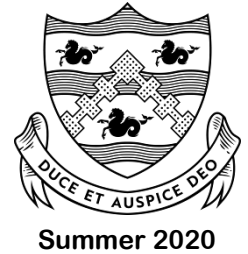




BEAMINSTER TIMES



Our Values: Ambition - Service - Kindness (ASK)

News from Beaminster School **Summer 2020**

Lockdown Life

It seems a long time ago now that lockdown started. I remember the last journey home on the bus, feeling sad that I might not see my friends for a long time. School closed two weeks before the Easter holidays and we had no idea when it would reopen again. It was scary listening to the news and constantly hearing about the rising number of infections and deaths, and it felt strange to be at home all the time.

It was hard at first to get used to doing all my schoolwork at home and everything was suddenly closed, you could only go out for exercise once a day with members of your family. After a couple of weeks the Easter holidays started, and by then I had got into a routine with my school work and had got more used to it.

I start quite early in the morning and by lunchtime I have nearly finished everything. In the afternoon we've been going on long walks or bike rides. Then I speak to friends and family on FaceTime, or play with friends on the Xbox, which has been a great way to stay in touch. We have also done family Zoom calls and quizzes which have been fun.

My Auntie had the Coronavirus during the Easter holidays and that was a scary time as she had a temperature over 100 degrees and ended up in hospital as her breathing was getting worse, but she has fully recovered now.

There have been many positive things about spending so much time at home during the lockdown period.

My Dad normally spends up to half the month abroad for his job and he has never been at

home as much as he has for the last two months. It has been amazing, and he probably won't be able to travel for a long time which is good news for me! He is able to do the majority of his work from home and my Mum has been furloughed so she has also been here to help if I'm stuck with school work.

We have been on so many family bike rides and it has been fantastic weather almost the whole time and the roads have been so quiet. I have got so much fitter and can now manage all the really steep hills around here! I've also done lots of cooking and really enjoyed it - I have made spaghetti bolognese for my family, scones and cakes for VE Day, and homemade pizzas.

I often walk up to my Grandma's to take her some milk or a newspaper as my Grandad is very high risk so they have both been isolating since before the lockdown. I miss seeing them properly in their house and giving them a hug and I really miss their dog as I am not allowed to see her either at the moment. My Mum does all their shopping and things like getting their medicine. My Grandma will be 70 in August and we were all going away together on a big holiday with my cousins, but we have had to cancel it.

It doesn't look like we will go back to school before September, although my brother might go back as he is in Year 6. I would like to go back but I am also now enjoying being at home. It's easier now that I can meet a friend for a walk or a bike ride, and hopefully the rules will relax more soon so that we can see more people. Most of all I would like a vaccine to be found so that things can go back to normal!

Charlie Irving-Bell 8W



School Staff wanted to send a message to everyone during the lockdown.

To see the video visit:

<http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk/>



Australia Day Fundraising

On February 14th the school held a non-uniform day in support of Bobin Primary School in New South Wales, which was badly affected by the terrible fires in Australia. Students were asked to wear green and gold clothing, the national colours of Australia, and to make a donation.

There were many fun activities across the day including: an Australian-themed quiz (won by Mrs Berry), the chance to win a knitted koala (won by Miss Polwarth) and a Valentine card delivery service run by the school office. I haven't come across anyone who used the Valentine's delivery service – I think some people were too shy!

There was also a wide range of Australian foods and cakes to try, run by the Admin team all wearing their Australian hats – these were hats with corks strung from the brim, used in Australia to ward off insects. The food included the famous lamingtons (squares of sponge cake coated in chocolate sauce and rolled in coconut), fairy bread (white bread and butter covered with sprinkles), and vegemite on toast (which was extremely popular!). I tried all of them and the lamingtons were my favourite as I love coconut.

Rosie Price also raised £14 with her own 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' game.

The school also completed an outline of Australia in loose change. This was my favourite part of the day as it was such a unique idea. I brought in all my 1p coins and they actually completed the map!

