

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 14th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The recent clear skies and sunshine have provided some welcome fresh air for us all this week but, as ever it seems, there are several important updates on the Covid-19 front to make you aware of.

1. The **temporary suspension of PCR testing** means that you are no longer required to take a confirmatory PCR test if you have a positive LFD test. Additionally, the government are now saying: "*If someone with symptoms has already taken an LFD test for any reason and the result is positive, they do not need to take a follow-up PCR test.*" This is a change from previous guidance.
2. From Monday 17 January, people who test positive will be able to **leave self-isolation after a further five full days** (i.e. on day 6 not day 7 as currently) subject to having two negative LFT results, 24 hours apart, and no continuing symptoms such as a temperature. For further details see: [Self-isolation for those with COVID-19 can end after 5 full days following 2 negative LFD tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-after-5-days)
3. Phase 2 of the **in-school vaccination programme** for 12 to 15-year olds began this month. We not yet received any information on when this may occur in West Dorset, with Public Health Dorset encouraging parents and carers to book out-of-school vaccinations, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](https://www.nhs.uk). Parents will be notified when we have further information.

The start of the year has also brought a **significant increase in traffic** around the school which is impacting on the safety of our children and the community. Please can I ask that you **do not use Fleet Street** to drop off students, but use the designated drop off areas, highlighted on our transport page [Transport | beaminsterschool](#) The bus park is available **before 8.35am** in the morning for dropping off, or **after 3.45pm** when the buses have left. The staff car park should not be used at any time.

On to more enjoyable matters, I congratulate our fifteen runners on another fine display at the **Dorset Schools Cross Country championships**. With nearly 150 students in each race the following students made a highly competitive top 50: Anna Scarborough 36th, Ella Thomas 41st, Ben Keeping 44th, Jess Denslow 47th, Francis Caswell 48th and India Murless 50th.

Tuesday saw Mr Wagstaff don his wellies to ensure that the very muddy conditions did not hinder the **Primary Cross Country**. Thanks to the Year 9 marshals all the Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students completed the course with Parrett and Axe overall winners.

To provide further learning support for our students, we are extending the popular after school **Homework Support Club** to run on **Tuesdays** as well as **Thursdays** from next week. This provides an ideal opportunity for students to work in the LRC until 4.30pm with supervision and guidance.

Congratulations to our **Year 11 students** for their approach and fortitude with the Media Studies examinations on Monday, and to those who received their Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications in Mathematics this week. The Functional Maths course provides a significant challenge for students, placing mathematics in a real-life context, with a good number achieving the GCSE equivalent of Level 2.

Year 11 students can also now purchase a Leavers' Hoodie from our usual uniform supplier, Kitz. **All hoodies will be delivered to the school so there are no postage costs.** We understand from Kitz that the option to select "Deliver to School" is currently not showing, so when ordering, please select "Collect from Store" and no postage will be charged. Anyone who has already ordered and paid for postage will be contacted directly by Kitz. The deadline for ordering Hoodies is 1st March 2022.

Finally, the list of **Prout Bridge Project** activities for the first half of the Spring Term is attached.

Have a good weekend.
Mr Hales