

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Update from the Head, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents and Carers

The start of the school year is all about new beginnings, the next stage in life's journey and establishing successful routines to meet the expected and, as we know, the unexpected that may lie ahead. As a school we have distilled the ingredients of successful learners into our three core values: **Ambition, Service and Kindness**. We aim to weave these values through all the work that we do, and to instil students with a real sense of their importance in the everyday.

We are ambitious for our students and want them all to be ambitious for themselves. As we begin to move on from the fractured and challenging last 18 months, we will all need to have the confidence to seize new opportunities and look optimistically to the future. There will be the longer-term goals of planning for examinations and future careers, and I am delighted that we have employed an independent careers adviser, Mr Mark Truyens, to support our students with this but, importantly, there is also the ongoing pride that students invest in their own work as they aim to do their best each day.

This encapsulates our second core value where students need to dedicate time to themselves as well as thinking of others. So many aspects of success come from a willingness to get involved, to give things a go, to persevere and to have a positive approach to difficulties. As Thomas Edison once said: "I have not failed, I have just found 1000 ways that don't work."

I am always gratified by the care and attention that students give to others, their willingness to help, and their kindness and positive behaviour around the school every day. Alongside this, students also need to be kinder to themselves and not take on the many burdens of school life alone. **All** our staff are here to help **every** child reach their potential, and I hope that all our students feel they are not only encouraged to work with us, but are also able to seek help and support whenever it is required.

Year 11 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form students were certainly inspired today by our first visiting speaking of the year, **Lucy Lytton from The World Bank**. Lucy talked through how her school career and education led on to University abroad and, after many twists and turns, a job as a senior advisor in water resources at the World Bank. I am very grateful to Lucy for making the time to come to Beaminster and share her vast experience with our students.

We are often involved in evidence-based classroom research to improve the quality of learning in the classroom and so **Year 7 students** will be working on an exciting project with **Canterbury ChristChurch University** that links the big questions of Science and Religion. Year 7 students will be asked to provide feedback on their experiences, and although everyone in Year 7 will be participating in the project, the feedback and survey aspect is voluntary (see details attached). Should Year 7 parents and carers have any concerns please do contact Mrs Rychnovsky through our school email address.

Looking ahead to next week, we have **Individual photos** taking place on Monday for all students in Years 7, 9, 10 and 11. Thursday sees all year groups limbering up for the school **Fun Run**, and Friday will be a non-uniform day in aid of **Jeans4Genes**. **Bridport Youth Girls' Football** team are looking for new players in Year 9 and above, details are attached for anyone interested.

Our wonderful **Beaminster School Parents and Teacher Association (BSPTA)** invite all parents and carers to an introductory meeting on Wednesday 15 September at 6pm; please come to Reception. The group are always keen to enlist some more help to support school events and raise additional funds, and any time that you can offer will be much appreciated; many hands really do make light work! If you cannot attend the meeting but would be able to help, please let us know through the [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk) account with the header BSPTA.

**Beaminster Big Green Day** will be taking place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 9am -12 noon in the Town Square, with the Prout Bridge Bus and lots of displays, and a Green Roadshow in the Public Hall from 10.30am-2.30pm where the Beaminster WI will be providing refreshments. The event will have stalls and activities such as our Sustainable You and school energy projects, trees and shrubs, the Green Living Project, energy efficiency in houses, wildlife in our gardens, local food projects, Open Greener Homes, an electric car and bicycle display, Clipper Teas and the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP). The Town Council will be also updating residents on their initiatives: Incredible Edible, Plastic Free Beaminster and the Community Orchard.

Finally, we have received a lot of calls regarding **school places for September 2022**. Therefore, we will be holding three short **Open Mornings from 9-10am** in the week beginning **27 September** so that pupils and parents can see the school in action. The information attached has been widely circulated to primary schools, and is also on our school website and social media pages. Please do feel free to share the dates and spread the word to any families who may be interested – students are warmly invited to attend the mornings with their parents.

There will be a few tired students, and staff, after this first week back, but I am very encouraged by the work completed and trust that you all enjoy a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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