

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 7th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your understanding during this very interrupted week. We are acutely aware of the challenges that home learning places upon you and are very appreciative of your support in maintaining some continuity of education. As we approach the summer holidays we are all hoping that the government fulfils its commitment to listen to the Independent Pay Review Body and that we can move forward positively.

However, amidst the disruption, there has been a huge number of events packed in, including the glorious **Summer Concert** last night. It was a real pleasure to see the hall bursting at the seams with our wonderful **BSPTA** providing the convivial atmosphere and refreshments and a rich array of talent on show. Across two hours of sublime music we were treated to wonderful performances from Year 7 to 13 with soloists, groups, instrumentalists, staff and student choirs and even a family performance! As part of this we also get an opportunity to see our hugely supportive and skilled peripatetic teachers and staff playing alongside their students, which is always something very special. As always, my thanks to Mr Smith for putting together this fantastic event.

On Tuesday, Year 9 and 10 had a full day to focus their thoughts on **post-16 opportunities**. Year 9 were very well looked after by Weymouth College, with a tour of the site and a number of exciting taster sessions, whilst Year 10 joined Sir John Colfox students for either a Sixth Form taster day or a visit to Yeovil College. As part of this, and shared with Year 10 parents / carers in the evening, we have put the Post-16 Awareness Presentation Powerpoint onto our website ([Careers information at Beaminster School](#)) so that you can see the range of academic, technical, vocational and apprenticeship routes available to our students in the future.

Also on Tuesday, our Year 7 and 8 students completed their final **summer assessments**. Through this fortnight it has been very reassuring to see the students gain confidence in completing assessments under timed conditions in the hall, and to make this a natural part of the learning process in preparation for their GCSE examinations.

As part of our **student leadership programme** we had twenty students assisting with the Mountjoy Sports Day on Wednesday. The weather remained kind and there was a lovely atmosphere as our students ran events, supported Mountjoy pupils and gained many plaudits for their energy, fun and organisation across a very busy few hours. My thanks to them all, and to Mr Hobby for co-ordinating their support.

Wednesday also saw our **Year 11 Prom at Haselbury Mill**. There was the usual fun of arrivals with a multitude of vehicles (and animals!), lavish dresses and some very sharp suits, all enjoyed by the many families and staff proudly watching on. The evening was hugely enjoyable, with one last opportunity for Mr Donovan to entertain, and I thank everyone one of them for making it a night to remember.

The final round of **House Matches** was completed on Thursday with large numbers turning out for Tennis, Softball and Rounders. Across five very competitive periods the students all fought hard to pick up vital house points as we head towards Sports Day and the final events next Thursday. On the day, it was Lewesdon who won Tennis and Rounders with Pilsdon winning Softball. This leaves Lewesdon with a commanding lead in the overall competition. Thank you to everyone in the PE department for making these days so successful across the year.

We also heard, today, that our Year 7 Boys have been crowned **Area Athletics Champions for 2023!** Congratulations to them all.

Year 12 Biology students have been out for two days, staying overnight at Leeson House, and exploring the local environment to hone their practical fieldwork skills as part of their A-Level Studies. My thanks to Mrs Martin for leading this.

I was delighted to hear that **Rosie Manley** competed at the **National Schools Equestrian Championships** as an Individual for the 90cm Eventers Challenge. Out of 300 entries, riding her Pony Gem, she came a fantastic 3rd place. Alongside this, her show jumping team also had much to celebrate as they won and became National

Champions! Our best wishes to Rosie who will now be moving on and competing in her first British Eventing 100 competition on 16th July.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our **incoming Year 7 students** on Monday as they settle in for two days of induction, orientation and familiarisation. There is a very active couple of days planned, followed by an information evening with our new parents and carers on Wednesday.

Wednesday sees an end of term celebration with **Year 8 Graduation**. Again, we are looking forward to welcoming families in from 10am, with a crisp 10.15am start, to share in the many talents, achievements and experiences of our Year 8 as they move in to Upper School.

We have staff vacancies for a **Supervisory Teaching Assistant** and **SEN Teacher**. Full details will be available on the school website and Dorset Council website shortly, closing date for application is **Tuesday 18th July**.

With The Ashes, the Tour de France, Wimbledon and Formula 1 this weekend we are sportingly spoilt but, whatever you do, have a good weekend.

Mr Hales

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