

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER  
DORSET DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633  
Absence Line: 01308 861917



Ambition • Service • Kindness

HEADTEACHER  
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEADS  
MR D WITHERS NPQH  
MR R BARNES MEd

Email: [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Website: [www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We are all delighted, though not surprised, to hear that former Beaminster School student, **Vaughan Gething**, has become the First Minister of Wales! Vaughan showed himself to be a lively, talented and motivated student during his seven years with us, seizing opportunities to involve himself fully in the life of the school. His passion for learning shone through, as did his love for cricket and wider interest in the world around us. He is a fantastic role model for our students and living proof that there really is no barrier to achieving whatever you put your mind to. We wish him every success in his new and exciting role.

For those of you who would like to find out a little more about Vaughan, do tune in to **Radio 4 at 7pm** on Saturday evening when they have a special profile on him, including an interview with our former Head of History, Mr Colin McNeall.

In very challenging conditions, running in the Junior Boys English Schools Cross Country national finals in Pontefract, Year 8 student **Joe Whelan** came in the top third of nearly 400 runners last weekend! This was a hugely creditable performance, and particularly as Joe is one of the younger runners in the age group, with still another year to mature as a junior, so huge congratulations to him.

The weather held fair and students on our **Stop The Clock Day** trips to Corfe Castle and Lyme Regis gained valuable experiences linked to their History and Geography courses, while Year 10 investigated post school options at Bridgwater College and Bournemouth University. Year 9 produced some fantastic ideas around the theme of homelessness, made scale models of shelters and blankets from empty crisp packets and produced some tasty varieties of energy balls which supply a burst of energy for the hungry. They also proved very popular sales, with all the money raised going to a homeless charity selected by Year 9s.

Meanwhile, Year 11 were undertaking final coursework requirements and starting to build their revision programmes. As part of this, **Drama students** completed rehearsals and performed their final GCSE examination pieces. There was a wonderfully eclectic mix of monologues and duologues as well as performances linked to Blood Brothers and Metamorphosis. My congratulations to all of them for the quality of their work.

Our friends from **The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares** had their penultimate morning with a group of twenty students from Year 9. Over the past half term they have been working on their journalism and writing skills, as well as identifying important issues to investigate. Having completed their research, the students have been out and about interviewing students, staff and the local community to really push forward with their insightful journalism. Mr Donovan and I had quite a grilling on Thursday and look forward to seeing the final articles after Easter.

**House Matches** enjoyed a rain free day with football and basketball competitions taking place across the day. There was much to enjoy across all the year groups, with some great competition and engagement. Waddon girls won four of their basketball matches, whilst the honours were more evenly split in the football. However, it still leaves **Lewesdon** with a strong lead in the overall competition at the end of this second term.

Last night our **Year 10 Football team** played Atlantic Academy in the semi-final of the Area Cup. With hopes high, the boys responded magnificently, playing some expansive and well controlled football to win convincingly 9–2. Mr Hobby reports that it was an eventful game, including Owen Kemp opening the scoring with a cheeky back heel, two well-taken penalties, and Addison Gunning is now known as “The Wall” for his first half display! We wish them well for the final on Tuesday at Dorchester Stadium, and also to our **Year 8 Basketball team** who play their final tournament that afternoon.

Year 9 and 10 students set off across very boggy fields for the first expedition weekend of their Bronze and Silver **Duke of Edinburgh**. I am sure it will be a tough couple of days and I thank all the staff for giving up their time and supporting this worthwhile venture.

The latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, what you need to know about PS4, is attached, and local families are still being sought to host Spanish students from 27<sup>th</sup> June -22<sup>nd</sup> July, details attached.

A reminder that we have staff vacancies for a full time **English Teacher** from September, and a part-time **Cleaner in Charge** for an immediate start. If you know anyone who may wish to apply for either post, full details are available on the school website and applications are required by **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**.

With Easter nearly upon us, do remember that the **last day of the Spring Term is Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** at 3.30pm as it is Good Friday on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Summer Term starts on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Hales

*This ParentMail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. Disclosing, copying or distributing the contents is strictly prohibited without prior permission from the school. If you have received this email in error, please notify [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)*