

# Brymore

experience to last a lifetime



## Newsletter October 2012

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### Message from Mark Thomas - Headteacher

I must start by saying well done to a group of Old Boys; the Year 11 students who left us in August. They achieved the best exam results in the school's history, with 88% of boys attaining 5A\*- C grades which has risen from 55% in three years and is a huge 32% above the target set for the school. This was despite the year group being the cohort with the lowest ability, on intake, the school has had for years; indeed they were the lowest in Somerset. However by the time they left they had risen to the group who had made the 8<sup>th</sup> best progress in Somerset. It is clear results in the school are rising. The school has risen from 24<sup>th</sup> in Somerset to 8<sup>th</sup> in terms of progress, with maths moving from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> and English from 14<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>; all in one year. As far as the government set floor standards are concerned, last year Brymore was one of only two schools to be below all three, now we are above two and there are only eight schools in the county in a stronger position than us. What does this all mean? Simply and most importantly, it means more and more boys are leaving Brymore ready to embark on a level 3 course improving their chances of securing employment hugely- and that is what it is all about - improving the life chances of the boys. For the school it also means, I hope, we are moving off the radar of the Department for Education and the Local Authority when it comes to concerns about achievement.

The last day of the first half term really is a favourite 'Brymore Day' for me and it typifies what the school stands for. Mr Willcocks organised yet another excellent Harvest Festival service which was well attended by parents with superb participation from the boys and staff. Seeing boys stand up and read aloud, in front of 300+ guests is always humbling, even more so when you see boys who came to us struggling to read or coping with dyslexia. They clearly showed determination, progress and resilience in abundance. To then move into a fiercely competitive cross country event, where 90 boys ran their hearts out because they knew they were running for their team, turning an individual sport into a real team event, again showcased the boys at their best. This time true responsibility was being displayed by all, including those marshalling. The support from parents was excellent as were the efforts of FOBSA which all contributed to make a special day. For me, the day ended with Pym's Night, an annual dinner organised by the Old Brymorians, who continue to support the school and keep its history alive. Five boys, along with Mr Kingston and Mrs Davis kindly gave up their time to serve and wait on tables, delaying their holiday by eight hours and also ensuring their parents were driving back home quite late into the night. I would like to thank everyone; staff, students, parents and all those who contributed to a special day.

Finally I would like to say well done to the Year 9s who have experienced their first half term at Brymore and I hope they are already feeling they are benefitting from the Brymore experience.

### LRC News (Miss Bradford)

We have appointed six Year 10 Library Assistants and full training is to take place as soon as the school schedule allows. There was an Auction of Magazines on the last Friday of the half term to raise funds for new Fiction Books and this raised £30.47— grateful thanks to Cyrus Dorrington and Charlie Coleman, plus the Library Assistants for all their hard work on this. There will be a Scholastic Book Fair from 13th through to the 20th November with new books selling at a reduced price. This is open to boys, parents and staff. The proceeds from last years fair raised enough to buy 43 new Fiction Books for the Library.

### Induction Week—September (Mr Oliver)

This Autumn, Year 9s have settled into their boarding houses and to date have made an excellent start in their lessons. In the first week of term, they were given an induction, which included taster sessions in the Farm, Gardens and Design & Technology. In the Boarding House, boys were entered into a Pool competition (to get to know each of the other), worked with fellow Year 10 and 11 students to compete in a Brymore Triathlon, including a whole field relay, a tyre flipping relay and a tug of war and were given the opportunity to sign up for activities, such as Karate, Rugby, Chads' Hill and a range of vocational activities on offer through Bridgwater College.

The triathlon was an amazing experience. It allowed all three year groups to work together in their boarding houses, creating a sense of community cohesion within each Boarding house. One student remarked: ***"It was new, it was fun, it was Brymore!"*** Congratulations to Reid house who won the inter house triathlon, by one point. The New Year 9 students have made the best possible start to their life at Brymore and we look forward to working with them and you over the next three years.



### Brymore Video (Mrs Warren)

Early into this half term we filmed a small promotional video of Brymore—as an opportunity to show everyone what both staff and students had to say along with our beautiful grounds and what makes Brymore unique. I would like to offer my thanks to the boys and members of staff that agreed to be filmed and who spoke on camera—it is never an easy thing to do but the final edit really does emphasise what makes us special. The final version can be found on the front page of the website.



