

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER
DORSET DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633
Absence Line: 01308 861917



Ambition • Service • Kindness

HEADTEACHER
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEADS
MR D WITHERS NPQH
MR R BARNES MEd

Email: office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

24th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The school has felt very busy and productive again with the return of Year 10 after Work Experience and the ongoing GCSE and A-Level examinations - though GCSEs are now at the halfway stage!

Year 10 enjoyed an informative and hard-hitting presentation from a Dorset Firearms Officer yesterday as part of 'Operation Sceptre', a national campaign to educate youngsters about the dangers of carrying knives and firearms. Students were shown a range of real and imitation weapons that had been seized by officers in Dorset, and learnt all about the law and the Police response to reports of weapons being carried. Whilst it was reassuring to hear that Dorset is the 5th safest county in the UK, the statistics regarding those that do carry weapons was stark. The students showed great maturity, with many staying behind at lunchtime to ask further questions.

There were lots of excellent performances at the **Athletics Meet** on Tuesday, with the Year 7 and 8 teams placing in the top four for both the girls and boys competitions. The moment of the afternoon was Ollie Smith losing a running shoe at the start of his 100m and still winning by some distance! Many congratulations to Val Bala, Henry Guppy, Joe Whelan, Ollie Smith, Harry Kemp and Harlee Shaw who have now secured County Championships selection for South West Dorset Schools.

On Thursday, the **Year 10 Rounders** team played in the West Dorset tournament against 5 other schools. After very competitive games, with impressive hitting and fielding, our girls richly deserved their second place, just two points behind the winners. There are more Rounders fixtures for all year groups after half-term, so we looking forward to hearing more!

Continuing with the running theme, I must also pass on my admiration to a number of staff who have completed some very impressive long distance runs. Mrs Walton recently survived the Grizzly and Snowdonia Marathon, Mrs Lees did a challenging Wye Valley Half Marathon and Mrs Wagstaff and Mr Clements are undertaking the UK Ultra Distance South Downs race this weekend - an incredible 100K – good luck!

The **Football Experiences trip to Madrid** arrived safely on Thursday with a busy schedule of training and visits planned. My thanks to Mr Hobby, Mrs Berry and Ms Forster for organising this exciting experience.

Our School Choir took part in a community event organised by Dorset Music on Monday. Twenty six of our students performed four songs as part of the Amplified event at Bridport Arts Centre, along with community orchestras, bands, soloists and all of the West Dorset Primary Schools. It was a huge success, with all the students involved representing the school superbly with some fantastic feedback having come in from other participants about how well Beaminster Choir sang and how they were an inspiration to the younger children; well done to everyone involved.

Year 12 parents, carers and students joined their colleagues at Sir John Colfox Academy yesterday for an **Applying to University** information event. This included an overview of the wealth of courses available, as well as outlining the process of applying to university via the UCAS system and the practicalities around finance and accommodation. The students will have further input about apprenticeships and other career paths during their forthcoming tutor time and careers lessons.

Year 10 and 11 students are invited to join an Open Day at Weymouth College on Saturday June 8th from 10am – 12pm to see the facilities and hear about the courses on offer. To book a place, please sign up at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/876471528937>

We held our first **Activities Week** meetings today to ensure that students are aware of their four-day programme and are fully committed. It was lovely to hear the excited discussions and to look forward to this unique experience in our calendar.

The latest **cyber safety parent information** sheet, what you need to know about live streaming, is attached, together with the May newsletter from Future Roots.

A quick reminder about advising the school of any **changes of email address** or other contact details please to ensure we have up to date contact information for students in case of an emergency.

You should all have received the link to our regular **Kirkland Rowell Survey** for 2024 sent out earlier today. Please do take a few minutes to complete it over half term, your views really do help us improve our school. Thank you.

Finally, have a restful Bank Holiday weekend, particularly to all our examination students, and we look forward to seeing all the students back on **Monday 3rd June**.

Mr Hales

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