The cake stall was very busy and the outline of Australia was a really fun way to raise some extra pennies.

The final sum raised was a fantastic £777.19 This shows that the day was very well supported by the students. Everyone wore their own clothes and made a donation, although I only saw a few people wearing green and gold.

Bobin School's classrooms and main administration building were burnt to the ground with only their library left standing, which must have been devastating for them. Incredibly, they have managed to re-open the school in temporary classrooms, but have a lot of work ahead of them.

The Admin Team have already been in touch with Bobin School, who are very touched by our gesture, and Miss Polwarth (who is from Australia), hopes to visit the school in July to see first-hand how the money we raised is being spent.



School Play 2020 - Buggy Malone

This year's school play, "Buggy Malone," performed on 30th and 31st January was a great success as described by the audience.

The play involved songs, dances, lots of lines and some very silly characters. It had a lot of character and some cocky accents here and there, the lighting effects were amazing and the sound effects were aligned perfectly with every twist and turn the play had in store for the audience.

Talking to some people after the play, in their words the play was: "A thrilling experience to watch as the story unfolds and the pieces come together to create the storyline." Some of the backstage workers said: "Backstage was just as lively as the stage itself! It was very frantic to get people in their places and costumes sorted, and communication was another problem as if we were too loud we would be overheard by the audience which would spoil the thrill of the play. Thankfully, we all were able to communicate to each other without being heard by the audience."

I thought that the play was unpredictable, you never knew what was going to happen next (unless you had watched the film, which I personally have never even heard of!) There was some beautiful violin playing by one of the many characters, and the fashion sense of the cast members bought the olden days back.

In my opinion I liked the part where the group of girls with guns, loaded with what looked to be cream or foam, would come onto the stage and dramatic music would play as they wiped out the actors! Another favourite bit of mine was the funny dance done by Fat Sam's clients.

Overall the play was a huge success that went smoothly, with unexpected encounters and funny, comedic deaths made by a handful of the actors. They all had reactions to whatever event was occurring on the stage, whether those expressions were surprise, disgust, anger, sadness or happiness which really brought life into the play. It was enjoyable to watch and I'm sure I'm not the only one waiting for another production by Beaminster School.



By Rosie Price 8M



Interview with Olympic Medallist, Emily Diamond

On Monday 3rd February Olympic medallist Emily Diamond came in to school to speak to students. Year 8s Kai Kenway and Ruth Sloper interviewed her in front of some Year 10 GCSE PE classes.

(Note: The interview was done prior to the Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent cancellation of many events).

We were kind of nervous since we thought we would be alone in a room with her and not with an audience. We asked her some interesting questions:

Q) Did you ever think you would win any Olympic medals when you were a child?

A) As a short answer, no. Since tennis was my main sport as a kid I wanted to play at Wimbledon and I wanted to win Wimbledon rather than compete in the Olympics. So for me, the Olympics wasn't something that I ever saw myself doing. It was just what the likes of Dame Kelly Holmes and Usain Bolt and all those other athletes did. It was never something that I saw myself, just me from Bristol, would ever get the opportunity to do, but I think as the years went on and as I progressed in my athletics career it became more of an achievable goal to get to the Olympics, but I never thought that I would actually win a medal!



Q) Do you have any other events coming up, apart from the Tokyo Olympics?

A) For me my season sort of kickstarts in April, when we head over to Florida for about a month on a training camp over Spring. So I'll start competing over there and then I'll come back from that and go around the European circuits and travel across Europe competing in the Summer. Then we have our Olympic trials at the end of June, if all goes well then they select the team for the Olympics. We'll then head out to Tokyo and then on to the European championships as well. So, hopefully, quite a busy season.



Q) What were your dreams as a child apart from tennis?

A) My dreams as a child? To be honest I was one of those students at school who never really knew what I wanted to do. I didn't know what job I wanted to do or what I wanted to do at university, so I picked sport basically at university just because I enjoyed it. I didn't really know where it was going to take me, and luckily because my athletics was going well I went down the route of being a full time professional athlete. But in terms of dreams there wasn't really anything that stood out apart from being sort of a Wimbledon champion, which unfortunately never happened.



