

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 11th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The haunting scenes from **Ukraine** continue to cast a dark and worrying shadow across all our lives. I am very grateful to Mr See for leading assemblies on Ukraine this week and setting the context for this unfolding humanitarian crisis whilst we hold important conversations with the students and deal with any anxieties that arise.

Our KS3 focus for Literacy Week, '**The Elephant in the Garden**', has been very poignant and provided an opportunity for these necessary discussions to take place. Set at the end of 1945, it follows the story of 3 people fleeing the ruined city of Dresden and their perilous journey across a snow-covered landscape; hard enough to do even without an elephant to look after! As always with Michael Morpurgo it is an engaging read, but also one that reminds us that hope and the human spirit do prevail.

Year 11 have shown great maturity, focus and endeavour throughout this challenging week of **trial examinations**. With only two months before the final GCSE examination series begins, and after such a fragmented past two years, I am extremely proud of how well they have all coped.

Looking ahead, throughout next week's **National Science Week** all subject areas will be championing one scientist with a Dragon's Den style vote at the end to see which scientist the students feel has made the greatest impact on society. On Tuesday, Mrs Da Costa is working with a STEM ambassador and a group of 20 KS3 students to create an alternative form of sustainable transportation that would enable their team to travel 1500 miles. The projects will be entered for a CREST discovery award, and the best teams will be able to attend a celebratory event at the new engineering dept at UWE later in the year. Alongside this, a number of lunchtime activities will be running to allow all students to get involved.

Year 9 students have now all received individual information on their proposed **GCSE routes**, as a hard copy letter and also via ParentMail. All parents and carers are asked to complete the **short, online initial option form by Wednesday 16th March** please - the link is in the letter and ParentMail sent out - so that we can ensure our option blocks match student need as closely as possible.

Year 7 Reports will be going home next week to provide you with important progress information at this mid-point in the year so do look out for them.

Thank you for your support with our proposed **Activities Week programme**. This has been a huge task to co-ordinate and we are excited to share the allocated projects and payment details with you early next week.

We are currently experiencing very high student demand for **First Aid** during school hours which is stretching our dedicated First Aid team to capacity. Good, regular attendance is essential for learning, however, parents and carers should ensure that **all students are fit and well enough to attend school** before leaving home in the morning. Please also note that we do not hold, and cannot administer, paracetamol to students. Thank you for your support with this.

A reminder that we have current staff vacancies for a **Supervisory Teaching Assistant** (Grade 7) with a particular focus on Learning Support and Student Wellbeing, and a **School Cleaner**. Please do spread the word to anyone who may be interested, full details of both posts are available on the school website: [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](#) Also attached are details of some part-time opportunities available at Prout Bridge.

Have a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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