

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, in assemblies, I shared the hugely positive responses from our Autumn term **national student questionnaire**, organised by The Engagement Platform (TEP). This national programme compares the responses of nearly 100,000 students from across the country, to help schools identify how engaged the students are across a number of key areas and to pinpoint where action is needed.

Encouragingly, we were **above the national comparisons for nearly all the indicators**, with very strong results for how well behaved our students are, how safe and happy they feel, that they can be themselves, the trust they have in their teachers and the interest in their lessons. Reassuringly, the vast majority of students would highly recommend Beaminster School to a friend.

There were only two indicators, of nearly 50, where the response rate was the same as the national comparison. This centred around student perceptions of their own responsibility for learning. They recognised that our staff are doing a lot to provide opportunities and experiences, but that our students need to study harder to get better marks, and that these better marks will help them to open doors in the future to get a better job. This links strongly with our personal development curriculum and drive to raise aspirations, and we appreciate your continued support with helping students to develop their independent learning skills at home.

As part of our ongoing careers programme we had a **Law Talk live** from London this week. This was a very engaging and informative presentation all about pathways into Law, what the job of a solicitor and barrister involves, plus an insight into a typical day for a lawyer. The audience included students from Years 10 to 13 who were fully engaged and asked lots of interesting and thoughtful questions. Our thanks to Conor Quigley from Ashurst LLP for providing this opportunity. The Sixth Form have another important presentation, next Tuesday, from the **Safe Drive** team, so please encourage all Sixth Form students to complete the questionnaire prior to the presentation.

A key aspect of personal development is our relentless focus on reading, ensuring that every student becomes a committed reader, through exposure to high quality texts that develop a rich range of cultural understanding. Our **Reading Week book, 'Boy' by Roald Dahl**, was one such experience that was very much enjoyed by KS3 students this week. The past school traditions and sweet shop delights certainly brought memories back for me!

Do also read the monthly **Library Newsletter**, attached, to get a flavour of the regular competitions, Manga, themed events and, even, our newly appointed cheese plant monitor, Charlie!

Despite the difficult weather of recent weeks the busy sporting schedule has continued. The short respite on Wednesday ensured that both the **Year 7 and 8 Netball teams** were able to play matches against Sir John Colfox. Both teams grew in confidence during their games, developing understanding of their individual roles as well as combined teamwork. This resulted in well-deserved success with Year 7 winning 9-1, and Year 8 a closely fought 5-4.

The **Year 9 Football** boys played Wey Valley on the new Redlands Community Sports Hub 4, in the quarter final of the area cup. After falling behind to a slick Wey Valley move, the team battled hard to get back into the game, with Guy Huxford scoring an equaliser and creative play from Dylan Longden and Oli Smith. However, they just could not complete the opportunities and had to go into the lottery of penalties, losing 4-3.

We are looking forward to **House Matches on Tuesday**, with football for girls and badminton for boys so please do remind all students to **bring their PE kit** with them!

Finally on the sporting front, despite the County Cross Country Championships being repeatedly delayed, now after half term, **Joe Whelan** has been selected to represent Dorset in the Inter Boys Race at the SW England Championships this weekend, following his excellent recent performance teams. Good luck to Joe!

Nearly 100 families have accessed the free membership and wide-ranging number of talks provided by **facefamilyadvice.co.uk** (FACE) - please see the attached programme for February. Just go to the website and click on 'parents' in the box at the top to view the 16 regular talks shown on the attachment. To Access Talks just choose a topic and click through the booking calendar to find a date and time that suits you. At the payment stage, where it says add promo code, enter the code BM040425. This will reduce the price from £24 to £0. If you cannot make a live session, links to recordings of the talks are available for 48 hours after the session.

Looking ahead, we have our local **Social Prescribers team** leading an exhibition in school on Monday to showcase all the Health and Wellbeing opportunities in our local area (see attached). All of Key Stage 3 will have dedicated time to find out about the activities available, from sports and arts to environmental projects, volunteering, and community groups, with the exhibition open to all students at break and lunchtime.

We look forward to seeing **Year 11 families** for the consultation evening on Wednesday. This is an important chance for us to come together and ensure that we are all providing the support and challenge that Year 11 need in the last 3 months before the start of their GCSE examinations. The booking system is open until 1pm on Wednesday, and, as always, if there are any issues or concerns do contact your child's Tutor so that we can help.

Mrs Walters has enjoyed meeting Year 11 students who have applied for our **Joint Sixth Form** over the last few weeks, with a few further interviews to complete before half-term. If there are any students who would still like to **apply to our Sixth Form** the prospectus and application form can be found on our school website: [6th Form Prospectus and Application Form | beaminsterschool](#). Please feel free to get in contact with Mrs Walters if any students, or parents, have any questions, as we appreciate that making Post 16 choices can be daunting as well as exciting! After interviews have finished, we will be in touch explaining the next steps in the application process.

**Year 13** have their final trial examinations next week, with Art and Photography days alongside formal examinations in hall. Our best wishes to them all at this testing time.

We have **staff vacancies** for an **MFL teacher** (maternity cover from April) and for **two part-time TAs** so please do spread the word, full details can be found on the school website: [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](#)

With the start of the Winter Olympics, Six Nations and a plethora of other sports there is, at least, something to distract us from the humdrum of the weather this weekend!

Mr Hales  
Headteacher

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