### **Morrisons Vouchers**

Once again we are collecting the Morrisons vouchers for schools which began being distributed in August. If you are shopping in Morrisons please ask for these and hand in to the office. They have proven most useful to the Horticulture department in the past. Thank you.



### **Horticulture (Mr Willcocks)**

Apple juice is currently being prepared by the boys and will be for sale at £2 per bottle. In addition we also have a limited edition spiced apple juice which is especially tasty when consumed warm. If you'd like to place an order please see Mrs Stanley.

Please ensure that all boys have steel toe capped wellies or work-boots and overalls for their Horticulture practical lessons. All boys must have suitable wet weather clothing including a waterproof coat and trousers so that they can continue to undertake practical work during the rainy season. In addition to this no boys should be wearing their school uniform under their overalls for practical lessons or duties, please can you ensure that boys have a set of old clothes for this purpose and that they are warm enough for the winter months.

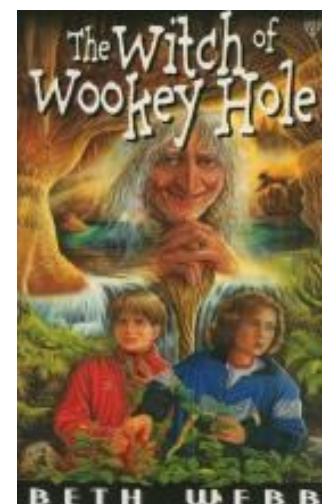
### **Book Club (Miss Bradford)**

The Book Club will be holding a Halloween Meeting on Wednesday 7th at 4pm in the LRC. The event will be ticket only and local author Beth Webb will be making her second visit to the group to tell spooky tales and read from one of her books (available in the LRC).

Beth Webb is an avid reader of traditional folk stories and is fascinated by the links between landscape, history and myth. As a teacher of creative writing to children, teenagers and adults, Beth often used a reconstructed Iron Age village on the Somerset Levels (The 'Winter Seas' in Star Dancer, Book 1 of this series) and the nearby Wookey Hole Caves, to help young writers to find inspiration.

For more information about Beth see [www.bethwebb.co.uk](http://www.bethwebb.co.uk)

There will be drinks & snacks after in the decorated LRC



### **School Council (Mr Oliver)**

I would like to welcome the following students onto the Student Council: Harry Orr (Chairman), Charlie Rowsell (Vice Chairman), Gareth Stockton (Secretary), Cyrus Dorrington, Jack Butland, Kieran Winter, David Lukins, Damien Watts, T Vining, Elliott Reed, Lewis Dunn and John Coaker.

They met for the first time on Saturday 13th October and have hit the ground running with a discussion about what end of half term events should occur over the year. The Council have been asked to look into several ideas that were discussed. As a result of this meeting, a DVD and take away night took place before the boys departed for half term.

The Council members were given terms of reference to work from and will be meeting twice a half term. They will be representing the views of all students and feeding back to them via house and form meetings, as well as assemblies and on the screens. I look forward to working with these students and taking on board their ideas for moving the school forward.

### **Music (Mr Willcocks)**

We have a guitar and a drum tutor who comes to Brymore on a weekly basis to give the boys music lessons - if your son would like to try any of these instruments then please contact Mr Willcocks for further details.

### **Christmas Card Competition**

We are challenging the boys to design our Brymore Christmas Card this year—something imaginative, pleasing to the eye and truly Brymore! It's our 60th year and so we'd like something special. The deadline is November 10th and the winner will receive a £25 voucher of their choice.

### **Year 11 Course Information booklet (Mrs Anstice)**

If your son is in Year 11, you should find included with the newsletter a booklet containing key information for his courses this year. We hope that this is useful in providing you with an overview of what he is studying each term in each subject, assessment information and what you can do to support him. If you have any questions relating to a subject, please contact the member of staff identified at the end of the booklet. There will also be Raising Achievement and subject focus days later in the year, details of which will be sent out in due course.

### **Work Experience (Mr Willcocks)**

All Year 10 boys should have found a placement, written letters and be returning the forms to Miss Bradford in the LRC or to Mr Willcocks. This is an urgent request to ensure that placements can be checked for their suitability and safety. Should any placements need to be sought then The National Trust in South Somerset have Work Experience places available in one or more of their attractions in the Yeovil area at Barrington Court, Montacute House or Lytes Cary Manor.

