

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Year 10 and 12 Parents and Carers

## Year 10 and 12 Students Returning to School – Important Information

I apologise for the long letter but please do read it all carefully as it contains important information for all of us.

Thank you very much for your quick responses and helpful feedback regarding the return of Year 10 and 12 students; it is likely that we will have about three quarters of the students with us.

I would like to say how very impressed we have been with the way students have adapted and risen to the challenge of a new way of working online. This is, hopefully, the first phase of a return to school and, whilst it is not 'teaching' in its fullest sense, it is an important step back towards normality. However, this will not replace working from home in the near future and all work will continue to be set via ClassCharts.

To ensure that we are meeting government regulations, and making the best use of time available, we will be accepting students for **one day per week from 8.45am – 3.30pm.**

<b>Monday</b>	Year 10 Eggardon and Waddon
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 10 Lewesdon and half of Mapperton (surnames A – H <b>only</b> )
<b>Wednesday</b>	Year 10 Pilsdon and half of Mapperton (surnames I – Z <b>only</b> )
<b>Thursday</b>	All Year 12 Beaminster students.

If you would like your child to attend but have not responded to the survey, or have any issues with the allocated days, which will be the **same day every week**, we will need to hear from you by the end of Tuesday or sooner, or will not be able to accept them due to the complex organisational issues.

Please be assured that **all work will still be set via ClassCharts** and no new material will be covered in school, just the additional support as explained below.

I have tried to cover all the required information, and any questions that you raised in your feedback, in as concise a manner as I can! The first section sets out the Government position.

## Government wider opening of schools

From the week commencing 15 June, schools can invite Year 10 and 12 pupils back into school for some face-to-face support with their teachers. This will supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 pupils, which will remain the predominant mode of education during this term for pupils in these year groups.

Importantly, **this support cannot be in full classes through taught lessons with their usual teacher** due to the significant restrictions in place. Instead, the students will have access to specialist subject and pastoral staff with opportunities to check and discuss progress, deal with issues, provide resources and re-establish the teacher-student relationship.

Student movements during the day must be kept to a minimum.

The range of approaches and actions must include a **hierarchy of controls** that, when implemented, create an inherently safer environment, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. The Government guidelines include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that pupils or staff who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do **not** attend school
- washing hands more often than usual - pupils and staff will be reminded and encouraged to regularly wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly (if alcohol hand rub or sanitiser is used all parts of the hands must be covered)
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach (lidded bins are available all over school to help with this)
- cleaning frequently used surfaces and access points often, using standard products such as detergents
- minimising contact and mixing, as far as possible, by keeping pupils in small groups for face-to-face support and altering the school environment (e.g. changing classroom layouts so desks are further apart and/or dividing groups into different classrooms).

### **Preparation before the day**

Students will need to act safely, and independently, at all times. We are very aware that many students have been isolated for a long period of time, and returning to school will be exciting, but I ask for **your support** in reiterating the fundamental rules of social-distancing and maintaining a sensible, mature approach to the current situation.

We ask that students bring in **all their own subject materials, stationery and earphones** to help minimise the possibility of transmission. They **do not need to wear school uniform**, though sensible clothing is expected, and they should bring a packed lunch with their own drink(s) as the canteen and drinking fountains will not be operating. Although we have gel dispensers, wipes and essential PPE equipment in school, we would strongly advise each student has their own bottle of hand gel and tissues for personal use.

### **Travel to school**

We have received confirmation that school transport will run on all routes. Although there will be very few students on each bus, they must still sit separately and we expect that they wear face covering in line with the new Government guidance for all public transport. We have a stock of face protection in school, should this be required.

We ask that all other parents drop off students in the bus park and ensure that they walk into school separately, observing the 2m social-distancing.

### **Arrival - from 8.35am, at the earliest**

Students should use the hand sanitisers situated at all entrances, wash their hands on arrival and then go directly to the school hall for an 8.45am meeting. They must sit at one of the examination desks which have been socially-distanced to 2m and are regularly cleaned.

Once gathered, the students will be welcomed back to school and receive their Health and Safety briefing. After this they will then be broken into smaller groups and begin the pattern of the day set out below.

### **Pattern of the day**

We will be **minimising the length of break and lunch** to meet with guidelines. However, the students will have regular access to toilets, be able to get some fresh air and have time to catch up with other students under safer working practices. Group sizes will be below the recommended fifteen so that staff and students all feel safe and comfortable.

**Year 10:** Will receive an hour of support in English, Maths, Science and RS and, from 2pm, will have supported time to go over their option subject work.

**Year 12:** As we are not able to meet with Sir John Colfox staff due to the current regulations, students will all be based solely at Beaminster. During the day they will meet with subject teachers in their option classes, have time to speak with Tutors and discuss UCAS / Apprenticeship and EPQ issues. Any staff absences will be dealt with on the day.

### **Leaving at 3.30pm**

After the school day we will remind students to go home separately, maintaining social-distancing, and not in groups. Buses will leave at their normal time and we ask that parents use the staff car park for a prompt pick-up at the end of the day please.

### **Health and Safety**

Signs have been put up all over the school to remind everyone about social-distancing and hygiene protocols. Please do NOT send students to school if they are unwell or displaying any symptoms.

In order that we meet all the protective measures required by Health and Safety we will be **keeping student numbers to a minimum** and only be asking students to attend for **one day per week** at this time. Our procedures for social-distancing and hygiene all comply with Government guidelines and we will be regularly reminding students to wash their hands.

We look forward to welcoming Year 10 and 12 next week and thank you for all your continued support.

Mr Hales