

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of this long term always brings a few sighs of relief, but it was a real pleasure to bring the whole school together for our **School Christmas Service** this morning, where we reflected on the year and the meaning of Christmas, before indulging in a great deal of fun in the **6th Form RAG Show** this afternoon, including "The Masked Teacher" and finishing with the excitement of the annual Christmas Raffle, this year presented by Father Christmas!

Particular mention to Year 9 student, **Felix Petcher**, who won the talent show with his amazing world class yo-yoing skills, he is currently ranked 11th in the world in the Under 14 Juniors!

Although two very different occasions, the pupils acquitted themselves with real maturity during the day, which made for an enjoyable end to the year for everyone. My particular thanks to the whole **Sixth Form team** for all their work with RAG week, which included numerous lunchtime activities and the very popular RAG Film for Years 7 and 8. Through the week they have raised many hundreds of pounds for charity!

Tuesday saw another fantastic day of sport with **House Basketball and Hockey matches**. Despite the challenge of so much illness, it was really encouraging to see so many students involved in high quality competition, across all the year groups. It is very tight at the top with Mapperton just one point ahead of Eggardon and the others clustered not too far behind.

The **Year 7 Explorer Dome** was a big hit with students on Monday, with lots of interactivity and fantastic facts around Neuroscience and the brain! The students heard from two neuroscientists, were informed about how the brain works and why healthy eating can cut down the risk of dementia, all within a very entertaining show. Do see our Facebook page for photos.

My thanks to Anna and the catering team, Aspens, who produced several hundred wonderful **Christmas lunches** for students and staff on Wednesday and Thursday, which was very much enjoyed by all!

After a very early start on Monday, the **Year 8/9 Opal Coast trip** arrived safely in France. They enjoyed Lille and the Christmas markets, breadmaking, a planetarium, museums, a pottery workshop and the excitement of a chocolate factory! It has been a long, but excellent, cultural experience (the trip is due to arrive back at around 10pm on Friday evening) and my thanks to Ms Forster, Mrs Rychnovsky and Mrs Hyde for providing this opportunity, you can see some photos on the Facebook page.

Some of you may also be aware that former Beaminster student, **Jonah Ayunga**, scored two goals for St Mirren to ensure that they beat Celtic in the Scottish Cup Final on Sunday. Jonah also won Man of the Match and was delighted to lift his first major trophy. To finish the incredible Beaminster School connection, medals were then presented by our own Molly Hyde, another former Beaminster student, who is now a Board member of The Scottish FA. Our congratulations to them both!

We were also impressed to hear that, last Sunday, Year 8 student **Hugo Marsh-Loureiro** took part in his first cross country race representing his club, Dorchester Athletics at The Cranford School in Magna. Hugo had a wonderful debut run, covering 3.5k in under 14 minutes he was the winner from his club and 13th overall, well done.

Looking ahead, don't forget that our rich and varied programme for **Activities Week 2026** is now live, with returns due back for all students in Years 7-10 by **Wednesday 7th January 2026**.

The school play '**Chariots of Fire**' will also be under way at the end of January. Due to the demands of the play, alongside GCSE and A2 examination preparations, Ms Smith will be stepping back from her role as Head of Year for until February half-term. Please continue to **contact Year 10 Tutors** in the first instance, and Mr See will be overseeing the year group during this interim period.

Finally, don't forget that we have a **staff training day** on Monday January 5th, so the **first day back for students** is Tuesday January 6th.

It just leaves me to thank you for all your support of Beaminster School for another year. Have a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Mr Hales

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