

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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8th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The anxious wait for Year 6 parents and carers is over. **National Offer Day for Secondary Schools** was on Friday 1st March and all 11-year olds have now received their school place. Although very busy for us, we are delighted that we are full and that all first-choice applications were agreed for Beaminster. We look forward to visiting over twenty different primary schools in the coming months and welcoming our new pupils in for their induction days in July.

Meeting so many parents and carers for our **Year 9 Options Evening**, on Wednesday, only reminds me how quickly students move on from Year 6 to start their GCSE courses! It was a real pleasure to hear staff discussing the many courses on offer and sharing the quality of work that previous students have produced. A copy of the presentation has been sent out and can also be found on the school website. Thank you for such a positive evening.

Last weekend our Year 8 Intermediate **Youth Speaks Team**, Nina Powell, Efi Fraser and Bea Bibby competed at the District Finals in Cheddar. The team showed real confidence on the stage and presented with aplomb. However, after a tense wait they were narrowly beaten by Ansford Academy. Congratulations to them all on getting so far and for all the hard work put in with Mrs Spencer-White, who is rightly very proud of them!

At this mid-point in the year we are working hard to reinforce our high expectations on **time-keeping** and **equipment** as this had slipped amongst a few of our students. We want to ensure a crisp start to the morning, and to avoid any lateness to lessons which wastes everyone's time.

On the sporting front, our Year 8 double mini trampoline star, **Anna Wheeler**, competed in the Regional Finals in Bath. After working hard to increase the difficulty of her optional passes, she completed one pass with a rudi (a front somersault with one-and-a-half twists) and one with a double twisting back somersault to become Regional Champion at Regional Level 3 age 13-14! Many congratulations to Anna.

Our **Year 10/11 Basketball Team** competed against Wey Valley, All Saints and Sir John Colfox in the latest area tournament. All games were fiercely fought, but the boys showed a real strength of character to win them all. One clear highlight was a special rebound pass off the backboard from Ben Harvey to Magnus Park who performed an "alley-oop" lay-up to secure a two-point basket.

There are some photos of our public speakers, Anna in action, the Basketball team and an album of the Ski Trip now on our Facebook page, it looks like they all had a great time!

After excellent performances in South West Dorset, our **U15 Netball team** competed in the County Finals this week. As expected, there were some very strong teams which the girls matched with skill and energy. However, despite five very close games, the team weren't quite able to secure a win this time.

A delayed kick-off, due to a deep hole in the pitch, didn't stop our **Year 10 Football team** at Budmouth yesterday. With impressive tackling from Ashton Symes, and a terrific hat-trick from Owen Kemp, the boys deserved their 5-3 victory and now go through to play Atlantic Academy in the next round of the Area Cup. Many thanks to parents and carers for their patience with the delayed return! Meanwhile, our **Year 8 team** had a slow start and, despite working hard to get in the game, lost 2-1 to Dorchester Middle School.

The English department showed their style for Thursday's **World Book Day** with some fabulous costumes. This was matched by a number of activities including 'Guess the Book' (which was cut up in a jar!), whose 'Shelfie' is it, discussions around everyone's favourite book and £1 World Book Day tokens for KS3. This was followed, today, with International Women's Day, which celebrated a range of women and interesting articles.

Our **Year 10 Drama** students enjoyed a performance of the satirical play, The Government Inspector, down at Colfox on Wednesday. **Year 11 Trial examinations** have started well and students will welcome the weekend break before completing them next Thursday.

Year 10 are off to the **Dorset Council Careers Fair** on Monday. Thank you to Mr Donovan for sourcing significant funding to reduce the costs and to staff who are accompanying.

Next Friday is **Comic Relief Day** so will be a non uniform day for all students, with plenty of fun to be had, along with raising money for good causes.

Singleton Engineering in Crewkerne has **two apprenticeship vacancies** coming up, an apprentice sheet metal worker and an apprentice in the fabrication and welding department. For more information see Mr Donovan, or contact Mark Bennett, Production Manager, Singleton Engineering, Blacknell Lane, Crewkerne, Somerset, TA18 7HE. 07384546795 Mobile, 01460 72753 Office, Markb@singletoneng.com

Finally, details of some activities that Forest and Farm Club are running over Easter and May half term are attached that may be of interest to some of you, together with the latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, what you need to know about Instagram.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Hales

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