

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers

Cells and Reproduction Lessons

Year 7 are approaching the half way point of the school year and all students have now completed their first three KS3 Science units in:

Biology	Muscles, Bones and Ecosystems
Chemistry	Mixtures, Acids and Alkalis
Physics	Energy and Forces.

As we now enter the second half of the year there will be three new modules taught:

Biology	Cells and Reproduction
Chemistry	Particles, Elements and Compounds
Physics	Electricity and Sound.

In Biology, following a series of lessons on different types of cells, the bulk of the topic will be Reproduction ('sex education') looking at the human life cycle. By the end of the topic the students should be able to:

- Recognise and label the parts of the human male and female reproductive system.
- Describe how and where the ovum is fertilised.
- Describe the growth and development of babies in the womb.
- Describe the role of the placenta during pregnancy.
- Understand the events that take place during child birth.
- Outline the menstrual cycle and some basic methods of contraception.
- Appreciate the changes that take place during puberty are both emotional as well as physical.
- Explain simply the role of hormones in bringing about the changes during puberty.

Science staff will endeavour to teach the subject material with sensitivity and understanding but inevitably, difficult questions will be asked by the teaching group. Teachers will endeavour to answer these questions in a factual way and at a level relevant and appropriate to their age group. Teaching aids such as video clips of the human body and childbirth may be used to enhance the learning process. Students will be encouraged to watch these but can opt out if they wish to.

Further lessons in Year 10 will go on to discuss contraception and sexually transmitted diseases as part of their GCSE learning.

Students sometimes use slang phrases which initially may be more familiar to them than the correct scientific terms. However, once the correct vocabulary has been explained it is made very clear that this is the only language acceptable. Experience suggests that this open approach to the subject allays pupils' embarrassment and allows more effective teaching and learning.

As a state maintained secondary school following the Science national curriculum, it is a requirement that we teach this material. However, if there is any reason you would not like your child to be taught any part of this module then please let me or their teacher know and alternative arrangements for those lessons can be put in place.

If you have no concerns or desire to remove your child from this module no further action is required.

Yours faithfully
Mr J Crossland
Head of Science

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