

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

31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

After many months of preparation and rehearsal, it has been hugely rewarding to see the whole community come together and share in the enjoyment of our **school production, Oliver!** The members of the cast, technicians and staff spent the weekend honing their performances before putting on a much-appreciated dress rehearsal in front of Year 7, Beaminster St. Mary's and Mountjoy students on Tuesday.

With a day to re-charge their batteries, the excitement was palpable across the school on Thursday. The opening night was a great success as the cast and crew threw themselves into their performances, which were thoroughly enjoyed by an appreciative audience. Congratulations to Ms Smith and her whole team of performers and back stage crew for another great show, and we look forward to tonight's final performance. There are some photos of the opening night on our Facebook page.

The **Year 9 Natural Forms Art Exhibition** at Sou'-Sou'-West Gallery is also a real triumph. Thanks to the Art team, and the very kind gallery owner, Phil Claydon, who set out the whole exhibition, the work is beautifully displayed and a real joy to see. It was very heartening to see so many families join the Art team on Saturday morning for the opening, but the exhibition is open until Sunday, so please do pop in anytime between 10.30am and 3.30pm if you can, or there are some photos on our Facebook page.

Our third **Reading Week** for Key Stage 3 opened the pages of 25 books and poems to widen awareness of the great range of literature available. After dystopian novels on Monday, Gothic short stories Tuesday, and Fear and Loathing on Wednesday, it was a sunnier outlook on Thursday with Poems to Make You Smile and then Stories Through Time on Friday, covering some key moments in British history. Please do ask the students about some of the stories they heard about and encourage them to choose one to read in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your support and conversation at the **Year 7 Consultation Evening** on Wednesday, which was exceedingly well attended. We look forward to speaking with **Year 11 parents and carers** on Wednesday 12th February.

Our **Year 7 Forest School** students enjoyed their final day at Magdalen Farm on Thursday, putting the skills and learning developed into practice. They had visits to the farm, undertook orienteering and outdoor crafts, made pizzas and finished off with an evening campfire under the stars. My thanks to Ms Coward and Miss Hughes for supporting this extended transition project, and to the magnificent staff at Magdalen Farm.

Thursday also saw our **Year 9 Football team** play Woodroffe on a very wet and heavy pitch. The boys fought hard, but couldn't quite extend their moments of good team play into sustained pressure, eventually losing 6 – 3.

MyTime Young Carers spoke to KS4 about their charity and the fantastic work that they do with schools and families to ensure that Young Carers have the support and opportunities that they need to succeed. We are really keen to speak with students who look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled, or living with a mental health condition. There is a regular lunchtime drop-on session for students on Wednesdays in E5. **Mrs Appleby** is our Young Carer champion and would welcome a conversation.

Looking ahead, we have **Year 7 Area Netball** on Tuesday and **Year 10** on Thursday, both against Budmouth. It is **House Matches** on Wednesday so please do remind your child about their PE kit, and our **GCSE Music** students will be seeing the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at the Westlands Arena.

Our **Fleet Street** neighbours have kindly asked that we remind road users about the need for consideration when accessing Fleet Street. There have been further unhelpful incidents of blocking private driveways and impatient driving, which are putting children at risk. Please use the safe walking route drop-off point in Memorial Playing Fields.

This week's cyber safety information sheet, the dangers of vaping, is attached together with a poster about the Prout Bridge Valentine's Party which has some of our youth bands playing.

Finally, I have to share the very sad news that **Mr Withers will be retiring** and leaving us at the end of the summer term. Having started at Beaminster School nearly 30 years ago, it is a very well deserved retirement, but I also know that we will all miss him; Mr Withers has been an outstanding Deputy Headteacher, an inspiring teacher, a wonderful colleague and a pillar of our community for a very long time. Over the coming months we will make sure that this contribution is celebrated and appreciated.

However, as custodians of the school we must adapt, change and evolve, and are already planning for September 2025. As part of this we are advertising for an Assistant Headteacher and will be looking to interview in early March to secure the very best candidate for Beaminster School.

Enjoy the first weekend of February and the Rugby Six Nations.

Mr Hales

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