

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was with great sadness that we heard of the Queen's passing last night, ending the longest reign in British history.

Her 70 years on the throne encompassed periods of enormous change, during which she represented a remarkable source of reassurance, constancy and unmatched dignity. In a complicated world she embodied and exhibited a timeless decency, an enduring calm, and her steady grace and resolve brought comfort to many. The Queen was able to connect with every passing generation whilst remaining rooted in the traditions that truly mattered to her; a deep sense of duty and a life in service to her country and commonwealth.

This morning our whole school community came together for a minute's silence to mark this historic moment and we will set aside time over the coming days so that students have an opportunity to understand the significance of the Queen's death. Such events can be unsettling and may elicit a range of emotions ranging from a deep sense of loss to indifference or even bewilderment. Throughout this period of national mourning please be assured that we will be respectful and understand that everyone grieves differently, providing support wherever it is needed.

As **Year 7** reach the end of their first week at Beaminster School I want to thank you for your support and encouragement in making their transition so successful. I know that Ms Smith and all the tutors have been very impressed by their positive attitude, their presentation, behaviour and real willingness to want to get things right. Please do remember to check that all items, particularly coats, are clearly labelled.

Looking ahead to next week, our school **clubs and activities** will get fully under way and I would strongly encourage all students to get involved in at least one of these (see the extensive list attached). **Individual photos** are taking place on Monday for all students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, so please ensure that the school uniform is correctly worn. On Wednesday we have **Year 10 (plus Year 11 catch-up) TdIPV and Meningitis inoculations** (a reminder that the online consent forms for this must be completed by Monday 12th September) and, at 6pm in the LRC, we will be holding an open forum to share our proposals to work with **Aspirations Academy Trust**, while Thursday sees all year groups limbering up for the school **Fun Run** and the first of our inter-house sports competitions.

Beaminster Table Tennis Club has started their autumn sessions which run on Monday evenings in the old gym, 7.15-9.15pm, £3.50. **Maiden Newton Football Club and Crewkerne Junior Rugby Club** are both looking for new players, and **Maiden Newton Youth Club** invites Year 7 and 8 students along to a fun night from 6pm **TONIGHT** (details attached).

Dorset Council have been running a **short bus survey** and are still very keen to have the views of young people to help shape the future of public transport in Dorset. This is the link to take part [survey](#) and be aware that the closing date is 11th September 2022.

Finally, we have already received a lot of calls regarding **school places for September 2023**. As always, we will be holding three short **Open Mornings from 9-10am** in the week beginning **26 September** so that pupils and parents can see the school in action. The information attached has been widely circulated to primary schools, and is also available on our school website and social media pages. Please do feel free to share the dates and spread the word to any families who may be interested – students are warmly invited to attend the mornings with their parents.

There will be a few tired students, and staff, after this first week back, but I am very encouraged by the work completed and trust that you all enjoy a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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