

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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6th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a real pleasure to welcome so many students, parents and carers for our **Senior Presentation Evening** last night. Alongside the many subject awards for effort, progress and achievement, we very much enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the successes and endeavours of the examination students as well as those who have given so much to the school through their community, sporting, creative and leadership work. Congratulations to all our worthy award winners and many thanks for your support in making this such a delightful evening.

For our half-termly **Reading Week**, Key Stage 3 have enjoyed listening to the critically acclaimed "Hoot" and the many Americanisms that have crept into our vernacular! The story takes place in Florida, where new arrival Roy makes two oddball friends who join him in an effort to stop the construction of a pancake house which would destroy a colony of burrowing owls who live on the site. After the many twists, turns and challenges, do ask your child how the story ends.

The whole school enjoyed the arrival of Axel, on Wednesday, the specially trained **community safety dog**. As part of a nationwide programme to educate students about the dangers of drug misuse, and to make it very clear that drugs will not be tolerated in our schools, Axel completed exercises and spent the morning with us meeting students right across the school. The positive response from all the students was much appreciated by all.

Year 10 and 11 Drama students from both Beaminster School and the Sir John Colfox Academy were treated to a stunning production of Georg Bucher's "Woyzeck" on Wednesday. 6th form Drama students worked with the company, Kat Mary Productions, in the morning, becoming part of their show and impressing us with their professionalism, work ethic and talent. Well done to them all.

Our **Year 9 Rugby team** enjoyed their first match of season and played well throughout, but came up against a tough Colfox side who were able to exploit their lack of experience and score with abandon. Meanwhile, **Joe Whelan** continued his dominance in the cross-country with a winning run at the ESSA Cup. This, along with a strong run by Harry Kemp, meant the boys finished 7th and the girls a very commendable 9th.

Students from across Dorset, including our own **Amber Saunders** in Year 9, attended a bulb planting event at Weldmar Hospicecare's Inpatient Unit last week. The initiative aims to increase the nectar sources available to bees and other beneficial insects in the spring, with snowdrops, bluebells and daffodils being introduced. Students, parents and staff can sign up for e-news from Little Green Change here: <https://littlegreenchange.com/mailling-list/>

On Monday, with the good weather hopefully holding, we have the **whole school photo** taking place during period 1. This is a complex organisation and we do ask that students attend in full school uniform and maintain a good degree of patience!

As part of our wider staff development and work with West Dorset secondary teachers, we are looking forward to hearing from **Professor Bill Lucas** about how we can build even more creativity into our curriculum. This is an excellent opportunity for teaching staff to hear a nationally renowned speaker and to network with other colleagues in the locality.

Due to the ongoing interest in places at Beaminster School for September 2024, we have organised one final **Open Afternoon** on **Wednesday 11th 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.

Prout Bridge offers a wide range of services and have asked us to circulate the attached information.

Finally, we have staff vacancies for a **Science Technician, Supervisory Teaching Assistant** and a **Data Officer**, with closing dates next week. Full details are available on the school website and the Dorset Council website for anyone wishing to join our committed and enthusiastic team; **Taylor Shaw**, who operate our school canteen, are also seeking a catering assistant, details attached.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Hales

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