

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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15th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

On Sunday and Monday the school joined with the Beaminster branch of **The Royal British Legion**, and many other community groups, for the Remembrance Parade, church service and Armistice Day Commemoration. It is of great importance that we pass the torch of remembrance to the younger generations to carry forward, whilst the remembrance events also emphasise the great community spirit that is within Beaminster. We have received many complimentary comments and I would like to thank Mr Withers and the senior prefect team for all their endeavours.

The **Year 10 Rotary interviews** got started this week, thanks to the support of Brit Valley Rotary Club, with the students really benefitting from the opportunity of interview practice and preparation. The Club are also supporting the annual **Photography competition** on Monday, and have the unenviable task of selecting the best photographs from a wide-ranging student exhibition on the topic of 'Wonderful Water'. The exhibition will be on display in the school hall on Academic Monitoring Day.

Our **Children in Need Charity Day** certainly sparked the imagination of Year 7 with a multitude of activities including sweets in a jar, guess the name of the teddy and a very tasty cake stall with enough cakes to feed the whole school! Thanks to everyone's efforts **over £700** has been raised towards this important charity.

Staff have also been enjoying a steady flow of '**Trench cakes**' over the past fortnight with some amazing designs, and very chocolatey flavours. As part of their History work, Year 9 have been studying World War I and life in the trenches through the weapons, medicine and different constructions used. The culmination of their homework was to write a letter or produce a design that reflected the different techniques, with the cakes proving very popular! We will post some photos of the wonderful examples on our Facebook page in due course.

Thursday saw a feast of Netball from across the ages, starting with our **Year 11 Netball team** who had won through to represent West Dorset in the County finals. The highlight of the afternoon was a wonderful win against Sherborne Girls, with the team narrowly missing out on progressing to the final. The girls looked the part in their new Netball coats, kindly sponsored by the Moore Scarrott Group, with much appreciation to Mrs Lees, Miss Lewis and Miss Coombes for all their support.

In the **Primary Netball Trophy** a competitive afternoon saw Sticklands hold onto the cup with Salway Ash runners-up. Our Year 9 leaders and Year 7 Netball Team provided the organisation and support, with a special shout out to Summer Cole who was singled out by the primary schools for her excellent leadership and ability to coach the younger students while umpiring - the next primary event is the Kenway Cup Football on 28th November.

This week is **Anti-bullying Week**, with the theme of 'Respect', and we wanted to share the online bullying cyber guide for parents and Powerpoint attached. Mr Withers has also been reinforcing key messages in lessons to ensure that the whole school community is not only reminded that we have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying, but that students are actively encouraged to live-out our core value of Kindness every day. This week's **cyber safety information** sheet about phone scams is also attached.

Next week, we have the first set of **trial examinations** for Year 11, spread across two weeks to ensure that students have a little more time to prepare. These provide an essential experience of the formal examination environment, develop revision skills and check student understanding of key topic areas as they approach the final 6 months of their GCSE courses; good luck to Year 11 during this testing period!

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday 21st November, for our annual **Academic Monitoring Day**. With the Christmas Fair in Beaminster on Friday 29th November at 5pm we are, as always, asking for your support for the **BSPTA Tombola** by bringing in a donation of a bottle, chocolates or similar prizes, and the BSPTA will be running their annual **Bake Off competition** for the Christmas Fair again, details attached. Our new catering company, Aspens, will be offering tasters in the Hall / Canteen during Academic Monitoring Day, so do pop in and have a chat to them as well.

Finally, don't forget that next Friday, 22nd November, is a **staff training day** and so no students will be on site.

With the skies clear tonight, you should be able to see the last supermoon of the year, as the moon is closer to the earth than normal. Enjoy this impressive spectacle in our skies!

Mr Hales

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