

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 1st October

Dear Parents and Carers

The **school open mornings** provided extra bustle and excitement this week and, with over 150 families passing through, certainly kept our senior prefects on their toes. Due to the significant demand we will be running an **additional open afternoon** on Wednesday 13th October at 2pm-3:15pm.

It has been a real pleasure to watch the senior prefects grow in confidence and represent the very best that the school has to offer. Over the past week Ms Smith, Mr Withers and I have had the difficult job of interviewing them for the **Head and Deputy Head Boy / Girl** positions to lead this wonderful team. As ever, the quality of interviews was incredibly high with the students demonstrating real assurance beyond their years throughout our questioning and probing. After much consideration I am delighted to let you know that **Kiana Earlam (11P)** and **Jasper Sennett (11P)** have been appointed as Head Girl and Boy, with **Bertie Pearce (11L)** and **Luke Bowstead (11M)** as their deputies; many congratulations and we very much look forward to working with their team this year.

Thank you to the many families who attended our **Year 7 Welcome Evening**, on Wednesday. This was an important opportunity to explain school systems, our curriculum, the support on offer and the many ways that parents and carers can be engaged in their child's learning, including the use of ClassCharts, as well as meeting their child's tutor.

With the change from September to October we do now have the heating on, but are maintaining **high levels of ventilation**. We do expect students to have their school jumpers and we will be allowing them to wear their coats in classrooms, should the temperature levels begin to fall. Therefore, please would you ensure that all students do have their **school jumpers and coats** every day.

As well as the wide range of A-levels on offer through our **Joint Sixth Form**, with The Sir John Colfox Academy, we also offer a large number Level 2 and 3 courses in **partnership with Yeovil College**. Students undertake some of their learning at Yeovil and some on the school site, reducing their travel to just 2 or 3 days. We will be holding our own **Sixth Form Opening at 7pm on Wednesday 10th November**, including staff from Yeovil College, but should students wish to visit Yeovil College beforehand there is an open evening between 4pm and 8pm on Thursday 7th October. Additionally, Weymouth College have their Open Day on Saturday 9th October.

Next week is our first **Literacy Week** of the school year. Following on from the success of last term, we will be continuing to widen student's exposure to a rich and varied diet of literature. Each KS3 lesson will include up to 15 minutes of teachers reading **Roald Dahl's "Boy"**, which focuses on some very insightful stories from Roald's school days and his transition into the working world.

After much delay, the government have published their proposals to continue with **examinations next summer**. GCSE students will be provided with more optional topics in English Literature, History and Geography, whilst more formulae and equations are to be given to the students in Maths and Science. Exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of the content of the exams for all GCSE, AS and A level subjects, at the beginning of February. This will enable teachers to plan and adapt their teaching in the second half of the spring term if necessary. I will send out further details to Year 11 and 13 next week.

I wish you all a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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