### **Website (Mrs Warren)**

Hopefully you have all managed to look at the new website that went through a total overhaul during the summer (Mr Thomas, especially, worked very hard to ensure the content and photos showed the school in its best light) and the result is that news and events are updated regularly. We hope both existing and prospective parents feel more informed. In addition to the website our Facebook and Twitter pages are often full of the day-to-day news and extra photos that can help parents see what is happening and so I would encourage you to 'like' our page or 'follow' us to be a part of our everyday happenings. In addition we often add extra photos to our Flickr page. Our pages can be found on the following URLs:

[www.facebook.com/BrymoreSchool](http://www.facebook.com/BrymoreSchool)

[www.twitter.com/BrymoreSchool](http://www.twitter.com/BrymoreSchool)

[www.flickr.com/photos/brymoreschool](http://www.flickr.com/photos/brymoreschool)

**flickr**



## **Brymore Young Farmers Club (Miss Bradford)**

The Brymore YFC began this terms events with a talk on Bee Keeping by Mr Ken Edwards of Quantock Beekeepers, who is a Master Beekeeper. Mr Edwards explained about the social life of the bees, the importance of the queen and how the hives will separate into swarms; last term the schools senior Beekeeper, James Kerry smoked and contained two new swarms that had settled in a tree by the dining hall. The school has taken over new hives made by the DT Department and these have been filled with bees supplied by Quantock Beekeepers. Due to the poor summer honey production both at school and across the country has been very low this year. Let's hope for a better summer in 2013 that will mean more honey.

Our next speaker was Mr Den Kurle from BASC - The British Association of Shooting and Conservation, who spoke on the history of the Gun and its development through the years, from 10th century Chinese canons through muzzle loaders to the present day rapid fire automatics. Mr Kurle also spoke with great authority on gun safety, particularly on the right way to carry and hold a gun whilst on a shoot or hunting alone. He also supplied the Learning Resource Centre with several Code of Practice leaflets produced by the BASC including ones on Gundogs, Quarry Retrieval, Lamping & Respect for Quarry.

Leader of the Brymore Young Farmers Club Wendy Welland, who is stepping down at half term after five years involvement with the club, gave our third talk on Wool. Starting off with a brief history of wool, how it was used as a currency in Great Britain and used to finance the Empire, with many towns including Dunster's wealth built on wool and how wool still plays an important part in British Government with the Speaker of the House of Commons sitting on the Wool Sack. Wendy came with an entire fleece and showed how to card and then spin the wool into yarn. Wendy used both a spinning wheel and a hand spinner, which she explained was something that shepherds used while walking the fields caring for their flock.



Chairman Charlie Coleman of Year 10 gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the boys to all the speakers.

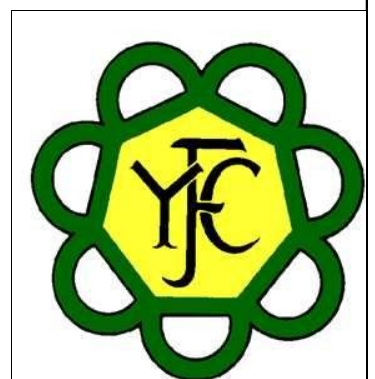
Our next speaker, the last before half term, was Mr Tony Buller with a talk on Falconry. He was accompanied by at least one Bird of Prey.

Two boys, James Kerry from Year 11 & Charlie Coleman from Year 10 represented the School at the Somerset YFC Harvest Thanksgiving Service held at Wells Cathedral on 7th October. Both boys were asked to take the leaving collection at the end of the service. Afterwards they attended the Harvest Supper in Wells Town Hall where they met and spoke with several Old Boys both young and old. The boys were accompanied by Mr Paul Kingston Farm Manager and Miss Helen Bradford School link to Somerset Young Farmers.

I would like to thank those parents who have actively encouraged the boys to join the club; we are averaging 12 members each Wednesday evening. Thanks especially to the year 9 boys who have to rush from Year 9 Fitness at 7:30 to get to the LRC by 8 and to the duty house parents who allow them to be later back than 9pm as we do tend to 'run over' a bit each week.

