

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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13th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of this second week of term students have nearly completed their first full timetable cycle and are settling well into the routines and rhythms of school life.

Year 7 enjoyed a busy **Team Building Day** on Wednesday as we welcomed WiseUp to help the year group get to know each other and work together more effectively. There were lots of fun and engaging activities that developed planning, communication and resilience, to which the students responded really positively.

It was also a pleasure to see rehearsals for our **school production, Oliver!**, in full swing on Thursday night. The cast and crew, lead by Ms Smith, Miss Lewis, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Harding are already looking very polished and I thank them all for this real commitment over the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing the production at the end of January.

We have started the new school year with very **high levels of attendance**, and I thank you all for your support with this. Attendance at school is crucial for academic achievement, wellbeing, and children's wider development, as well as preparing them for a successful transition to adulthood.

Should you need to inform us of an absence please do remember to use our **dedicated Absence Line (available 24 hours) 01308 861917**. This helps to keep our main office line available for other calls whilst enabling our attendance team to deal with absences swiftly and, should you need any support, get in touch to discuss ways that we may be able to help. Please do keep this number handy, it can also be found on all school headed paper, every page of the school website and, along with other key contact information, on the back page of the Parent Handbook. All absences should be reported as early as possible and include the **student's full name and reason for absence** please, thank you for your continued support with this.

Looking ahead, we have **individual school photos** for all students on Monday. They have been very smart this week and will need to be in full school uniform for the photos.

Wednesday sees the first of many **trips and visits** planned for our students. **Year 11 Art students** are going to Tate Modern or Roche Court to see a range of artists' work that will enable them to produce the first-hand responses that are needed as part of their research for their final GCSE coursework projects. On the same day we have a group of **Year 11 Computer Science** students tackling a Cyber Challenge event in Blandford, run by The Army Royal Signals Corps.

There is an important meeting for all **Year 10 students, parents and carers** on Wednesday 18th September, at 6.30pm in the hall, with our **Introduction to GCSEs and Work Experience Information Evening**. This is always a very positive event where we explain the requirements of the GCSE courses, highlight progression routes and outline the steps to a successful Work Experience fortnight in May 2025.

The first **Inter-House competition** is on Thursday with the ever-enjoyable **Fun Run**. All students will be off timetable for one period so that they can earn points for their House by completing the course and, for some, gaining extra points by coming in the top group.

Next Friday sees our first **non-uniform charity day** with Year 8 supporting the **Jeans4Genes** charity. Students will be able to attend in full non-uniform, preferably wearing jeans, if they make a £1 donation to charity. During Period 1 our **Student Council** has its first meeting, with the group sharing feedback on the first two weeks back, reviewing the priorities for the year and electing their chair and vice-chair.

This term's school **clubs and activities** are now fully under way and I would strongly encourage all students to get involved in at least one of these. Hard copies of the extensive list were given out to all students to bring home today, a copy is attached and is also available on the school website.

We have current vacancies for 2 **Teaching Assistants** to join our existing team, and we are also looking for a **Science Technician** with a genuine interest in science, who is versatile, hardworking, organised and works well as part of a team; the qualities of the person are as important as previous experience. Full details and the application form for all posts are available on the school website, the closing date is **Thursday 26th September** for TAs and **Thursday 3rd October** for the Technician post, please do share the details with anyone who may be interested in joining us.

Finally, another reminder of our three short **Open Mornings** running from 9-10am in the **week beginning 23rd September** so that prospective pupils and parents can see the school in action. The information attached has already been widely circulated to primary schools, and is also available on our school website and social media pages. Please do feel free to share the dates and spread the word to any families who may be interested – as always, students are warmly invited to attend the mornings with their parents.

The weather for the weekend looks set fair, so I hope that you all find some time to rest, recuperate and enjoy a little late summer sun.

Mr Hales

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