

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER  
DORSET DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633  
Absences: 01308 861917

Email: [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)



HEADTEACHER  
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER  
MR D WITHERS NPQH

Website: [www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although the worst of the winter bite was north of the Beaminster Tunnel, we do appreciate that recent weather problems, bus diversions and a number of cancellations have all made for a tricky past few weeks. A reminder that bus users should always check the Dorset Travel and/or First Bus sites for information.

Additionally, as the government are not yet willing to speak with the National Education Union, the likelihood of the **2 day strike going ahead on Wednesday and Thursday next week** is increased. It is important that we continue to support our examination classes, so Years 11, 12 and 13 will be in school on both days, with Year 11 sitting their final trial examinations. However, we do recognise that some students are struggling to study and complete work at home. Therefore, we will be offering supervised study to those that really do require a quiet learning environment - for Years 9 and 10 on Wednesday, and Years 7 and 8 on Thursday. An electronic form for this will go out on Monday, to be returned by Tuesday lunchtime, if the industrial action is still planned.

Despite the cold weather on Wednesday, it was a real pleasure to welcome so many parents, carers and students to our **Year 9 into 10 Curriculum Evening**. The opportunity to speak with staff and to see the quality of work our current students are producing was very much appreciated, as was the overview of the process provided by Mr Barnes. Initial surveys will be sent out on Microsoft Forms next week.

On the sporting front, with the team missing some key players and playing on a huge pitch, Year 8 had a tough **Area Football match** against Wey Valley, and after battling hard, they eventually went down 6-1. In **Hockey**, our snow-depleted, mainly Year 10 team narrowly lost 2-0 to a strong, mainly Year 11 Colfox side, including a number of boys, who were using this opportunity for their GCSE assessment. Despite this, the team played well and really enjoyed the challenge, and were unlucky not to get a goal. Year 7 and 9 were also due to play at Colfox yesterday, but a downpour on the drive over flooded the astroturf making it unplayable. All was not lost, however, with some drills and mini-games organised in the Sports Hall so students did at least get to play, and the planned fixture is being rearranged.

Mr Crossland and the **Leonardo's Flying Start engineering team** of 16 students had an invigorating day at RNAS Yeovilton Air Museum yesterday, competing in the South West Finals. They undertook a range of knowledge quizzes, career talks, tours and flight engineering challenges, where they built the tallest tower, and flew the gliders that they had constructed in school against 34 other teams. One glider was close to winning, but then sadly veered off course, collided with a barrier and lost its wing! Do see the student experience at [Beaminster School | Beaminster | Facebook](#)

Many congratulations to our Year **13 Drama students** who impressed the external examiner, last night, with their group performance of an extract from *East* by Steven Berkoff and a monologue each. Milly, Hermione, Sally and Jolene's hard work makes up 20% of their Drama A Level and provides a secure foundation before the written examinations in June.

Year 11 have made a very promising, and positive, start to their final set of **trial examinations**. I would also like to pass on my thanks to all our new exam invigilators who are providing such great support at this important time.

We have been asked by **Dorset Healthcare** to thank all those Year 9, 10 and 11 parents and carers who have already completed the online consent form for the **Teenage Booster Immunisations** (TdIPV and MenACWY) that are taking place in school on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, together with a reminder that parents are still able to **register online until midnight on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March**. Full details, together with the electronic link and school code required, can be found in the ParentMail sent to eligible families on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Please note that the school is unable to assist with any queries about these vaccinations, so please contact [dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net) or call **01425 891162** (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) should you require any help or information.

Letters for the forthcoming **Stop the Clock** day on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March have all gone out, please ensure that **student planners are signed** and all payments made as required by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**.

We are all aware that **good punctuality and attendance** at school are essential for high levels of learning to take place, and for students to gain their best GCSE grades. Research shows that, on average, students with less than 90% attendance attain one grade less than their peers. Therefore, the government are asking all schools to ensure that families are made aware if their child's attendance drops below 95% each half-term. We very much appreciate that while there may be compelling reasons for attendance to dip, and that bus cancellations are very frustrating, we are obligated to share this information with you and do genuinely want to work with you if we can help to improve your child's attendance. Please do speak to your child's Tutor if we can help in any way.

We have a staff vacancy for a full time **Science Teacher** from September. Full details are on the school website [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](#) and the Dorset Council website, so please do share with anyone who may be interested, all applications are required by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Finally, we will be finishing next week by supporting **Comic Relief** with a non-uniform day for all students. The donations help to enable hundreds of projects and organisations to make a difference to people across the UK and around the world. Further details for Red Nose Day will be sent out next week, but do go ahead and get a red nose organised!

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales  
Headteacher

*This ParentMail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. Disclosing, copying or distributing the contents is strictly prohibited without prior permission from the school. If you have received this email in error, please notify [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)*