### **Note from Mr Thomas**

Please note that as Mrs Welland is stepping down the Young Farmers can continue to run, due to Miss Bradford's continued involvement, and the school is ever thankful to her for stepping up to the challenge of running the club.



### Old Brymorians return to help celebrate 60 Years (Mrs Warren)

As the Queen finalises the celebrations of her Diamond Jubilee year, Brymore School begins to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> year of opening.

The celebrations, which will continue over the next academic year, began with the school welcoming back the first class from 1952 along with their Deputy Head, Alan Hemming. Current Brymore Boys waited eagerly to greet the very men who had walked in their shoes 60 years before and who had been the first students to sleep in the dormitories and weed the plots that we still use today.

Mr Thomas formally welcomed the men and he gave a personalised tour of the school, culminating in tea, cake and a chance to reminisce with the Senior Student Leadership Team.



### Sport Equipment (Mr Spridgens)

To parents of rugby playing boys a gumshield is recommended for the rugby season. For those boys considering participating in hockey your own stick will come in useful as the school only has a small supply. For running purposes, running trainers would be a useful purchase; there is no need to buy expensive brands. And finally please make sure that all items of sports clothing are clearly named.

Any boy who runs 60 (or more) Chads this year will receive a commemorative 60th Anniversary badge, a special certificate and will be taken out for a slap up meal!

### Karate (Mrs Mudge)

Boys at Brymore have been given a unique opportunity to learn a martial art with a former European and National Karate Champion. Sensai Arthur Meek started his Karate career at the Bridgwater School of Karate before training in Tokyo and eventually competing at national and international level becoming European Champion in 1989. Mr Meek has dedicated some time to Brymore once a week to enable the boys to learn more about his craft and to impart his wisdom and skills to the boys at Brymore. Should any boy be interested in taking this up then please see Mrs Mudge.



## Boarding Improvements (Mr Thomas)

As you are aware there has been an increased emphasis on improving teaching and learning at Brymore over the past year with the sole purpose of raising examination results and therefore improving the life chances of the students. The results are already evident as described in the introduction of this newsletter. The drive for improvements will continue, as I believe every Brymore boy should achieve the results they are capable of.

However, it has always been my intention to improve boarding in a similar way, so that students get the experience they deserve. With this in mind a 'new' boarding and care team has been assembled over the past term, consisting of new and existing staff. The aim is to provide continuity of care with staff whose sole responsibility is the care of the boys, so that parents have one point of contact. This process was accelerated by the decision of Mr Turner to retire so close to the end of term, with Mrs Close also choosing not to continue with the role of House Parent. Consequently the new structure within boarding can be seen below:

Headteacher	Mr Thomas
Assistant Headteacher (responsible for boarding)	Mr Oliver
Director of Boarding	Mr Watts
House parent (Reid house)	Mrs Reid
House parent (Kemp house)	Mr Fewtrell
House parent (School house)	Miss Gardner
House parent (cover)	Mr Coll
Senior Duty Master	Mr Spridgens



In addition, we have a Duty Master, a member of duty staff and gap tutors on duty during the evenings and at weekends. In the past year a number of students and parents have raised a number of issues that they felt could have been improved. Some of these, along with the action we have taken, are summarised below:

