

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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8th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to this second half-term and the arrival of November!

The week began with a wonderful whirlwind of activities for our Autumn **Stop the Clock Day**. Year 7 enjoyed a very busy trip to Cheddar Gorge as part of their Geography course on 'Adventure' landscapes, whilst Year 8 were at Bovington Tank Museum, investigating life in the trenches and building a tank! Year 9 were looking specifically at how design and technology can solve real world problems faced by primary school children, including scale models of all-weather shelters, sun protective bandanas with smart inks, making energy bars, developing prototypes for trophies, and designing a newsletter or mini magazine. Year 10 and 11 were involved in a Life Studies conference run by national speaker, Peter Radford, alongside team building activities with the army and work experience or revision sessions.

Our assemblies this week have focused on '**Remembrance**', both the importance of learning from past events and the hope of a more peaceful future. As always, the students listened in respectful reverence and showed a mature understanding of this important week when we remember the service and sacrifice of so many. Mr Withers and Senior Prefects will be representing the School at the **Armistice Commemoration** in Beaminster Town Square on Monday.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many Beaminster and Sir John Colfox families to the **Sixth Form Open Evening** on Wednesday. With an increased range of subjects on offer and another set of excellent results over the summer there were many opportunities for students to explore. If you missed the evening our new 6th Form Prospectus and 6th Form application form are available online at [6th Form Prospectus and Application Form | beaminsterschool](#), or do get in touch with our Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Walters, via office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk should you have any queries. Hard copies of the Prospectus can also be picked up from Reception.

As part of our ongoing transition activities, a number of our Year 7 students are undertaking a **Forest School programme**, utilising the school woods. Thanks to the support and skill of our friends at Magdalen Farm, the students are developing their social skills, confidence and independence through an enjoyable and carefully designed 6 week course.

As autumn progresses, we are getting an increasing number of **school coats** handed in with no name in. You will appreciate it is almost impossible for us to reunite lost coats with their rightful owner without a name or other means of identification. Please do ensure that **ALL school items are clearly and indelibly marked with the student's name**, it only takes a few minutes but can make a real difference.

Thanks to the ongoing support of **Brit Valley Rotary Club**, Monday sees the start of the Year 10 Rotary interviews. Over a number of days, all of Year 10 have the opportunity to experience a formal interview and get positive feedback on how to complete a CV and present themselves in the best way possible. We are extremely grateful for the time commitment and support of Brit Valley Rotary.

A reminder also that Mr Haigh, Head of Photography, is inviting students to take part in the annual **Rotary Photography Competition** on the theme 'Wonderful Water,' with a first prize of £50 in Amazon vouchers. Students are free to interpret the theme in any way they want, but their submission must include a short explanation (approx. 50 words) to help the judges understand the work and award the prizes. Students can submit up to 3 images to phaigh@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk to be printed, or students can print them themselves, no larger than A4. Please name the files using the following method: Firstname_Surname_YearGroup (eg Anna_Atkins_Y9). Photographs will be judged by a local photographer and the Rotary Committee during an event that all entrants will be invited to in mid-November. Please ensure images are with Mr Haigh no later than **Monday 11th November**.

Our next **non-uniform day**, raising money for Children in Need, is on Friday 15th November and will be organised by Year 7.

Our part-time **Finance Officer** and full-time **Data Officer** posts close on **Monday 11th** November so there is still time to apply to join the team. Full details and the application forms are available on the school website.

This week's **cyber safety information** sheet, attached, is about why kindness matters, and **Bridport Rugby Club** are looking for girls to join their U12 and U14 groups, details also attached.

Year 7 and 8 reports were all ParentMailed out this week, and Year 9 and 10 reports will be issued next week.

Finally, we are very much looking forward to seeing you all on **Thursday 21st November**, for our annual **Academic Monitoring Day**. This is an incredibly valuable day when students, parents and carers have a 15 minute discussion with Tutors to reflect on the start of the year and identify ways that we can work together to improve learning. Tutors will be speaking to their Tutees over the coming two weeks to book in appointment times, so do ask your child about this.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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