

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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5th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We awoke this morning to a Labour government with a historic landslide victory. There has been much talk of change during this campaign and I think we all hope that the promises made will be enacted – particularly in education! My congratulations to our new West Dorset MP, Edward Morello, and my thanks to Chris Loder for all of his support over the past 5 years.

Against this backdrop of change we had the wonderful **summer concert** and a final swansong for Mr Smith. After eight years he passed the baton on to Mrs Edwards with another evening of entertainment and joy. As always, there was a rich and eclectic mix of performances and style that showcased the talent and skills of our many musicians, all tied together with aplomb by Mr Smith! The packed hall, endless applause, and a good deal of damp eyes, were a fitting tribute to the great contribution that Mr Smith has made to music at Beaminster School.

We started the shorter teaching week with **Year 9 and 10 Post-16 days**, designed to show students the many opportunities available to them. Year 9 had an excellent day over at Weymouth College, experiencing a number of different vocational options, whilst Year 10 went either to Yeovil College or joined our Sixth Form with Sir John Colfox students for the day. Both sets of students were a credit to the school and gained a great deal from the day.

A number of our Year 9 students were trained by **Bournemouth University**, earlier in the year, to deliver a reading intervention programme with students from Year 7. During the 10- week programme both sets of students developed their confidence and communication skills, with the Year 7 improving their average reading ages by nearly 18 months. Both sets of students celebrated this achievement on Wednesday, with a tour and lunch at Bournemouth University, along with information about University life and then a graduation celebration with mortar boards and stoles! A fantastic day was had by all, with well-deserved praise for both sets of students.

In the evening it was the turn of Year 11 to look resplendent with their much-anticipated **Year 11 Prom**. It was lovely to welcome so many parents, carers, past students of the school and friends with a long procession of vehicles arriving, alongside a record number of tractors! The students then celebrated with a delicious meal, speeches from staff and a disco filled with a range of dance moves! The students were a pleasure to spend time with and I wish them all an enjoyable summer, with results day on **Thursday August 22nd**.

As part of our personal development programme we have been highlighting the importance of **student safety** over the summer. Following information on rail safety last week, we had the RLNI in school this morning to explain their work and how students can look after each other. This is being followed with assemblies in the final week from our local Fire Service.

We were very disappointed to have to delay **Sports Day** due to the inclement weather and slippy conditions, but are hoping to re-schedule this for Tuesday 16th July.

Next week we are very much looking forward to welcoming our **new Year 7 cohort**. With the year group bursting at the seams, Mr Hobby and Mrs Beare have been kept very busy visiting primary schools and assisting with transition visits. All of the students will have two days with us, Monday and Tuesday, when they will experience a range of lessons and important routines, meet key staff and undertake an extended project in Technology.

A reminder that all **locker keys** should be returned as soon as possible, and by Friday 12th July at the latest please, and the latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, what parents need to know about “phishing”, is attached.

With the sporting calendar reaching a pinnacle this weekend, I am sure that you will find something to indulge in and enjoy.

Mr Hales