

# Brymore

experience to last a lifetime



## Newsletter

March 2013

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### Message from Mark Thomas - Headteacher

At the end of this relatively short term, my key message to you is a request for help. Next week we are launching a campaign to try and change the governments thinking regarding school league tables and its lack of recognition of land based subjects. In a nutshell, with no land based subjects counting in the league tables from 2015, schools across the country will be dropping them (except us) and the future of the land based economy will be adversely affected due to a lack of a skilled work force leaving school.

So what are we doing about it? We will be writing to parents, old boys, ministers, celebrity chefs, gardeners and agriculturalists, royalty, agricultural and horticultural organisations and anyone else we think will be interested. We will also be contacting local and national media outlets including newspapers, magazines, television and radio. We will be urging people to do a number of things. Firstly visit our website and sign up to our online petition which we will hope will trigger a parliamentary debate. The government is also undergoing a consultation on performance measures and we will be asking people to respond to it, again via our website. However we will also be asking you to campaign for us. Contact people you know, help raise awareness, use whatever contacts you have to try and make a difference. For me, this goes beyond Brymore and is an issue that will affect the British land based economy as a whole.

When your letter arrives, please read the enclosed leaflet and support us in any way you can. Our website is currently being prepared with a section dedicated to the campaign and we will also be using facebook and twitter to spread the word. Should you require more leaflets to distribute to others then please contact the school and we will dispatch them to you. Finally should you have any other ideas then please contact Lorraine Warren at the school.

Finally I must emphasise again that removing agriculture and horticulture from the performance measures will affect schools but not individual students. They still count for the boys themselves which is why we are taking the stand to keep them. However other schools are less likely to, simply because performance measures are seen as a key indicator for parents and Ofsted, and schools will be worried about receiving a poor report and therefore losing students. We are taking a risk, I am sure many schools will not.

I wish you all a happy Easter.

## Sport (Mr Spridgens)



### Rugby

Year 11 team finished the season by narrowly losing a closely fought contest against Haygrove in the Sedgemoor League. The team supported by the whole school, parents, staff and old boys put up a tremendous performance but finally lost 5 – 15. Three days later the same team succumbed to a very strong Millfield team in the final fixture of the season.

The Year 10 rugby fixture list was decimated due to fixture cancellations due to fixture cancellations from other schools. The Year 10 team have more potential than any team in recent years. However, two thirds of the squad are training very hard indeed but the remaining third appear to want success without the commitment and hard work required.

Mr Oliver has supervised the Year 9 rugby contingent. Numbers are very low in this age group and during their last match of the season the team had to be reinforced with three Year 10 players.

### Chads

At the end of term some parents ran/walked Chads just to get the feel of it and to experience what the boys do on, at least, a weekly basis. A good number of boys are well on the way to the big target of 60 in what is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the school.

### Fitness

Numbers for fitness continue to be at a very high level. Unfortunately, it cannot be 100% due to some day boys letting themselves down.

### Cyclocross

Brymore recently held the Sedgemoor Area Cyclocross championships. Although entries from other schools was disappointing, Brymore's team managed to win this being a first in the history of the school. The boys showed a lot of commitment to training, organised by Mr Coll and Huw Edwards won the individual championship.

### Hockey

Several players have visited Bridgwater Hockey Club in the evenings to improve the level of their skills, however, fixtures for the school remained very low. We are looking to improve this in the future.

## Farm news

Lambing is well and truly underway on the farm this Spring. The boys have been great with roles from feeding and checking the lambs along with castrating and ear tagging to actually helping with the delivery. This year has surprised us all with the amount of lambs born and can go up there with being one of our best lambing seasons ever—and we aren't finished yet! So far we have 3 single lambs, 18 sets of twins, 16 sets of triplets and one set of quads meaning that we currently have 91 lambs from 38 ewes. It is fair to say that our ram, Ronnie, is feeling particularly proud of himself. In addition to these new lambs we are also selling last years Texel-cross lambs at Sedgemoor Auction Centre and because they grade well we are seeing good returns on them.



One of our rare breed British Lops, Sybil, has given birth to 16 beautiful piglets recently and two of our other sows farrowed in the half term break which is all good news for keeping this breed going.



We are currently selling some of our fresh pork so please see the farm if you are interested.

Davina, one of our heifers has produced a heifer Beef Shorthorn x Ayrshire and Tinkerbelle had a bull calf Beef Shorthorn x Friesian and both are doing well.

## Library books

There are currently 40 overdue books which if we were to replace would cost over £450.00

Please can all parents ensure that boys return their books – especially those in Year 11. Those not returned by the end of July will be billed for the replacement.

## Bag 2 School collection

We have arranged for a collection of old textiles after the Easter holidays (May 2nd) to raise funds for the school through a scheme called Bag 2 School. If you have any good quality second hand clothing, sheets, blankets, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts or handbags that you may be thinking of getting rid of soon then we would hope that you might consider using this scheme so that the school benefits from the revenue. If you can bag up any items and bring them to school after the Easter break then we would be very grateful, however the scheme does not take wet, dirty or broken things. For further information on the scheme you can visit their website: [www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com)



Many thanks, in advance, for any donations you can give.

