

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last weekend the school joined with the Beaminster branch of The Royal British Legion, and many other community groups, for the **Remembrance Parade**, church service and Armistice Day Commemoration. It is of great importance that we pass the torch of remembrance to the younger generations to carry forward, whilst the remembrance weekend also emphasises the great community spirit that is within Beaminster. I would like to thank **Eva Murless** and **Frank Harding** for reading the Kohima Epitaph, and **Amber Bowditch** and **Sophie Laycock** for representing the school; they were a great credit to us all.

Year 11 will be pleased to have reached the end of the week, and the half way mark, in their first 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.

The delayed **Year 9 visit to Marwell Zoo** couldn't quite escape the wind and rain, but the students made the best of the conditions and enjoyed a great day of zoological study linked to several of their Year 9 modules. The students were great ambassadors for the school and received many plaudits from the science staff and those at Marwell Zoo.

There was much excitement and energy expended on Wednesday when Year 7 set up a number of activities in support of their chosen charity, **Children in Need**. Radio Solent were so impressed by the plans that our Charity Reps came up with, particularly **Matty Wojcik's** "Just Dance", that they came over to film and interview the students whilst the Just Dance, crazy golf, cake sale and Guess the Sweets activities took place. Well done to Year 7 for raising nearly £700! You can listen to their Radio Solent interview on the Steve Harris Dorset Breakfast show here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0qnf7d6> - click on Listen Now and the interviews start at around 1.11s ... and we have just been notified that **BBC South will be using some of the footage taken in school tonight at 6.30pm**, so do look out for it (or hopefully find it on iPlayer).

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you, on Thursday, for our **Academic Monitoring Day**. We are very aware that this requires your support in juggling commitments and are very grateful for the many positive conversations that took place at this important time of the year. Thank you, also, for your generous support of the **BSPTA raffle** (donations still welcome) and do remember that we have their **Christmas Bake Off** next week and **Christmas Bingo Evening** on Friday 24th November.

As part of our **environmental development** of the school we are very grateful to Wessex Water Community Fund who are providing funding for the siting of a new pond area, and we are also working with the Countryside Charity (CPRE) to progress other areas of the school estate. I am indebted to our **volunteer wood wardens** as well, who have a monthly tidy of 'Michael's Wood', usually on Wednesdays for a couple of hours, and would ask anyone else who might be interested in getting involved to contact us at: office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

The **Children's Commissioner for England**, Dame Rachel Da Souza, has launched the **The Big Ambition Survey** to hear from all children and young people in England aged between 6 and 18 years old. Rural communities have been under-represented and the government would like to hear from children or parents in West Dorset through this survey: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition.

Finally, we were delighted to hear that Year 7, **Lucas Willment**, has had his drawing included in the final of the “Royally Big Portrait” which can now be seen at the National Portrait Gallery from this weekend; many congratulations to him.

Looking ahead, copies of the whole school photograph (for those who ordered one) will be coming home with students next week, and please do remember that **flu jabs** are available to all of Years 7 to 11 on Thursday of next week, but the online consent form (see attached) **must be completed by Monday 20th November** at the latest.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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