Issue Raised	Action taken
Food	<p>Salad bar now available at lunchtime</p> <p>Extra choice of hot items for students at breakfast</p> <p>Tea/Coffee/toast/preserves/fruit now available in the evening to all students free of charge.</p> <p>Tuck can be purchased from the school at a cheaper price compared to Cannington village shop.</p> <p>We continue to work with our caterers Pro Serve. Feedback from other schools indicates that Pro Serve offer an excellent service compared to other providers</p>
Activities	<p>The activities on offer have continued to increase over the past two years, and especially more recently. Mr Coll now oversees activities along with Mr Watts and Mr Fitzsimons. The parent bulletin, which is available each week on the website, outlines these activities.</p>
Communication	<p>Parents now have a mobile contact number direct to each House parent and Mr Watts the Director of Boarding. The e-mail address of every member of staff is listed in the parent handbook on the website. A weekly parent bulletin is produced, a half termly newsletter (every six weeks), and news items are regularly posted on our website, Facebook page and Twitter. Parents receive a progress report five times a year and a full written report once a year. Re-structuring means that parents now have one point of contact in the evening.</p>
Prep	<p>Prep has moved from dormitories and is now classroom based and supervised more closely. Although the students in some cases have found this difficult, output in prep has increased dramatically.</p>
Staffing	<p>Some older students have found the start of term difficult due to changes in staffing, which happened over the summer holidays. However it has led to increased staff – student ratios at both evenings and weekends. Evening staff have increased from six staff to ten on duty (those staff running activities are additional to this) with weekends increasing from five staff on duty to nine. This will increase by two additional staff from January. This is to ensure student safety and to allow more activities to be run.</p>
Bullying	<p>Student monitors have been removed and effectively replaced by staff. There are other positions of responsibility available to the students, including prefects, duty teams, Heads of Department, Form representative, student council representatives, sports captains and being part of the Senior Student Leadership Team.</p>
Mattresses	<p>The school is looking into purchasing new mattresses in the future. However, students are now able to bring in toppers, as long as they meet fire safety standards.</p>
Common rooms	<p>All common rooms are being re-decorated over the half – term to make them more welcoming, homely and student friendly. They are now open every lunchtime to allow students a place to relax that is inside and supervised.</p>
Student voice	<p>This is an area, in consultation with the students, we are continuing to develop. All common rooms have suggestion boxes and comments books. The student council is the forum where students are encouraged to raise any issues or concerns and they are already responsible for the first reward evening at the end of half term. The Senior Student Leadership Team meet regularly with the Senior Leadership Team and students are encouraged to raise concerns through them. The Headteacher has an open forum every Tuesday from 1.05pm where students can drop in and raise concerns.</p>
Changes	<p>Older students always find changes the most difficult to cope with. We have made a number of changes to improve safety and to ensure the school runs smoothly. We now grade students for effort in prep, take a formal register in the evening to ensure all students are present and carry out dorm checks in the morning to again ensure students are present, dormitories are tidy, students are ready for school and not late to assembly. However many of the other changes listed above (such as food and activities) are hopefully more obviously of benefit in the eyes of the boys.</p>



## Cotswold Farm Park

On October 18th the Year 9's visited Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, near Cheltenham. The park is home to over 40 rare breeds and this gave the boys and staff an eye opening opportunity to see these special breeds up close and to understand the ethos behind breeding them. The boys were given a talk by the Farm Manager, a tour around the park, watched the sheep show and then had time to explore. Adam was busy on the day they visited but many an opportune meeting with boys and staff in the past has given him a flavour of what Brymore is about.



## Golf

The Golf squad continue to attend Cannington Golf Club every Thursday with 8 boys who attend regularly. The boys are fortunate enough to have one hours golf with the PGA professional Ron Macrow. Two boys also spend Saturday afternoons at the club and are looking forward to representing the Junior Golf Academy in a competition in April.



## Boots and Saddles

The Western Re-enactment group, Boots and Saddles, are hoping to be with us for a day in November (weather permitting). They will be setting up camp at the front of the school and boys will visit them in groups to watch some re-enactments taking place. The group of professionals often travel the country to give displays using fully authentic, replica clothing and equipment. This opportunity gives the boys, who will all be studying the American West as part of their History GCSE, a real flavour and hands on experience as to what it would have really been like in the Wild West. The group support the charity Help for Heroes and have asked for a donation of £2 from each boy to be donated to the charity. The group will be here all day so parents are also welcome to visit the group in the afternoon.

## Sports Report (Mr Spridgens)

Rugby: The Year 11 started the season with two wins and then came up against the County Champions - Haygrove School. In a game that was a real credit to both sides, Haygrove finally won 18-17. Spectators, staff and the referee thoroughly enjoyed it with Austin Elliot from Haygrove stating the day after 'Thanks again for the great game last night. Our lads are aching today. I thought your players were superb.' It must be remembered that the Year 11 squad is only 19 in number and when the game was played two years ago Haygrove won 63-7!

The Year 10 team have lost both games played so far but numbers for practice are in the mid 20s which will help in the future, however they have tried very hard and we know where they need to improve.

The year 9 team drew 12-12 with Blake in the only game played so far. Mr Oliver is helping with practice but the numbers attending are low and need to improve if we are going to be able to compete properly in the future.



Hockey: The hockey team played in a mini-tournament recently coming third. The team, although relatively small in numbers, is training very hard and ably led by Captain, Gareth Stockton, it continues to hold its own when competing.

