

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 17th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the Christmas holidays upon us, and another extraordinary year behind us, I wanted to finish the year as I started by thanking you for your continued trust and understanding with all that we have done at Beaminster School. The staff have hugely appreciated your support in encouraging safe behaviours, maintaining very high levels of attendance and working with us to overcome the many challenges outside of everyone's control.

I would also like to pass on my appreciation and gratitude to all the staff. During this unprecedented period of time staff have selflessly gone above and beyond anything that I could expect to provide the safest environment possible for our community, whilst maintaining the very highest standards of education. Even on the most difficult of days we have found great joy in being together and supporting the students through these most arduous months. This willingness to maintain the wider life of the school is reflected in the range of activities going on across the school this week.

On Monday Mr Wagstaff took our **Cross-Country** teams over to Budmouth for their final championship event. There were a number of strong finishes, with the pick of the crop being our Junior Girls. Eva Murless was 5th, Tabby Taylor 9th, Honie Jeffrey 17th and Eva Wagstaff 18th; as a team they were **placed 2nd overall**. At Intermediate level, Jess Denslow was 6th, India Murless 7th and Ella Thomas 8th. Many congratulations to **Jess who won the 3 race series**, with the team coming 3rd overall.

Staff and Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to The Lighthouse Theatre in Poole, on Tuesday, for the **Beauty and the Beast Pantomime**. This was then followed on Wednesday with the **Learning Performance** workshop which provided an ideal opportunity to reinforce effective study skills and develop their ability to think about and regulate successful approaches to learning. Year 8 also enjoyed their Learning Performance programme on Tuesday with some light entertainment in the hall provided by our Sixth Form RAG week team on Thursday afternoon.

The Sixth Form have found some really imaginative ways to keep the "**Rag Week**" tradition alive, including 'Uber' deliveries to classrooms, and The Talent Show and Masked Singer (who was that teacher?) being streamed to tutor groups across the school. Despite the challenges this year, several hundred pounds have still been raised for good causes this Christmas.

Year 11 have responded assuredly to the trial examinations and I congratulate them all on their end of term reports which were sent out yesterday.

Alongside this we have had **celebration assemblies**, and **Presentation Evening certificates** have also been sent out to formally recognise the hard work of students over the past year. From all of this we amalgamated thousands of ClassCharts points into **Mr Withers'** ever-popular **Christmas Draw**, which this year was live-streamed to tutor groups once again! Much fun was had by all and congratulations to all the lucky winners: Alfie Hambleton (7M), Sonny Wild (9W), Matilda Dodds (8W), Mia Swain (9M), Tabitha Taylor (9W) and Eliza Dinsmore (8W). Additionally, the very kind winner of the **BSPTA raffle prize** wanted to donate their 1st prize to a deserving student which, after nominations from Heads of Year, will be going to Ruth Sloper (10P).

With our school play, **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, firmly on the horizon for the end of January, it was a pleasure to see all the wonderful entries for the art work. After much deliberation, the winning entry was by Madeleine Whittle-Morrish, 2nd prize to Nancy Turnbull and 3rd to Roisin Murphy. Thank you to everyone for their inspiring designs.

I am also delighted to attach the latest edition of our school newspaper, **The Beaminster Times**, which can also be found on the school website and is an excellent read – well done to The Newshounds who produced it.

Bridport Children's Centre are running a number of popular support programmes in the new year (see the attached timetable). These can be accessed face to face, virtually or over the phone, so please do contact them if you would like further information.

Finally, the swirling speculation about the start to 2022 is enough to unsettle even the most pragmatic of us. It is important to remember that "*worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's peace*"; these matters are out of our control and we will deal with them together.

Take care, stay safe and we look forward to seeing the students back on Thursday 6th January 2022.

I wish you all an enjoyable and restful Christmas.

Mr Hales

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