

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER  
DORSET DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633  
Absence Line: 01308 861917



Ambition • Service • Kindness

HEADTEACHER  
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEADS  
MR D WITHERS NPQH  
MR R BARNES MEd

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

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

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our half-termly **KS3 Read Aloud** packed a in great range of short stories across the 25 staff led lessons this week. They included a tale with a late twist called, "Button, Button", some old favourites from The Brothers Grimm and Aesop's Fables, and finished with the original Charles Perrault, 'Cinderella' today. The aim of the week is to expose of students to a rich array of literature, vocabulary and culture, so do ask your child which was their favourite and why!

As part of **staff professional development**, we came together with Sir John Colfox and Woodroffe staff on Monday for an online learning session to discuss how we can develop creative, collaborative and critical thinking skills in our students. Alongside the need for qualifications, we want to prepare our students for a global economy where they are required to be inquisitive and imaginative learners as well as disciplined and persistent.

This was reflected by our latest visitors from **Cambridge University** and **The Army**. Though very different organisations, both spoke about the need for students to seize opportunities in school and to be involved in collaborative roles. The Army focused their session, with Year 9, on team-work and problem-solving to construct a wheelbarrow, scooter or chair - with no instructions. The talk by **Cambridge University speaker, Rosie**, with Year 11 and 12 students, encouraged them to challenge stereotypes, be resilient in the face of adversity and aspirational about their futures.

Thank you to our Year 8 parents and carers for making the time to meet with us on Wednesday. It was very reassuring to hold so many positive conversations and to discuss ways that we can work together to ensure good progress across the year group. As ever, please do contact your child's Tutor in the first instance should you need any support with your child's learning.

Our **U13 Netball team** enjoyed their area tournament on Tuesday, winning several games, but faced some strong competition to finish fourth. Please also remember that **all students need to bring their sports kit in on Wednesday** for the **House Matches** day, with girls playing football and boys playing badminton.

Having worked on their glider research and designs for a number of weeks, our **Year 8 "Flying Start" Engineering** teams got stuck into building their gliders on Wednesday afternoon. They are being very well supported by engineering apprentices from Leonardo's and we look forward to the final selection process in a few weeks.

Next week our focus will be firmly on final preparations for our school play, **Treasure Island**, which is now only one week away, and there are a few photos of rehearsals on our Facebook page. With more rehearsals all day on Sunday, technical work on Monday and a final dress rehearsal in front of Year 7s, Beaminster St Mary's and Mountjoy students on Tuesday afternoon, it is a very busy week for staff and students. My sincere thanks to all the staff and students involved in this production for their many months of commitment, we are really looking forward to enjoying the show. There are just a few tickets left for each night so do get organised and purchase them via ParentMail if you want to attend on Thursday or Friday!

A reminder that we have a staff vacancy for a part-time **Reprographics Technician** to start as soon as possible (closes Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January), and for a **Mathematics teacher** from September (closes 5<sup>th</sup> February). Full details are available on the school website and Dorset Council website for anyone wishing to join our committed and enthusiastic team – please do share with anyone who may be interested in applying.

Finally, please do take a look at the latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, attached, which this week is what parents and carers need to know about TikTok.

Enjoy, what looks to be, a lovely weekend.  
Mr Hales