

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a real pleasure to welcome so many families to our three **Open Mornings** this week. After an introduction to the school, prospective pupils and parents were given guided tours of lessons and facilities by our senior prefect team. With well over 125 families visiting from 29 different primary schools across the three mornings, we very much appreciated the time, engagement and positive feedback we received. I must also pass on my thanks to our senior prefect team who received so many complimentary comments about their presentation and knowledge of the school.

Due to the amount of interest, we have organised one final **Open Afternoon on Tuesday 20th October at 2.15pm** (poster attached), for anyone who was not able to attend previously; to book a place please email NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk and as always, please do spread to word!

On Monday, the **Year 10 Football team** travelled to Budmouth Academy for a highly anticipated friendly, renewing the rivalry from last year's Area Cup Final. However, a new 3-5-2 formation proved challenging, with Beaminster going 4-0 down at half time, before the team showed fantastic character after the break, returning to their familiar 4-3-3 and matching Budmouth in the second half 1-1. Brilliant saves, goal-line clearances and a confidently converted penalty from captain Harry Mansfield highlighted an excellent second-half response but, ultimately, a 5-1 loss.

On Tuesday, the **Year 8/9 Girls Football team** welcomed Colfox for an exciting County Cup warm-up friendly. The girls made a fantastic start, playing with confidence and energy to lead 3-1 at half time, thanks to goals from Bella Calvert-Lee, Naomi Knight and Poppy Davies. With the County Cup ahead, tactical and personnel changes after the break provided valuable opportunities for everyone to rotate and gain experience. Colfox fought back to win 4-3, but the girls can be incredibly proud of their performance.

There has also been a real sense of energy in the hall after school on Thursdays, as rehearsals for the school play **"The Sound of Music"** get under way. The coming together of over 50 students from across the year groups, in such a long-term commitment, is such a wonderful testament to the character of our students and staff. With performers already sounding very polished, the set team enthusiastically designing, and the technical team impressively managing the lights and sound, this will be a show not to miss!

There will be a **Book Fair** running in the school Library from Wednesday 30th September–Monday 5th October (details attached, together with the Library newsletter) when students will have the chance to browse and buy the books on offer. "Wish lists" will be available for students to write down any books they like the look of to take this home to discuss with their parents. To purchase any books, parents should go to the Scholastic Book Fair website: Find school - Scholastic Book Fairs Students should then return the wish list back to school so they can collect their book(s).

The **Clubs and Activities list** for this term is attached again and also available on the school website, and I would strongly encourage all students to get involved in at least one of these clubs, there are lots to choose from.

Next week sees the first of our regular **Reading Weeks** which are designed to engage pupils with challenging literature through staff-led read aloud sessions. The first book is: **'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time'** by Mark Haddon, which follows Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old mathematical genius on the autism spectrum, as he investigates the mysterious death of a neighbour's dog.

Our **Year 11 Geographers** are off to Lyme Regis on Monday to undertake important elements of fieldwork. The visit will help students to better understand the geographical concepts they have studied in their coastal landscapes, such as erosion and harbour regeneration.

We are very much looking forward to seeing a good number of you at the **Year 12 Welcome to 6th Form Evening** on Tuesday, 5.30-6.30pm, and the **Year 13 Parents' Evening** from 4.30pm on Wednesday, both being held at the Sir John Colfox Academy. These early meetings will provide a clear overview of the year and will enable individual conversations to ensure we can make the best possible progress together.

On Thursday 1st October at 6pm in The Ollerod in Beaminster, the **Friends of Beaminster School (FOBS)** (previously known as Beaminster School PTA) have their AGM and termly meeting. This active group are always looking for parents and carers who are able to help out just once or twice per year, so please do contact them at: friendsofbeaminsterschool@gmail.com or do go along to the meeting.

All **exam coursework** from the summer exam season is now available to collect from the school, so please do get in touch to arrange this, and for any budding **badminton** players details of a Junior U15 Tournament, open to all levels of ability for students up to and including Year 9, are attached.

With the cold and flu season ahead of us, a timely reminder that we do not accept any non-prescription medicines for use on an "as and when required" basis (excluding antihistamines for allergic reactions), and **do not hold or distribute paracetamol to students**. We expect that parents and carers will administer most medicines at home, for example, before and after school, but if parents are happy for their child to bring in non-prescription medicine such as paracetamol for personal use for headaches etc, they should bring in only **one dose - a maximum of 2 tablets - each day** to avoid the risk of misuse. Students do not need to access First Aid for this.

Finally, could I remind all parents and carers to be considerate and mindful of our neighbours when **driving near the school**. We ask that all pick-ups are **after 3.45pm** as this allows the buses and students to leave safely, and students are able to wait in the library for 10 minutes should there be inclement weather. There has been some unhelpful parking and impatient drivers on Fleet Street that is affecting the safety of other road users. Your support and understanding with this is much appreciated.

The Autumn Equinox has passed and it is already the final weekend of September, so enjoy the warm sunshine, whilst we can.

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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