

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

After many months of preparation and rehearsal, it has been hugely rewarding to see the whole community come together and share in the enjoyment of our school production, **Treasure Island**.

The vast team of performers, technicians and staff spent the weekend honing their performances before putting on a much-appreciated dress rehearsal in front of Year 7, Beaminster St. Mary's and Mountjoy students on Tuesday.

With a day to re-charge their batteries, and get over a number of illnesses, the excitement was palpable across the school on Thursday. The opening night was a great success as the cast and crew threw themselves into their performances, which were thoroughly enjoyed by an appreciative audience. Congratulations to Ms Smith and her whole team of performers and back stage crew for another great show, we look forward to tonight's final performance.

As we reach the mid-point in the year, it is worth sharing a few reminders. Firstly, all students should bring the following **equipment to school** at all times: a black pen, green pen, highlighter(s), pencil, ruler, rubber, protractor and a compass. Additionally, Years 7, 8 and 9 must always have a reading book, which can be borrowed from our library, and upper school students need to have a scientific calculator.

We have recently had a lot of students coming to request drinks of water. Please ensure that your child has a **refillable water bottle**, which can be refilled at break and lunch, and that they have had something to eat before coming to school.

There has been a significant increase in the number of cars using the **coach park at the end of school** which is causing a real worry in terms of student, staff and visitor safety. We have worked closely with our colleagues at Mountjoy School to initiate a release of their minibuses, in one constant flow, so that we can then clear the access road and ensure our buses can arrive on time. It has been very upsetting to see some cars recklessly driving past traffic management staff, who wear high viz vests, and who are trying to ensure the safe release of student transport. Please do remember to **only collect your child after 3.45pm**.

The sporting week saw us welcome ten primary schools from across Bridport and Beaminster for a much-enjoyed **cross-country fixture** on a wet and windy afternoon. With 60 medals up for grabs it was great to see a range of winners, with Salway Ash taking the Y3/4 race for girls, Parrett and Axe winning the boys, St. Catherine's winning the Y5/6 girls' race and Bridport Primary taking the boys' race.

Despite missing several key players, our **U15 Netball team** had a very competitive tournament on Tuesday, beating Colfox and Wey Valley to come third and qualify for the County Championships. A big shout out to Jess Frampton in Year 9 for stepping up and playing so well. This was followed with further wins for our Year 9 and 10 teams who won matches against Colfox on Wednesday; well done for such a successful week!

The **Year 8 Basketball team**, Beaminster Memphis Grizzlies, also showed great levels of fitness to pull away in the final quarter of their match to beat Woodroffe San Antonio Spurs 63 – 51.

Wednesday saw an enthusiastic turnout for **House Matches**. Waddon girls won three out of five of the football competitions, with Mapperton and Lewesdon winning two each in the boys' badminton. Lewesdon have now taken a strong lead in the overall house competition with only two points separating Eggardon and Mapperton in second and third.

Tom Gordon from **NHS Widening Participation** gave an eye-opening and informative talk on careers in the NHS, with particular emphasis on the expansion of their apprenticeship routes. On Thursday, the world renowned human rights lawyer, **Clive Stafford Smith** gave a very entertaining and thought-provoking talk to around sixty Year 11 and 12 students. He engaged them in debate on his views on how our penal system could be changed for the better, and offered an insight into his long and distinguished career. Thank you to both speakers for making the time to share their experiences and discuss such interesting careers with our students, some photos are on our Facebook page.

As part of **National Apprenticeship Week** on Wednesday 7th February Year 11, 12 and 13 students can join a virtual fair to learn all about the world of apprenticeships. From 4.30pm they will be able to explore the latest apprenticeship opportunities, attend live sessions with top employers including the BBC, British Army, KPMG, Lloyds Banking Group and Unilever, and network one-on-one to get top tips on how to find and apply for their dream apprenticeship. Just click on this Unifrog link: <https://www.unifrog.org/teacher/webinars/upcoming/833-preview> (to reset a forgotten password students should click on the link on the screen).

Year 9 reports were sent out yesterday and, looking ahead, we have the **Year 11 Consultation Evening** on Wednesday, so do remember to book your appointments, and, as always, please do contact your child's Tutor if you need support or wish to follow anything up.

We have a staff vacancy for a **2nd in Mathematics** from September. Full details are available on the school website and the Dorset Council website for anyone wishing to join our committed and enthusiastic team – but hurry, the closing date is **Monday 5th February**.

Finally, please do take a look at the latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, attached, which this week is all about YouTube.

Enjoy the first weekend of the Rugby Six Nations.

Mr Hales

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