

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a real pleasure to welcome so many families to our three **Open Mornings** this week. After an introduction to the school, prospective pupils and parents were given guided tours of lessons and facilities by our senior prefect team.

With over 30 different primary schools and 150 families across the three mornings, we very much appreciated the time, engagement and positive feedback we received. I must also pass on my thanks to our senior team who received so many complimentary comments about their presentation and knowledge of the school.

Due to the amount of interest we have organised one final **Open Afternoon** on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** at 2.15pm (poster attached), for anyone who was not able to attend previously; please email [NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk) to book a place.

On Wednesday our new **Year 7 families** had an early opportunity to talk through the first few weeks with Tutors, Head of Year or SENCo. It was very reassuring to hear that only a small number of parents required appointments and that the pupils have settled in so well. There will be an extended opportunity for all parents and carers to meet with Tutors on **Academic Monitoring Day** on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Our good friends at **Brit Valley Rotary** very kindly sponsored two of our students, Frank Harding and Zak Zidary, to participate in the Rotary Young Leader Award (RYLA). On Wednesday, the students gave a presentation to an assembly of thirty Rotary Club members at their regular club meeting, covering their experiences of a week in the Welsh mountains! Both represented the school magnificently, demonstrating their communication skills and talking though the many activities undertaken, our thanks to Rotary for giving our students the chance to take part.

The **A Level Art and Photography** students have had a busy three days in Cornwall this week. After a tour of Falmouth University and an afternoon in their studios, they experienced a stimulating range of museums and galleries around St Ives on Thursday and Friday. My thanks to Miss Hawkins, Mrs Brent and Mr Haigh for providing this great opportunity.

Congratulations to Year 11 student **Huck Booth** who, as well as being one of the youngest qualifiers for this year's national skateboarding championships, hosted his first "skate jam" for all ages and levels in the Beaminster bowl. Having secured a range of sponsorship, more than 30 people from across the local community and beyond arrived to compete or spectate in a tremendous display of skill, ranging from 9 year old learners to 40 year old die hard boarders! Also, **Ella Legg**, our Year 8 kickboxing star, competed in the Team Fear interclub competition last weekend, achieving first place with her kick combo and a second in hand drills.

Looking ahead, don't forget **The Big Green Day**, run by The Beaminster Eco Group, is taking place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September from 10.30am until 3pm, on the school grounds. There will be refreshments and children's activities as well as ideas for ways to reduce living costs, cut waste and your carbon footprint, enjoy low cost healthy food and grow wildlife gardens. Please do come along!

Next week sees the first of our regular **Reading Weeks** which are designed to engage pupils with challenging literature through staff-led read-aloud sessions. The first book is Michael Morpurgo's *An Elephant in the Garden*.

**Year 11 Geographers** are off to Lyme Regis on Monday and to Bristol on Tuesday to undertake important elements of fieldwork. These visits will help students to better understand the geographical concepts they have studied in their coastal landscapes and urban units, such as coastal erosion and harbour regeneration.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming many of you for our annual **Senior Presentation Evening** from 6.30pm on Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is always a wonderful event when we take some time to celebrate the many achievements of our senior students. Invitations have now been sent out to all our award winners so please do complete the short response form on the link in the invitation as soon as possible to help with our planning, and by Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at the latest.

Kingston Maurward have a number of open days coming up in the coming weeks. Please see the attached poster for further information.

A few “housekeeping” items to draw your attention to:

- Please can I remind all parents and carers that we must **restrict the bus park to school buses and taxis ONLY** between **8.30–8.45am** in the mornings and from **3.15–3.45pm** after school. There have now been a couple of potentially dangerous situations caused by cars manoeuvring whilst buses are trying to safely transport our children.
- The deadline for **free delivery of school photos** back to school is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk)
- Please help keep **locker keys** safe by ensuring that students keep their locker keys on an identifiable keyring.
- The dedicated **Absence Line number (01308) 861917** is available 24 hours for reporting student absences. Please remember to speak clearly and include the student’s **full name, tutor group** and the **reason** for the absence.

Finally, our **Science Technician** vacancy closes on Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, full details and the application form are available on our website [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](#).

After a very wet week I think we are all hoping for a break in the clouds, so do enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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