Q) Who inspired you to become an athlete?

A) Various different people really; my mum was an athlete when she was younger and so were her grandparents so we had athletics in the family. I remember my nan showing us, me and my brother, her old GB kit. So they would wear a plain white GB kit and then they would have to sew on red, white and blue ribbon onto it! Very different to now, and she also had to pay for it herself, so when I ended up doing athletics I would show her the mountains of kit that we get given, and obviously it is very different to what she had. She

couldn't believe the difference from back in her day and now! I think growing up seeing my grandparents' achievements in athletics definitely made my decision to go towards athletics easier.



Q) How did it feel when you won your first competition or race?

A) It felt good. I think when I was younger I did a few cross-country races, but I didn't really train for them, I just rocked up and managed to do better than I expected. I think that because of the fitness that I had from tennis and hockey and that sort of stuff I had good overall fitness.

By Kai Kenway and Ruth Sloper 8P

The Army Comes to Visit

Thursday 5th March was a Stop the Clock day, but due to horrendous wet weather, for the first time anyone can remember the Year 8 Geography trip to Lyme Regis unfortunately had to be cancelled.

However, the Year 10s had some very interesting visitors. 3 soldiers came in to talk about Army careers, 2 from the Royal Artillery and 1 from the Infantry, and we had the chance to interview Infantry Sergeant Widlake. He told us that he had come in to promote Army careers and, as this was a fantastic opportunity, we had lots of questions.

First of all, we wanted to know why anyone should choose the army as a career? Sergeant Widlake gave us a three point answer, the first reason being the pay, the second being fitness and the third the continued education and qualifications that you can obtain via the army.

So, how do you go about applying to join the army? Firstly, you have to put in an online application, and if that is acceptable you schedule an appointment with your nearest Army Careers Office. Depending on your age, mental and physical ability, as well as your own aspirations, you will go through an army training scheme.

One place that you can go if you are under 18 is Harrogate Army College. To get in, you need to have a good level of fitness and a minimum of 5 GCSEs. In Harrogate, you receive further education and at the end of

your course, depending on which corps is right for you, you will go on to receive further specific training at a different location.

There are 76 different jobs within the army, with over 220 specialisations to choose from!



But what if you want to take your education further? You can do this the civilian way, or, if being an officer is what you aspire to, you can enter an officer scholarship scheme. You can enter this at any point during your higher education and the army will give you a grant for your university fees. You will also receive training at Sandhurst, which is the officer training centre for the UK.

Currently, there are not so many officer grants, but as Welbeck, a large tri-service college that offers A level to degree qualifications, is closing down, many are predicting that more officer bursary schemes will appear.

What are the best bits about the army? One good thing is the aforementioned pay, and another is the travelling you do

with the army. In fact, the first time that Sergeant Widlake went on holiday was to the jungle for some training with the army. He has also been to Iraq and Afghanistan.

By Ruth Sloper 8P and Kai Kenway 8P

Army Cadet Weekend

From Friday 5th March–Sunday 7th March, the Dorset Army Cadet Force had a weekend away, where we, as cadets, got involved in many different activities, from shooting to going on expeditions.

It was an excellent experience at Chickerell Camp and just one of many that were planned for the year that have, unfortunately, now been postponed.

Our star level did First Aid, Expeditionary training and Drill.

For First Aid, we did bandaging, CPR and recovery position as well as learning how to assess a casualty.

We were supposed to navigate our way around a 5 kilometre walk but a storm blew in that sent us rushing back to camp, rather than completing the walk. We also learned about using mess tins and ration packs for cooking on little stoves, which was very interesting.

In addition, we were assessed on our ability to put up a two-man tent in pairs. This was rather challenging but rewarding once completed. Within the Army Cadet Force, drill is very important. There are many different 'moves' and commands that get harder the more advanced you are.

