BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER
DORSET
DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633
Absence Line: 01308 861917

Email: office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Ambition · Service · Kindness

HEADTEACHER
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD
MR R BARNES MEd

ASSISTANT HEAD
MR K QUIGLEY

Website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term and start of November!

We end the week with a number of bus challenges as **Beaminster Tunnel will be closed from Monday November 9th**, for a month affecting the **B1 and B4** routes. The **road through Cattistock** will also be closed for a month, so Cattistock children will need to be picked up at the memorial cross in Maiden Newton, affecting the **B2** route). First have posted **details of the affected routes and revised timings** on their Facebook page this afternoon, attached. For the latest information we strongly recommend you check the **Wessex School Updates-First Bus** Facebook page for any updates.

Neither ourselves nor First Bus were made aware of these transport issues until late on Wednesday, so this has left very little time to mitigate the repercussions. Therefore, whilst this is raised with Dorset Council, timings will be reviewed when we can assess the impact. We thank you, in advance, for your understanding with this difficult issue.

On a much happier note, we started the week with the frenetic pace of **Stop the Clock Day** and a really rich array of activities for all year groups. Year 7 developed their understanding of 'Adventure Landscapes' with their visit to Cheddar Gorge, whilst Year 8 undertook historical investigations at the world's oldest prison in Shepton Mallett.

Meanwhile, back on site, Year 9 explored the designs, tastes and architecture of different countries as part of their Technology Day. Year 10 had Learning Performance begin the extended process of understanding and developing revision skills, as well as further preparation for their forthcoming Rotary mock interviews and work experience. Year 11 had an insightful and thought-provoking range of health and wellbeing speakers and produced some outstanding presentations of their own for their GCSE Speaking component.

Our KS3 Sports Leaders really enjoyed the **Year 5 and 6 Primary Netball afternoon**, on Wednesday, making it a fun learning experience with a competitive edge. A special thank you to Willow Cole and Arienne Scrase, who were excellent helpers, alongside our seven wonderful Year 9 leaders. We are also hugely grateful to the parents and teachers who supported the event and helped make it such a positive and memorable experience for everyone involved! Congratulations to **Sticklands**, our champions of the day, with Salway Ash securing both second and third place!

Also, on Wednesday, we continued our **improving attendance focus** by providing all students who had achieved 98% or higher in the first half-term with an early lunch reward. It was really encouraging to see so many students meet this important threshold – nearly 300 of them! - and it certainly helped to raise the profile amongst all students of maintaining good attendance across the year.

As an integral part of our local community we have worked hard to provide the wooded area for **residents and dog walkers** to use as a pleasant path across Beaminster. However, despite clear signage and many conversations, there are still a number of local residents walking across the field and using it to exercise their dogs - this is strictly prohibited as our children use the field all year round and should not be exposed to the dangers of dog excrement. Your support in sharing this message would be very much appreciated.

Congratulations to **Darcy Noble of 9L**, who has achieved her Padi Open Water diving qualification after 25 hours of e-learning and 4 confined pool sessions over 3 days, followed by half term in Egypt completing her PADI open water diving certificate, including an additional Nitrox exam to dive with nitrox not air. The Red Sea dives enabled her to see a variety of marine life including 2 large reef sharks, turtle and octopus, along with plenty of colourful fish!

Thanks to the ongoing support of Brit Valley Rotary Club, Monday sees the start of the **Year 10 Rotary mock interviews.** Over a number of days, all of Year 10 have the opportunity to experience a formal interview and

receive positive feedback on how to complete a CV and present themselves in the best way possible. We are extremely grateful for the time commitment and support of Brit Valley Rotary.

Looking ahead, we will be welcoming all Year 11 Beaminster and Sir John Colfox students to our **Sixth Form Open Evening, here at Beaminster School from 6pm on Wednesday 11th November**. This is a very important opportunity for students and parents to make themselves aware of the A Level and BTEC courses that we offer by speaking to current students and staff.

Our next non-uniform day, raising money for **Children in Need**, is on Friday 13th November and will be organised by Year 7. **Beaminster Singers** have a concert in St Mary's Church Beaminster on 21st November, and details of the switching on of **Beaminster's Christmas Lights** on Friday 27th November are attached.

Finally, we are very much looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday 19th November, for our annual **Academic Monitoring Day**. This is an incredibly valuable day when students, parents and carers have a 15 minute discussion with Tutors to reflect on the start of the year and identify ways that we can work together to improve learning. Tutors will be speaking to their Tutees over the coming two weeks to book in appointment times, so do ask your child about this.

With **bonfires and fireworks** taking place this weekend, please do take time to remind yourselves of the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue advice, attached. Enjoy, stay safe and remember to be considerate of neighbours and animals.

Mr Hales
Headteacher

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