

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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18th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

There was much fun, and another fantastic day of sport on Wednesday, as the whole school turned out for **Rugby and Netball House matches**. Heavy rain made for muddy and slippery rugby conditions which the boys, literally, threw themselves into! The Netball was equally competitive with fast-paced games and high-quality attacking play. Eggardon and Lewesdon produced strong performances throughout, with just one point now separating Lewesdon at the top. Many thanks to our Miss Lewis and our Sports Leaders for their organisation and umpiring throughout the day.

The Year 11 **Netball team** produced another strong performance winning 21–9 against Colfox on Wednesday. Meanwhile, with County matches for Year 11 and 9 next week, the Year 9 B-team showed the depth of Netball talent we have by taking on Colfox A, only losing late on to some superior shooting.

Year 13 were put through their paces with a challenging week of **Trial Examinations**, and will be ready for a restful weekend! These provide an essential experience of the formal examination environment, develop revision skills and check student understanding of key topic areas as they move into the final third of their courses.

Our Year 10 and 11 Product Design students were enthralled by a visit from **Little Halstock** to the school this afternoon. In a wide-ranging presentation and discussion, these world-class craftsmen demonstrated how the tools, machinery and required GCSE skills develop into the quality of products that Little Halstock produce today. Our thanks to the team for their continued support at Beaminster School.

Dorset Community Energy (DCE) are kindly funding a series of science visits to local primary schools this year, supported by Mrs Rychnovsky and Ali Jay, volunteer directors. DCE is a not-for-profit community benefit society which has installed solar panels on school and community buildings, including our own. Today they went to visit Charminster St Mary's Primary School to do some exciting electricity work with Year 4. The sun shone, the experiments with mini solar panels produced electricity and the pupils greatly enjoyed learning about this excellent programme.

The **BSPTA** had a very productive meeting this week and are pleased to be planning a number of fundraising events in the coming months. After the success of last year, this will include another Christmas Bingo along with the ever-popular Big Christmas Raffle and Bake-Off competition, and they will also be running an event at Beaminster Town Christmas Fair. They would particularly welcome any donations of **bottles or chocolates** that can be brought in on Academic Monitoring Day (Thursday 21st November), along with any further offers of support: please contact treasurer.bspta@gmail.com if you can help in any way.

The Brit Valley Project is a fascinating local story of 53 farmers and landowners working together to restore over 8000 acres of our landscape ecosystem. There is a free talk on the subject at The Pavilion, Memorial Playing Fields, Beaminster on Tuesday 22nd October, 7pm for 7.30pm, with refreshments available, so do go along if you can.

Thanks to Mr Donovan and the Careers Enterprise Company, we are delighted to be able to take Years 10 to 13 to **The West Dorset Careers Fair** at The Sir John Colfox Academy, next Thursday. This is a great opportunity for students to hear from local and national organisations about the world of work, apprenticeships and a wide range of post-16 careers.

Due to the ongoing interest in places at Beaminster School for September 2025, we have organised one final **Open Afternoon** on Wednesday 23rd October at 2.15pm (poster attached), for anyone who was not able to attend previously; please do contact the school if you would like to book in.

This week's **cyber safety information** sheet, attached, is what you need to know about artificial intelligence (AI) solutions.

Finally, due to the current postholders moving on to new and exciting challenges, we are looking for a full time **Data Officer** and part-time **Finance Officer** to join our busy Admin Team. Full details and the application forms are available on the school website, but hurry, the closing date for both posts is **Monday 21st October**.

Have a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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