

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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9<sup>th</sup> October 2026

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, over 100 of them, and many thanks for your support in making this such a delightful evening.

The whole school enjoyed the arrival of Axel and TJ, the specially trained **community safety dogs**, and their handler from K9, to school on Monday. 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 morning the dogs 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 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! Mrs Rychnovsky and Miss Pitts were very impressed with their stoicism and look forward to taking the second group next week.

Our **Year 11 Netball team** played wonderfully against some very established and talented teams to come away undefeated and **South and West Dorset Area Champions!** Their performances demonstrated fantastic skill, teamwork and determination built up over many years. Miss Lewis was incredibly proud of them, and received some wonderful comments from staff at other schools about their play and presentation, there are some photos the Facebook page. They now move on to the Dorset County Finals.

The **Year 10 football team** had a hugely challenging fixture against LeAF Academy, a school renowned for its football programme. Despite the eventual 11–3 scoreline, Mr Hobby was very encouraged by the team's overall performance and attitude, continuing to compete and create opportunities right until the final whistle.

**News hot off the press this afternoon:** Mr Wagstaff was delighted with our cross-country runners this afternoon in the West Dorset Championships. We had first places in the Year 7 Boys (Eddie Tucker), Junior Boys (Tristan Hunt), and Inter Boys (Joe Whelan), with Bea Bibby 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Inter Girls, and Edward Bower 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Year 7 Boys. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Year 9 student **Reuben Palmer** had a very long, but successful, day completing the Abbot's Way Walk with fellow teammates from Sturminster Newton Expedition Group last week. This near marathon walk from Buckfastleigh to Tavistock pulls together many explorer groups and is a real celebration of ambition and the outdoors!

Looking ahead, our **Year 13 students** start their trial exams next week, with Art and Photography and then written papers in the hall from Wednesday. Year 9 have a busy Monday with the **National Space Academy Masterclass** and then **Football** against Budmouth after school.

We are delighted that 21 students from Years 7-9 were successful in their application to become **Student Librarians**, congratulations to them all. With a large number of applications, it was a very difficult decision and a big thank you to everyone who applied. Some students are coming back for their second year to earn their silver badge, whilst others are starting their first year with their bronze badges. The Book Fair also proved to be very popular with a constant gathering around the books and plenty of sales. Two of our student librarians, William and Arlo, also raised £47 for library resources.

### **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](http://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](mailto: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.

A reminder to ensure that **all uniform and belongings are clearly and indelibly marked with the student's name please** as this really helps to return any lost items to students quickly.

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](mailto:NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk) to confirm your attendance, and do spread the word!

Enjoy the autumnal weekend.

Mr Hales  
Headteacher

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