

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a real pleasure to welcome so many of you for our **Academic Monitoring Day** this week. We are very aware that this requires your support in juggling commitments and making appointments to attend, but we were delighted by the high levels of attendance and the many positive conversations that took place at this important time of the year.

Thank you, also, for your generous support of the **BSPTA tombola** (donations are still welcome and can be handed in to Reception) which had a heavily-laden table by the end of the day. Do remember that we have the **Christmas Fair** in the Town Hall from 5pm on Friday 28th November as part of Beaminster's Xmas Lights and students will be bringing home an envelope of tickets next week for the **BSPTA Grand Xmas Draw**. This raises much needed funds for the BSPTA, so please do sell as many tickets as you can. All stubs and unsold tickets need to be returned to school by 9am on Thursday December 11th ready for the draw during our evening Christmas Concert.

Year 11 will be pleased to have reached the end of the week and the half way mark of their second set of **trial examinations**. They have shown a very mature approach and are settling well into the routines required for success next summer. The extended weekend should give them plenty of time for revision along with some space to escape and enjoy a breather.

Over the course of two weeks Mrs Carlile, supported by the wonderful team from **Beaminster Museum**, is providing all of our Year 7s with a unique opportunity to step back in time and dive into the rich local history of World War 1. These educational trips are organised as part of the school's English curriculum, where students have read the novel 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Murpurgo. The visits offer students a hands-on experience, complemented by engaging and informative presentations led by knowledgeable volunteers, allowing students to ask questions, participate in discussions, and contemplate the significance of the war's impact on the local community, including a comprehensive insight into the lives of the soldiers and civilians who were directly affected by the war.

Dex Martin, 8M, attended the livestock and agricultural English Winter Fair held at Bingley Hall, Stafford last week. Competing against 22 other young handlers who had all qualified from across the country, Dex was put through his paces on the handling of the animals and general knowledge of sheep. Fantastically, Dex was awarded 2nd place and Reserve Champion for the Rare Breeds Survival Trusts Young Shepherd of the Year in the Junior Handler group. Do see pictures on our Facebook page of Dex in action!

Our **netballers** enjoyed some friendly fixtures against Colfox this week. The Year 11s played well together, including three Year 9s stepping up to join the team, and demonstrated accurate shooting and good team spirit for a 19-9 win. With an area tournament coming up, our Year 10s used lots of different combinations to improve the flow of the game, and another successful performance from all the girls saw them take the game convincingly 26-7.

The next **half-termly Reading Week** focuses on a wonderful array of poetry chosen by our senior prefects. Poetry has been shown to help young people process complex emotions, as well as stimulating literary elements such as characters, narrative structure, new words, and sometimes rhyming that can help children build foundational and more advanced literacy skills. My continued thanks to Miss Rollick for opening all our eyes to the power of literacy.

Dorset Council are pleased to announce that [bookings for the Winter in Dorset programme open at 2pm on 21 November](#). This initiative, funded by the Department for Education, is part of Dorset Council's [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme](#), which aims to provide enriching activities and hot meals during school holidays. Children who receive benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM) can access free places and meals during the Easter, Summer, and Christmas holidays.

Eligible families must **pre-register** to receive a passcode via text or email. To register, families should email holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk with their child's name, date of birth, and school, or call 01305 221157. If you have registered for a previous programme you do **not** need to register again.

With the festive season on the horizon, we would like to warmly welcome you all to two forthcoming events. Firstly, and thanks to the support of Reverend Baldwin, we have our traditional **Community Carol Service** in the beautiful St Mary's Church at 7pm on Thursday December 4th. This is then followed a week later by our **Christmas Concert** here at school from 6.30pm. Both are always wonderful events and provide a little time to step back and enjoy the many talents of our students.

With **The Ashes** under way, and a compelling first day, there will be a few late nights and early mornings – let's hope that we can enjoy it!

Mr Hales

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