

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers – **Update on Return to School in January 2021**

I hope that you have all enjoyed a restful Christmas.

I wouldn't normally dream of contacting you on the last day of the year, but felt that you would want early clarification about the **re-opening of schools** following the government's latest announcement.

Secondary schools and colleges have been directed to extend the staggered return of their students to give more time for the rollout of coronavirus testing. This is intended to help find asymptomatic cases and break chains of transmission, making it as safe as possible to return to face-to-face education.

More information about the testing process will be sent out next week, but the following timelines have now been put in place:

- **No students will be in school** during the first week of term beginning **Tuesday 5th January** (except for vulnerable children or children of key workers who cannot work effectively from home). Secondary schools and colleges will focus on the rollout of testing to help find asymptomatic cases. Resources for remote education will be **prioritised for Years 11, 12 and 13 exam groups**, and to all other year groups through ClassCharts and Teams as usual. Importantly, **all students should keep to their regular timetable** from Tuesday 5th January.
- **Years 11, 12 and 13 will return to school on Monday 11th January** to resume face-to-face teaching. Secondary schools and colleges will also start their programme of testing, prioritising staff, those students in schools and colleges and the exam cohorts. Remote education will continue to be provided for all other year groups.
- **All students** will return to secondary schools and colleges for face-to-face education by **Monday 18th January**.
- **Vocational examinations** scheduled for early January **will** go ahead as planned. We will contact those involved early next week to offer further support.

To assist those who may have difficulty accessing online learning we have been able to acquire a number of **additional laptops for students** over the holidays. Should anyone require one please contact the office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk account and let us know your requirements.

Please also continue to let us know about any coronavirus symptoms or any positive tests as soon as possible.

Finally, **I will contact you again on 4th January**, when staff return to school, so we can appraise you of any further amendments. Thank you for your understanding and a very happy new year to you all.

Mr Hales

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