

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

December has finally arrived and any curmudgeonly thoughts were washed away last night as a packed hall enjoyed a wonderful array of performances during our **Christmas Celebration Concert**. As always, it was a real delight to sit back and listen to music from Year 7 all the way to Year 13, and to see the students playing together with such confidence. My thanks to everyone involved, particularly Mr Smith for co-ordinating the evening and the BSPTA for providing the refreshments.

The **BSPTA Bingo Night**, last Friday, was a real success and we thank so many of you for supporting. We are also asking for your continuing help in the selling of **raffle tickets**. Do remember that they need to be returned by 9am on Friday December 8th.

Key Stage 3 have been enjoying our staff led read-aloud sessions with the riveting story, **A Monster Calls**, as Conor journeys between imagination and reality, all superbly written by Patrick Ness; do discuss the book with your child if you can.

Over the course of this week Mrs Carlile and the team from **Beaminster Museum** have provided all of our Year 7 with a unique opportunity to step back in time and dive into the rich local history of World War 1. The educational trip was organised as part of the school's English curriculum, where they have read the novel 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Murpurgo. The visit offered the students a hands-on experience to learn about the impact of the Great War on their own community and a comprehensive insight into the lives of the soldiers and civilians who were directly affected by the war. The students had the chance to explore a wide range of interactive exhibits and artefacts related to World War 1, complemented by engaging and informative presentations led by knowledgeable volunteers which allowed the students to ask questions, participate in discussions, and contemplate the significance of the war's impact on the local community. "This visit was an invaluable opportunity for our Year 7 students to engage with their local history and gain a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made during World War 1," said Mrs Carlile. "The experience provided an immersive learning environment that complemented our classroom studies and enhanced the students' appreciation for the past."

On Tuesday, Years 7 and 8 were treated to an excellent **science and careers presentation** by BAe Systems. The performance covered the many opportunities provided by science, engineering and mathematics through an interactive journey from the depths of the Marianas Trench all the way to the stars – including the incredible fact that 1.3 million earth's fit into the sun.

The sporting week started with an excellent **Year 8 Basketball** fixture against Colfox, with the boys securing a convincing win by over 40 points; our thanks to Craig Sorrell and Bridport Evolution for their support. This success was followed by our **Netball teams** on Wednesday with Year 7 beating Colfox 7-0 and Year 8 winning 5-1. During the arctic conditions on Thursday our **Cross-Country team** of 32 runners participated in the Colfox round of the competition. Nine of the students finished in the top ten with Zak Zidary 3rd, Ben Keeping 4th, Ana Bibby 5th, Tom Green 5th and Henry Guppy 5th. The final round is at Budmouth on January 8th. Finally, during the same treacherous weather, the **Primary feeder schools** fought out the football **Kenway Cup**, with congratulations to Sticklands who won the trophy after a penalty shoot-out!

Thank you for your engagement with our **Year 9 Consultation Evening** on Wednesday and we look forward to meeting **Year 13 parents and carers** at Sir John Colfox Academy next Wednesday, from 4.30pm, for this important consultation evening.

Mr Haigh, Head of Photography, is encouraging students to flex their creative skills over the Christmas period and tackle the attached '**Abstract Advent**' challenge. Whether they are taking a few mindful minutes each day to use the shape as a prompt or complete the whole challenge in a day during Twixmas, Mr Haigh is keen to get students' responses to create a mini exhibition in school early in the New Year.

Looking ahead, we have the fun of **Christmas Jumper Day**, next Friday, where we look forward to seeing the assemblage of so many different designs! Unfortunately, due to essential electrical works taking place at Beaminster St. Marys church, we are sadly not able to hold the **Christmas Carol Service** this year.

The **Prout Bridge Project** is a local cornerstone charity, nurturing the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of children, young people and adults. The team provide a range of essential services housed under one roof in a welcoming community centre relied upon by hundreds of people every week. They are desperately in need of funding to ensure that their vitally important work continues; please donate on this link if you can: <https://crowdfunder.co.uk/p/pbp-2024> A perfect example of their great work is the Christmas Activity Day, on December 20th, to which anyone aged 8-16 is invited. See the attached information for further details.

National Online Safety are encouraging all schools to share a series of parental leaflets with you in the run up to Christmas. Please do take a few minutes to look at the first one, attached, based around reducing our reliance on Tech this Christmas.

Enjoy this first, crisp, December weekend, and the start of advent.

Mr Hales

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