

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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8th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

After the extended Bank Holiday weekend we have had a lot to pack into the four days of this week.

Our **Year 10 Work Experience** fortnight is now nearly half way through and, as ever, we are receiving fantastic reviews from employers about our students and their engagement with this unique opportunity. Four of our students were able to take part in the NHS Widening Participation project this week, receiving an inspirational insight into the many careers available, and have a different placement next week. Staff are all really enjoying their visits to see the students in their work places, and hearing about the many wonderful opportunities they are receiving, and so I wanted to re-iterate our sincere thanks to all those employers involved.

After months of preparation, the **GCSE examinations** finally got under way, today, for our Year 11s. The first few days are always a real challenge, however, Year 11 have shown great maturity, and importantly, a sense of balance, to make a very productive and optimistic start to this demanding period of time. **Year 13 Art students** completed three days of intensive study to produce some wonderful outcomes for their A-Level examinations, with the rest of Year 13 starting formal examinations next week.

Every student will have a different way of coping with the rhythm of daily examinations, but continued contact with teaching staff and friends at school, use of the targeted revision sessions and maintaining a healthy perspective are all important aspects of this. As always, if there are any concerns please do contact your child's tutor so that we can work with you and offer support where needed.

All those involved in our school production and extra-curricular Music and Drama activities this year enjoyed a fabulous day out at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to see the magical mischief of **Matilda the Musical**. The show was inspiring for all, with the students' conduct exemplary throughout the day. Mrs Edwards and Ms Smith now look forward to planning the next production after half term... watch this space!!

We were delighted to welcome Year 5 from St Mary's Academy on Tuesday for our first **Reading Workshop in the Library**. Year 5 enjoyed a range of activities, including a Library Hunt, listening to a Beaminster student read aloud an exciting book extract, a Book Chat, plus a small taster of a Year 7 lesson thanks to Mrs Dodds reading an extract from 'Private Peaceful'. Our huge thanks go to Amelia Hodder, Spike Goldsmith, William Holloway, Lexi Francis and Brooke Howard-Riddle - they were fantastic ambassadors for our school and we were extremely proud of their mature, diligent efforts in enabling the Reading Workshop to happen. More importantly, our students' love of reading was plain to see - we feel certain that Year 5 feel even more inspired to keep reading after today! You can see some photos on our Facebook page.

Our **Duke of Edinburgh** teams completed a very thorough First Aid programme on Tuesday, to prepare them for their forthcoming expeditions. After covering key aspects on basic First Aid, they were trained on CPR manikins and managing common situations. The afternoon finalised map skills and route planning, as well as ensuring that their tents could be correctly set up! Having nearly completed the other demanding sections of Volunteering, Skills and Physical, the students will be undertaking their expeditions after half-term.

Huge congratulations to Year 7 student, **Blaize Sharp**, who is now a double martial arts champion having been crowned as both South Coast and South West Champion! He came away with a Gold and Silver medal at the South Coast Championships in Southampton, and then another Gold at the South West Championships in Taunton. In the water, Year 11, **Ben Keeping** was involved in the South West regionals at the weekend and came 5th in the 50m breaststroke swimming against the top 25 swimmers in the region area – well done Ben!

As we go past the halfway point for Year 12, we are focusing our efforts on helping students make plans and decisions for their next steps after A Levels/BTECs, be it higher education, an apprenticeship or employment. To support this we are holding a **UCAS Information Evening** for parents and students, at the Sir John Colfox Academy, on Tuesday 12th May from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.

You will also have seen that our fabulous **BSPTA** are looking for new members, ready for next year. These volunteers provide a valuable service to the school, that makes a real difference for our students, and I would ask anyone who can offer just an evening or two per year, to get in touch. We also have a forthcoming meeting to which you are all warmly welcomed on **Thursday 14th May at 6pm in the Ollerod in Beaminster**.

Dorset Police are holding a webinar aimed at addressing knife crime awareness and prevention on 20th May at 7pm, details are attached.

Finally, we wish **Mrs Jennings** well as she takes her maternity leave from Modern Foreign Languages, and welcome **Mrs Kirby** who has ensured such a steady handover.

It just leaves me to wish you all an enjoyable, and hopefully dry, weekend.

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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