

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a real pleasure to welcome so many students, parents and carers for our **Senior Presentation Evening** last night. There were two wonderful music performances alongside the many subject awards for effort, progress and achievement, and we very much enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the successes and endeavours of the examination students as well as those who have given so much to the school through their community, sporting, creative and leadership work. Congratulations to all our worthy award winners and many thanks for your support in making this such a delightful evening.

The whole school enjoyed the arrival of Holmes, the specially trained **community safety dog**, and his handler from K9, to Beaminster School on Wednesday. This is part of a national programme to raise students' awareness about the dangers of drug misuse, and to make it very clear that drugs will not be tolerated in our schools. During the visit Holmes visited every year group, and completed exercises at line-up and in classes. The positive response from all the students was much appreciated by all and you can see some photos of their visit on our Facebook page.

The **Year 11 Netball team** gave a very good account of themselves in their last ever area tournament. Despite facing strong opposition, the team showed some fantastic phases of play, applying both resilience and determination in close, hard-fought games. They all worked hard individually and as a squad and Miss Coombes and Mrs Lees were delighted with their attitude and approach. Grace Papworth was named 'Player of the Day' for her focus and consistency in attack. They won 2, drew 1 and lost 4.

Our **Year 10 Rugby team** also had a tough four matches in their area tournament. However, thanks to Harry Kemp and Will Rodway leading by example, with solid tackling and breaks through the defensive line, the team spirit remained and ensured four very competitive games.

We were delighted to hear that **Sophie Mills**, of Year 9, has been offered a rare place on the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) Inspire programme. She competed at a national level playing her saxophone to be awarded one of only five spots. NYO Inspire is a musical adventure for teenage musicians who are ready to accelerate as a musician with world-class tutoring. They play incredible music with people from all around the UK. This is a fantastic musical achievement and we wish her every success in her Grade 7 exam later this term.

Congratulations to **Flori Elliott** (Year 8) and **Elsa Hart** (Year 7) who both took part in the Southwest Zinc and Copper Gymnastics Championship in Exeter over the weekend. Flori, competing in the 2013 age group, achieved a 2nd place podium finish on Vault and came 3rd All Around. Elsa, competing in the 2014 age group, earned 1st place on Floor, along with 3rd place on both Beam and Bar, and finished 2nd All Around. Next competition, both the girls will be levelling up to compete at the higher Copper level. There are photos on the Facebook page.

The first group of Year 10 separate Science students had a fascinating visit to **Wessex Water** linked to their GCSE course on Thursday, to further understand water treatment processes and to learn first-hand from experts. Over a busy day the group were talked through water purification and then had the unenviable task of studying sewage treatment! Mr Crossland was very impressed with their stoicism and looks forward to taking the second group next week.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the students who use the **B5 Bus**, for their tolerance of the capacity issues and for your patience with this unsatisfactory situation. Despite numerous meetings with Dorset School Transport, and proposed changes left unactioned, they are unwilling to provide any direction to resolve the situation. I have written in no uncertain terms to senior leaders, and councillors, in Dorset to express my exasperation at the lack of oversight and management of the bus contract, which really is a dereliction of their duty. To enable our students to have a safe and more agreeable journey to school, First Bus are now reviewing the timings of the routes for after half-term. I will provide a further update next Friday.

From Monday, Year 7 students will trial a new **Welfare Button** on **ClassCharts**. This allows them to confidentially log any safeguarding worries which will go directly to our Safeguarding Team. Students are still encouraged to speak to a trusted adult, and parents should continue raising concerns through Tutors, but we hope that this simple system will provide another way to help our students feel safe and supported. Students will be shown how to make a log by their Tutors.

Looking ahead, our **Year 13 students** start their second set of trial exams next week, and the **Year 9 Football team** have their County Cup game against Corfe Hills on Tuesday. Over three high-energy days fifty of our Year 10 and 12 students will have the unique opportunity to join **Bankfest** in Weymouth, running from Monday to Wednesday, where students will meet people who make a living with words: comedy writers, novelists, journalists, game writers, poets, lyricists and more. This is a fabulous event, very kindly supported and paid for by our friends at The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares. My thanks to them, and to Mr Haigh, for making this event possible.

Our canteen provider, **Aspens**, are delighted with the student uptake and feedback on their menu rotation. After half-term they will be providing a new selection of mouth-watering flavours from around the world (please see the **attached menus and information**). Designed with variety and choice in mind, the menu is built around daily themes inspired by global street food, including Authentic Italian hand stretched pizzas and pasta pots, Hacienda Mexicana burritos, rice bowls and sides, Voulez Poulet house rub chicken, dogs and tasty extras, all the way through to fresh deli favourite sandwiches, wraps, paninis, loaded spuds, crisp salads, fruit and chilled dessert pots.

Attached is information about a free community session “**An Introduction to Autism**” that is running in November.

Our Governing Body is looking to recruit two new **Parent Governors**. Details of how to apply are attached and will be available on the school website, or hard copies can be picked up from Reception. This is a great opportunity to be part of our school so please do consider making an application, the deadline is **Friday 24th October**.

Finally, a reminder that our final **Open Afternoon** takes place on Tuesday 21st October at 2.15pm, details are attached.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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