

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 12th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write, Year 11 are indulging in a very welcome **Celebration Day** which provides a much-needed light-hearted distraction from the ongoing revision and start of the GCSEs on Monday. After a final RS revision session to begin the day, the students looked resplendent as they gathered in the hall to share memories and music from the past 5 years, lots of stories, words of wisdom and much fun was had by all. Lunch was served by staff before the signing of spare shirts and all-important Yearbooks were distributed, followed by final farewells and an early start to the weekend to prepare for Monday. The year group have done incredibly well to stay composed and focused over these past few weeks and our very best wishes go with them all.

A couple of important housekeeping reminders: Year 11s are still expected in school for the next two weeks so any **Year 11 absences must be still reported as usual, and as early as possible please**. We are also very happy to receive donations of any **Revision Guides** from Year 11s after they have finished using them.

Year 10 have come to end of their two weeks of **Work Experience** and will return to us, I am sure, much wiser on Monday. During our visits to their placements we have had great feedback on how the students have matured and grown in confidence, taken on challenges and seized new opportunities, as well as securing part-time jobs and the possibility of future careers. It just leaves me to thank everyone involved for providing such support in this huge undertaking, but particularly Mr Donovan and Mrs Van Niekerk for their excellent co-ordination.

We have also had two teams of Year 8s competing in different engineering challenges in Bristol this week. Firstly, our Leonardo's supported **Flying Start Challenge** team of **Caile Faiers, Bobby Ashton, Andrew Burrough and Ben Sloper**, attended the national finals along with 25 other teams from across the country. Undertaking four different engineering challenges, they were placed in the top three for three of them and won the competition to build the longest cantilever bridge. They were presented with their award from the Chief of Airbus UK Wing Design and will find out their final overall placing next week, very well done to all of them.

On Wednesday, the **F1 in Schools Challenge team**, 'The Beaminster Beasts', **Seth Rand, Hardy Lancaster and Charlie Vickery**, also headed to Bristol and took their aerodynamically designed car to compete in the southwest regional finals. The team, the youngest in the competition, had to present their designs to the judges with no teacher present and explain the development process, in addition to creating a design portfolio. They manufactured 6 developed designs on the school's 3D printers, each taking over 10 hours to print. Having carefully practised their starting technique the boys were delighted to be only 7/100ths of a second slower than the fastest car in their class! After a gruelling day of racing they deservedly won the "Future Stars" award which is voted for by the judges. Many thanks to Mrs Da Costa and Mr Prendergast for all their support, and congratulations to the team!

Congratulations also to **Year 7 student, Will Tucker**, who recently took part in a charity cycle ride with his dad in aid of Prodigal Bikes, who send bikes to Africa. He completed the 24-mile ride (plus an extra 3 miles to and from the event) in 2 hours and 42 minutes

Year 12 History students immersed themselves in Tudor England with their visit to **Hampton Court** on Tuesday. The students had a very useful workshop on the reformation, along with a tour and enjoyable re-enactment to really bring the history of the Tudors to life. As always, please do head over to our Facebook page to see some photos and videos of these events.

Next week, as part of our drive to broaden students' exposure to a wider range of literature, we will be reading **Haroun and the Sea of Stories** by Salman Rushdie across all our KS3 classes. The story centres around a young boy called Haroun who lives in a city so sad and ruinous that it has forgotten its name. After his father loses his ability to tell stories and earn money, they set off on a series of incredible adventures.

An early reminder that next Friday (19th May) also sees the final full day for our **Year 13s** before their examinations start and Mr See will be sending out further information about this separately. After seven years it is always a bit of a wrench to know that they are leaving us, although this is always helped by hearing about all the wonderful things that they are going off to do.

Enjoy the, shorter, May weekend!

Mr Hales

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