

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers – **Update from the Head, Thursday 21st May 2020**

You will have read much about the **wider opening of schools** over the past week. Given how close it is to the half-term break, and acknowledging that our world of education is inextricably linked to the wider issues around public health, it does not seem sensible to be making high stakes decisions at this time. Therefore, although we remain optimistic about seeing our Year 10 and 12 students sometime in the summer, we will remain pragmatic and assess the situation against updated guidance in early June.

In the meantime, we will continue to support our **vulnerable students** and those whose parents are **Key Workers** by extending school hours after the half-term break. If you require your child to attend school then please do let us know, in advance, by using our email office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Alongside this we are working hard to keep our **online learning**, and student support, fresh and varied; we very much appreciate your understanding that planning online lessons, with rich materials and careful student guidance, is a time-consuming task for staff and will never be able to replace the normal face-to-face classroom environment. However, a few of the changes to mention are:

1. **Tutor Team Tuesdays:** Tutors will be arranging a 15 minute Teams meeting so that Tutor Groups can get together, support each other and feed back on any issues that we can help with. Please encourage your child to be involved in this.
2. **Year 9 Options:** We are working hard to get this complete, ready for a start from June 1st. This will mean that Year 9 students will be able to reduce a number of subjects and begin introductory work on their GCSE options. Staff have also been busy this week producing short video introductions to launch this. Core subjects (English, Maths, Science, Religious Studies, PE and Life Studies) will continue as normal.
3. **Staff Montage:** We are all missing the routine and interactions of normal school life and staff wanted to send a message to all our students which will be posted on the school Facebook page very soon ... so do look out for it!

Mr Randall is looking forward to seeing Year 11 students on Friday when they collect their Leavers' Hoodies. Students are asked to arrive promptly at their allocated time please to help maintain social distancing (time slots were ParentMailed out yesterday), and should not enter the school building but go straight to the LRC steps. Once Hoodies are collected and signed for students should then leave the site immediately, and are reminded that they should not gather in groups. Please email Mrs Channing at SChanning@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk if there are any issues with collection.

As this is **Mental Awareness Week**, it seems timely to remind you of the services provided by **KOOTH** for young people aged 11–18. The attached documents cover 5 Ways to Wellbeing, whilst the infographic aims to reinforce the message that we all need help at some time in our lives.

Enjoy the half term break and, as always, do get in touch if there is anything that you require and stay safe.

Mr Hales