

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The arrival of the clear, blue skies has been welcomed by many after the horrendous rainfall over the past few months. However, it proved to be very challenging conditions high up on the Budmouth **Cross Country** route with the icy cold and cutting wind coming straight off the sea.

Despite this, our Junior Boys continued their winning ways by taking race 3 of the **South West Dorset Championship** competing against eight other schools. Individually, Joe Whelan was 1st with Henry Guppy 4th, Ben Keeping 6th and Harley Shaw 10th. Additionally, in the Junior Girls, Anna Bibby came 4<sup>th</sup> to round off a really successful Cross Country season; well done to all 30 of our runners.

Meanwhile, our **Year 8 and 9 Hockey players** also showed great progress holding two experienced teams to 3-3, before losing out in the final few minutes. The **Year 8 Basketball** team continue to shine with a strong win over the Year 8 All Saints teams, 25 – 6 and then a very intense, physical 16 – 14 victory over their Year 9 team.

Sadly, Somerset County Council are currently proposing the **closure of the Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena** and the surrounding Hockey astro turf pitches that are situated in Yeovil. This has come as a shock to all of the sports users, with the council only letting the relevant sporting organisations know three days before the current consultation. Over the years many of our students have benefitted from the use of these facilities which, in our rural area, are unique. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to **sign the petition** to give the facilities the best possible chance of staying open: [Petition - Halt the Proposed Closure of Yeovil Recreation Centre's Sports and Leisure Facilities - Change.org](#) There is also a consultation paper sent out by the council asking for views of the proposals which anyone can respond to: [Budget Consultation 2024/2025 - Somerset Council - Citizen Space](#)

Back in the classroom, it was a real pleasure to see our **Year 11 Art students** undertaking a day of focused work on their trial coursework pieces. There was a rich and varied array of pieces which the students had to link to their research and were able to articulate enthusiastically. Don't forget that the **Year 9 Natural Forms Exhibition** will be on display at The Sou Sou Gallery, Symondsburry, from next Thursday.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Year 12 parents and carers in to school on Wednesday evening for their face to face **Year 12 Consultation Evening** being held in the Main Hall, with a reminder to make sure you bring your appointment list with you!

Do remember that we have a wide selection of **quality second hand coats** which can be lent out, or bought for a very small sum. Please do contact us on [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk) if you would like one.

Another reminder of this term's **Clubs List**, attached again here and available on the school website, plus a hard copy has also been sent home with every student this week. There is a wide range of activities on offer to students, many thanks to all the staff involved. Please do encourage your child to take advantage of, at least, one of these.

We have a staff vacancy for a part-time **Reprographics Technician**. Full details will be available on the school website and the Dorset Council website for anyone wishing to join our committed and enthusiastic team, applications are required by **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January**.

Finally, please do take a look at the latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, attached, about social media and mental health.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Hales