## Horticulture (Mr Willcocks)

We have been planting potatoes in the walled garden so that our 'first earlies' will be ready to dig at Open Day. The greenhouse is full to bursting with pricked out seedlings, potted cuttings and we have filled the cold frames and polytunnel with salad crops. The tulip bulbs are coming through now and we look forward to a good display around the school. The soft fruit cage has now been constructed and planted up and we look forward to purchasing a compact tractor with funds donated by the Bridgwater Agricultural Society for which we are very grateful.



Year 10 students have just applied for the roles of HoD within the gardens, they have been interviewed and appointments have been made.

Year 11 students are completing the practical assessment and they now must focus in the project work to be handed in by Easter (there is still some outstanding) and then totally completed by May 25th.

All students need to be reminded that they need to wear overalls and steel capped boots in order to have the opportunity to use the lawnmower.



Year 10 students have been carrying out work experience during practical sessions at the Cannington Centre (Bridgwater College) in their horticulture department. This offers boys an exciting opportunity for students to work with another team of professionals and to learn different skills and gain more knowledge.

The department was recently given 120 tree saplings by Monkton Elm Garden Centre and these will be planted around the school site. Students with plots will be encouraged to prepare and plant these now so that they can return ready to sow lots of vegetable seeds ready to sow.

Can I remind students that we need to take pride in our campus and so nobody should be walking across lawned areas or flower beds because we all work hard to keep the school grounds looking good, despite the bad weather. I would also like to thank the team for all their hard work this half term.

Should you ever wish to purchase plants, vegetables, apple juice or anything else we have available then please come and see the gardens team and we will try to assist.

## Brymore Lottery

February half term winners are:

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| First  | Mr Swain from Wincanton (£40.00)          |
| Second | Mrs Purcell from Blandford Forum (£25.00) |
| Third  | Mrs Herbert from West Huntspill (£15.00)  |

It is never too late to join the Brymore Lottery! The Lottery provides much needed funds for non-essential, but nevertheless, very important items that broaden school life here at Brymore. Membership will cost you an annual fee of £12.00 per number and there will be six draws per year. Please contact Christine Godfrey in the School Office for details.

### House Improvement Team (Mr Fewtrell)

Boys should look out for the new catalogue containing all we sell and the different colours available for a hoody, polo top, bag or other item. The Brymore logo is stitched and there is a choice of printed slogan and nickname. We have bought a large number of items already for the boys using the profit we have made.

- Three sofa suites
- 2 suites for Reid and 1 suite for School House.
- 6 clip frames for the John Deere posters in each house.
- We have just commissioned framing of signed rugby shirts and autographed famous sportsmen pictures for the stairwells and other areas in the houses. We wish to create a 'Sporting Life' wall dedicated to the sports we love.
- 6 new pool cues for the houses plus tips.
- A Nintendo Wii plus 38 games for the Houses.
- Air Hockey table and table football for the boys
- Band Hero for the Wii
- Massey Ferguson goodies for Boarder of the Week prizes
- Leicester Tigers goodies for Boarder of the week prizes

If boys keep investing in the clothing boys and/or Kitbags then not only can the money be used to better the experience here at Brymore but they will also have the item as a keepsake. Please see Mr Fewtrell for an order and see Miss Gardner to get measured up.

Thank you to all of our valued customers.

### Events (Mrs Anstice)

On May 18th we shall be holding a triathlon in school with the hope that many boys will take part in challenging themselves to run, swim and cycle. This has been arranged by the Senior Student Leadership Team and Mr Spridgens.

In addition to this boys will be taking part in a sponsored swim with Mr Spridgens during their PE lessons. Parents will find a sponsor form with this newsletter and we do hope that you will support your son in raising money which will go back into the school.

### FOBSA (Jackie White)

Friends of Brymore School Association is formed of parents and friends (old and new) as a way of helping to raise extra funds for the boys. We put on events like bingo nights and also provide tea, cake and other refreshments on special days like cross-country and open day. We'd love some more volunteers and not only are we helping the school but often new friendships are formed, so if you can spend even an hour helping then please contact the Chair of FOBSA - Jackie White on 01823 672817 or email [topside@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:topside@tiscali.co.uk)

Please be aware that the school office will be closed on Good Friday, Easter Monday, April 11th and 12th but will be open for the remainder of the holidays.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

Friday 3 May	May Day Bank Holiday weekend - Students Depart at 4.00 pm
Monday 6 May	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm Boarders Return
Thursday 9 May	Goals & Opportunities Evening (Primarily for Year 10 parents but all invited)
Saturday 25 May	11.30 am Year 11/12 Leavers Service 2.00 pm Sports Day 3.45 pm (approx.) Students Depart
Sunday 2 June	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm Boarders Return
10-14 June	Work Experience Week
29 June	10.30 am - 5.00 pm Country Fair and Open Day
8-12 July	Activities Week
13 July	10.00 am Swimming Gala 12.00 pm Students Depart (Years 10 and 11) 12.00 pm - 1.30 pm Year 9 Parents Consultation

