

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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13th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

There was much excitement to start the week as we all assembled on the front fields for the first **whole school photograph** since 2016. The students showed considerable patience, and good humour, as the long lines steadily threaded their way onto the stage with the big shot completed with real aplomb! You will be notified by the photographers, Tempest, when this special souvenir is ready to be purchased, and do have a look at the photos and short video of the event on our Facebook page.

We also had another busy afternoon on Wednesday with our final tours for **prospective Year 7 families**. The closing date for secondary school applications is 31 October 2023, so please do ensure that these are completed in time.

Alongside the many clubs and activities on offer, it was Mrs Walton's **Sailing group** who caught the eye this week. Having completed an accomplished set of evening training sessions at the Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre, the team, with students from Year 7 to 10, were invited to compete at Weymouth on Wednesday. With the wind gusting to 25 knots the planned regatta course wasn't possible, but the students' teamwork and competitive spirit was great to see and resulted in them coming first against Millfield School, very well done to them all.

The sporting week continued with a number of fixtures. Our **Year 8 Football** team played their first round cup match against Poole High School, but suffered from a poor first half before rallying well with a wonderful goal from Harry Kemp and some fine saves from Freddie Hillier and Josh Brister-Warr, with the team eventually going down 5-1. A huge thank you to all the parents who rallied and helped make the fixture happen.

Our **Under-16 Netball team** played strongly in all of their six games of the South West tournament, also on Wednesday, but were a few elusive goals short in each match. The **Year 10 Rugby** team showed equal enthusiasm, but were overwhelmed by a very strong SJCA side. After a bright first half with a Henry Guppy goal, our **Year 9 Football** team struggled with the pitch slope and saw a resilient Budmouth side win 8-3, but Henry completed an impressive hat-trick and the team worked hard right until the final whistle.

Thursday saw our first **Primary sports afternoon**, with a Year 3 and 4 Primary FUTSAL tournament led by eight of our excellent Sports Leaders. Showing a wonderful array of silky skills, eventual winners were Parrett and Axe, followed by Broadwindsor and Beaminster St. Mary's.

If any students are interested in joining **Bridport Barracudas Swimming Club** they are running some open trials nights in October, details attached.

Although the half-term is fast approaching, we have another busy week planned and are very much looking forward to the **Careers Fair** on Thursday. Mr Donovan has been delighted by the support of local businesses along with the national organisations and universities who will be attending, as this provides all of our upper school students with a rare opportunity to investigate a wealth of careers and to speak with employers directly.

Also on a busy Thursday is the **SEN coffee morning from 9.30am**, parents and carers attending should report to Reception on arrival please. This is a great opportunity to come in and meet some of our SEN team, and there will also be representatives from the Autism in Schools project, ASCape (an ASC community support group), and from parent carers forums present.

A plea! Rehearsals for our next school production, "**Treasure Island**," are now well under way, and the stage crew are looking to recreate a 16th century pirate ship, Hispaniola, as part of the scenery. For this they desperately need to source **old, thick rope (ideally something similar to the climbing ropes used in gymnasiums), nets, wooden block and tackle, anchors** ... anything old and nautical really! If you think you have anything that the team might be able to use, please do contact Mr Harris on trevorharris@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk as soon as possible. Thank you.

We wish Year 13 well with their first set of formal **trial examinations** next week, and Year 11 will be receiving further information about their examinations, which start on Monday 13 November.

Following the Fun Run in September, we have our second set of **House Matches on Wednesday**, so please do remember PE kit! This will be Netball for girls and Rugby for boys.

Finally, on Friday, after the morning singing, Year 7 and 8 have a special assembly to receive their **BookBuzz** selections. This is the second year where students will be presented with a book of their choice to read over the half-term break; please do encourage them to make the most of this opportunity.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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