

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half-term of 2024 and the season of Lent. With the days lengthening, and the Spring Equinox arriving in three weeks, I think we are all looking forward to some more daylight and, maybe some sun!

Over half-term the **Sixth Form visit to Rome and Naples** and our **Ski Trip to Austria** were very much enjoyed by students and staff. The students were a real credit to the school and I know that staff really enjoyed building some great memories with them that will stay with them all. Your many emails and words of thanks were also much appreciated as these trips do require a great deal of planning and responsibility.

We are incredibly proud of our three **Youth Speaks Teams**, who competed in the second round of local heats this week. Each team performed fantastically well against Sir John Colfox Academy and Sunninghill School and we were delighted to take 3 of the 4 awards on offer! Special congratulations to **Rosie Gaines** in Year 8 and **Isobel Hallett** in Year 11 for winning the 'Best Speaker' awards, and to **Nina Powell, Efi Fraser and Bea Bibby** who won the Intermediate Round. Their formidable debate on Animal Testing has secured them a place in the **District Finals** on Saturday 2nd March at Wessex Academy in Cheddar. A big thank you to parents and families for supporting our students on the night and to The Rotary Club for organising such a brilliant opportunity.

Congratulations to Year 7, **Harry Keeping**, who has been busy taking part in many races, heats and finals in the County Swimming Championships at Bournemouth's Litledown Swimming Pool over 4 weekends in January and February. Harry achieved 8 personal best times and 6 times that qualified for the South West Regionals! Across all strokes and medley races Harry scooped an impressive haul of 1 Gold, 7 Silver and 1 Bronze medals – well done Harry! You can see Harry with his collection of medals on our Facebook page.

We very much appreciated seeing so many of you for **Year 10 Consultation Evening** on Wednesday. As always, please do contact your child's tutor if you need support or wish to follow anything up.

Our **Year 11 GCSE Food students** have been put through their paces this week as they prepared their final three course meals under timed conditions. Having had the privilege of taste testing the smorgasbord of sumptuous courses, I can only say how impressive the plate to palate presentation, planning and preparation has been; congratulations to them all.

Year 11 also have a busy few weeks ahead with mock speaking examinations in French and a Geography field trip linked to their final paper next week, and then the second set of trial examinations beginning on Wednesday 6th March.

Good luck also to **Year 13** who have their final trial examinations next week.

Monday sees the first day of our next half-termly **Reading Week**, which this time focuses on non-fiction extracts to expose our students to a wider variety of writing styles. We also have two new clubs this half term to bring to your attention: on Thursday lunchtime Mr See is running **Latin** for Years 9 and 10, and also on Thursday, there is a new **after school Cricket Club** for Year 7 and 8 students, run by Ross Baker from Beaminster Cricket Club.

Attached is the **Prout Bridge Project** programme for the current half term which has many exciting activities for all age ranges on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, together with the latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, what you need to know about Facebook.

On Tuesday 5th March, Yeovil College are running a parent and guardian focused event – **Supporting Young People with SEND and EHCPs**. Parents and guardians will hear from the new Yeovil College SENCo and Foundation Learning teams as they support parents and guardians to support their young person in the transition up to Further Education. The event is open to everyone, not just those who have applied to Yeovil College. To book a space, please follow this link - <https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/events/supporting-young-people-with-send-and-ehcps/>

Finally, I am very sorry to let you know that Mrs Hellyar is not going to be able to return to teaching this half-term. We are adapting our KS3 Computing curriculum in light of this and I am very grateful to Sir John Colfox who will be picking up the A-Level Computer Science. The GCSE programme is being urgently resourced and I will write to our Year 10 and 11 parents and carers next week with a further update on the delivery of these courses.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Hales

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