

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

17th September 2021

Update from the Head, Friday 17th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first full week back has seen a further, welcome return to the routines and rhythms of everyday school life.

It was a real pleasure to gather, once again, for our first **Lower and Upper School assemblies**. This weekly coming together helps us all to maintain a sense of belonging in school, build social cohesion, develop our core values and provide essential time for students to pause, reflect and consider important events of the day.

On Wednesday evening I was drawn away from emails by the reassuring sound of student voices and the occasional blast of a whistle from the **Upper School Netball Club**; it still seems remarkable that it is over 18 months since we had mixed year groups! There are so many opportunities for students to seize and I do hope that you will encourage your child to get involved with, at least, one of the **Clubs and Activities** shared yesterday.

We were very pleased to see some new faces at the introductory meeting of our **Beaminster School Parents and Teacher Association** (BSPTA). The group are always keen to enlist some more help to support school events and raise additional funds, and any time that you can offer will be much appreciated; many hands really do make light work! If you couldn't attend the meeting, but would be able to help out with the occasional event, please let us know through the office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk account with the header BSPTA.

Thanks to the organisation, energy and drive of the PE department, the **Fun Run** remains a much-enjoyed event on the calendar. The pleasant weather ensured that nearly 500 students ran, jogged, toddled, or walked around the course, with much encouragement from our Sports Leaders and willing staff. There were some excellent times, with Lewesdon just pipping Mapperton to 1st place in this first House Sports competition.

You will be very aware that the government has decided to offer a **single Covid-19 jab to all children aged 12-15** as part of the endeavour to reduce educational disruption. As schools are public buildings, the government can choose to invite children, with parental consent, to accept the offer of this vaccination at their place of study. We have yet to see what precise role there will be for schools and I want to be clear that these are medical decisions, not educational ones, and that the programme will be purely voluntary with parents, carers and children determining their involvement, not schools.

Everyone has appreciated your ongoing support with the **twice-weekly LFD testing** and do ask that you continue with this for the foreseeable future.

We are very aware that Covid-19 has meant that we have had to replace face-to-face meetings with online events and parents' evenings. As we move through this term we are endeavouring to address this with a series of additional events.

Firstly, we have an important **Introduction to GCSEs and Work Experience Evening for all our Year 10 students, parents and carers** on Wednesday 22nd September at 7pm. This will be followed by **Open Mornings**, running from 9am between Monday 27th September and Wednesday 29th September, for any prospective new students and their families, and then a **Welcome to all our new Year 7 families** at 7pm on Wednesday 29th September. Looking ahead, please put **Friday 19th November** in your diary for our **Academic Monitoring Day** where all families will have an individual 15 minute meeting with their child's Tutor.

As previously mentioned, **The Beaminster Big Green Day** will be taking place on **Saturday 18th September** from 9am -12 noon in the Town Square, with the Prout Bridge Bus and lots of displays, plus a **Green Roadshow** in the Public Hall from 10.30am-2.30pm where the Beaminster WI will be providing refreshments. The event will have

stalls and activities such as our **Sustainable You and school energy projects**, trees and shrubs, the Green Living Project, energy efficiency in houses, wildlife in our gardens, local food projects, Open Greener Homes, an electric car and bicycle display, Clipper Teas and the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP). The Town Council will be also updating residents on their initiatives: Incredible Edible, Plastic Free Beaminster and the Community Orchard.

A copy of the **Prout Bridge activities list** for the first half of the Autumn Term is attached, and a final reminder that if you wish to apply, the closing date for our **two Teaching Assistant vacancies** is Monday 20th September; full details are available on the school website [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](#)

Lockers are now available. A £5 deposit, paid for via ParentMail +Pay only please (we cannot accept cash) is required. Once payment is made, students will be allocated a locker key. The £5 is refundable when the locker key is returned.

Students showed great support for our **Jeans4Genes** charity today and can end the week knowing that their kindness and service has been much appreciated.

Take care and enjoy the weekend.

Mr Hales

This ParentMail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. Disclosing, copying or distributing the contents is strictly prohibited without prior permission from the school. If you have received this email in error, please notify office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk