

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The first half term of 2025 has flown by, and I am sure that you are all eagerly anticipating a well-deserved break from the school routine. Students on the **Ski Trip** to Saalbach were certainly very excited this morning, with the **6<sup>th</sup> Form New York** visit slightly more subdued at 3am in the morning!

Alongside these international trips, our Year 10 students enjoyed a rich and varied range of talks at '**Science Live**' in Bristol on Tuesday. This included the power of computing from Professor Dave Cliff at Bristol University, and a fascinating archaeological detective story from Professor Alice Roberts about the Avebury Archer. Professor Robert Winston helped the audience understand just how unlikely it is that any of us is ever born, talking about fertility and pregnancy, whilst Professor Jim al-Khalili persuaded students that time travel into the future is achievable, but travel into the past is much harder; talk of black holes, event horizons and worm holes certainly exercised their brains. There was a very helpful talk on GCSE examinations from AQA, highlighting the importance of long-term preparation, and a light-hearted finish from a neurologist who studies laughter! Hopefully, these inspiring speakers will motivate students to pursue science careers in the future.

On Tuesday, 30 Year 9 students were divided into 4 teams for a 'Dragons Den' style challenge, organised by our good friends at **Albert Goodman Accountants**. The students were either on the moon or on a desert island and had to identify from a list provided the 10 most important items to have with them, with reasons, before presenting the decisions they had made in an entertaining and informative fashion. All four groups did exceptionally well, with every student successfully taking on a role and putting forward ideas for how to improve the package. There are a number of schools engaged in the competition so we have to wait for the results.

Thank you to **Year 11 families** for supporting their final consultation evening on Wednesday. There were a lot of important discussions, careful guidance and strategies shared, as students approach their final set of trial examinations in March. We look forward to the **Online Year 10 Consultation Evening on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**, which opens for bookings from 7pm: <https://beaminsterschool.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/>

The busy sporting calendar continued with two great Football matches. Firstly, the much anticipated **Sixth Form clash** between Beaminster and Colfox saw a convincing 5-1 win for Beaminster, including a hat-trick from Jacob Stone and goals from Alfie Pickford and Barney Mason. The Year 7 team, again, struggled to get started, going 2-0 down against St. Osmund's, but were inspired by their captain, Oscar Turner, who led by example and started a comeback! Joe Bowler made some impressive saves to keep the team in the match before finishing as a 3-2 loss. Well done to the team, some excellent moments with lots to learn from and to build on.

There were another busy few nights of **Netball for Year 7 and Year 8** against Colfox. The Year 7 A team won 6-3 and the Year 7 B team won 6-2 with two very good performances and they both maintained the lead throughout. Year 8 B team lost 8-6. However, they were 5-0 down at half time so to pull it back to be so close at the end was an excellent effort.

Our **Year 7 Green School Council group**, led by Darcy Noble, held a bake sale to raise funds to create an allotment area and extend meadow areas around the school. There was a vast array of tempting treats, all wonderfully produced, with the group raising a good amount towards their target – well done for all their work!

This week's cyber safety information sheet, top tips for fair play and friendly competition, is attached.

Looking ahead, the National Literacy Trust have shared details of an interesting free webinar being held at 7pm on February 27<sup>th</sup> for students and families on **how to use AI tools** simply, safely, and creatively for GCSE revision. The event is free, just sign up using the link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

**GCSE Food** students return after half-term to complete the preparation, cooking and presentation of a range of dishes, all under timed conditions. **Year 13** have their final set of trial examinations across the week, with Year 11 beginning theirs on Monday March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Also, Year 9 will be having a **KS4 Options Week** where subjects will provide some insights into what their course offers are at GCSE level and how their subject is assessed. Further information will be shared with Year 9 leading up to our **Options Evening on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**.

Finally, it just leaves me to **thank you** for all your support this half term and we look forward to seeing the students back in school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Mr Hales

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