

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 28th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you, once again, for your understanding with the disruption caused by the **Industrial Action**. **Tuesday May 2nd** is the last day of planned action until the public examinations have been completed at the end of June. This will provide the government with a real opportunity to engage with all the unions in a meaningful discussion around the issues of school funding, teacher recruitment, retention and workload.

Many congratulations to all the students engaged in their **A-Level Photography** and **GCSE Art** examinations this week. It is always a joy to see the quality of work produced, along with the careful research and development that the students have put into their final pieces. We wish the students taking **A-Level Art** and their **GCSE French orals** well next week.

With Year 11 now fully focusing on their forthcoming examinations, today saw the culmination of the process to choose our next **senior student team** from Year 10, and agree the new Year 9 sub-prefect roles. After a very competitive set of interviews I am delighted to inform you that **Frank Harding** and **Eva Murless** will be Head Boy and Girl, with **Joey Dunlop** and **Florence Leather** as their Deputies. Well done to all those involved in a very impressive set of interviews.

A reminder to all **Year 11 students** that parental permission slips are needed in by Friday 5th May to allow students to leave at 2pm after their Celebration Lunch on Friday 12th May. Please also check ParentMail to buy tickets to the Prom, a Yearbook, or to pay the deposit (payment item opens at 6pm tonight and is required by 10am on Tuesday 2nd May) for the possible Year 11 Thorpe Park trip (see separate ParentMail for information).

It was a real pleasure to welcome back former student **Molly Hyde** who spoke to our Year 10 GCSE PE students, and some of our Year 9 girl footballers, about her progression from Beaminster School to study Theatre and Sociology at university, get an MSc and then a truly unique role at The Scottish PFA. Molly shared how her involvement in numerous extra-curricular programmes had given her the confidence to always seize opportunities, such as volunteering in Tanzania and helping to organise football events. After the adversity of a difficult footballing injury, they also provided alternative options and a source of helpful contacts that moved her career onto a different path. This, along with her insight into GCSE PE topics such as commercialisation, sponsors and different careers in sport, made it an inspirational talk. We are very grateful to Molly for finding the time to come back and see us, and for the kind donation of a number of signed football shirts. We look forward to seeing another former student, **Finn Russell**, in school next week, who will be speaking to the Sixth Form about The London Interdisciplinary School, a new university based on interdisciplinary learning and tackling complex real-world problems.

Tuesday also saw a fantastic afternoon for over 100 **Key Stage 1 pupils** from our local primary schools. Driven by our wonderful and capable team of Sports Leaders, the pupils were provided with a range of fun activities that developed their fundamental skills, both individually and in teams. This followed a tough, home fixture for our **Year 9 girls** in the Small Schools' National Cup. Against a very capable Pool Academy from Cornwall, the girls battled right until the end, but lost out; playing with great energy and smiles they deserve huge credit for making it such a competitive game.

There has been a palpable excitement, along with a good deal of nerves, as Year 10 finalise their **Work Experience** placements and prepare themselves for a fortnight of life in the working world from Monday. Mr Donovan, Mrs Van Niekerk, Tutors and our Admin team have done a magnificent job to organise over 120 placements, and I am particularly grateful to all the employers who are supporting this hugely valuable experience. We wish all our students well and staff are looking forward to visiting many of them at their placements over the coming days.

Also, looking ahead, as part of our **education and wellbeing programme**, we have an online drama presentation for all Key Stage 3 students on Wednesday. The production, 'Hope', deals with issues around bullying and derogatory language in a sensitive and reflective way through a relevant and contemporary story that is specially written for schools.

Host families are still required for Spanish students coming over from 28th June to 24th July. The students attend their English course each weekday and travel with their local monitor. Host families receive £750 hosting payment, and households with children age 10 and upwards are ideal, details attached.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend.

Mr Hales

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