Personally, I enjoy drill very much as it is not open to interpretation, rather it is akin to maths. There is one way to do it and that is the only way accepted. There was also some shooting planned but it was postponed due to other star levels being on the ranges.

The weekend was very enjoyable and I, for one, certainly felt that I learnt a lot.

By Ruth Sloper 8P and Milly Cross 8P

Welcome to Beaminster New Year 7s!

To all the new Year 7s, welcome to Beaminster, your school for the next five years at least. (And to everyone else returning after the Summer holidays and lockdown, welcome back).

It is going to feel a bit scary coming here, but I promise, once you learn your way around and make friends you'll definitely enjoy it!

There are plenty of clubs and things to do; you could join the School Newspaper and help come up with ideas and articles for this newspaper, you could join Lego club and make some cool things or try and beat the height of our tallest tower, or if you want to help the environment you could come and join the litter picking club.

And that's just a few things, there are sporting clubs and quite a few other exciting things that go on.

We've come up with some tips to help you settle in:

- Always try and hand your homework in on time
- Try your best
- Ask for help if you don't get something
- If you're polite and respectful to the teachers, they will be to you
- Don't leave things to the last minute (talking from experience!)
- Try to get involved, it's a great way to make friends
- Remember to check homework and do it when you get home
- The teachers are always here to help, I'm sure if you're worried your tutor will happily help you out
- Make sure you have some free time, it's helpful to just unwind after school
- And most importantly, HAVE FUN!!



Those are the most helpful tips we came up with and we hope that you enjoy Beaminster and that your first year is going to be full of fun things and great memories.

By Kai Kenway 8P



Meet the Year 7 Pastoral Team for September 2020



Mrs Randall
Head of Year



Miss Patten
Tutor



Mrs Spencer-White
Tutor



Mrs Walters
Tutor

Head of Year 7 and Year 7 Tutor Team

This is our Year 7 Tutor Team for September 2020, who are all really looking forward to welcoming our new students to Beaminster.

There is a dedicated page of our school website with information for the families of Year 6 students who will be joining the school as Year 7s in September:



Mr Prendergast
Tutor



Miss Clifford
Tutor



Mrs Hocking
Tutor

<http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk/year-6-transition-information>

Book Review

The Hobbit By JRR Tolkien

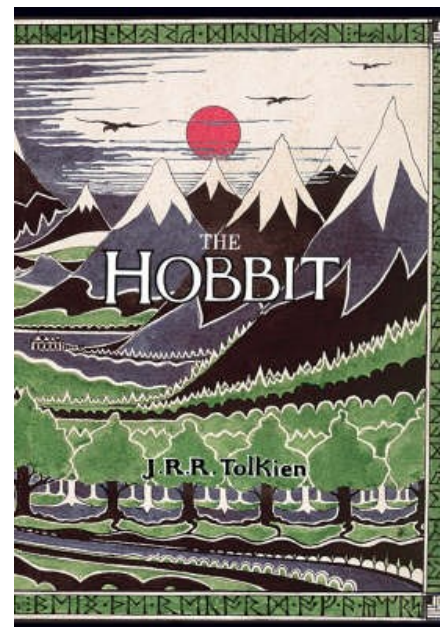
This book has got to be one of the best books I have ever read!

It appeals to a much younger audience than The Lord of the Rings because it is less complicated and shorter. The Hobbit is based on events that take place before the Lord of the Rings trilogy begins, but it has no less adventure!

In The Hobbit, young Bilbo Baggins is whisked away by the legendary wizard, Gandalf, to reclaim their stolen treasure. A journey started that promised to change Bilbo's life forever (only if he returns from it alive of course?)

The book shows what real bravery and friendship is. It is a brilliant story, especially if you like fantasy and adventure.

By Charlie Irving-Bell 8W



We really hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of the Beaminster Times

Contact email: NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk or call 01308 862633 if there is anything in particular that you would like the paper to cover in future.

For more information about us use the QR code to visit the school website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk



What do Our Parents Say About Us...?

