

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 24th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Our mid-week **Stop the Clock Day** was packed with exciting curriculum opportunities - and blessed with a pause in the rain!

The **Year 7 History visit to Corfe Castle** allowed students to explore a part of their local history as well as developing their learning on castles and the Norman Invasion which they have been studying this year. **Year 8 went to Lyme Regis** as they have been studying coasts in Geography lessons, and so this is an ideal opportunity for students to understand more about coastal processes and landforms. They also looked at the coastal engineering works that are limiting erosion, including the current re-development of the beach area, and visited the Lyme Regis Aquarium to learn more about the coastal ecosystem, where they particularly enjoyed feeding the grey mullet and holding a starfish!

Year 9 had an inspirational Science show from 'Wonderstruck' on rockets, forces and their uses in society. This was then followed by two challenging workshops, to make the furthest running battery car and another for the highest rocket launch. **Year 10 went to Yeovil Cinema** to watch the recent film "Till". Set in the 1950s, this is a powerful and thought-provoking US drama, based on real events, in which a woman seeks justice for the racist murder of her son. In English lessons students explore themes of race, inequality, class, conflict and social injustice through the texts they study, and we hope that students will use it as an opportunity to reflect on these themes in relation to our modern society.

Year 11 had a very busy day finalising their GCSE coursework folders and undertaking extended practical work, whilst **Year 12** were in Exeter to research post Sixth Form opportunities at the University Careers Fair.

On Tuesday, almost 100 KS2 girls, from all six Beaminster feeder primary schools, took part in 5 football games on our 3G pitch. There was plenty of energy expended, and lots of smiles, as the girls improved their football skills through activities such as aliens, space cadets, bumper cars and behind enemy lines, as well as beat the keeper! None of this would have been possible without the fantastic support of 16 of our Year 9 Leaders, from our girls' football teams, who enthusiastically managed the event and made it such a success. Thank you to everyone involved.

We were also delighted to hear that **Anna Wheeler**, 7W, competed in her second regional qualifier for Double Mini Trampoline. With all four passes showing no foot movement, Anna achieved the gold medal in the 13+ age group and is now looking forward to the finals in May.

Thursday saw the final round of **House matches** this term, with some very wet boys' football and highly skilled girls' basketball. On the day it was Lewesdon who came through as the football and basketball winners; congratulations to all their teams. Therefore, **Lewesdon** now lead Eggardon in the overall House competition, followed by Pilsdon, Waddon and Mapperton. However, with two more days, and double points for Sports Day, it is all to play for in the summer.

It was also a real pleasure to welcome our primary partners on Thursday evening for the **Pyramid Choral Festival**. After a four year gap, we were all reminded of just how special and enjoyable it is to get so many students to sing together as a collective group. There was a wonderful variety of music and song, played out to a very congenial packed school hall, skilfully put together by Mr Nick Harris and staff from each school, including our own school choir. My thanks to everyone involved for an uplifting evening.

Our thanks, also, to the **NHS Immunisation Service** who were in school again today to provide KS4 students with protection against Tetanus, Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis and four types of meningococcal bacteria (groups A, C, W and Y) that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia.

Thank you for continuing to report **student absences**. All absences should be called in daily, and as early as possible, using the main school number or the **dedicated 24 hour Absence Line (01308) 861917**. Should you email an absence to your child's Tutor, please do remember to **always copy in the office as well**, to ensure it is recorded as early as possible. Remember that the student's full name, tutor group and the reason for the absence should always be included in all messages, whether phoned in or emailed.

As our Year 11 students begin their final preparations for GCSEs, now is also the time when we look to our Year 9 and 10 students to take over their roles as **Prefects and Sub-prefects**. Mr Withers spoke to all of Year 9 about the Sub-prefect roles this morning, and is speaking to Year 10 on Monday about our expectations of Prefects and how to apply for the senior team. We have a wonderful student body who live out our school values of **Ambition, Service and Kindness** every day, so I do hope that you will encourage your child to apply.

Meanwhile, Years 7 and 8 are on the second week of their Inter-House **Bedrock Learning competition**. This introduces students to a range of engaging fiction and non-fiction texts to help develop their vocabulary, literacy and independent reading skills. With just one week to go Lewesdon are leading Eggardon by just 5%, and in Year 8 Waddon have a tiny lead over Pilsdon; a final push will make all the difference!

On Tuesday, we have a special **Upper School Assembly** with an invited guest speaker, **Mr Robin Jowit**. Robin is a former Mayor of Richmond who, like so many of us, has been appalled by the events unfolding in Ukraine. Working with a group from Rotary, Robin travelled to Ukraine to find out more about the impact of the war on schools and children in the classroom. Having all endured the huge challenges that COVID had on our education system, I am sure that the students will be able to empathise with the relentless difficulties that this is causing for the children in Ukraine. Please click here [Click to Download](#) for a recent interview with Robin on Sky TV, and do donate if you can at <http://www.helpukraineschildren.com>

We are having a **SEND coffee morning** on Thursday 30th March anytime between 9.30 – 11am. Please join Mrs Dinsmore and her team for an opportunity to ask questions, share experiences and find out what is happening in school. So that we have an idea of numbers, please email Mrs Dinsmore to confirm if you would like to attend or contact office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Finally, don't forget that the **clocks go forward** at 1am on Sunday 26th March – let's hope for the arrival of summer time.

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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