

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 17th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you, again, for your understanding with the **industrial action** that took place on Wednesday and Thursday. These are clearly difficult days for everyone concerned and we are all hoping that the government will avert the need for further action by engaging in meaningful discussions around providing a realistic education budget that also addresses the teacher recruitment and retention crisis.

There will be an informal **BSPTA** meeting on **Tuesday 21st March at 6.30pm in the Greyhound Pub, Beaminster**. If you would prefer to join us on **Zoom**, please email treasurer.bspta@gmail.com to be sent a link. We will be discussing future fundraising, school spending requests and the Christmas Fair (it's never too early to talk about Christmas!). The BSPTA is still really keen to find a new **Chair** and **Secretary** as without these two committee members the BSPTA can't function properly. Neither is a big role and full support will be given. If you would like more information please contact BSPTA Treasurer Sam Gunning: treasurer.bspta@gmail.com

Our **Beaminster School Choir** took part in a fantastic, national choral event, called **Voice in a Million**, at the Wembley Arena in London on Wednesday. They sang and danced as part of a choir consisting of 5,600 students from right across the UK, in front of a packed arena audience. This was a wonderful event, thoroughly enjoyed by all of the students who attended. Mr Smith, who lead the trip, was extremely grateful to both Mrs Fox and Miss Gibson who helped staff the event, and to all the parents for supporting and collecting their children at the 2am return! Thanks also to the BSPTA and Frances Tucker Trust Fund who helped to fund the trip. Please see photographs of this spectacular event at [Beaminster School | Beaminster | Facebook](#) Our school choir are also looking forward to welcoming all our pyramid partners for **The Beaminster Pyramid Choral Festival**, next Thursday.

The **Year 8 Football team** had a highly competitive game against Colfox on Tuesday, which ended in a well-deserved 1-1 draw. After going 0-1 down it didn't take long to set up Henry Guppy who slid in and scored a heroic goal, colliding painfully with the post afterwards! (Happily, he was Ok and able to finish the match). Mr Hobby was extremely proud of their commitment and the great team effort! Next Thursday we have the final round of **House Matches** this term, with boys playing Football and girls Basketball. After a very challenging past seven days of examinations, Year 11 richly deserve the opportunity to enjoy their final House competitions.

With two weeks to go, the **Bedrock reading and vocabulary challenge** is still very close. In Year 7 we have Lewesdon leading Eggardon, whilst in Year 8 Waddon are ahead of Pilsdon. However, with differences under 10%, it is all to play for so students need to log on and work through their next few sections as soon as they can!

Thank you for your support of our non-uniform day for **Comic Relief**, today, which enables hundreds of projects and organisations to make a difference to people across the UK and around the world – it looks like **over £500** has been raised. We have also received lovely letters from the charities that our Sixth Form supported earlier in the year, the **Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA)**: "Your generous donation has ensured that families of babies born every day with a cleft lip and palate do not have to go through their journey alone," and **The Lewy Body Society** (researching Lewy body dementia): "Thanks to the donations we receive we have been able to fund research projects totalling £2.2 million. None of this would be possible without the kind contributions of people like your school's staff and pupils."

On Tuesday we were delighted to appoint **Mr Martin Langford** to a full-time History position with us starting in September. Before this, I was starkly reminded of what it is like to go through the interview process as the **School Council** gave me a good grilling about my role and background to being a Headteacher. They are certainly a well-organised and quick-thinking team who I am pleased to have working with us on a number of projects across the school.

Alongside the other events already mentioned, we have our termly **Stop the Clock** day on Wednesday 22nd March. There are Year 7 and 8 Geography and History trips to Lyme and Corfe Castle, Wonderstruck delivering an inspirational show and workshops to Year 9, Year 10 are off to the cinema, Year 11 aiming to wrap up coursework, and Year 12 have a University Careers Fair in Exeter. Please do ensure that all **student planners are signed** and all payments made.

We have a current staff vacancy for a full time **Science Teacher** from September. Full details are available on the school website [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](#) and the Dorset Council website, so please do share with anyone who may be interested, all applications are required by Thursday 23rd March.

Finally, there are a number of statutory government policies that all schools are required to have. One of the many tasks for our Governing body is to review these policies and agree their implementation. We want to make you more aware of the most important ones, so will slowly share them with you as we review them as part of our bi-annual cycle. The first policy to be reviewed in this cycle is the **Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy**, which I attach. We would welcome any comments or questions on this draft policy, by the end of next week, and ask that provide any feedback through office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk and we will get back to you.

Have a restful weekend.

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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