

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 8th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The arrival of Easter is always a significant point in the calendar as it signals that summer will soon be upon us and that GCSE and A-Level examinations are on the horizon.

After the hiatus of the past two years this term has been a challenging period for Year 11 and 13 students with the uncertainty of examination content and significant Covid-19 absences. I am very proud of the work that we have done together, and know that their engagement will grow to fruition with a continued focus over Easter, ready for the start of GCSE examinations on Monday 16th May, and A-Levels on Tuesday 24th May.

The arrival of “**K9 Deployment**”, particularly Beans the sniffer dog, certainly caused some excitement on Wednesday. During a busy day, the team, always accompanied by a member of SLT (the Senior Leadership Team), met students in the bus park, presented at a Year 7 and 8 assembly, visited lessons and patrolled the grounds at break and lunchtime. The visit stimulated a lot of positive conversations and is a just one small part of our education work around the prevention of drug use and trafficking. Please do read the attached press release as part of the whole West Dorset initiative.

It was a pleasure to welcome the **Dorset Council SEN** team, along with a good number of parents and carers, as part of the **Let's Talk** initiative to provide greater information about what is happening in our locality for children and young people with SEND. Further events will be running in the summer term, but please do contact the team at westlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Our **Year 8 footballers** were in action again on Monday against Colfox. 2-0 down at half time, the team rallied with an outstanding performance from Huck Booth and a hat trick by Owen Kemp resulting in a 3-2 win. You may also have seen that Huck and Lucian Hotchkiss were winners at the Love U Lots Skate Festival in Bridgwater: [Young skaters' success at 'Love U Lots' Skate Festival | bridport.nub.news](#)

Well done to our **Year 12 students** who came through a busy week with **trial examinations** and a visit to **Bournemouth University** on Wednesday.

We said a sad farewell to **Miss Reiffer** today who will be taking up a new post much nearer to home in Weymouth. She will be much missed, particularly in the Sixth Form and Humanities, and I thank her for all the work over these past five years. I am also very grateful to **Ms Perkins** who will be increasing her time to cover the whole timetable, and pleased to confirm that following interviews we have appointed **Mrs Lorraine Baker** to the **Student Progression Officer** post, and she will be starting after Easter.

The online platform, **Oak Academy**, remains [data-free](#) so students can learn on a mobile device without using up data allowances or accruing charges. Additionally, there are a number of cheaper home broadband contracts that you may be eligible for. Do check these out at [Cheaper broadband and phone packages - Ofcom](#)

With the possibility of sunshine, I know that the **Tennis Club** are keen to welcome new members. In addition to regular evenings they also have weekly coaching sessions for students so do contact them at beaminstertennis@gmail.com for further information. During the summer term the school will also be holding tennis coaching sessions after school on Fridays, further details will be circulated next term.

Our friends at **Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service** wanted to share their concerns regarding a number of incidents of fire play by young people in the Bridport and Beaminster area, involving setting fire to aerosol cans.

“This is extremely risky behaviour and has the potential to cause injury to the young people involved. Fire is unpredictable and has the potential to get out of control, putting other people, animals and property at risk. Deliberately setting fires puts a strain on the fire and rescue service; if your local fire crew are attending an incident of this nature they will not be available for other emergencies. Please speak to your child about the dangers of playing with fire, if you are concerned about their fire safety or if you suspect they are

involved in fire play, the fire and rescue service have a free, confidential scheme to help [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Firesetters \(dwfire.org.uk\)](http://www.dorsetfire.org.uk) Please do contact us if you have any concerns about you or your family's fire safety www.dwfire.org.uk"

I am always pleased to pass on information about opportunities open to our students, and attached are details of **Gig Rowing, Women and Girls Cricket** and the **Prout Bridge Easter Activity Programme** – so lots on offer.

I wish you all a peaceful and happy Easter.

Mr Hales

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