

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 11th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I start this end of week update, as I have done so many times, setting out our measures to keep students safe at Beaminster School, though on a more positive note. I am pleased to confirm that cases have now dropped considerably and so from Monday we will **no longer be requesting that students wear face coverings in communal areas**. However, students who wish to do so will continue to be supported and measures such as good hand hygiene and ventilation will remain in place. Can I thank you all for your support with the extension of these measures, and particularly to the students who have shown their good humour throughout.

The **Covid vaccination team** have asked us to pass on that the vaccination centre at Vespasian House in Dorchester is open from **8am-8pm 7 days a week** for anyone who is eligible. Walk-ins are welcome, or bookings can be made via the Government website or by calling 119, but please do check eligibility.

Due to this changing landscape I am delighted to confirm that **Activities Week** will be returning for the last week of the summer term. This week provides a rare opportunity for students to work across year groups on an exciting project of their choice, encouraging greater independence, social skills and personal responsibility. Further information will be out next week alongside plans for our next **Stop The Clock Day** on Wednesday March 23rd.

The government has announced the package of support put in place for students taking GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in summer 2022. It is intended to ensure that we are being as fair as possible to students given the huge disruption they have experienced, and many continue to face, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Alongside all schools we are currently carefully reviewing this guidance to ensure that we can give clear and accurate advice to our students over the coming months. For your information, the five key mitigations identified are:

1. **Non-examination assessments** (coursework) and fieldwork requirements have been adjusted with greater flexibility in some subjects.
2. There will be a **slightly reduced content** in some subject areas.
3. **Support materials** will provide formulae and equation sheets in some examinations to reduce the need to memorise as much.
4. **Advance information** will help guide students on what areas they are required to revise.
5. Exams will be **graded a little more generously** (a midway point between 2021 and 2019) to provide a safety net for students.

Year 13 enjoyed a stimulating online **Psychology conference** on Monday that covered a huge amount of important examination material. This was followed, on Wednesday, with our **GCSE History** students engaging with a hands-on workshop about 'Weapons and Wounds' in World War One and much interest in the many artefacts on display!

It has also been a busy week of feedback and guidance for our students. Year 13 had their final **full reports** on Tuesday, we appreciated the many positive conversations at the **Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening** on Wednesday, and **Year 9 reports** went home on Thursday. As ever, please do contact Tutors should there be anything that you need support with.

Next week is looking equally busy with the **Year 11 and 12 Art trip to London** on Tuesday, **Year 9 have Learning Performance** in working on their learning skills Wednesday, and we finish the week with **House Matches** on Friday.

After many years of assured service, **Mark Carter** has stepped down from his role as a Co-Chair of Governors. Mark has been a hugely passionate and positive face of the Governing Body, providing enormous encouragement and support to myself, and the school, over these past few challenging years; we wish him well with his many exciting commitments. **Bridget Millwood**, who was the Co-Chair, has been elected as Chair of Governors for the rest of this school year and I thank her for stepping forwards into this very important post.

A reminder that the closing date for our **two Teaching Assistant vacancies** is not until Monday 14th, so there is still time to apply, details and application forms can be found on the school website: [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Finally, we say a very sad farewell to **Mrs Cullingford**, who is leaving us today. She has been a wonderfully calm, thoughtful and supportive presence to so many students, and staff, and we will miss her immensely.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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