Chads Hill: The Chads Hill run still remains a very popular activity for boys and staff alike. As part of our 60th Anniversary celebrations a special award will be given for those who reach 60 runs this year. With Stockton, Wagstaff, Coleman and Kerkin some of the boys on course to achieve this we hope others will pick up this special challenge. Over 600 runs have been run so far, please ask your son about how many he has run and also his PB (Personal Best) - it's never about your position at Brymore but simply trying your best and improving your PB over the years.

Fitness: Attendance at the evening fitness sessions remains close to 100% with an improvement in the out-boarder category needed to reach full attendance.

### National Race Walking Championships:

Gareth Stockton and Huw Edwards both went to the National Race Walking Championships which were held in Bedford in September to represent Somerset. Gareth managed a personal best time in the Inter Boys 5,000m and placed a podium position of sixth. Unfortunately, Huw found the pace very hot and was disqualified near the end of the Junior boys 3,000m. However this was a great learning experience and we continue to strive in our athletics across the board.



### Brymore's idea goes national (Mrs Warren)

An idea to raise money for the Barnardo's charity at Brymore more than 4 years ago has sparked a national initiative for the charity and this legacy continues to raise money all these years on.

The current Brymore Boys were visited and given an assembly by Barnardo's representative, Robin Turner. Mr Turner informed them that the boys who attended four and a half years ago were so enthused by an assembly that they wanted to raise much needed funds for the charity and so came up with the idea of a virtual cycle ride. The boys hired in exercise bikes, planned and calculated the route from Brymore to Paris and then undertook the challenge whilst raising over £1000 in the process.

Since Brymore threw down the gauntlet with this epic feat many schools have undertaken a variety of approaches including a virtual walk of Mount Everest and a virtual Tour de France under the 'Barnardo's Virtual Challenge' badge.

### Fit for Life at Brymore (Miss Bradford)

Representatives from the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines came to Brymore School for the day, to show the boys how a healthy lifestyle could benefit them both now and in the future. Organised by Miss Bradford all of the boys from Year 10 were treated to a special day of fitness and healthy eating during a Fit for Life day, provided by the armed forces, at the school. The boys were split into their three house groups to undertake a round robin of three different activities. During one round they were taught healthy cooking by a Royal Navy chef, another round involved core fitness and the last circuit was all about team building.



## Salvage Hunters (Mrs Bindon)

During the summer holidays a film crew along with Drew Pritchard came to the school to film part of an episode of Salvage Hunters. Mrs Bindon and Mrs Warren showed Drew and the cameras around the school and were filmed haggling over a few items. Salvage Hunters is often repeated on the Quest channel and we will let you know when our episode will be aired but we have been advised it should be featured in the New Year.

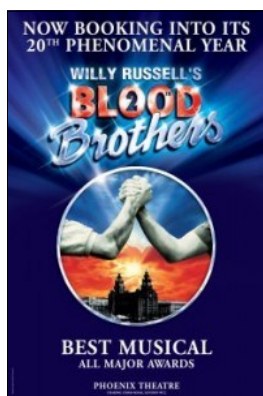


## Cross Country

With a slight nip in the air and some autumn sunshine the weather provided the perfect Cross Country conditions for the 90 boys (10 from each house in each year group) taking part. The Year 9s went off first for one long lap followed by the Year 10s undertaking 2 short laps and the event culminated in the Year 11s who had to complete a mammoth 2 long laps, all of which included jumping the bales of hay on the drive. Galsworthy produced all three winners with Cody Alford (Year 9), Will Foale (Year 10) and Sam Webb (Year 11) however they could not defeat the might of the Taylor House team effort which ensured they took the cup. There really is no Cross Country like a Brymore Cross Country!



## Year 10 'Blood Brothers' Trip to London (Mrs Anstice)



We are very much looking forward to taking Year 10 out to London on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November (first week back) to see one of the final ever West End performances of 'Blood Brothers'. Parents should have received a letter with full details of the day and the paperwork to complete.

Please return the forms and arrange payment with the Finance Office as soon as possible. We know it will be a successful day and get the boys ready for the essay that follows in English!

