

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

On Tuesday, along with upper school students and staff, I listened both enthralled and dismayed as our guest speaker, Mr Robin Jowit, spoke about the appalling conditions being experienced by schools across Ukraine. During a wide-ranging presentation on the seven schools that Robin, and Rotary, visited we were given a unique insight into the daily, and difficult, challenges faced by pupils and staff in trying to maintain a semblance of normality whilst being taught in unheated rooms, bunkers and partially destroyed classrooms. Although sobering and unsettling, Robin's passion and optimism shone through, which was reflected by the very warm welcome and attentive response from our student body. As a school we will be supporting the activities of Robin, and Rotary, so do find 5 minutes to watch his recent interview with Sky TV [Click to Download](#) and if you are able to help please donate at <http://www.helpukraineschildren.com>

The growth of **student leadership** has been an ongoing focus for the school this year. We are always very fortunate to have a strong Senior Prefect Team ably supported by sub-prefects and an active School Council, so we have been working to provide more opportunities for our younger students. Last Friday this involved Mr Hobby and Miss Coombes taking a group of our Year 7 and 8 students over to Poole to support a physical education project for SEND students. The students were a huge credit to themselves, and the school, taking on challenging activities and finding very creative ways to ensure that all the students involved overcame their barriers to participation and enjoyed the team sports.

This was followed by another wonderful afternoon of sport as our feeder primary schools came together for a **KS2 Handball competition**. All schools showed excellent understanding of the rules, and displayed great sportsmanship, including an outstanding Salway Ash pupil who personally congratulated the Sticklands team after they had just beaten his own school team in the final. There was also a tournament first, as everyone present recognised the magnificent performances of the Greenford Primary Goalkeeper and decided that a Player of the Tournament should be awarded. The day wouldn't have been possible without the seven excellent leaders from Years 8 and 9, and the confident refereeing skills of Thomas Green and Charlie Mulligan. Well done to all!

Our **Year 9 Football team** have had a busy few days which culminated in a visit to Woodroffe School for the semi-final of the Area Cup. Despite an excellent work rate, our team had struggled in a friendly against Colfox earlier in the week so switched to a new formation for this match to strengthen the middle. In damp, misty conditions the team started well with lots of possession, and our breakthrough came from a cross which caused chaos in the box allowing Beau Wild to tap in from close range and putting us 0-1 up at half time. Woodroffe responded quickly to equalise, but our team showed real resilience and character to hold on until 7 minutes from the end, when Owen Kemp found Beau Wild's excellent run for a 1-2 lead. A superb long-range free kick from Owen had more or less guaranteed victory, before a late penalty decision gave Marvel Martin the opportunity to score his first goal for the school, securing our place in the Cup Final against Wey Valley at Dorchester Stadium after Easter, final score 1-4. Many congratulations to all the team, you can see just how happy they were with the result on our Facebook page, and we look forward to a great final!

Also on a sporting note, our **Year 10 and 11 Hockey team** are improving all the time. Having lost their last friendly against Colfox, they were delighted to take the honours in the return match, yesterday, winning 2-1 (photos also on our Facebook page).

Year 11 have had another busy week finalising several **GCSE coursework** elements, including their practical performances in Drama on Wednesday, where Ms Smith was very encouraged by the quality of work produced. There is much revision and organisation for Year 11 to do, but we also wish them some restful time away.

Wednesday also saw the final **Full Governing Body** meeting of the year. We were delighted to, formally, welcome our three new Governors and we certainly put them through their paces as we looked at the challenge of school budgets, which have been very much in the news lately, staffing plans for next year, a review of our school improvement plan, along with standing items on safeguarding and SEND.

The Year 8 Inter-House **Bedrock Learning competition** came to a dramatic conclusion this morning, with a very proud Tutor, Mrs Stone, seeing **Waddon** rise to the top. The top students in each tutor group were congratulated in the celebration assembly this morning: 8E Harry Dennis, 8L Isabella Moore, 8M Lily Price, 8P Madeline Eaton and 8W Grace Bagwell. Year 7 have one final week of the competition to go with extra effort making all the difference over Easter as Lewesdon hold only a narrow lead over Eggardon and no one too far behind!

It seems that some cases of **headlice** have been reported in the lower school. Please could all families check their child(ren) and use the Easter break as an opportunity to take any appropriate remedial action to address any issues to prevent any spread when we return, thank you.

We are all aware that good punctuality and attendance at school are essential for high levels of learning to take place, and for students to gain their best GCSE grades. Research shows that, on average, students with less than 90% attendance attain one grade less than their peers. Therefore, the government are asking all schools to ensure that families are made aware if their child's **attendance drops below 95% each half-term**. We very much appreciate that while there may be compelling reasons for attendance to dip, we are obligated to share this information with you and do genuinely want to work with you if we can help to improve your child's attendance.

More **host families** are required for Spanish students coming over on 28<sup>th</sup> June to 24<sup>th</sup> July, contact details attached. The students attend their English course each weekday and travel with their local Spanish monitor. Hosts are paid £750 per stay, and families with students from **Year 7 upwards** are encouraged to apply as it can really help the students with learning Spanish.

The term was drawn to a close this afternoon with everyone enjoying a final 15 minutes of fun as Mr Withers enthralled us all in the traditional manner with the end of term raffle draw. From over 2000 tickets entered, there were 4 lucky winners who are all coming home with one of the super prizes: Year 7 Leon Francis was first out the hat and chose the 10" QuadCore Android Tablet PC, Year 10 Morgan Pitfield chose the Yamaha X2 in-ear Headphones, Year 8 Mackenzie Lockhart took away the Vango Venture 2-person tunnel tent and Year 7 Oliver Monks won the Osprey RT-1440 stunt scooter - our congratulations to them all.

Finally, it only leaves me to wish you all a very restful and enjoyable Easter break with, hopefully, some warm sunshine.

Mr Hales  
Headteacher

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