

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER
DORSET DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633
Fax: 01308 863909
Absences: 01308 861917

Email: office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk



HEADTEACHER
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER
MR D WITHERS NPQH

Website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

20th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers – **Update from the Head, Friday 20th November 2020**

The onset of **Year 11 Trial Examinations**, next week, is a clear indication that the school year is moving with its usual inextricable momentum, despite everything else that we are dealing with. We have been very encouraged by Year 11 engagement with their subject support, after-school revision, online Tutoring and positive approach to this challenging week; we wish them all well.

I also wanted to pass on my thanks to our **Governing Body** for their support and efficient scrutiny at this difficult time. As you can imagine there has been a huge volume of government guidance, amendments and new procedures to check, challenge and implement over these last six months. They always manage to do this with a smile and are at great pains to ensure that, whatever actions we take, it is in the best interests of the students, staff and school. Our newest Parent Governor, Emily Hotchkiss, has written a short pen portrait to introduce herself:

I am a Parent Governor appointed in October 2020 on a 4-year term. I have one child at the school. My professional background includes 20 years developing communications strategy for major UK and international brands, as well as several charities and government departments. I have also trained in coaching and counselling, during which time I held a counselling role in a secondary school for Power2 Teens and Toddlers. I am also an ordained interfaith minister. I occasionally lead weddings, funerals and other blessings and sometimes take the Sunday morning service at the Bridport Chapel in the Garden. In no particular order, these are some things in life that I cherish: learning, patience, community, fun, curiosity, creativity, fresh air, stories, authenticity and music.

There is another exciting **Speakers for Schools broadcast** taking place at **5pm on Wednesday 25th November** from the House of Lords' climate and biodiversity action group. Using the PDF documents found at <https://www.peersfortheplanet.org/post/the-role-of-the-house-of-lords-in-climate-action> students will be able to participate in a webinar and ask questions to an esteemed panel. Join the link: <https://bit.ly/38V6xXR>

Public Health England have asked us to share with you their latest advice found on this link: <https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/latest-coronavirus-covid-19-news-and-information-17-march-3121566>

They re-iterate that you must not send your child to school if they have the following Coronavirus symptoms:

- High temperature
- Continuous cough
- Loss or change in sense of taste
- Loss or change in sense of smell.

Students are doing a really fantastic job of remembering to wear their face coverings when moving around the school so a big **thank you** to them all. Please do remind your child to bring in their **face protection every day** and to ensure they have a **spare** one in their bag.

Young people aged 11–18 across Dorset are being invited to contribute to a **LIVE Youth Voice Covid 19 Briefing** with experts from Dorset Council and Public Health Dorset on 26th November, further details are attached for those interested.

Finally, we were delighted to hear that Mrs Tridgell had a happy and healthy little boy earlier this week; we have passed on our best wishes to the family.

Take care and I hope that you all find some respite this weekend.

Mr Hales
Headteacher