

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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19th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been much to enjoy during this busy third week of term, so I will try to concisely squeeze it all in. There are also photos of most of the events on our Facebook and Twitter (now X) pages so do have a look.

Firstly, Mrs Spencer-White took three excellent student teams to the area **Youth Speaks competition** in Bridport on Wednesday. The Rotary Club of Bridport kindly organised this first round where teams debated topics that they are passionate about. All our students demonstrated confident public speaking skills and will now move through to the second round, which will be hosted here at Beaminster School by Brit Valley Rotary Club on February 21st. Many thanks to parents and carers for being so supportive and congratulations to Nina Powell, Efi Frasier, Bea Bibby, Rosie Gaines, Lowena Mead and Amelia Cook in Year 8, and to Belle Hallett, Rebecca Mather and Matilda O'Shea in Year 11.

As part of our speakers in school programme we were delighted to welcome **David Craig from Sky Sports** in on Tuesday. During a very entertaining and wide-ranging presentation, David talked through his life in the media, sport and the numerous careers paths linked to these. On Thursday, our Careers Enterprise link, **Kate Hardy, from Albert Goodman Accountancy**, spoke to another large group of Year 10 and 11 students about accountancy, tax law and her work as part of their Farms and Estates division. Our thanks to both David and Kate for their time.

Miss Coleman took 12 Year 10 students to the **Maths Festival** at Wadham on Wednesday. After a challenging morning of complex problem-solving between five schools and over 80 students (our students were mixed in teams with other schools), Warren and Samuel were placed third, whilst Harry S and Millie were placed second, congratulations.

It was very encouraging to see a packed hall at the **Year 12 Consultation Evening** on Wednesday, and to meet the Sir John Colfox families. We look forward to seeing **Year 8 parent and carers at the online Consultation Evening** on Wednesday 24th January, so do please remember to book your online meeting slots. Should you be unable to see a particular member of staff on the night then please do get in touch if there is anything you wished to raise with them.

The first night of the **Year 9 Natural Forms Exhibition** at The Sou Sou West Gallery, Symondsburry, was a real delight. There was a wonderful array of art, with innovative and creative techniques on display. Our thanks to Phil Clayton, who runs the gallery, for all his support. The exhibition is now accessible from 10.30am until 3.30pm every day until January 28th so do go along and see it if you can.

We were delighted to hear that after a very successful riding season, Year 11 student **Tabitha Taylor** has been invited onto the elite **British Eventing Talent Academy for 2024**. The academy is dedicated to helping nurture and develop the next generation of talent in the sport, so huge congratulations to Tabby and good luck with the transition to senior levels.

Following the release of our **Activities Week programme for July**, Mrs Stone has done an incredible job to allocate nearly 500 students onto their identified projects. Students can now view these in the main school entrance opposite our Finance office.

Our **Year 9 and 10 Football teams** had tough cup games this week. Both started well by scoring first, but couldn't maintain their momentum and went down 4-1. Our **U16 Basketball** team are competing in the first round of the National Cup this afternoon against Millfield and Woodroffe, so good luck to them.

Yesterday our **Cross Country** teams faced their fiercest competition yet at the Dorset Schools County Championships in Bournemouth. With wintry conditions making the course very challenging, all of the students deserve great credit. Joseph Whelan (Year 8) was up against Year 9s in the Junior Boys Race, doing exceptionally well to finish 7th and 2nd out of all the Year 8s. As a result, Joseph has been selected for the Dorset Schools team to run in the South West England championship next month! Other excellent performances came from Ana Bibby, who came 23rd out of 120, and Henry Guppy, Ben Keeping and Bea Bibby also coming in the top 50 runners in their races.

Thank you to all involved in our **non uniform today** which has raised in excess of £400 in support of the Year 11 chosen charity.

The school play, **Treasure Island**, is nearly upon us and looking like great fun. Tickets for Thursday February 1st and Friday 2nd are selling fast, so do purchase them through ParentMail as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Do remember that we have a wide selection of **quality second hand coats** which can be lent out, or bought for a small sum. Please do contact us with details of the size required on office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk or to find out more.

With the Year 11 and 13 Proms on the horizon, Brides of Dorset are offering two **Prom Dress events** with a wide selection of dresses available, further information attached.

We have current staff vacancies for a **2nd in Department Maths teacher** and a part-time **Reprographics Technician**. Full details are available on the school website and the Dorset Council website for anyone wishing to join our committed and enthusiastic team, and please feel free to share!

Finally, please do take a look at the latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, attached, which is what parents and carers need to know about Whatsapp.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Hales

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