We regularly ask our parents, carers and students what they think about the school, and one of the most important ways we do this is by asking them all to complete a comprehensive, externally run questionnaire covering lots of different areas, both academic and pastoral. This is usually done bi-annually.

Everything is done anonymously to ensure that responses are as honest as possible, and the information we get back confirms and/or helps inform us about any areas we need to focus and work more on.

Our most recent survey was done in March 2020, just before we went into lockdown, and here are just some of the comments we had back from parents.

It's great to be able to see what your child is eating on ParentMail

Have been impressed with the support from the Tutor who is very good at responding to any issues raised

Discipline levels are good and the school has a safe and friendly atmosphere

A wonderful school!

Communication between staff and parents has always been excellent and we have felt the whole school has been open and accessible to us as parents in terms of contact with teachers

After transferring my daughter I have nothing but praise for Beaminster, she has grown in confidence and her results are going well

We like the school and are pleased with the choice of Sixth Form

I greatly appreciate the caring, community nature of the school

Children are happy and secure

At Parents' Evening I really felt that they knew my child and cared, and there were some really lovely connections with her teachers. Thank you

I am delighted with the school in almost every respect



I think the care of mental health at Beaminster School is excellent and I appreciate the high level of care that my child has received

Absolutely excellent response to mental health issues. Instils a good sense of right and wrong and a wider awareness of this in relation to world issues

Beaminster continues to be a school we are pleased to send our children to. We are out of catchment so it was not the school they should have gone to. Love the postcards home! Teachers respond quickly and I feel they know the children and can therefore push them as appropriate. Thank you.

The school has great teachers

The teachers have a genuine interest in seeing the children succeed in life. They work hard at life choices

A situation with bullying on the bus was dealt with quickly and efficiently and we were very impressed and reassured

Extremely impressed by SEN support provided during discussion at Parents' Evening and the approach of SEN staff and of teachers in tailoring lessons/the way the child works to their needs

We are particularly impressed with the Head, who is always present and available, and quick to respond



Beaminster School is a friendly and good school

Beaminster School has been a happy place for my daughter. The staff have helped her grow in confidence and achieve academically. She has been offered many wonderful extra-curricular opportunities which she has been lucky enough to take up. She has always felt cared for at school and part of a community which included both staff and pupils. Thank you!

What do Our Parents Say About Us...?

Teachers are very responsive when emailed about specific issues

I think Beaminster School is fabulous, you encourage children to be themselves and don't force them to fit into stereotypes. The postcards home are a lovely idea and mean a lot to parents when they arrive. Keep up the amazing work it is really appreciated

It's been a really positive start to secondary school. My daughter has settled in well and enjoys a lot of subjects

Wonderful school

Our son is very happy, settled and progressing, thank you

Teachers have a genuine interest in seeing the children succeed in life

Pastoral support is very strong, emotional/social support is essential before any learning can take place

We love Beaminster School from the Ladies in the office to the fact that teachers know the children even when they are not in their classes. We think it is under-rated and that people miss a trick not sending their children there

My son joined your school at a difficult point in his life and you have been kind to him. You also challenged his behavior on one occasion and I am glad he is at a school which instils good moral values in him. He looks forward to school and has said that this is the best school he has been to. I am very happy with the standard of communication, education and care. Thank you.



We couldn't be happier with how Beaminster School has allowed our son to settle in, in the best possible way. For the first time in his life, our son is happy to go to school. He likes all his teachers and has made lots of friends. He is always encouraged, supported and listened to. We love the fact that there is always something fun and interesting going on to break up the academic week. Overall, very happy!

Overall we love Beaminster, it has passed all our expectations and our son is thriving

We are particularly pleased by how excited and keen to learn our daughter is about her favourite subjects - it is a joy to listen to how animated she is after these lessons! Big thumbs up!

I think the scale of the school gives it a community feel which is beneficial for a sense of security and fostering children as they grow up

Children are happy and secure

Reception support, tutorial and special needs are all superb

I feel very positive about Beaminster School. The management team always appear to be great role models running a good, safe ship

Very good communication to the parents, the brief but informative newsletter every Friday is very good. Online access to sort payments is very easy to use

Beaminster School has a caring, friendly environment and we are really pleased with the different opportunities our daughter is receiving there

Very pleased with our choice of Beaminster School!

