BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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23rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers – **Update from the Head, Thursday 23rd April 2020**

We are acutely aware of the challenges placed upon you with learning now having to take place at home. I very much appreciated the opportunity to speak with nearly a quarter of Year 10 parents and carers, yesterday, to get a sample of feedback on how their child was coping and what more we can do.

We discussed the need for good routines with quality time set aside for work but, importantly, also making time to enjoy the glorious weather, keeping up other interests and finding time for regular reading. We all recognise that student motivation will waver on some days.

I would like to emphasise three important points that apply to **all** students:

1. **Please encourage students to keep in contact with their teachers and tutor every week**. We are really keen to help and support, but do require students to keep in touch and share their work and any concerns with us.
2. **Check ClassCharts regularly and discuss subjects with your child.** This provides an early warning if there are any problems and helps children to feel that completing work is worthwhile. If you are experiencing any ClassCharts related issues, for example access, please e-mail homehelp@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk
3. **Where students are struggling with accessing work or printing materials** it is possible for them to briefly come in to school and get help. Please contact us on office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk to arrange this, and as before, any key workers needing extended support should also contact us by **1pm on Friday** please. Anyone coming in to school must firstly go to Reception where they need to sign in and out.

Now that the government has confirmed that there will be no public examinations this summer, and coursework grades will not be required, we will **not set any further work for Year 11 or 13**. The summer bridging tasks provide a real focus for the transition to A-Level, and a number of students have been working through online courses, though we very much appreciate the difficult vacuum for these students at the moment.

Useful online parental support is being provided by **Action for Children**, which has a very sane overview of the difficulties we all face, good links to other platforms and, importantly, the opportunity to speak with an online advisor: https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-for-parents/ This link can also be found on the Home page of the school website.

As always, do get in touch if there is anything that you require and stay safe.

Mr Hales