

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The festive season gets well and truly under way with **Beaminster Christmas Fair and Lights** from 5pm this evening. The senior team will be in the Town Hall supporting our magnificent BSPTA with the many stalls, your kind donations for the Tombola and selling raffle tickets for the **BSPTA Grand Xmas Draw**. Do come along tonight, if you can, and please remember to return all raffle stubs and money to school by 9am on Thursday December 11th, so that we can do the draw at our evening Christmas Concert.

We are also looking forward to taking all of our Year 7 and 8 students to the beautiful St Mary's Church for their annual Carol Service on the afternoon of Thursday December 4th. This will then be followed, at 7pm, by our traditional **Community Carol Service** with Reverend Baldwin, to which you are all warmly invited.

Our half-termly **Reading Week** had a wonderful array of 25 poems across the week, covering the whole gamut of emotions. Amidst the rich and varied selection, I was particularly struck by the power of Kahlil Gibran's 'Fear', Robert Frost's 'Nothing Gold Can Stay' and Danusha Lameris's 'Small Kindnesses' that remind us all that it is often the little things that we do in life that make the biggest difference. Thank you, again, to our Senior Prefect Team for selecting these thought-provoking pieces. Do ask your child which was their favourite poem this week.

Additionally, I am delighted to share with you our first **Library Newsletter**. These will be published monthly and keep you updated with what is happening in the Library and how everyone can get involved so that we really do become a reading school! My thanks to Mrs Dodds who is making this such a congenial and industrious space.

Alongside the Year 10 Rotary interviews, The Brit Valley Rotary Club kindly support our annual **Young Photographer Competition**. The topic this year, 'Happiness in Nature', produced a glorious array of ideas and images from twenty entrants which the judge, well known local photographer, Neil Barnes, had the unenviable task of selecting. After much cogitation, in the senior competition Honie Jeffery, Year 12, was awarded first place and £50 in Amazon vouchers, with her image going forward to represent the area in the South West regional final. Matilda Dodds came second and Jenny Alexander third.

In the main school competition, a 'wonderful image' of her ginger cat secured Beth Ridout 1st place and Amazon vouchers, with other Year 10 students Leon Bruckel and Ruby Dyer awarded second and third places respectively. Mr Haigh was delighted with the response and very grateful for the support of Brit Valley Rotary in making this happen.

At the third round of the **SW Dorset Cross Country** on Tuesday our Year 7 Girls finished 1st, with Genevieve Long individually 4th, the Junior Girls were second, Harry Mansfield was 2nd individually in the Junior boys and Joe Whelan completed a clean sweep with his third 1st place in the Inter Boys. Congratulations to all of our runners and to Mr Wagstaff for a very successful Autumn season.

On Thursday, **Beaminster Girls Hockey** played in a triangular tournament with Colfox and Budmouth to develop their tactical awareness and team play. Both Beaminster teams showed some fantastic teamwork and worked well together, with players trying out new positions and strategies. The Year 7 and 8 team worked hard to remain unbeaten, with a 0-0 result against Budmouth and a 1-0 win over Colfox. The Year 10 and 11 team showed their experience by confidently changing tactics during each game, resulting in a 3-0 win against Budmouth and a 4-0 win against Colfox. Very well done to both teams, you can see a photo of the teams on our Facebook page.

Also, on Thursday, there was a palpable sigh of relief as Year 11 reached the end of their **trial examinations**. The students have responded very well to this demanding fortnight and shown great maturity in their approach. Students who missed any exams will be sitting **catch-up sessions** next week, letters have been sent to those involved.

A reminder that the deadline to complete the online consent form for **flu vaccinations** is **Wednesday 3rd December** if you wish your child to be vaccinated in school on 8th December. Please see the ParentMail sent to all Year 7-11 on 13th November ("Flu Vaccinations for Years 7-11") for full details and the link to the online consent form.

It was a great pleasure to dip in and see the quality of work with the ongoing rehearsals for our forthcoming school production, **Chariots of Fire**. The cast and crew, lead by Ms Smith, have been together every Thursday developing their performances, and I thank them all for this huge commitment. We look forward to seeing this original, spellbinding production at the end of January.

As you know, **Dorset Music Service** have kindly loaned us **35 trumpets**, so all of Year 7 and 8 have been having weekly trumpet lessons in their Music classes for the past three weeks, and have all really enjoyed experimenting! You can see a photo on our Facebook page, and if any students are interested in having trumpet lessons then please do contact our Head of Music, Mrs Sam Edwards: Sedwards@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk to find out more.

Finally, next Tuesday, Year 11 have an assembly with Yeovil College, and we will welcome **BAe Systems** in for an interactive presentation to all of Years 7 and 8 on careers and opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

It just leaves me to wish you all a restful last weekend in November!

Mr Hales

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