

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Dear Parents and Carers – Update from the Head, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The hot weather this week seemed to drive heated arguments in the press about the re-opening of schools in September. The debate about a 1m-versus-2m is rule is something of a distraction, with the real issue still about what group sizes are permissible; what's the underpinning scientific justification; and how do we deal with the logistical implications of keeping groups separate, guaranteeing regular handwashing, managing public transport and other, wider issues.

After the successful return of Year 10 and 12, we remain **committed to the 2m rule, and regular handwashing**, so that we can continue to provide a safe and comfortable environment for our students and staff. We will keep a watching brief on government announcements and hope to be able to provide some clarification on September before the end of term.

We are very aware that this exceptional period of time, with students learning from home, has been a challenge for us all. As we enter the last three weeks of term we are keen to encourage all students to successfully complete key aspects of their curriculum and have a sense of closure. Therefore, each year group will have one **consolidation and review week** to help them focus on these issues:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Wb June 29: Year 9</b>         | English, Maths, Science and RS will set consolidation work and only Options subjects will set new work.             |
| <b>Wb July 6: Year 10</b>         | All subjects will set consolidation work and staff will help students to review key areas of their GCSE curriculum. |
| <b>Wb July 13: Year 7 &amp; 8</b> | This week will be used to finalise work and consolidate any key issues before the summer.                           |

We continue to provide an opportunity for students in other years groups to come into school, get support or print work, **where agreed in advance** with their Head of Year. We can also print resources for students, simply email [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk) in advance and attaching all the documents students require – these can then be collected the following day.

Can I also remind any students coming in to school to ensure they bring enough **water/drinks** with them for the day, particularly in this hot weather, as our water fountains are not currently in operation.

As mentioned last week, continued communication between home and school is key. Therefore, I do want to remind you that **ALL parents / carers have access to ClassCharts** so they can see the work set and monitor its completion. If anyone needs help with access or passwords for ClassCharts, please use our dedicated email address: [homehelp@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:homehelp@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

With so many students now using **Seneca**, the following link may also be useful for parents who are interested in seeing what their child is doing: <https://help.senecalearning.com/en/articles/4135222>

A reminder that today is the final day for students to submit their **Virtual Sports Day** results and gain valuable points for their House. Please encourage everyone to have a go now that the weather is a little cooler – we'll announce results next week.

Mr Randall is keen to gauge interest in a possible alternative **Year 11 prom** to be held at Haselbury Mill on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August. Before any decision can be made to proceed with this, **all Year 11s are required to respond to the form** that has been sent out please, by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July or sooner.

Finally, we have a staff vacancy for a **temporary Teaching Assistant** to work supporting a senior student from September until May 2021. Details are on Dorset for You and the school website, closing date is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Have a restful weekend.

Mr Hales