

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share with you the official **Ofsted report**, attached and also on the school website, that will be published next week, and reflects the very effective education provided by Beaminster School in all aspects of our work.

As I say in the press release, the strong ethos and character of the school has shone through, alongside the high quality of work that my staff undertake every day: *“Beaminster School is a community that pupils, parents, staff and governors are proud to be a part of... Adults know pupils well as individuals. As a result, pupils get the help and support they need.”*

The four inspectors spent a whole day looking at the quality of education in English, Maths, Design Technology and Geography, reporting that: *“The school has planned an ambitious curriculum for pupils... This helps pupils to build on their learning from Year 7 through to Year 13.”*

We were also very pleased that the team quickly identified that, *“Pupils feel listened to and safe in school,”* that, *“Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school site,”* *“Are prepared well for adult life”* and, really importantly for us all, that there are, *“Good relationships with adults, built on mutual respect and trust.”*

The report is a testament to the skill, hard work and care that our staff provide, but also the strong relationships that we have with you, alongside the wonderful students who attend; I am extremely grateful to you all for your support.

Meanwhile, the many cogs of school life continue to turn and we have had another varied week. **Year 7 and 8** were great ambassadors during their trips out to Cheddar Gorge and the Dorchester Museums on Monday. It is so important for us to put their learning into context and to expose our students to new experiences, so I am very grateful to all the staff for making this possible.

Our assemblies have focused on ‘**Remembrance**,’ both the importance of learning from past events and the hope of a more peaceful future. This year the **Royal British Legion** are remembering and honouring ‘Service’. On the 70th anniversary of the armistice, which ended the fighting of the Korean War, we paid tribute to the British and Commonwealth forces who served in almost unimaginable conditions. We also honoured the contribution of the generation in uniform who undertook National Service, 60 years after the last serviceman was demobbed.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you to the **Sixth Form Open Evening** at The Sir John Colfox Academy on Wednesday. With an increased range of subjects on offer and another set of excellent results over the summer there were many opportunities for students to explore. If you missed the evening our new **6th Form Prospectus** and 6th Form application form are available online at [6th Form Prospectus and Application Form | beaminsterschool](#), or do get in touch with our Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Walters, via office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk should you have any queries. Hard copies of the Prospectus can also be picked up from Reception.

At the **Year 10 Rugby tournament** in Dorchester our team had two big successes in the pool games, beating Wey Valley 22-0 and All Saints 24-5. Then, in the semi-final, after a tough battle with Thomas Hardy, they eventually lost 24-5, but deservedly gained 3rd place. Congratulations to the whole team, with try scorers Oli Strong, Huck Booth, Owen Kemp, Frank Grave and Adi Gunning. Congratulations also to Year 8, Anna Wheeler, who finished 2nd in a recent DMT competition in Bath and has moved up 2 levels to Regional 3.

Next week, we have the first set of **trial examinations for Year 11**, spread across two weeks to ensure that students have a little more time to prepare. These provide an essential experience of the formal examination environment, develop revision skills and check student understanding of key topic areas as they approach the final 6 months of their GCSE courses; good luck to Year 11 during this testing period!

Summer exam certificates for GCSEs and A Levels can now be collected from Mrs Emmett and do need to be signed for. These are important documents that are difficult to replace as they provide future employers and education providers with evidence of the student's qualifications, so please ensure that all certificates are collected as soon as possible.

Progress reports for Years 7, 8 and 10 have been sent out this week, and we very much look forward to welcoming you all, next Thursday, for our **Academic Monitoring Day**. This is always a very convivial occasion and I am extremely grateful for your support in juggling commitments so that you can attend. If you are able to support the BSPTA Christmas Bingo Evening on Friday 24th November by **bringing in a bottle or some chocolates** that would be very much appreciated.

Finally, please remember that Friday 17th November is a **staff training day** so there will be no students on site.

I wish you all a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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