

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER  
DORSET DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633  
Absences: 01308 861917

Email: [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)



HEADTEACHER  
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEADS  
MR D WITHERS NPQH  
MR R BARNES MEd

Website: [www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a real pleasure to welcome all the students back to Beaminster School this week, with the late summer sun giving us all a much-needed lift.

The "welcome" assemblies focused on our core values of **Ambition, Service and Kindness**, both for themselves and towards others, alongside our high expectations in everything that we do; this year we have a particular focus on oracy and developing both confident speakers and readers. Please do take some time to view this presentation which is available on our website at [Safeguarding & Premises Matters \(beaminster.dorset.sch.uk\)](http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

As **Year 7** reach the end of their first week at Beaminster School I want to thank you for your support and encouragement in making their transition so successful. I know that Mrs Stone and all the Tutors have been very impressed by their positive attitude, their presentation, behaviour and real willingness to want to get things right. Year 7 parents should all now have received their own ClassCharts logins and ParentMail details but please do get in touch if you have any problems.

Due to the large number of students at Beaminster we would very much appreciate it if you could remember to **always include your child's full name in any communication** so that we can respond as quickly as possible.

You will also see that our site team have been working hard over the summer with improvements to our school estate. This includes the installation of a new **artificial cricket wicket**, extensive refurbishment of our **Sixth Form centre** to meet the needs of this large cohort, and a re-design of the **canteen area**, along with many hours of general maintenance.

It has been very disheartening to hear of the many challenges faced by schools around Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (**RAAC**). Following extensive surveys in July, Dorset Council have confirmed that they have not identified RAAC in our estate.

Due to significant capacity issues at Mountjoy School we are providing a temporary loan of land, next to the Tennis Courts and Newtown Road, to ensure that their sixth form students have appropriate accommodation to learn. The groundworks are nearly complete and modular buildings will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

Over the summer **Rosie Manley** qualified for Battens Junior Show Jumping at the Melplash Show. After a very competitive jump off she took an impressive 3rd place and was also placed in the unaffiliated 90cm and 1m; you can see a photo of Rosie in action on our Facebook page. Do let us know if your child is involved in any interesting sports or activities as it really helps us to encourage student participation.

Looking ahead to next week, our school **clubs and activities** will get fully under way and I would strongly encourage all students to get involved in at least one of these, see the extensive list attached and available on the school website; all students will be coming home with a hard copy on Monday.

Our wonderful **Beaminster School Parents and Teachers Association (BSPTA)** raise significant funds and provide great support for the school with events and evenings. There are no specific commitments and they would be delighted to hear from anyone who can offer just an evening or two across the year. The first meeting of the year is on **Wednesday 13 September at 6pm**; please come to reception. If you prefer, you can attend the meeting via zoom by contacting their treasurer on [treasurer.bspta@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.bspta@gmail.com)

We have staff vacancies for a **Science Technician** and **Supervisory Teaching Assistant**, full details will be available shortly on the school website and Dorset Council website for anyone wishing to apply.

Finally, we have already received a lot of calls regarding **school places for September 2024**. As always, we will be holding three short **Open Mornings from 9-10am** in the week beginning **25th September** so that prospective pupils

and parents can see the school in action. The information attached has been widely circulated to primary schools, and is also available on our school website and social media pages. Please do feel free to share the dates and spread the word to any families who may be interested – as always, students are warmly invited to attend the mornings with their parents.

There will be a few tired students, and staff, after this first week back, but I am very encouraged by the work completed and trust that you all enjoy a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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