

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the overview I provided last week on the wider opening of schools, I wanted to now share our plans which will enable all year groups to fully return to school by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

I am afraid there is rather a lot of information to take in, but it is important for you to know and to be able to **take the required actions now**. A copy of this information will be available on the school website.

The phased return, starting from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, will ensure that all students can be safely tested before they return to face-to-face lessons.

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|--|---|
| • <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>     | <b>Staff Training Day NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL</b> |
| • <b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>    | Years 11, 12, 13 & SRP <b>only</b>              |
| • <b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b> | Years 9, 10, 12, 13 & SRP <b>only</b>           |
| • <b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | Years 7, 8, 12, 13 & SRP <b>only</b>            |
| • <b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>    | <u>ALL</u> students back in school.             |

The revised timing of the school day will continue until Easter, with **lessons finishing at 3.15pm**.

**All school transport will be running as normal and those students who are not in school should continue with their online learning.**

The Government requires all students to have **3 COVID-19 lateral flow device tests** in school in the first two weeks back. As part of the testing procedure, staff will also ensure that all students are trained to **undertake the tests** themselves, as tests are required to be completed at home twice per week from March 18<sup>th</sup>, under your supervision.

Along with all the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will offer additional reassurance and help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have COVID-19 experience no symptoms. By testing, we will help stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. Although testing is voluntary, we would strongly encourage everyone to participate to help break transmission links and to protect every member of our school community.

All staff and students who have been attending school since January have done these simple tests every week. Testing is done by swabbing the nose on each side rather than the throat - the same as NHS staff do. Tutors will give out more information to students next week and be happy to answer any queries your child may have.

**Asymptomatic testing** is not mandatory, but it is **strongly encouraged by Public Health England** as a significant step to help us break chains of transmission, manage the virus and better protect the whole community. This is the time when our core values of serving others can be put into practice.

## TESTING INFORMATION - ACTIONS YOU NEED TO TAKE NOW

Completing the **registration process and Consent Form for every student NOW** will avoid any unnecessary delays in the testing process and ensure that students can return to their classroom learning as quickly as possible. **Please take a few minutes to complete these 2 short requirements now.** Thank you.

Prior to returning to school, and before any testing, please visit:

[www.gov.uk/enter-lateral-flow-test](http://www.gov.uk/enter-lateral-flow-test)

and follow the instructions to [create an account](#) for your child (screenshots attached) – it is simple to do but does take a few minutes, and is so that results can be reported when tests are done. It can be done on a mobile or desktop computer, but students will need to be able register their results on their mobile once tested.

## Parental Consent and Privacy Notice

**All parents or legal carers/guardians** (who have not already done so) need to **complete the Consent Form** for on-site Covid-19 testing using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nv2mNvGkP0qtT5KrN99n6uUHZtknGa5OlupNTuZw9cFUMVpNNEkyTUIGR1hIV1dRTVhVNjUwNkNQSy4u>

If in doubt, please complete the form again. A separate consent form is required for **every student**.

The **Privacy Notice** relating to the processing of this data is available under the Covid-19 section of our website.

## The Testing Process

It is important that students **wash or gel their hands upon arrival in school, maintain social distancing and wear face protection** whilst in all communal areas and classrooms. On arrival in school students should go straight to their Tutor rooms for **Periods 1 and 2** to be welcomed back, and settled, by their Tutors.

During Tutor time, students will be called to the Main Hall to undertake the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing. Staff will be on hand to guide and train students through the testing process, check their **NHS registration**, and show students how to **register their test result**.

**Students will need to use their mobile to record their test result at school**, but once the test is complete our usual **On Site Out of Sight** policy applies and all mobiles should be turned off and stored safely out of sight.

The registration, information and testing process can take up to 30 minutes, but our clear and thorough training and support in school will ensure that students are able to confidently undertake their home testing correctly once the three tests in school have been done.

Students with a **negative test result** will return to their Tutor area and attend timetabled lessons as normal. Should any student receive a positive test result, we will contact parents/carers to collect the student immediately.

## Face Coverings

In schools where students in Year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by everyone (unless exempt) when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

**The Government has now directed** that the wearing of face coverings in classrooms be introduced for a **limited time until Easter**. This will be kept under review and our guidance will be updated at that point. Therefore, face coverings should be worn in classrooms and during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained. This will not apply in situations where a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example PE lessons. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils when outdoors on the premises.

Please be aware that the Government have recently changed the rules on **exemption from wearing face protection**, and the list refers to:

- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you **severe** distress.

We will, therefore, require medical support or a discussion with our SENCo before any exemptions can be agreed. We understand and appreciate the sensitivities around this, but there is now a huge variety of styles and types of face covering available to choose from, so please do explore the different options that are available now to find the one your child feels most comfortable wearing.

## Plans for Awarding Examination Grades this Summer

Schools will determine examination grades this summer, with student achievement **based on the standard at which the student is working**, assessed only on the content that they have been taught.

It is frustrating that we will have to wait until Easter to have the detail for determining grades from the examination boards. However, we do know that our grades will be a reflection of the evidence that we have, so students should be motivated to demonstrate the standard that they can achieve over these last few months.

Please be aware that the **results days** have been brought forward to

<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>AS and A-Levels</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>GCSEs.</b>

## School Uniform

**Full school uniform** will be required when students return to face-to-face lessons next week. Whilst the weather is certainly warmer than it was at the start of this term, room ventilation remains a crucial protection measure, so we do advise students wear their school coats. For any uniform requirements please visit [www.kitzuk.co.uk/shop/](http://www.kitzuk.co.uk/shop/)

## School Lunches

Please note that **during the first week** back there will be **no canteen service** so students will be required to bring a packed lunch, snacks and a water bottle.

## Online Learning

All students should continue with their online **learning through Teams and the work set on ClassCharts** until they return to school. However, please be aware that many staff will be supporting our mass testing programme and so may not always be able to offer live lessons during that first week.

Finally, at the end of the week we will provide a short video to welcome the students back and to walk through their first day back at Beaminster School.

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back in to school, and thank you again for your continued support during these challenging times for us all.

Mr Hales

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