

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Dear Parents and Carers

On Wednesday we gathered together as a community for our traditional end of year assembly. As always, there was much to celebrate that reflected our core values of **Ambition, Service and Kindness**. I was hugely impressed by the conduct our students throughout, particularly for their attentiveness, sensitivity and recognition of the service provided by those staff who are leaving us. Despite the sadness of saying farewell there was a real joy and warmth in the hall that, I know, left quite a few teary-eyed.

Our grateful thanks, for their very many years of service, were shared with **Mrs Randall, Mr Urch, Mr Smith and Ms Barratt**, who are retiring, to **Mrs Richards and Mrs Waker**, who are moving on to new challenges, to **Mrs Streatfield** who will be undertaking a Teacher Training course from September and to **Mrs Jennings**, who is taking a short sabbatical and will be returning to us in January 2025. I should also mention that **Mrs Croft**, who has tried to retire once before, is also leaving us for the last time.

Our **Year 12 Biology** students enjoyed their two, rather damp, days in Swanage, exploring the local environment and honing their practical fieldwork skills. The rest of Year 12 have been undertaking a week of **Work Experience** in a very diverse range of placements, including equine, hospitals, midwifery, physiotherapy, sound and theatre, estate agencies, aircraft maintenance, photography, engineering, production facilities, dog grooming, joinery, schools, environmental, bakery, museums and care homes. Our thanks to all the employers for their support and guidance.

On Tuesday we were delighted that the weather cleared and were able to enjoy **Sports Day**. There was a multitude of running and throwing events that saw some great competition and wonderful endeavour as students fought for every point on offer. With nearly 200 points more than any other, it was **Lewesdon House** that came out on top, which also secured them the overall House competition for the year. My thanks to everyone involved for making it such an enjoyable afternoon.

Continuing with athletics, we were delighted to hear that **Molly Dike and Finnia Lyon-Wilson** stepped up an age-group and completed a challenging 10km race last weekend.

The experiences and fun of our unique **Activities Week** got under way on Thursday under warm sunshine. The first two days have been very much enjoyed with French Discovery, the Jersey Cycle Tour and the H₂O Let's Go residentials all arriving safely, whilst visits have also been made to Harry Potter World, Longleat, Crealy, Escot, Bath, Abbotsbury, Monkey World, the Sea Life Centre, Devon Activity Centre, Sherborne and the Sailing Academy, in addition to the host of activities going on in school.

There was an additional frisson of excitement this afternoon when a grass snake was found in a cool, quiet spot in our school hall. We contacted the RSPCA and staff carefully followed their instructions to safely capture and then release it far from the school site.

An important reminder that all students should ensure they bring in a refillable water bottle, sun cream and a sun hat next week please.

Sadly, the condition of our **swimming pool** has finally gone beyond repair. The Health and Safety requirements, along with prohibitive maintenance and running costs, mean we have had to make the difficult decision to demolish the structure during the summer holidays. I know that this will feel like the end of an era as everyone in the community will have their own very fond memories of the pool, along with the very many students who had swimming lessons in there. However, we are pleased to have been able to secure the **Fitness Suite** and will be looking to utilise the swimming pool space as another outdoor area for our students.

We will have one final newsletter, on Tuesday, to end the year, but in the meantime, enjoy the last weekend before the summer holidays.

Mr Hales