

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As September turns to October it is great to see so many **clubs and activities available** and participation numbers strong across the school. We know that involvement in these opportunities has such a positive impact on children's attitude to school, so please do encourage your child to attend, a copy is attached and the list can also be found on the school website: [Beaminster School Calendar and Term Dates](#)

As we approach that time of the year when **coughs and colds** begin, we are all keen to maintain high levels of attendance and support the health and wellbeing of our children. The NHS has produced a **helpful poster on illness decisions** (see attached) to guide your thinking.

Our Reading Week has seen KS3 students captivated by "**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time**" by Mark Haddon. A mathematically gifted 15-year-old named Christopher, who struggles with human interaction, investigates the neighbour's dead dog and uncovers dark family secrets, including that his mother is alive and his father killed the dog. He then embarks on a stressful journey to London to find safety before eventually returning home to rebuild his life, regain his confidence and pass his maths exams.

Year 11 Geographers were treated to a perfect day for fieldwork on Monday, as they explored the coastal landscapes and erosion and harbour regeneration in Lyme Regis for their coursework studies. The students were a pleasure to spend time with and my thanks to Ms Crabb for organising this experience.

It was also a pleasure to see so many families at the **Year 12 Welcome Evening** on Tuesday and the **Year 13 Parents' Evening** on Wednesday. These early meetings provided an opportunity to set the expectations for our Year 12 students and reflect on the first year of study for Year 13, as well as identifying key areas for development and in preparation for the forthcoming trial examinations. The presentation from the Welcome Evening is now available on the website, and my thanks to all attendees for making these such worthwhile evenings.

As part of the PSHE Sixth Form programme, we also welcomed our local Social Prescribers Team in to speak to our Year 12 and 13 students this week. This was the first of a planned series of sessions aimed at improving health literacy. The first theme about our 'health rights' was very useful, giving students better knowledge about how to access GP appointments and online advice, use the NHS app and feel better informed.

Good luck to Year 12, **Ben Keeping**, who will be representing Dorset at the National Swimming Championships in Sheffield this weekend, a huge achievement as only the 4 fastest swimmers in each age group are selected. Ben is in the open category, making it even more impressive as he is only 16.

Unfortunately, our neighbours on Fleet Street are still having to deal with some **unhelpful and inconsiderate driving and parking** at the start and end of school. With many of their households leaving for work, the traffic is becoming dangerous and more care is needed. Please would **all families avoid using Fleet Street, and the staff car park, as a drop-off and pick-up** and use the town centre or Memorial Playing Fields car parks from where a safe, short walk in to school is available.

Looking ahead to next week, our **Year 10 Football Team** are in the County Cup on Monday night, there is **U16 Netball** against Budmouth on Wednesday, and on Thursday, the first of our Year 10 separate science groups are off to **Wessex Water** to study processes linked to their GCSE course.

We are then very much looking forward to welcoming many of you for our annual Senior **Presentation Evening** from 6.30pm on Thursday October 8th. This is always a wonderful event when we take some time to celebrate the many achievements of our senior students. Invitations have been sent out to all our award winners so please do complete the short response form on the link in the invitation as soon as possible (even if unable to attend) to help with our planning, and by midday on **Monday 5th October** at the latest.

Parents and carers also have until **Monday 5th October to order school photographs** for free delivery back to school. Links to the photographs were sent out by Tempest to one contact per child, but please do get in touch if you haven't received a link.

A reminder to always include your **child's full name and tutor group** in any communication with the school please, and that **exam coursework** is now available for collection, do contact the school to arrange this.

One of our neighbours is kindly supporting the **relief effort in Nepal** through the sale of Art works on the weekend of 28-29 November, 10.30am-4pm, at 2, The Orchard, Beaminster DT8 3FF. The new paintings will to be shown alongside selected older pieces at discount prices, as well as a range of Christmas cards. Additionally, if you know of anyone who would be willing to contribute, please do contact Rosie. All proceeds to the Britain-Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT) or donate through Gofundme by clicking here: <https://gofund.me/f5825fde>

Would you like to be a Trustee of the Frances Tucker Trust?

The Trust, established in the 17th Century by local landowner Mrs Frances Tucker, continues to benefit pupils who attend, or who have attended, Beaminster School and are below the age of 25. More information about the Trust can be found here: Home | francestuckertrust.org.uk

The Trust is administered by a small group of Trustees who meet around six times a year to discuss grant applications, monitor the financial position, and ensure the Trust continues to grow. They are looking to increase the number of Trustees and would welcome anyone interested to come along to their next meeting and see what they do. Please contact Sally Ann Palmer (spalmer@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk) if you would like more information. It is not an onerous commitment and Trustees are privileged to be able to help and support our local young people and the school.

We have one final **Open Afternoon** running on **Tuesday 20th October** to give families looking for Year 7 places for September 2027 a last opportunity to come and visit us before the application deadline on 31st October, details attached. Please email NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk to confirm your attendance, and do spread the word!

Finally, enjoy this first October weekend.

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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