

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a real pleasure to welcome so many students, parents and carers for our **Senior Presentation Evening last night**. There were two wonderful music performances alongside the many subject awards for effort, progress and achievement, and 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 Michael Morpurgo's **An Elephant in the Garden**. This is a thrilling and moving story of a family and an extraordinary animal caught up in the 1945 bombings in Dresden. With their home destroyed, the whole family must flee the bombed-out city through the perilous, snow-covered landscape, all the while avoiding the Russian troops who are drawing ever closer. It would be hard enough to do, without an elephant in tow...

The **Year 11 Geographers** were delighted with the break in the weather as they undertook beach surveys and coastal landscape work in Lyme Regis on Monday. This was followed by a day in Bristol on Tuesday reinforcing their understanding of harbour regeneration, including an enjoyable boat tour on the Avon. My thanks to all the staff for planning this essential fieldwork and to the students who represented the school so magnificently.

Monday saw the first of the **SW Dorset Cross Country championships** held here at Beaminster School. After a great afternoon of racing, with over 30 of our students competing in very soggy conditions, the stand out performance was Year 9 Joe Whelan winning the Inter Boys race. Impressively, all six teams came in the top four in their age groups. We look forward to hearing more as the season progresses.

As part of our ambition and oracy focus, Mrs Carlile kindly organised for **Paralympian swimmer, Harry Stewart**, to come in and meet a group of students on Tuesday afternoon. During a busy schedule, Harry shared personal stories about his experiences as a competitive swimmer, highlighting both his successes and the challenges he faced. The students asked some really thoughtful questions about his rigorous training regimen, the mental and physical obstacles he overcame and how he manages to stay motivated despite the difficulties of competing at the very highest level. Harry's candid and open responses offered valuable insights into the perseverance and determination required to excel as a Paralympian. Our thanks to Harry for a memorable afternoon and sharing a journey that inspired everyone involved.

As part of our continuing collaborative work with The Sir John Colfox Academy and Woodroffe School, we will be welcoming, again, a specially trained **community safety dog** next week. This national programme aims to educate students about the dangers of drug misuse, and to make it very clear that drugs will not be tolerated in our schools. During the day the safety dog will complete exercises and spend the morning with us meeting students right across the school.

We are looking forward to welcoming Key Stage 3 parents and carers to a free and informative hour-long presentation on **'Understanding the Teenage Brain'** on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm. This adults only event is run by the well-known and respected trainer and speaker, Jane Keyworth, from FACE (Family Advice Communication Education), she will cover the development of emerging teenagers, what is happening to them, why it is happening, and how we can support them through it. Do make time for this insightful talk if you can, and please complete the short form on the link sent out to reserve a place.

Our online careers and advice programme, **Unifrog**, has its annual University Fair on October 16<sup>th</sup> between 4 and 6pm, for Key Stage 4 and 5 students, with over 40 universities represented. Students can drop in to find out more

information about student finance, life at university, personal statements, accommodation, open days, studying abroad and choosing the right university: **[Sign up to the university fair here](#)**

Due to the ongoing interest in places at Beaminster School for September 2025, 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 do contact the school if you would like to book in.

Enjoy our first October weekend.

Mr Hales

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