## Farm news

It's been a busy time down on the farm with new animals and new students to settle in! The Year 9s have all started their tractor driving and most are listening well to instructions and doing very well. In addition they are now all well into the workings of the farm along with understanding how the duties work. Year 10s have been busy helping disbud calves on a local farm and Year 11 have been gaining plenty of practical experience for their BTEC by trimming ewes on another nearby farm. Utilising different farmers and their livestock also goes some way to showing the boys the diversity there is in farming and allows them to understand how different farms work.

Ronnie the Ram has joined our flock of ewes and has started work straight away! Currently his raddle colour is yellow but will be changed to green this week so that we know when the ewes were served and ultimately when they will lamb. Blissful, our Ayrshire cow, has had a heifer calf—fathered by Adrian, and currently all of our other cows are pregnant meaning lots of hands on experience for the boys over the next few months helping with the deliveries. 10 of our British Lop piglets went to market this week and we will have more weaners for sale after half-term should anyone wish to purchase them for meat or breeding. All of our rare breed Lops are pedigree and registered should anyone wish to use them for breeding.

We also now have a mini incubation starter pack which we are hoping to take into local schools to show them the process from egg to chick and will be looking to take some of the boys with us when we visit the schools.



## FoBSA

The Friends of Brymore School Association work very hard to raise extra funds to help the school finance extra things such as Activity Week. The next fundraising event will be a Bingo Night in the school hall on Saturday 17th November arriving at 6 for a 6.30 eyes down. Donations for the prizes would be very gratefully accepted and should you be able to give anything then please send it into the school office before 13th November.

FoBSA did a brilliant job providing cake and soup at the Cross Country and are always on hand to help the school during special events but this sort of brilliance cannot continue without members but you don't need to be a contestant on the Great British Bake Off to join! If you can give an hour to bake a cake, a couple of hours for a meeting or a whole day to help with an event then please consider joining—benefits include new friends, lots of laughs and a feeling of giving back to the school. Often meetings are held on the days you would be coming to pick the boys up so disruption to any routine is kept to a minimum and our meetings nearly always include cake! Jackie White has recently taken over as the Chairperson and any help you feel you can give would be great—should you have any questions or simply wish to volunteer your fundraising, barbeque or baking services please contact her via email at: [topside@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:topside@tiscali.co.uk)

### Duke of Edinburgh (Mr Baker)

30 Brymore Boys from Year 11 ventured onto the Quantocks to undertake their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award expedition and camp.

The boys, grouped in sets of 6, had to prepare and pack their kit, allocate food and plan their route from the school over the hills to the rendezvous point, which was to be home for the night. Setting off into the hills our intrepid explorers trekked around 18 miles, stopping at checkpoints on the way, until they set up camp at Bob Druitt's (Old Brymore Boy and ex-Chair of Governors) farm in Crowcombe. Once the tents were all erected the boys set to the task of cooking their meals of pasta, hot dogs and Smash before having some time to relax and play before ensuring a good nights sleep prior to more walking back to the school the next day.



### Winners of the October Lottery Draw:

**1st Prize £40— I S Ford**

**2nd Prize £25—N J Heal**

**3rd Prize £15—Mr Purcell**

### Taunton Academy cast a Brymore Spur

Brymore is currently welcoming Year 7 and 8 pupils from Taunton Academy on a weekly basis to work within the Technology department.

Brymore and the Taunton Academy have formed a unique bond which means that for an afternoon a week Academy students challenge themselves within the workshops. Currently the students are casting a 'spur', which represents their time at Brymore, in aluminium using the school's foundry and using the specialist lathes to make a mount for it.

Anton Austin, Excellence Teacher (Design and Technology), oversees the running of this partnership and ensures that the children are all taught in a safe environment how to use the tools and machines that are of industry standard. Anton says 'we are really enjoying welcoming the Taunton Academy pupils here and showing them the technology we have but also ensuring that they know how to use it.' Brymore is also looking forward to welcoming more of the Academy pupils over the next academic year.



### Important Dates for next half-term

Monday 5 November	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm	Year 9 Parent Consultation with Houseparents & Heads of Houses
	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Year 10 & 11 Boarders return

***Should your son require tea please contact the School Office by 12 noon on Friday 3 November 2011.***

Saturday 17 November	6.00 pm	FOBSA Bingo
Saturday 15 December	11.00 am	Christmas Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Cannington Students depart at 12 noon