

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

A Happy New Year to you all and a very warm welcome to 2026!

Many of the students have returned very positively to the new term, punctual, smart and well-equipped. We have the highest expectations for our students and know that good preparation, smart presentation and a positive attitude have a big impact on learning. Please do ensure that your child has the right equipment and uniform, worn correctly with the correct skirt length, jumper and school coat, and that all items are clearly named.

Looking back, Year 8 and 9 students had a wonderful trip to **Northern France** during the last week of term. There was a very broad and interesting range of activities, with the students spending time developing their language skills at the Centre and during their varied excursions. Please do see the attached photos which reflect the cultural experience and exemplary engagement from all those involved.

Our safeguarding team has developed a **Wellbeing button** on ClassCharts to provide an additional way for students to share concerns if they are worried about speaking directly to a trusted adult. When using the button students can select whether they feel unsafe or worried, and a drop-down box will allow them to briefly describe their concern. This feature is designed specifically for **safeguarding related worries** and is not intended for general friendship issues or classroom concerns, which should continue to be reported through tutors or the SSGC as usual. The safeguarding team will check this function daily to ensure that any concerns raised are followed up promptly and appropriately. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all students safe.

After several months of preparation, it was a real pleasure to see our **Year 11 Art students** undertaking a day of focused work on their trial coursework pieces. There was a rich and varied array of pieces which the students had to link to their research, which they were able to articulate with genuine passion and understanding.

I am also most grateful to the Art Department who are, again, working with the Sou Sou West Gallery in Symondsburry to put on an **Exhibition of our students' work**, running daily from Saturday 17th January to Sunday 25th January 2026, with a **launch morning between 10am and 12pm** on Saturday 17th. Students have studied a range of media including sculpture, collagraph printmaking, monoprints, group pieces for collage and expressive ink and wax resist imagery. We are delighted with the art that our young people have made and hope that you are able to visit the exhibition, poster attached.

This term's **Clubs List** is attached with another excellent mix of activities on offer to students, thank you to all the staff involved. It is also available on the school website, and students have been given hard copies to bring home with them today. Please do encourage your child to take advantage of, at least, one of these.

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 January. 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.

Yeovil College have a number of open events this term. Firstly, Wednesday 14th January, 5-7.30pm sees an open event for Year 10 and 11 students regarding post-16 options and can be booked at: <https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/events/open-event-3/> Secondly, they are holding an Apprenticeship Fair on Wednesday 11th February, 5-7:30pm, with over 50 businesses and university partners attending, so is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore apprenticeship vacancies and future career pathways.

Our **Library** continues to go from strength to strength as you can see from the January Newsletter, attached.

The Beaminster Area Eco Group (BAEG) continue their excellent range of illustrated and informative talks with **Heat Pumps - fact or fiction?** see the attached poster.

Year 11 and 12 Drama students are looking forward to a live production of "Lost Atoms" at the Bristol Old Vic on Thursday. We are really looking forward to the school play, '**Chariots of Fire**', at the end of January. The cast and crew, many from Year 9, have been working hard since September with the Thursday evening rehearsals looking impressive already. Tickets are now on sale via ParentMail at just £6 for adults, £4 for students, so do get in quickly to secure your seat!

The **BSPTA** have a meeting at **6pm on Thursday 15th January at The Greyhound in Beaminster**, please do attend if you are able to, or for a link to join the meeting remotely contact treasurer.bspta@gmail.com

Please do check, update and return any outstanding **Data Check sheets** to school as soon as possible as we need to ensure that we have accurate and up to date information on all students, and do remember to **always include the student's FULL NAME** in any communication with the school.

As we all acclimatise to the first full week back of 2026, I wish you all a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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