happy to help.

Year 11 began a busy few weeks with an impressive moderation day for their GCSE PE on Monday, followed by an inspiring trip to **The Tate, London**, to widen ideas and development for the final part of their Art coursework. This will be followed straight after half-term with **GCSE Food practicals and trial French orals**, with **trial examinations for all Year 11 in the week beginning March 7th**.

Our **Year 9 and 10 Netball teams** continued their winning habit with strong wins against Colfox, but on a very wet and muddy football pitch **Year 8** lost a close game to Woodroffe 4-2, with goals from Arthur Donaldson and Owen Kemp. **Year 7** were a solid 1-1 against St. Mary's Puddletown at half-time with Alfie Bellows scoring from a corner, but struggled in the second-half losing 5-1 in the end.

You should all have received our **Activities Week booklet** to peruse over the half-term break, which is also available on the school website: [Beaminster School Letters and Information](#). All forms need to be returned to the box in Reception by **Wednesday 2nd March** so that we can allocate as many first choices as we can. Please ensure that **all students make 3 choices clearly marked in preference order**, and that the form is **signed by a parent or carer**.

Finally, Prout Bridge and Core Forest and Farm Club are providing some holiday club activities over half-term which you may be interested in, details attached.

I wish you all a safe, and restful, half-term.

Mr Hales

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