

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Our **Year 7** marked the beginning of April, and another glorious morning, with a sponsored “**Tutor Run**” in aid of the people in Ukraine. It was very encouraging to see so many pupils showing such enthusiastic support and recognising the ongoing humanitarian crisis that is unfolding and they have raised a **magnificent £1441** today!. Pupil events over the past few weeks have accumulated an incredible amount of money which will go to DEC, the **Disasters Emergency Committee** [Home | Disasters Emergency Committee \(dec.org.uk\)](http://Home | Disasters Emergency Committee (dec.org.uk)). Thank you all for your support.

On Wednesday, it was a real pleasure to see so many Year 9 families at our **GCSE Options Information Evening** and very reassuring to, once again, be able to do this in person. We really appreciated the engagement and discussion that took place and will just remind Year 9 that final forms are due back by **Tuesday 3rd May**, at the latest please.

On Thursday we hosted a **Year 10 Maths enrichment** morning with 3 other local secondary schools attending, with stimulating talks and activities run by the **Advanced Mathematics Skills Programme (AMSP)**. Over the morning the students were engaged in seeing the usefulness and fun of mathematics beyond the curriculum, as well as post-16 opportunities. The unusual maths problems and learning were challenging to both students and staff alike!

There was also a good deal of debate and discussion across our **SustainableYou** team this morning. Students were able to consider what we as a school can do to build resilience and sustainability on the two specific themes of Wildlife and Food, with our thanks to **Dr Poppy Lakeman-Fraser, The Dorset Volunteering Centre and Beaminster Earth Alliance** for their valuable input. During the summer term we will be sharing these ideas more widely with the whole school and also working with Beaminster Town Council to move this forward.

We wish all of our **Duke of Edinburgh Award** students, who set off at lunchtime today, the best of luck on their training expedition weekend and hope the weather is kind to them.

The government have updated their guidance for “**Living with Covid**”, which comes into effect today. The key points are:

The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

- *Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature*
- *Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend*
- *Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **5 days**, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be **3 days**.*

Next week we are looking forward to the **Whole School Photograph** on Monday 4th April, and ask that all students make a particular effort to wear their school uniform correctly. It is particularly important that **all Year 11 students have their school jumper with them** please.

On Monday we are also hosting a **Dorset Council SEN** support event, called **Let’s Talk**, at 10am. Please see the attached flyer and do come along if you are interested.

We wish our **Year 12 students** well as they commence their trial examinations next week, broken up by a visit to **Bournemouth University** on Wednesday.

As part of our education work with students and the **Safer Schools team at Dorset Police**, we have been collaborating with The Woodroffe School and Sir John Colfox Academy to see what more we can do to challenge the threat of County Lines and drug use in rural communities. We are very fortunate to have some of the safest schools in the country and want to continue to keep our West Dorset Schools that way. Therefore, we have agreed that over the coming weeks we will trial an initiative with "K9 Deployment" who bring **sniffer dogs** into schools to act as a deterrent and stimulate discussion around the prevention of drug use and trafficking. In other areas of the country this initiative, across groups of schools, has had a huge impact in raising awareness and minimising the presence of drugs in and around schools. We will update you once the first round of visits has been completed.

A final reminder that we have a staff vacancy, closing on Monday 4th April, for an exciting new role in the school as a **Student Progression Officer** (Grade 8), working with our Sixth Form team and supporting Careers information and guidance. Please do spread the word to anyone who may be interested, full details of all posts are available on the school website: [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](#)

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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