

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The anxious wait for Year 6 parents and carers is over. **National Offer Day** for secondary schools was on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March so most 11-year olds have now received their school place offer for Year 7 for September. We are delighted to be full with first-choice applications once again this year, and are now working to see if there is a way to support a number of families who have not been offered a place with us. We very much look forward to visiting the twenty-five different primary schools in the coming months, and to welcoming all of our new pupils in to school for their induction days in July.

Year 11 student, Jacob Barnard, and Year 8, Sophie Mills, represented Beaminster brilliantly at the recent District Final of the **Rotary Young Musician** competition in Somerset. They both received very positive and helpful feedback, and we are very proud of them for their fantastic performances. Jacob played a beautiful piece by Einaudi on the piano and Sophie played a selection of her Grade 6 saxophone pieces. We wish her luck in her exam later this month.

After excellent performances in South West Dorset, both our U15 and U13 Netball teams progressed to the **County Finals**. As expected, there were some very strong teams which the girls matched with skill and energy, learning about playing against the best in Dorset. A 5-3 win against Thomas Hardy was the pick of the results for the U15s! Meanwhile, both the Year 9 A and B teams secured strong victories against Colfox, winning 20-11 and 22-4. Well done to them all.

**After school Cricket Club for Year 7 and 8** students will be starting on Thursday in the Sports Hall from 3.30-4.30pm with Ross Baker of Beaminster Cricket Club.

Our fourth **Reading Week** has been another enjoyable novel called "Rooftoppers." Thanks to the detailed background slides from Mrs Rollick and staff reading aloud at the start of every lesson, students have followed a great story across the rooftops of Paris! The wonderful photo compilation of 20 '**Staff Pets Reading**' has been the source of much fun and raised book ideas for all ages in the Library. The World Book Day winner will be announced next week!

Over 60 Year 11 students have been put through their paces for their **Trial French Speaking examinations** this week. This can be an anxious experience, but the work undertaken and the practice provided will ensure that the students are ready for the summer. Also, our best wishes to all of Year 11 who start their final set of **Trial Examinations** on Monday March 10<sup>th</sup>.

As I write, in the Engineering Department of Bath University, I am enjoying a fascinating insight into the quality of planning, research and development that our **Year 10 F1 in Schools team** have put in to reach the South West Finals. This is a fantastic competition that showcases the students' talents with their 3D computer-designed models, presentation skills and portfolio of work that has evolved over the past year. I'll update you next week on the outcomes.

Looking ahead, we have the important **Year 9 into 10 Curriculum Evening** on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm, when we will be explaining the Options process and all the courses and choices available as Year 9 students move into Year 10. We look forward to welcoming all Year 9 students and their parents and carers on Wednesday evening.

A reminder that the **Beaminster Area Eco Group** have another interesting talk, this time on "Quarries to Nature Reserves" by Andy Littler, telling the fascinating story of how restoration in quarries is encouraging the return of a wide range of wildlife, details are attached, and there is also a Fairtrade Coffee Morning being held in Beaminster Church from 10am on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Mrs Walton advises that there are still a few jars of delicious **Beaminster School honey** available to buy via ParentMail, and that she will be looking for more students to join the school's **Bee Keeping Club** after Easter. Places are limited and interested students should speak to Mrs Walton to find out more.

This week's cyber safety information sheet, online fair play, is attached.

There is also information attached about **Easter Holiday Activity Camps** being run at the school over the holidays for students aged 5-14, which include festive arts and crafts, sports and various activities, all paired with a hot lunch for the children. The programme is fully funded for students in care or who are eligible for Free School Meals (see the FUNDED leaflet), but other students can pay to access the activities (see the PAYER leaflet).

Finally, I hope that you are all able to enjoy some Spring sunshine.

Mr Hales

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