

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Despite the recent furore around the reopening of schools, it is worth reflecting that this time last year we were entering an extended period of national lockdown with the significant challenge of home learning.

Though the additional measures of face coverings in the classroom and on-site testing certainly increase the complexities for all aspects of education, they are a burden that we must all shoulder to ensure that our students can remain as safe as possible in school and continue their learning in the classroom.

Therefore, we have very much appreciated your support, and that of the students, with the **lateral flow testing** undertaken before starting school and on the first day. This has ensured that we start the year with very few cases, and the vast majority of students are back in school and learning in the classroom as usual.

All students have received a **further supply of LFD tests**. We ask that they continue to **test twice weekly** and maintain good hygiene with their **face coverings** by bringing their **own, along with a spare**, every day.

Do be aware that the **isolation period** for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 has been **reduced to 7 days** if you have negative LFD tests on day 6 and 7 of the self-isolation period, and that **PCR tests are temporarily suspended** from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately but not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

In matters away from Covid, I wish all the **Year 11 Media Studies** students well for their examination on Monday. This marks the first of the formal GCSE examinations and provides an early opportunity to complete one section of the Media Studies course, away from the busy June examination period.

On that note, we are looking for more **exam invigilators** to join our bank of available staff (over 18s only). Full training will be given and anyone interested should contact our Exams Manager, Mrs Emmett, for more information: [HEmmett@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:HEmmett@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Just before Christmas we received the very sad news that **Mike Best, Headteacher at Beaminster School from 2000 until 2014**, had passed away very suddenly. Mike was a wonderful colleague, an intelligent leader and a caring teacher who set firm foundations for the school to develop into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many families in the area will remember him fondly and I have passed on our heartfelt condolences to his family from all of us in the school community.

A reminder that **Bridport Children's Centre** are running a number of popular support programmes in the new year (see the attached timetable). These can be accessed face to face, virtually or over the phone, so please do contact them if you would like further information.

**Yeovil College** have another Information Evening on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January, see attached, where you can find out more about our Joint Sixth Form offer.

The list of extra-curricular **clubs and activities** running in school this term is attached; students will receive a hard copy on Monday and it is also available on the school website. As always, there is a diverse range of activities and support sessions for students to choose from and I would strongly encourage all students to attend at least one; my thanks to staff for their support in providing these opportunities for students.

Finally, the closing date for our **Teaching Assistant post** is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January so there is still time for anyone interested to apply, details are on the website: [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](#)

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Hales