

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of this long, first half-term, the students have remained settled and focused with another busy week of opportunities.

This started on Monday with the second instalment of our **Interhouse sports competition** with Netball and Basketball. We managed to avoid the worst of the weather and saw some great matches across the year groups, as well as lots of participation and fun. Congratulations to **Waddon** who have now taken the lead from Mapperton by 6 points, with Pilsdon third.

As part of their GCSE Physics course, Year 11 students had the rare opportunity to see the huge engineering project of **Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station**. Alongside a visit to the site and energy centre, the students learned about the social, ethical and environmental issues around the main methods of nuclear electricity generation in modern day fission and fusion reactors.

Due to the ongoing interest in places at Beaminster School for September 2027, we enjoyed welcoming a further 20 families for our final Open Afternoon on Tuesday. The rain briefly paused and our senior prefects were, once again, a real credit to the school. Please do remember that the first **deadline for secondary school applications** for **September 2027 entry is 31st October 2026**.

On Wednesday morning we were fortunate to have the Somerset Air Ambulance provide **CPR training** to all five Year 9 Tutor groups. This was funded by our friends at The Rotary Club and ensures that students are more confident in emergency situations. You can see some pictures of this on our Facebook page and in the attached monthly **Library newsletter**, with information on funding, book donations and a scary poetry competition to think about over half-term!

As Storm Austen arrives, today, our **6th Form Art and Photography** students are heading towards Cornwall. Over a very busy three days the students will be developing their skills and sketchbooks with experiences of pottery, sculpture parks, The Tate Modern and Barbara Hepworth Museum as well as workshops at Falmouth University. My thanks to staff for providing their time during half-term.

The arrival of half-term brings lots of excitement, but also some anxiety and concerns. A reminder that we have provided all families with **free membership to FACE, a family advice organisation**. They provide a range of talks, each month, on helpful topics. The forthcoming schedule is attached and further information can be found at facefamilyadvice.co.uk click on **PARENTS** in the box at the top to view the 16 regular talks for parents. To Access Talks and Use the Code:

- Choose a topic and click through the booking calendar to find a suitable date and time.
- At the payment stage, where it says **ADD PROMO CODE** enter the code **BM040425**. This will reduce the price from £24 to **£0**.
- Links to recordings of the talks are available for 48 hours after the session. If you cannot make a live session, book on and then email to request the recording link.

Looking ahead, we will be welcoming all Year 11 Beaminster and Sir John Colfox students to our **Sixth Form Open Evening** here at Beaminster from 6-8pm on Wednesday 11th November. This is a very important opportunity for students to make themselves aware of the A Level, BTEC and the wide variety of courses that we offer by speaking to current students and staff.

We also have our annual **Academic Monitoring Day** on the horizon, taking place on Thursday 19th November. This is an incredibly valuable day when all students, parents and carers have a 15 minute discussion with Tutors to reflect on the start of the year and to identify ways that we can work together to improve learning. Further information was sent out yesterday so please do take a moment to read it.

The minutes from the last Friends of Beaminster School (FOBS) meeting are attached.

The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares is a local charity that runs free creative writing projects for young people across West Dorset. They are looking for a **Treasurer** to join their Board of Trustees: the commitment is small with only four board meetings a year. You would keep an eye on accounts and help their small team of three make sound decisions about money. You don't need to have been a trustee before, just be comfortable with numbers and care about young people and creativity. It's a chance to use skills you already have to do some real good, close to home. You can see more of their work at www.thebankofdreamsandnightmares.org and for an informal chat or a copy of their recruitment pack, email nick@thebankofdreamsandnightmares.org

For any students who are interested in exploring a future in medicine there is a free **Applying to Medicine Conference on Saturday, 14 November**. The 2½ hour virtual session will be led by Dr Ehsan, an NHS doctor and medical application specialist, who will be sharing practical advice on everything from UCAS and UCAT preparation to personal statements and interviews. Although the conference is especially useful for students in Years 12 and 13, everyone is welcome to join, including students from younger year groups, teachers, and parents. To register for this free event please register here: [Applying to Medicine Conference Registration](#)

If you are looking for things to do over Halloween, **Swanage Railway** are running some spooky ghost trains on 30th and 31st October, details attached.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming students back after half term on Monday 2nd November for our **Stop the Clock Day**. Year 7 and 8 will be out on their trips to Cheddar Gorge and Shepton Mallett so please remember **school coats**, with Year 9 having a Technology Day. Year 10 and 11 are focusing on a number of personal and social educational issues for half a day alongside revision skills, work experience preparation and English speaking. Due to Stop the Clock day and Colfox having a staff training day **no 6th form lessons** will be running on Monday 2nd November; 6th form students should use the day for private study and revision and return on Tuesday 3rd.

With the arrival of the autumnal weather, I wish you all a very safe and agreeable half term break.

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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