

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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11th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The whole school enjoyed the arrival of Polly and Axel, the specially trained **community safety dogs**, and handler, Ginny from K9, to Beaminster School on Tuesday. This is part of a national programme to raise students' awareness about the dangers of drug misuse, and to make it very clear that drugs will not be tolerated in our schools. During the visit Polly and Axel visited every year group, and completed exercises at line-up and in classes. The positive response from all the students was much appreciated by all and you can see some photos of Polly of our Facebook page.

We received hugely positive feedback from Key Stage 3 parents and carers for the informative presentation by Jane Keyworth on '**Understanding the Teenage Brain**' on Tuesday evening. In a very engaging and enlightening hour, Jane covered the development of emerging teenagers, what is happening to them, why it is happening, and how we can support them through it. Our thanks to all those who attended and to Jane for providing this opportunity.

Our **Year 10 and 11 footballers** faced a challenging match against the might of QE from Wimborne on Wednesday. The team looked resplendent in their brand new kit (see the Facebook page) which has been kindly sponsored by **Moore Scarrott Group**, but didn't quite have the strength in depth, losing a well fought match 3-0 in the end.

Meanwhile, our **Year 11 Netball team** competed in their area matches and produced a very high standard of play at the recent West Dorset tournament to deservedly go through to the County finals. With just a narrow loss to the overall winners, Thomas Hardy, the girls showed great attitude and real endeavour that reflected their progress over the past year, well done.

Thursday saw our first Primary sports afternoon, with a **Year 3 and 4 FUTSAL** tournament for six primary schools led by Mr Hobby and our Sports Leaders. Showing a wonderful array of silky skills Beaminster St Mary's and Greenford were the stand-out teams on the day, with many congratulations to Sam Carter who won player of the tournament for his impressive goalkeeping performances.

On the **Sixth Form** front, Year 12 student, Louisa Bower, recently sat the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge along with 15 other Year 12 and 13 students. The results were announced this week and Louisa has won a Bronze certificate and, enjoyably, beaten the Year 13s! Another Year 12 student, Florence Leather, took part (along with her family) in the Cardiff Half Marathon last weekend. She was running in aid of CRISIS and raised just under £500. Well done to them both.

Looking ahead, **Year 13 Trial exams** start next week. On Wednesday there is the second round of **House Matches** with Netball and Rugby taking place across the day so please do remember PE kit! The **School Council** have their second meeting on Friday and the **Technology** department have Little Halstock coming in speaking to GCSE students about their work.

Our wonderful **BSPTA have an online meeting** at 6.30pm on Thursday October 17th to discuss their plans for the year. This is the link to join this meeting:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWYxMTUzMGUtODIyMS00OGExLThkYWItMjgwMjhiNjdiZTA5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225e6ced20-b04e-4f8d-8a45-bd9090476595%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b50b3d8a-c54b-4515-8533-f53d9f723ec1%22%7d

Alternatively, if you would like to offer support, but cannot attend, or would like an email invitation, then please do contact treasurer.bspta@gmail.com. Your support is very much appreciated.

Our online careers and advice programme, **Unifrog**, has its annual University Fair on Wednesday October 16th between 4 and 6pm for all 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 23rd 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.

This week's **cyber safety information** sheet, attached, is smartphone safety tips.

Finally, due to the current postholders moving on to new and exciting challenges, we are looking for a **full time Data Officer** and **part-time Finance Officer** to join our busy Admin Team. Full details and the application forms are available on the school website, the closing date for both posts is Monday 21st October. Please do share with anyone who may be interested in applying.

With clear skies the first frost crept across our windscreens this morning, so enjoy an autumnal weekend.

Mr Hales

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