

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 3rd March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you, again, for your understanding with the **industrial action** that took place on Thursday. This was clearly a difficult day for everyone concerned and we are all hoping that the government will avert the need for further action on **March 15th/16th** by engaging in meaningful discussions around providing a realistic education budget that also addresses the teacher recruitment and retention crisis.

The choice of our fourth book for **Reading Week** has been the contemporary, and very enjoyable, "*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*". The book is based around a character called Christopher who is slowly coming to terms with a form of autism, called Asperger's Syndrome, that affects hundreds of thousands of people. People with Asperger's Syndrome see, hear and feel the world differently to other people. In the final few chapters, today, we find out that Christopher's mother is still alive, living in London, and how he has to forge new family relationships with his separated parents.

We are very grateful to students for **bringing in their unwanted books** this week for the book swap. As part of this we have been able to give away lots of recommended books to grateful recipients in the LRC. However, this has been so popular that any other spare books would be most welcome so that we can keep this up! Please also remember that all students in Years 7-11 can collect their digital **World Book Day** tokens from ClassCharts. This enables them to get one of the WBD books for free or use it to get £1 off a book or audiobook of their choice.

Meanwhile, Years 7 and 8 are on the second week of their Inter-House **Bedrock Learning** competition. This introduces students to a range of engaging fiction and non-fiction texts to develop their vocabulary, literacy and independent reading skills. At the early stages Eggardon have taken a slim lead in Year 8, with Lewesdon leading in Year 7!

During assemblies this week Mr Withers focused on our **core value of Kindness**, both to oneself and to others, as well as developing a positive outlook on life. We are fortunate to have such a thoughtful and kind student body, but the assembly should remind us all of the old adage that "we should always treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves". The Powerpoint presentation that was shown in assembly is attached, together with some additional health, safety and well-being information that we hope families will find useful and will spark some helpful conversations at home. They can also be found on the Safeguarding, Health and Wellbeing page of the school website: [Safeguarding, Health and Wellbeing | beaminsterschool](#)

At our recent **Full Governing Body** meeting, on Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome three new Governors to the team: **Amy Monks** joins us as a Parent Governor, with **Rollo Tanner** and **Trevor Harris** as Co-opted Governors.

All Year 9 students should have received their route letters to explain the **curriculum pathways** that have been set out for them in Year 10. As part of this process we look forward to seeing **all Year 9 parents / carers and students at the meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday**, when we will talk through the process and provide time for you to speak with subject staff.

Next Wednesday also sees the start of the **Year 11 March Trial Examinations**. This is an essential, final, rehearsal for the students to ensure that they are comfortable with the expectations of the examination process and have a further opportunity to develop their learning and revision skills. Our best wishes to them during what we know is a challenging few days.

Finally, one of our past students, **Archie Rowell**, is running 96 miles to raise money for the suicide prevention charity CALM. With a hugely disproportionate number of young men sadly taking their own lives do consider supporting him on the **JustGiving link**: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/archie-rowell-96milerun

Enjoy the arrival of Spring this weekend.

Mr Hales

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