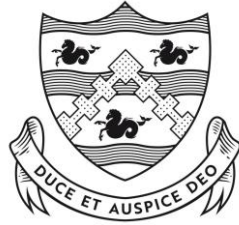


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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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17th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It was the final full day in school for our **Year 13 students** which, after 7 years, always feels like quite a wrench. The traditional last day rounders match between the Staff and Sixth Form at lunchtime kicked off activities, and then the students all enjoyed a well-deserved afternoon of fun and feasting. They have been a wonderful year group, doing incredibly well to navigate the tortuous waters of the past few years and we will miss them; our very best wishes go with them all.

The main **examination season** is now in full swing, with the first A-Level papers in Business, Geography and Psychology completed, whilst Year 11 have already had five core GCSE examinations and six option subjects. All the students have shown great composure and consideration for their compatriots, and have been making good use of our targeted revision sessions. We recognise what a challenging time this is for our students, so please do support the continued contact with specialist teaching staff and friends at school, alongside maintaining a healthy balance of fresh air and exercise. An **updated Year 11 exams and revision timetable** is attached for after the May half term.

The Year 11 Yearbook is currently being produced and the formal tutor group and whole year group photos will be taken on Monday following the English exam. Please ensure that ALL Year 11 students have their school jumper and leaver's hoodie with them on Monday.

Tuesday saw the exciting launch of our student book, "**30 Shades of Green – Stories and Field Notes from Beaminster School**". After two months of planning, researching, interviewing and then editing individual articles with our friends at The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares, Toller Books kindly hosted the launch event for students and their families. Several of the excellent pieces were read to the gathered crowd and each student received a free, personal copy of the book. Many congratulations to all the students involved and to the many volunteers who worked with us to produce such a varied and stimulating book.

Year 10 have come to end of their two weeks of **Work Experience** and will return to us, I am sure, much wiser on Monday. During our visits, to over 100 placements, we have had glowing feedback on how the students have matured and grown in confidence, taken on new challenges and seized opportunities, as well as securing part-time jobs and the possibility of future careers. It just leaves me to thank everyone involved for providing such support in this huge undertaking, but particularly Mr Donovan and Mrs Van Niekerk for their excellent co-ordination.

When **Year 10 return**, it will be just under a year before they start their GCSE examinations! Before half-term students will be receiving information about their first set of trial examinations, beginning on Thursday June 20th, along with revision folders and guidance on how to prepare. They will also be given their Year 10 Reports, which have valuable information on progress so far, alongside targets for improvement.

Our Flying Start teams headed off to Bristol Aerospace this morning for the national finals of the **Flying Start Challenge**. As the only school to get all four teams through to the nationals, our students have done incredibly, whatever the outcome. My thanks to Mr Crossland and Mrs Fox, and to the apprentices from Leonardo's who have supported the teams so well – we look forward to hearing about their great day out.

Our **KS3 Reading Week**, with staff read-aloud sessions, focused on activities linked with Mental Health Awareness Week. Through a rich range of stories and discussion the students looked at managing emotions, how stress and anxiety can be channelled more positively, why light at night can be bad for you, self-care, social media and the story behind dreams. Do see which one of these your child can remember!

There is an illustrated talk being hosted by **Beaminster Area Eco Group** on Monday 20th May 2024 in the Pavilion, Memorial Playing Fields, Beaminster, with doors open at 7pm, refreshments available and the talk beginning at 7.30pm. Daisy Meadowcroft of Dorset Wildlife Trust will be talking about the **Wild Woodbury Community Rewilding project** and the work being done to make space for nature at the site at Bere Regis near Wareham.

Can I remind all parents and carers that students should not be picked up after school from the Bus Park until **AFTER 3.45pm** please? This allows our friends at Mountjoy School to ensure that their transport can be released safely, clearing the entrance area to the bus park, and ensuring that our school buses can arrive and depart on time.

Please do ensure that **all students have their own drink or water bottle, ideally refillable**, with them every day.

Sadly, after 4 years of committed service to Beaminster School and its community, **Miss Gribler** has decided to leave us to take up new challenges and opportunities elsewhere. We are always disappointed to lose a valued colleague when they decide to move on, but the school's support and best wishes go with Miss Gribler as she continues her career.

The latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, what you need to know about influencers, is attached.

Enjoy some sunshine this weekend, while we can!

Mr Hales

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