

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 30th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Our three **school Open Mornings** provided extra bustle and excitement this week and, with over 100 families passing through, certainly kept our senior prefects on their toes. Due to the significant demand we will be running an **additional Open Afternoon** on Wednesday 12th October at 2.15pm-3:15pm; please do contact the school if you would like to attend.

Next week is our first **Reading Week** of the school year. Following on from the success of last year, we will be continuing to widen students' exposure to a rich and varied diet of literature. Each KS3 lesson will include up to 15 minutes of teachers reading **Lois Lowry's "The Giver"**, which focuses on the childhood of a boy called Jonas moving towards great changes in his highly ordered life, with the reader moving through the many twists and turns of his journey.

Sixth Form students enjoyed listening to a fantastic range of nationally acclaimed speakers at a thought-provoking **Human Rights Conference** held at Lychett Minster this week. Speakers included **Grace Savage**, a 4 times UK Beatbox Champion and Radio 1 played musician; **Felicity Aston MBE**, author, speaker, research scientist and the first woman to ski alone across Antarctica; **Louisa Adjoa Parker**, poet, writer and speaker on rural racism, black history, mental health and marginalisation; **Gemma Aitchison**, founder of Yes Matters and **Hibo Wardere**, a Somali-born campaigner against female genital mutilation (FGM), author and public speaker. Congratulations to Sixth Form students Sally and Charlie who also took the stage.

Following on from the successful **Year 13 Biology Fieldwork** this week, our **Sixth Form Art and Photography** students are off for a three day residential to Cornwall. This includes a tour of facilities and print making or photography workshops at Falmouth University, visits to the Barbara Hepworth, St Just and Kurt Jackson Museums and independent galleries in St Ives, as well as utilising the beautiful beaches and scenery of the Cornish coastline.

On Thursday we are looking forward to welcoming senior pupils, parents and carers to share in our annual **Presentation Evening Awards** ceremony. This important evening provides the perfect stage to celebrate the many and varied achievements of our students from the past year. Thank you to those of you who have already responded to the invitation by completing the short form, remaining responses are required by **Tuesday 4th October** please (the link to the form was sent to award winners via ParentMail).

I have very much appreciated your thoughtful correspondence with regards to our consultation on joining **Aspirations Academy Trust**. The agenda for the October Advisory Board will be published next week [Advisory boards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and we are still able to receive any further comments or questions (email Info@aspirationsacademies.org and/or office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk) up until Friday 14th October.

A reminder that **lockers** are now available for any student who would like one, please look in the Shop area of ParentMail and add to your basket, and in the current challenging financial climate I thought it might be timely to remind you of the link to check if your child may be eligible for **Free School Meals** and/or other benefits: [Apply for free school meals - Dorset Council](#)

Attached are details of some **forthcoming events** that some families may be interested in.

Finally, we are looking for a **Teaching Assistant** to join our team as soon as possible, details will be available on both Dorset for You and the school website. Please also be aware that our **part-time Finance Admin officer** post (Monday-Friday, 25 hours) closes on **Wednesday 5th October**.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales