

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 14th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

This penultimate week of term has been one of transition, and reflection, as we welcomed primary students for their two **Year 6 Induction Days** and celebrated the many talents and achievements of lower school with **Year 8 Graduation**. Whether you consider these the start of a journey or the end will depend on your own viewpoint, but we often spend too much time worrying about the past, or the future, and just need to take joy from the journey and the people we meet along the way.

Our **incoming Year 7 students** certainly took this message to heart with two very positive days of orientation and activity. They demonstrated good listening and learning skills in the classroom, developed their confidence to explore the school and started to form friendships with pupils from over 25 other primary schools. It was then a pleasure to welcome their parents and carers in on Wednesday evening for an information evening and opportunity to meet the Year 7 Tutor team. Many thanks to their Head of Year, Mrs Stone, for making this such a successful few days.

Year 8 Graduation was, again, a really affirming morning as we acknowledged the many experiences and successes of students as they move into Upper School. I am very grateful to the students for having the confidence to speak publicly about their time with us and the many activities that they have participated in, as well as to Tutors for sharing their stories and obvious care of each group. Thank you to Mr Prendergast for compering the presentations and to many of you for attending.

How quickly life moves on was reinforced on Thursday morning as Year 7 had their final assembly of the year. The students have made great progress since their first days with us and there were many certificates of achievement, involvement and reflection on all that they have done this year. **End of Year reports** will be going home to Years 7 and 8 next week.

After much anticipation, and a slight delay for the heavy rain showers, we were able to move ahead with **Sports Day** on Thursday afternoon. Across a multitude of running and throwing sports we saw some great competition and wonderful endeavour as students fought for every point on offer. There were **school records for Zak Zidary** in the 300m and 800m, **Eva Murless** in the 300m, **Joe Whelan** in the 1500m, and for all high jump winners with its re-introduction this year! With over 4000 points on offer we had the first ever tie in 60 years, with Eggardon and Lewesdon coming joint first! My thanks to everyone involved for making it such an enjoyable afternoon.

As we approach the summer holidays, and a change of routine for our students, the Anna Freud Centre have asked that we share this link about self-care: [my-self-care-plan-secondaryfe.pdf \(annafreud.org\)](https://www.annafreud.org/parenting/secondary/secondary-self-care-plan.pdf) Self-care is all about what we can do to help ourselves feel better or to keep ourselves feeling good; it is a way that we can look after our own mental health and wellbeing. Everyone's approach to self-care will look different, and what works for you might not work for others. There are lots of different self-care strategies to try out and something that could work for you.

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

We gathered at the end of the day for a **final assembly** to bring our school community together before we all go our different ways with **Activities Week** starting on Monday.

We look forward to hearing all about their adventures!

Mr Hales

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