Great opportunities to do extra activities



The school listens to me when I have queries about my child and her happiness

Delighted with the school

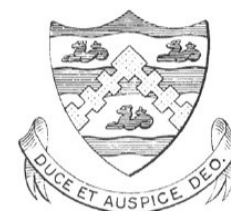
Staff are friendly and approachable

There is a sense of "one big family" and staff seem to really know the students





BEAMINSTER SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2020-2021



AUTUMN TERM 2020

(NB: May be subject to change due to Government guidance at the time)

Thursday 3 rd September	Staff Training Day #1 (no students in)
Friday 4 th September	Staff Training Day #2 (no students in)
Monday 7 th September	Year 7 Students only - Start of Term (Week A) Year 12 enrolment day
Tuesday 8 th September	Anticipated Start of Term All Students (Week A)
Friday 23 rd October	Staff Training Day #3 (no students in)
Monday 26 th Oct – Friday 30 th Oct	Half Term (return Mon 2 nd November, Week B)
Friday 20 th November	Academic Monitoring Day
Friday 18 th December	End of Autumn Term

Christmas Holidays (Mon Dec 21st 2020 – Fri 1st Jan 2021)

SPRING TERM 2021

Monday 4 th January	Staff Training Day #4 (no students in)
Tuesday 5 th January	Start of Spring Term for students (Week A)
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February	Half Term (return Mon 22 nd Feb, Week A)
Thursday 1 st April	End of Spring Term

Easter Holidays (Fri 2nd April 2021 – Fri 16th April 2021)

SUMMER TERM 2021

Monday 19 th April	Start of Summer Term (Week A)
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June	Half Term (return Mon 7 th June, Week A)
Monday 28 th June	Staff Training Day #5 (no students in)
Monday 19 th July	Start of Activities Week (Compulsory for all students in Years 7-10)
Friday 23 rd July	End of Summer Term



Beaminster School Term Dates 2020-2021

2020	September							October							November							December						
	A1	B1	A2	B2	A3	B3	A4	B4	A5	B5	A6	B6	A7	B7	B8	A9	B9	A10	B10	A11	B11	A12	B12	A13	B13	A14	B14	
Week																												
Mon			7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26				2	9	16	23	30									
Tues	1	8	15	22	29			6	13	20	27				3	10	17	24										
Weds	2	9	16	23	30			7	14	21	28				4	11	18	25										
Thurs	3	10	17	24				8	15	22	29				5	12	19	26										
Fri	4	11	18	25				9	16	23	30				6	13	20	27										

Autumn Term 2020

2021	January							February							March							April						
	A8	B8	A9	B9	A10	B10	A11	B11	A12	B12	A13	B13	A14	B14	B15	A16	B16	A17	B17	A18	B18	A19	B19	A20	B20	A21	B21	
Week																												
Mon		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26										
Tues		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27										
Weds		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28										
Thurs		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	4	11	18	25		8	15	22	29										
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26		9	16	23	30										

Spring Term 2021

2021	May							June							July							August						
	A15	B15	A16	B16	A17	B17	A18	B18	A19	B19	A20	B20	A21	B21	B22	A23	B23	A24	B24	A25	B25	A26	B26	A27	B27	A28	B28	
Week																												
Mon		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28				26	2	9	16	23	30								
Tues	4	11	18	25			1	8	15	22	29				27	3	10	17	24	31								
Weds	5	12	19	26			2	9	16	23	30				28	4	11	18	25									
Thurs	6	13	20	27			3	10	17	24					29	5	12	19	26									
Fri	7	14	21	28			4	11	18	25					30	6	13	20	27									

Summer Term 2021

- = Non pupil days
- = School Holidays
- = Bank Holidays
- = Academic Monitoring Day
- = Results Days
- = Year 7 Students only