

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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25th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Despite the tiredness creeping in as we complete week 8 of this first half-term, there has been another busy week with lots of opportunities for our students.

After considerable planning, and your very generous support, all of our Year 10 to 13 students were able to experience a rich and varied array of discussions with employers, training providers, colleges and universities at the **West Dorset Careers Fair** on Thursday. We all know that the key to unlocking potential is for students to be interested and motivated in their work, so it was really inspiring to see them so engaged by the opportunities on offer and to see them in conversation with so many adults. The success of this event was driven by the very positive response from organisations, and the maturity of students, my thanks to Mr Donovan who made it all happen.

On Tuesday a group of our young leaders had a wonderful experience at the **Dorset Leadership Academy** at Bryanston. Throughout the day they learned a lot about themselves and how to solve problems in sporting teams. The young ambassadors learned how to communicate and find solutions under pressure, whilst the young events team helped to organise a future Dorset event for young people and capture the day through the use of media, voice notes interviews and feedback.

Our young coaches honed their delivery skills in games-based activities and tried alternative disciplines, such as bouldering, to develop transferable skills. Finally, after learning a brand new choreography during the day, Ruby Melvin and Shania Langdon in Year 7 performed a masterclass of dance in front of 400 people in the closing ceremony, finishing with a beautiful back handspring!

On the football front, our **Year 8 team** secured an excellent 2-1 win away to Colfox. Oli Smith used his blistering pace to put us 1-0 up, before an accurate through ball was well finished off to draw the game level. The team rallied, managing their shape and aggression well for Oli to score again, this time with a great curling strike into the corner. The game was secured through a well-drilled back line led by Will Smith, Oz Harwood in goal and the bravery of Fin Cowie. We now await the draw for the second round of the Dorset cup!

Meanwhile, the **Year 10 football** team played against Woodroffe in an entertaining 10 goal thriller enjoyed by everyone involved. Unfortunately, due to getting caught on the break several times, we lost 7-3 in an end-to-end match which on another day could easily have gone our way. Beaminster's goal scorers were George Mitchell, Henry Guppy and Alfie Bellows, with George's goal being the pick of the match – a direct 35 yard free kick!

The second round of the **SW Dorset Cross Country** saw another excellent afternoon with thirteen students producing top 10 performances across the ages. At Intermediate, both Thomas Green and Amber Saunders finished second, Henry Guppy 4th, Jess Lock 5th and Marvel Martin 5th, also securing first place for the Inter-Boys. Jo Whelan came 1st in the Junior Boys and Lily Fooks was 5th in the Year 7 girls. Well done to them all, and my thanks to all the staff involved for supporting all of these sporting events.

Due to the ongoing interest in places at Beaminster School for September 2025, we enjoyed welcoming a further 30 families for a final Open Afternoon on Wednesday. The rain briefly paused and our senior prefects were, once again, a real credit to the school. Please do remember that the first deadline for **secondary school applications for September 2025 is 31 October 2024**.

The **Art department** would like to remind all current and former Art students that they can now **collect their art coursework** as the period of time stated by the exam board for storing work has passed. Please do spread the word.

Mr Haigh, Head of Photography, is inviting students to take part in two prize-winning creative challenges this half term. The first is 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 evening event that all entrants will be invited to in mid-November. Please ensure images are with Mr Haigh no later than **Monday 11th November**.

The second creative challenge for students is set by **Falmouth University**, themed: '2025 Reimagined'. Work can be in any artistic medium, from photography or digital art, through to traditional oils on canvas and mixed media pieces. To help inspire students, Falmouth University have produced a short video and information guide here ([Creative Challenge | Falmouth University](#)). Mr Haigh will coordinate students' submissions, either by post or by photographing the work in the studio. If you would like further details, please contact phaigh@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk, with the subject header '2025 Reimagined'.

Looking ahead, we will be welcoming all Year 11 Beaminster and Sir John Colfox students to our **Sixth Form Open Evening, here at Beaminster at 6pm on Wednesday 6th November**. This is a very important opportunity for students to make themselves aware of the A-Level and BTEC courses that we offer by speaking to current students and staff (poster attached).

We have just been advised that applications for all early careers roles at **Leonardo Helicopters** are now live and can be accessed via the following link – [Early Careers | Leonardo UK](#). There are no deadline dates for applications but individuals are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as possible to avoid any disappointment if applications have to close due to high volumes of applications received. Leonardo offer amazing opportunities across the UK in most of their functions and disciplines. Anyone seeking Apprentice, Graduate or Industrial Placement roles should visit the Leonardo People and Careers page for further information, or contact Emily.Steel@leonardo.com (Early Careers Talent Attraction Partner).

We also have our annual **Academic Monitoring Day** on the horizon, taking place on **Thursday 21st November**. This is an incredibly valuable day when all students, parents and carers have a 15 minute discussion with Tutors to reflect on the start of the year and to identify ways that we can work together to improve learning. Please see the attached letters, there is slightly different information for Sixth Form students, with further information being sent out after half-term.

We are looking for a part-time **Finance Officer** and full-time **Data Officer** to join our busy Admin Team. Full details and the application forms required are available on the school website, the closing date for both posts has been extended to Monday 11th November.

This week's **cyber safety information** sheet, attached, is everything you need to know about setting up parental controls for apps on an iPhone.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming students back after half term on **Monday 4th November** for our **Stop The Clock Day**. Year 7 and 8 will be out on their trips to Cheddar and Bovington, with Year 9 having a Technology Day. Year 10 and 11 are focusing on a number of personal and social educational issues, alongside revision skills and welcoming the Army.

I wish you all a very enjoyable and agreeable half-term break.

Mr Hales

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