

# Brymore

experience to last a lifetime



## Newsletter

June 2013

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### Message from Mark Thomas - Headteacher

Good bye and Good luck - Leavers 2013

I would like to thank everyone involved for making the Leavers Service 2013 such a special occasion. Even though it is aimed at parents of Year 11 and 12, the whole school attend which only enhances the feeling that we are a community, working together and supporting each other. I am sure that teachers across the country will be glad to see Year 11 leave, whether it is because it frees up time for them to concentrate on the recently neglected strategic work, or because some students who have 'outgrown' school are no longer around. That is not the case at Brymore. Whether it is the size of the school, classes, the nature of the activities put on, boarding or simply the hard work of the staff, it is impossible not to care when you have worked closely with a group of young people for three years, watching them grow and develop before your eyes. It is this attention to the individual that makes the leavers service so special and I know I was not the only member of staff to have a lump in my throat or a tear in my eye. I would like to say once again well done to every year 11 and 12, and especially to those prize winners; they were all well deserved. However, all boys have played a significant role in helping shape the school and its future and I hope we have helped improve their chances of success in their life after Brymore.

Thanks for all your support with the Land based campaign -

In the last newsletter I asked for your help and I have to say the support from parents, old boys and many others associated with the school has been overwhelming, further deepening my belief that the Brymore experience does not end when you leave and that the community continues to get ever stronger and ever larger. Over 2,200 people have signed our petition including Jimmy Doherty from Jimmy's farm. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall spoke out on our behalf on Radio 4; media coverage included coverage on ITV West Country News, Radio 4 (twice), Radio Somerset, Breeze FM, various local newspapers including the Western Morning News, Farmers Weekly (mentioned three weeks running), Horticulture weekly and monthly, Smallholder magazine along with many other publications. Around ten or more MPs have become involved in one form or another with Brymore actually being raised in the House of Commons, a reply received from Michael Gove, a visit planned from David Laws to Brymore next week and the Prime Minister himself mentioning Brymore in a speech during a recent visit to the Morrisons manufacturing centre in Bridgwater. More importantly we have had a visit from Pearson Edexcel, one of the awarding bodies responsible for putting examination courses together with a view to working with us to help devise a new land based course to begin in 2014. I am told up to five other land based courses are now being considered. This still leaves a two year gap where land based subjects will not count, but it is certainly a start. We will keep fighting but it shows that by being resourceful, taking some responsibility and showing real resilience Brymore has made a difference at the highest level.

Thank you all, once again.

## Sports Report (Mr Spridgens)

An increasing number of boys are taking up athletics in the evening and we have had boys representing Brymore at the School Combined Events Championship held at Millfield. Toby Bull and George Watts competed and did well in the Junior Boys Pentathlon with Richard Warwick and Jack Wilkins competing in the Intermediate Boys Octathlon, achieving good placings. Gareth Stockton recently came 1st in Race Walking at the Somerset Schools Championships with Nick Bretherton placing 2nd. Both boys have now been selected to represent Somerset in the South West Championships in June 2013.



The disappointing early summer weather has meant less use of the pool than we would have liked, however some hardy Brymore boys still turn up to the evening sessions. Due to the weather the practice for the sponsored swim has been limited. Now that the sun is out we should be able to make up for lost time.

Even during the closed rugby season the Year 9s and 10s have continued their training for when the season begins. Currently we have around 25 members of the Year 10 squad and only 18 for the Year 9 - should any Year 9s wish to pick up this great sport then see Mr Spridgens.

Gareth Stockton became the first Brymore Boy to complete 60 Chads runs in this, our 60th, year. It is a great achievement and with several other boys nearing the magic figure it means that they have really taken this challenge on. All boys who achieve it will be taken out for a dinner to celebrate.

The school held its first triathlon recently and with 33 boys participating in various parts of the event it was a great success.

Taylor House won the overall event and Luca Phillips won the individual Ironman event. Many thanks go to Mrs Anstice and Mr Oliver for their help.



