

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 11th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to see so many of you in school today, meeting your child's Tutor and having the time to hold important conversations about their learning. There was a really positive bustle about the school and I thank you for making the time in your busy schedules to attend.

You were also very generous with your BSPTA raffle prize donations. This will make a real difference for their fundraising at the **Beaminster Christmas Fair** on Friday December 2nd – do put this date in your diary! The BSPTA will also be running their popular **Xmas Bake Off Competition** again this year (poster attached).

This, very different week, started with our exciting **Stop the Clock Day**. Key Stage 3 were all out on trips, making the most of their experiences at Cheddar Gorge, Dorchester or Marwell Zoo. Year 10 and 11 were provided with online presentations of their set texts, with Year 10 making very good headway with their Work Experience next May or, for Year 11, tackling any immediate worries around revision and some challenging issues around sexism in our modern society.

On Wednesday we hosted a **Dorset leadership programme** for over 160 primary students from 20 schools. With such large numbers I am incredibly grateful to all our Year 9 and 10 student Sports Leaders who took responsibility for the activities, and for looking after the younger pupils so well. Through delivery of this very intensive programme, all the primary pupils passed their Bronze Leadership award and are able to go back to their own schools and deliver a similar programme to their peers.

That same evening our **Year 7 Netball squad** represented the school against Colfox for the first time and showed what a strong group they are. With so many pupils attending the training, Mrs Lees was able to put out two different teams, winning the first game 9-1 and the second 15-0; many congratulations to them all.

It was very encouraging to see so many Beaminster and Colfox families at our **6th Form Open Evening** on Wednesday. With an increased range of subjects on offer, another set of excellent results over the summer, and our unique Yeovil College Partnership, there are many opportunities for students to explore. Many thanks to the 6th Form students who took part, and also to past student and current Leonardo's Apprentice, Amber Hart, for attending.

If you missed the evening our **6th Form Prospectus** and 6th Form application form are available online at [6th Form Prospectus and Application Form | beaminsterschool](#), or do get in touch with our Head of Sixth Form, Mr See, via office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk. Hard copies of the Prospectus can also be picked up from Reception.

As well as hosting the **February Ski Trip** information meeting last night, Mr Crossland is looking forward to welcoming Leonardo's on Tuesday (including another former student, Tom Dulwich, who is undertaking a Degree Apprenticeship with Leonardo's), who are coming in to support our lunchtime **Engineering Club**. They will be providing some much-needed insight into the world of aerospace. There are still a few spaces available in the Engineering Club for any other Year 8 or 9 students who are interested, please see Mr Crossland.

Following on from today's observed silence I know that many Beaminster students will also be taking part in various acts of remembrance over the weekend. Five of our Senior Prefects will be formally representing the school at the Remembrance Service in Beaminster on Sunday afternoon: Herbie Bluck, Tilly Teasdale, Tom Baker, Kitty Rumens and Sam Chassar-Hesketh.

We are very excited to announce that our Technology team, kindly supported by sponsorship from The Frances Tucker Trust and BAe Systems, will be launching our entry into the **national F1 in Schools competition** on Wednesday November 30th! Over the coming months our student teams will research, design, plan and make their own model F1 cars, and then test them on our own track supported by technical workshops run by BAe Systems engineers.

To kick-start this amazing event we are running a caption competition, open to all students, with the chosen caption winning a fantastic **Lego McLaren Formula 1 Team 2022 Car!** To enter students just need to complete the sentence: "**F1 is great in schools because ...**". All entries need to be with Mrs Gibbs or Mrs Da Costa by **Monday 21st November**.

With our **Staff Training Day on Monday 14th** and no students in school, Year 11 will appreciate the extended weekend as their **trial examinations** start on Tuesday. Over the following seven school days they will be able to get experience of a formal examination environment, develop their revision skills and check their understanding of key topic areas as they approach the final 6 months of their GCSE courses; good luck to them all during this testing period!

After 3 years of hard work and commitment we heard that Year 8 student **Ben Sloper** passed his black belt grading last weekend. This is a fantastic achievement and requires a huge dedication to work through the different belts and the specific skill requirements; well done Ben. Congratulations also to **Jack Ronan**, a Year 11 Media student, who has had one of his photographs published on the sports pages of the Bridport News this week, do look out for it.

A reminder that our friends at **ASCape** run an inclusive **Teens Youth Club** in Bridport on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, details attached, and that the **Table Tennis Club** are always looking for more players. The club runs every Monday in the school gym, 7.15-9.15pm, for more information contact Jack Barnett at j.barnett.tabletennis@gmail.com

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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