BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER
DORSET
DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633
Absence Line: 01308 861917

Email: office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Ambition · Service · Kindness

HEADTEACHER
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD
MR R BARNES MEd

ASSISTANT HEAD
MR K QUIGLEY

Website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Alongside our own school **Remembrance Assemblies**, we also joined with the Beaminster branch of The Royal British Legion, and many other community groups, for the Remembrance Parade on Sunday, and the Armistice Day Commemoration at the Town's War Memorial on Wednesday. It is of great importance that we pass the torch of remembrance on to the younger generations to carry forward, whilst the remembrance events also emphasise the great community spirit that is within Beaminster. We have received many complimentary comments and I would like to thank Mr Quigley and the senior prefect team for all their endeavours.

The **Year 10 Rotary interviews** got started this week thanks to the support of **Brit Valley Rotary Club**, with the students really benefitting from the opportunity of interview practice and preparation. The Club are also supporting the annual **Photography and Art competition**, and have the unenviable task of selecting the best photographs from a wide-ranging student exhibition on the theme of 'What does Friendship look like to you'. Any student is able to take part, and should speak with Mr Haigh regards the Photography, or see Mr Vine in Art 2 any lunchtime.

There is also an excellent **design competition** for 14 to 24 year olds to design a trophy for an engineering award. The students can enter independently with a deadline of November 27th - do see Mrs Da Costa if you have any questions: Create the Trophy Competition | Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering

It was a pleasure to welcome so many Beaminster and Sir John Colfox families to the **Sixth Form Open Evening** on Wednesday. With an increased range of subjects on offer and a vibrant community, there were many opportunities for students to explore. If you missed the evening our new 6th Form Prospectus and 6th Form application form are available online at 6th Form Prospectus and Application Form | beaminsterschool, or do get in touch with our Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Walters, via office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk should you have any queries.

Our **Children in Need Charity Day** certainly sparked a wonderful range of activities and creative baking with Year 7 running a multitude of stalls with competitions and tasty temptations! Thanks to everyone's efforts an amazing **£852** has been raised towards this important charity – well done everyone! You can see some photos of today's events on our Facebook page.

We have let Year 8 families know that **Mrs Hodgin** has taken the difficult decision to step down as **Head of Year 8**. She has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know, and support, the year group, but has not been able to balance the time required with the demands of her other roles. I would like to thank Mrs Hodgin for all her work with the year group, Ms Gibson, who already knows the students very well, has kindly agreed to step in and take over.

Our congratulations to **Zak Southgate** of 9M who reaped another fantastic array of awards at the end of season ceremony of South Somerset Autograss Racing on Saturday night. Zak was Junior Driver of the Year, the highest Junior points scorer and Southern Autograss Junior league winner 2026; not a bad evening, and you can see his impressive array of silverware on our Facebook page.

Dorset Council fully funds a six week online **Stronger Relationships** course for families. The course, starting on 8th December at 1pm, has been adapted to address the needs of parents with neurodivergent children and may be of interest to some families, details attached.

Next week, we have the first set of **Trial Examinations for Year 11**, spread across two weeks to ensure that students have a little more time to prepare. These provide an essential experience of the formal examination environment, develop revision skills and check student understanding of key topic areas as they approach the final six months of their GCSE courses; good luck to Year 11 during this testing period!

Exam certificates from the summer examination season are now available for collection and must be signed for. Please contact Mrs Emmett to arrange collection.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday 19th November, for our annual **Academic Monitoring Day**. Please ensure that you have your appointment time booked with your child's Tutor and have discussed your child's recent report with them beforehand.

There will be a **pre-loved uniform** stall in the Hall on the day with items available for a **cash donation**, and if you have any **unwanted uniform** that is in **good, clean condition** to donate they would be most welcome.

With the **Christmas Fair** in Beaminster on Friday 27th November at 5pm we are, as always, also asking for your kind donations of **bottles of wine or boxes of chocolates** for the **Friends of Beaminster School's** tombola. They will also be running a tombola for children, so any donations of chocolate or packaged sweets suitable for children or even small games/craft items/books (things you might see in a Christmas stocking) will all be gratefully received.

Details of both fully funded and paid for **Christmas Activity Camps** being run at Beaminster St Mary's are attached for interested families.

We have current staff vacancies for a part-time **Cleaner in Charge** and a **Teaching Assistant,** details and application forms can be found on the school website, and please do spread the word to anyone who may be interested in applying: Beaminster School Staff Vacancies

Finally, thank you, again, for your understanding and support with the closure of the Beaminster Tunnel, it has been very much appreciated, and don't forget that next **Friday 20th November is a staff training day**, with staff visiting schools all over the South West, so no students will be on site.

Enjoy a crisp but, hopefully, clear weekend.

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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