

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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20th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The Autumn sunshine and return of blue skies have been very welcomed by all this week, particularly as the whole school headed out for their first Inter-House Competition on Thursday.

There was much enjoyment and some great racing as each year group undertook the annual **Fun Run**. Alongside the many points gained, there were four stunning school records by Ana Bibby (Year 8), Bea Bibby (Year 9), Jo Whelan (Year 9) and Henry Guppy (Year 10). After collating all the scores Mr Wagstaff is delighted to share that **Mapperton House** are our current leaders, with Lewesdon second.

The **Year 11 Art trips** to Tate Modern and Roche Court Sculpture Park were a real success, with students working hard all day, producing excellent first-hand responses for their final GCSE coursework projects. On Wednesday, ten of our **Year 11 Computer Science** students tackled six code-breaking and coding challenges in Blandford, in a cyber event run by The Army Royal Signals Corps. They were very close to the top spot, but just struggled with one of the cryptograms. Thank you to staff for organising these events.

Thank you also to Year 10 parents and carers for your support with our **Introduction to GCSEs and Work Experience Evening**. The Main Hall was filled to the gunnels as much important information was shared regarding course requirements, ways to help your child and steps to a successful Work Experience fortnight in May 2025. The Year 11 senior prefects rounded off an excellent evening with reflections on their experiences last year.

Our **Year 9 Football team** travelled to Sherborne to face Gryphon in the DSFA Cup on Tuesday. We struggled to settle in to the game early on, with our brave defenders having to deal with the blistering pace of the Gryphon forward line, and goalkeeper Josh Brister-Warr making a number of excellent saves. Despite a much-improved second half, a number of missed chances meant that Gryphon were well-deserved winners.

A huge thank you to the **Moore Scarrott Group** who have kindly sponsored our new School Football Team Kit, and we look forward to travelling the county in our smart new white and black strip. There are still further sponsorship opportunities in PE, so please do contact Mr Hobby if you are interested. A huge thank you also to **The Melpash Agricultural Society** who have kindly agreed to sponsor a subscription to the magazine 'Farmers Weekly' for students to enjoy as part of our drive to encourage wider reading beyond the school curriculum.

Our first **non-uniform charity day** has been a real success with Year 8 supporting the **Jeans4Genes and Macmillan** charities. After non-uniform contributions and a very busy cake sale that fully sold out (some photos are on our Facebook page), almost **£650** is going towards these very worthy causes. Well done Year 8!

Students were very helpful with **individual photographs** on Monday and parents should have received digital notification from Tempest with details of how to view and purchase the photos. Any enquiries should be made to Tempest directly please.

Thank you for the increased use of our **dedicated Absence Line for reporting student absences (available 24 hours) 01308 861917** in the past fortnight. This helps keeps our main office line available for other calls whilst enabling our attendance team to deal with absences swiftly and, should you need any support, get in touch to discuss ways that we may be able to help. Please do keep this number handy or pop it in your contacts list, it can also be found on all school headed paper, every page of the school website and, along with other key contact information, on the back page of the Parent Handbook. All absences should be reported as early as possible, please speak clearly and do remember to include the **student's full name and reason for absence** please.

Looking ahead to next week, we look forward to welcoming Year 6 families on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for our **Open Mornings**, from 9–10am, so that prospective pupils and parents can see the school in action. The information attached has already been widely circulated to primary schools, and is also available on our school website and social media pages. Please do feel free to share the dates and spread the word to any families who may be interested – as always, students are warmly invited to attend the mornings with their parents.

The **A-Level Art and Photography** students will have three packed days in Cornwall next week, when they will be visiting Falmouth University for a tour and afternoon spent in their studios on Wednesday, followed by visits to a number of museums and galleries around St Ives on Thursday and Friday.

We hope the weather will be kind for **The Big Green Day**, run by The Beaminster Eco Group, taking place on Saturday 28th from 10.30am until 3pm, on the school grounds. There are refreshments and children's activities (see attached) as well as ideas for ways to reduce living costs, cut waste and your carbon footprint, enjoy low cost healthy food and grow wildlife gardens. Please do come along!

A reminder to please be aware that due to a road closure at West Street, Bridport, First have notified us of a diversion for the **6A bus** route from **Monday 23rd to Friday 27th September** affecting the **morning journey only**. There is a normal service from Salway Ash to Bridport Coach Station after which the bus will go along to Miles Cross then A35 to the Crown Roundabout and then to Sea Road South before re-joining the normal route from East Bridge Roundabout. **West Street, East Street and East Bridge will NOT be served**. This information has already been circulated and a copy is also on the front page of the website.

We have vacancies for **2 Teaching Assistants** to join our team, full details and the application form are available on the school website, the closing date is **26th September**. We are also looking for a **Science Technician** with a genuine interest in science, someone who is versatile, hardworking, organised and works well as part of a team; the qualities of the person are as important as previous experience. The closing date for this post is **3rd October**.

I hope that you all enjoy a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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