## RYA Sailing (Mrs Mudge)

This Saturday (8 June 2013) we shall start our sailing during activities. This exciting addition to the programme will be held at Durleigh reservoir and is run by SYCSA Somerset Youth and Community Sailing Association. The course is the RYA Seamanship and will be taught by RYA instructors. Should any other boys be interested in coming along then the total cost is £120 and please see Mrs Mudge if you wish to sign up.

## Goodbye Year 11

We would like to thank all parents of Year 11 boys who have attended the Raising Achievement days or expressed an interest in how they can help their son with revision for exams.

Good luck to all of Year 11 in their exams and we hope that you can take all you have learnt at Brymore into the future with you. Photos from the leaver service are now on our Facebook page and should any parents or boys wish copies then please contact Mrs Warren via email ([LWarren2@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:LWarren2@educ.somerset.gov.uk)) and she can get them to you.



### Poetry Competition (Mrs Mudge)

We are running a poetry competition and are looking for boys to submit poems - long or short, funny or sad. Please give completed poems to Miss Bradford, Mrs Mudge or any member of the newspaper team.

The competition will run until the end of June with the following prizes: 5 x £1 vouchers for the canteen tuck shop for the winner and 3 x £1 vouchers for second place.

### LRC (Miss Bradford)

There have been 12 Year 9s who have applied to be Library Assistants in Year 10. The LRC has put in a bid to the Foyle Foundation that awards funds to state school libraries - fingers crossed, we could have some new reading books by Christmas. There will be a second hand book stall outside the LRC on Open Day, 30p for a paperback or 4 for £1.

### Cricket (Miss Bradford)

The year 10/11 Cricket team played their first match of the season at home to Millfield 'C', this was the first time that any sport involving Millfield had been played at home for over 25 years. Millfield lost the toss and were put into bat on a dry but bumpy wicket.

At the end of the 20 overs Millfield had scored 76 for 7 wickets, with Judd Jackson taking 3 wickets for 15.

Henry Mattocks took what will probably be the catch of the season off the bowling of Marcus Slee, a backwards, sideways one handed take of a well struck ball.

After an excellent tea provided by the school kitchens, Brymore took up the challenge.

Ed Foy stayed at the crease for 16 of the 20 overs before being stumped off the bowling of the improbably named Wildgoose for 19. The same bowler had Seamus O'Kelly caught also for 19.

The winning runs were hit by Ollie Herrington who scored 12 from 10 balls, Brymore winning by 4 balls. 77 runs from 19.2 overs.

### Open Day

Just a reminder that we will be holding our annual Open Day and Country Fair on Saturday 29 June which we hope you will all come along to. We have stationary engines, interesting vehicles, BBQ, duck herding collies, craft stalls, open farm and gardens, plant and meat sales, classroom displays, scuba diving, ice creams, stock showing and lots more. It really is a good family day and an opportunity for the Brymore boys to show off the school in all its glory.



### Bag 2 School collection

We would like to thank everyone who gave old clothes, belts, shoes and other unwanted items for the Bag 2 School collection. The final weigh-in meant that we have received a brilliant £165.00 from the company and we will be doing another collection in the Autumn.



### **Year 12 (Mr Fewtrell)**

Just a reminder that next year the school will be offering Year 11s the opportunity to stay on in Year 12 and study the subject of their choice at Bridgwater College, whilst retaining their Brymore identity. Currently we have a number of boys wishing to stay on to follow a range of courses, from A-level to BTEC. The benefit of Brymore Year 12 is that it should offer a smooth transition from school to college, with less upheaval and a greater sense of security. It also provides boys with the chance to study at an 'outstanding' college - rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted over 10 years, whilst benefitting from Brymore's accommodation.

Should you be interested in the Year 12 at Brymore, please contact Mr Fewtrell by phone or email. Applications are currently being collated and interviews are set to take place within the next two to three weeks.

### **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)

### **Brymore Lottery**

The winners for the lottery this half term are:

£40.00      Fiona McCafferty

£25.00      Mrs S Watts

£15.00      Mr S Waind

Should you wish to join the lottery system then please contact Mrs Godfrey in the school office for a form.

### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER TERM**

10-14 June	Year 10 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