

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was very encouraging to start the week with our **Stop the Clock Day** and the many varied activities provided across Years 7 to 11. Although it is a hugely complex day to organise, we know the benefits of taking learning outside of the classroom and putting it into context. We also had very positive feedback from our visits, and speakers, who were very impressed by the behaviour, presentation and engagement of our students; thank you to everyone involved in making this day such a success.

Following on from this, our **Year 10 students** have been suitably prepared for their individual interviews with our friends at Rotary in the Town Hall. These continue into next week and I am very grateful to the Sixth Form for their support in assisting with supervision.

The **Sixth Form Open Evening** on Wednesday was an exceptionally busy event with lots of information shared through important, and timely, conversations (the new Sixth Form Prospectus is now available on the school website). As I sat listening to the presentations I was heartened at how clearly our three core values of **Ambition, Service and Kindness** are evident in all the work that we do: the ambition of so many students who have gone on to secure places at universities across the country, or challenging apprenticeships and varied careers in the world of work; the service from our current Sixth Form who were so willing and able to speak about their subjects and, lastly, the kindness that all the students were showing towards each other. Year 11 will have a further opportunity to discuss the courses and support that they need on **Academic Monitoring Day**, but should you have any worries or specific questions please do contact Mr See, Head of Sixth Form, at [JSee@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:JSee@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Every Thursday our wonderful cast and crew have been rehearsing, planning, learning lines and preparing for the end of January and our 2022 school production of **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. These are always hugely ambitious projects and I am extremely grateful to them all for their enthusiasm, continued time and endeavours in making the production possible, and we look forward to the performances next year.

Our **SustainAble You** team, together with the organisation **Litter Free Dorset**, are shaping up a "festive campaign" to design a logo and/or a mascot for future campaigns. They will also be presenting at the **Christmas Fair on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**, where we look forward to seeing you in St. Mary's Church from 5pm with the Beaminster School PTA organising events, including the return of their popular **Christmas Bake Off Competition** (posters attached). Please do remember to bring in **a bottle or some chocolates for the BSPTA's table on Academic Monitoring Day** to help with their fundraising, all donations gratefully received.

Next **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November is a non-uniform day** for all students in aid of Children in Need and the Year 7 charity, further details will be sent out next week; details about Academic Monitoring Day (Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November) have already been circulated and can also be found on the school website.

Our **X-country teams** faced a challenging hill, and seven other schools, in the second round of competition in Bridport on Tuesday. The Junior and Inter Girls teams were a very encouraging second, with the Junior and Inter boys close behind in third. Of particular note from their races were Zak Zidary and Jess Denslow who were 2<sup>nd</sup>, Anna Scarborough 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ella Thomas 5<sup>th</sup>, Francis Caswell 7<sup>th</sup>, Ben Keeping and Owen Kemp 8<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all as they prepare for the final race on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

The **Bridport Arts Centre** are looking to develop a **Youth Film Club** in the new year and are asking students to suggest films that they would like to see. Bryony Moores O'Sullivan, an ex-Beaminster student and Youth Engagement Officer, is keen to involve our students with the programme and gather interest for a range of activities including film workshops, a song writing course and an arts club, as well as responding to any other ideas from students. We will be doing a poll in school, but Bryony is keen to hear from you directly on: [bryony@bridport-arts.com](mailto:bryony@bridport-arts.com)

Mrs Fox would like to pass on a big thank you to all of the students and parents who helped with the safe return of her horses on Wednesday evening. Your response and assistance was invaluable and she is hugely grateful to you all.

Finally, in line with **Public Health Dorset guidance**, we are continuing to insist that all students **wear face-coverings in communal areas** until the end of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021; do ensure that all students bring their own face covering. I am pleased to confirm that we have only had a handful cases at the present time and appreciate your continued support with twice-weekly LFD testing and sensible attendance decisions where a student has symptoms.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Hales

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