

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER
DORSET
DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633
Absence Line: 01308 861917

Email: office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk



Ambition • Service • Kindness

HEADTEACHER
MR K HALES NPQH
DEPUTY HEAD
MR R BARNES MEd
ASSISTANT HEAD
MR K QUIGLEY

Website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Alongside our own school Remembrance Assemblies, we also joined with the Beaminster branch of **The Royal British Legion**, and many other community groups, for the Remembrance Parade on Sunday, and the Armistice Day Commemoration at the Town's War Memorial on Tuesday. It is of great importance that we pass the torch of remembrance on to the younger generations to carry forward, whilst the remembrance events also emphasise the great community spirit that is within Beaminster. We have received many complimentary comments and I would like to thank Mr Quigley and the senior prefect team for all their endeavours.

The Year 10 Rotary interviews got started this week thanks to the support of **Brit Valley Rotary Club**, with the students really benefitting from the opportunity of interview practice and preparation. The Club are also supporting the annual Photography competition, and have the unenviable task of selecting the best photographs from a wide-ranging student exhibition on the theme of 'Happiness in Nature'. Any student is able to take part, and should email phaigh@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk with a picture on this theme and include their full name and year group in the subject of the email. It's best to also include a short statement (50 words or less) about how they feel their image fits the theme. There is a £50 Amazon voucher 1st prize.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many Beaminster and Sir John Colfox families to the **Sixth Form Open Evening** on Wednesday. With an increased range of subjects on offer and a vibrant community, there were many opportunities for students to explore. If you missed the evening our new 6th Form Prospectus and 6th Form application form are available online at [6th Form Prospectus and Application Form | beaminsterschool](#), or do get in touch with our Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Walters, via office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk should you have any queries.

Our **GCSE Music students** enjoyed a wide variety of compositions and instruments on Wednesday as the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra put them through their paces at Westlands Arena. This was a great opportunity for the students to review the range of musical styles Mrs Edwards is working on in school, and to develop their interpretation skills.

On a very wet and windy Tuesday, Mr Barnes took our Year 8s to their first full **Rugby tournament** on Portland. The boys worked very well as a unit, tackling hard, spreading the ball well and listening to advice! They successfully navigated the group stage before running out of steam in semi-finals but it was all great experience and well done to them all.

The second round of the **West Dorset Area Cross Country**, on Wednesday, continued the wet and windy challenge for all competitors. There were some fabulous team performances, particularly from the Year 7 and Junior Girls, with another first place from Joe Whelan in the Inter Boys, third from Harry Mansfield in the Junior Boys, fourth from Genevieve Long in the Year 7 Girls and Ana Bibby in the Junior Girls, congratulations.

Our **Children in Need Charity Day** certainly sparked the imagination of Year 7 with them running a multitude of fun activities including soak the teacher, guess the sweets, tombola, 200 squares and Bear Pong! Thanks to everyone's efforts well over **£800** has been raised towards this important charity! You can see some photos of today's events on our Facebook page.

Our congratulations to **Zak Southgate** in 8M who reaped a fantastic array of awards at the end of season ceremony of South Somerset Autograss Racing on Saturday night. Zak was Junior Driver of the Year, South Somerset's League Champion, the highest Junior points scorer and overall league winner for his club; not a bad evening and you can see his impressive array of silverware on the Facebook page.

A small number of students having been climbing through a fence to get into **Monmouth Gardens** when being picked up. Please remind students that they must walk along the designated paths, be more aware of our neighbours' property and behaviour sensibly when leaving the school grounds.

In our ongoing efforts to encourage students to read widely and across a range of different materials, students requested that magazines and comics be available in the library. We are therefore delighted to confirm, with thanks, that **Cilla & Camilla** are very kindly sponsoring an annual subscription of "The Beano" for the library. If anyone else would like to help sponsor a comic, magazine or other reading material we would love to hear from you, you never know, it could be just the thing to kick-start a child's love of reading.

Next week, we have the first set of **Trial Examinations for Year 11**, spread across two weeks to ensure that students have a little more time to prepare. These provide an essential experience of the formal examination environment, develop revision skills and check student understanding of key topic areas as they approach the final six months of their GCSE courses; good luck to Year 11 during this testing period!

Ms Smith is looking to source a 1920s bike for the production of Chariots of Fire, so if you have one lurking in your garage that might fit the bill please do get in touch.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday 20th November, for our annual **Academic Monitoring Day**. Please ensure that you have your appointment time booked with your child's Tutor and have discussed your child's recent report with them beforehand. Parents/carers of students entitled to Free School Meals need to confirm if they wish to collect a packed lunch for them on the day, by **Tuesday 18th November** at the latest please (see ParentMail sent on 12th November).

With the Christmas Fair in Beaminster on Friday 28th November at 5pm we are, as always, asking for your support with the **BSPTA Tombola by bringing in a donation of a bottle, chocolates or similar prizes** when you come in for your Academic Monitoring Day. This makes such a difference to the fundraising, so your support would be very much appreciated.

A reminder that **formal exam certificates** for the GCSE and A Level summer exams should be collected as soon as possible, please contact our Exams Manager, Mrs Emmett.

We have been asked to share details of an **Autism Mums podcast** that may be of interest to some families, details attached.

Finally, don't forget that next Friday 21st November is a **staff training day** so no students will be on site.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Hales

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