

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER
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Ambition • Service • Kindness

HEADTEACHER
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DEPUTY HEAD
MR R BARNES MEd
ASSISTANT HEAD
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11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this first, full week of term, students have nearly completed lessons with each member of staff and are settling well into the routines and rhythms of the new school year.

We have started the new term with very **high levels of attendance**, and I thank you all for your support with this. Attendance at school is crucial for academic achievement, wellbeing, and students' wider development, as well as preparing them for a successful transition to adulthood.

Should you need to inform us of an absence please do remember to use our dedicated **Absence Line** (available 24 hours) **01308 861917**, which can also be found on every page of the school website. All absences should be reported **as early as possible ensuring the student's full name and reason for absence** is included.

Please do remember to always include the **student's full name and tutor group** whenever you contact the school, it really helps us to be able to direct your query to the right person more quickly, and a reminder to ensure that all student uniform and belongings are **clearly and indelibly named** so that any lost items can be easily returned when found. Your child's Tutor or the office should be your first point of contact. For any students wanting a **locker**, this is now available as a payment item in ParentMail for all years.

Following the significant pressure that has been brought to bear on **Dorset Transport** by families and elected representatives, and the ongoing monitoring by First Bus and ourselves, some additional capacity is being developed for routes north of Beaminster. I do not know if this will fully meet demand, but it is a step in the right direction. Can I thank all the families involved for their patience and efforts to work together to make this a priority. I am assured that a letter, from First Bus, has gone out to everyone who was on the waiting list.

Our Year 7 and 8 students started the day with a rousing **singing assembly** this morning, so do have a look at the short videos on our Facebook page (sound on)!

The **Silver DofE students** headed out this afternoon for their final expedition, after delays in summer due to the heat! They have three challenging days ahead of them, and the weather is set fair, so I hope that they enjoy the byways of West Dorset!

Looking ahead, we have **individual school photos** for all students on Monday. Students have been very smart this week and will need to be in full school uniform for the photos.

Mr Langford and Mrs Stone are taking the Year 10 Independent Learning Winners to visit the **Houses of Parliament** in London next week. They will be walking to Buckingham Palace and having our lunch at St James Park, followed by a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a workshop.

The **Clubs and Activities list** for this term is attached and available on the school website, and all students have received a hard copy to bring home today. I would strongly encourage all students to get involved in at least one of these clubs, there are lots to choose from!

There is an important meeting for all **Year 10 students**, parents and carers on Wednesday 16th September, at 6.30pm in the hall, with our **Introduction to GCSEs and Work Experience Information Evening**. This is always a very positive event where we explain the requirements of the GCSE courses, highlight progression routes and outline the steps to a successful Work Experience fortnight in May 2027.

The first **Inter-House competition** is also on Thursday with the ever-enjoyable **Fun Run**. All students will be off timetable for one period so that they can earn points for their House by completing the course and, for some, gaining extra points by coming in the top group.

Friday sees our first non-uniform charity day for all students, with Year 8 supporting the **Jeans4Genes** charity. Students will be able to attend, wearing jeans and appropriate attire for school, if they make a £1 donation to charity.

Our **Student Council** has its first meeting, next Friday, with the group sharing feedback on the first two weeks of term, reviewing the priorities for the year and electing their chair and vice-chair.

Last weekend Year 9 student, **Zak Southgate**, reached another final in the Junior Driving Championships in Radford. Due to several race re-runs Zak was still going at 6pm on Sunday, but managed to gain an incredible 3rd place out of 103 national drivers in the junior saloon class. Congratulations to him on a fantastic achievement as he was also the youngest junior driver involved!

In the community, we were sad to hear that trees had been stripped of bark and damaged in **Hursey Common, Broadwindsor**. There is a very active group working hard to protect this precious habitat and common land, which has beautiful woodland and a wildflower meadow. The team are asking for visitors to be vigilant and are also looking for local volunteers, with work days coming up in October, so do look out for further information.

Details of new times for the **Prout Bridge Games Club** are attached.

Finally, with our year groups very full, we are already receiving a lot of calls regarding school places for September 2027. We will be holding three short **Open Mornings from 9-10am on 21st, 22nd and 23rd September** so that prospective pupils and parents can see the school in action. The information has been widely circulated to primary schools, and is also available on our school website and social media pages. Please do feel free to share the dates and spread the word to any families who may be interested – as always, students are warmly invited to attend the mornings with their parents.

There will be a few tired students, and staff, after these first few days back, but I am very encouraged by the work completed and trust that you all enjoy a restful weekend. Mr Hales Headteacher

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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