

Brymore

experience to last a lifetime



Newsletter December 2014

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Message from the Headteacher - Mr Mark Thomas

Christmas is, of course, the time to be home – in heart as well as body.”

~ Garry Moore

It is understandable nowadays that many people comment on how the real meaning of Christmas is being lost due to commercialism. The money spent on advertising and the hype surrounding the release of the Christmas adverts for big stores somehow does not correlate with a baby being born in a stable because there was nowhere else to go. I thought, yet again, that Mr Willcocks put on a great carol service, not just for the carols, the readings and the participation of so many boys, staff and governors but also for the message behind it all – that Christmas is for everyone.

For people throughout the world it is a special time, and I am sure that includes everyone connected with Brymore. For the past six weeks both boarders and outboarders will have seen little of the family, either as a result of long distance or because of the high pace, intensity and commitment needed for Brymore life. For many the next week or so is not the time to slow down; indeed the lead up to Christmas can often be the busiest time of the year. However, I hope that everyone eventually gets a chance to relax, rest and spend some quality time with the family. Even those of you who must work over Christmas, I hope you will be able to find some time to be at home, in heart if not in body. Personally, I cannot wait to spend some time with my family (although a few days is usually enough!). The joy of watching a three year old opening his presents is something I am really looking forward to and spending time with Isaac will be the best present of all.

So Christmas is a time for everyone. A chance to send a card to someone you have not seen for a while, wish a stranger 'Happy Christmas', help those less fortunate than yourself (as many boys did through the 'Smiles for Christmas' campaign and on 'Christmas Jumper Day'), for adults to remember what it was like to be a child and for everyone to spend time with loved ones.

Thank you to everyone connected with Brymore for your continued support and I wish you all a restful and Happy Christmas.

Brymore bakes for Pudsey (Ms Warren)

Students, parents and staff at Brymore have been raising funds for Children in Need by holding a cake sale, including a donation of a special Pudsey cake from a Brymore mum, Mrs Newbury-Barlow.

Year 7 boys, Samuel Smith and Nathan Brooks, organised the donations of cakes, took charge of the selling and decorated the area. Bringing in over £60 for this worthy cause they did a sterling job in managing the event and even sold out of cake.



Residential trips

We have three planned residential trips in 2015 being organised by staff members. Mrs Taylor-Lane is looking to take a group of boys to the WW1 battlefields and museums in France as part of a history trip near the end of the summer holidays. In addition Mr Sawyer has given out letters about a very exciting visit to Iceland taking in the Blue Lagoon and seeing waterfalls and geysers which should be taking place in October.

With Mr Ball already putting plans in place for the next ski trip, before the current one has even departed, this ever popular trip has grown in popularity since it's inception many years ago.

Should any current or future boys be interested in going on these trips then please see the member of staff organising it or contact the main office and we can ensure your request is processed.

Armistice Day

At 11.00am. as the school clock ceased its chimes the Last Post sounded out over the school. Following two minutes of silence the music again was played and then Mark Thomas, Headteacher read a verse from 'The Fallen' by Laurence Binyon before the procession led by Head Boy Silas Lawson, carrying a wreath and flanked by Deputy Head Boys Bertie Mountford and Daniel Holter-Hovind moved slowly to the front of School House, where the wreath was placed in memory of all who have lost their lives over the last 100 years. Peter Harris and Michael Fry representing the Old Brymori-ans also laid a wreath on behalf of the Old Brymori-ans Association.



The Learning Resource Centre (Miss Bradford)

This second half of term has seen an increase in the issuing of books and unfortunately an increase in the late returning of books! All items are issued for 21 days and need to be returned or renewed once the date in the front of the book has passed. Please would you check that your son doesn't have any overdue books. Those issued in December will show a return date during the holidays but the computer system will sort that out; however, they will need to be returned or renewed as soon as term commences.



The budget has allowed me to update three series of books Young James Bond and The Enemy by Charlie Higson and The Power of Five by Anthony Horowitz. I am also grateful for all the staff and parents who have donated books to the LRC this term.

The LRC continues to be well used by boys during break and lunch times, with PC usage, magazine scouring and some even reading a book! I can safely say the colder weather has not made that much difference.

Of last year's Year 9 Library Assistants, one is still helping and I have two of the current Year 9 working towards their badges.

Careers

Year 10 work experience placement information is trickling into school. If your son has yet to find a placement please ask him to see me in the LRC and I will do my utmost to help him.

In addition for the Year 11 boys it is imperative that college applications are filled in and given to me for references to be added before sending off. Now is the time that Year 11s should be considering which college they wish to attend from September 2015.

The LRC has prospectuses for many FE Colleges, if the college your son wishes to attend is not represented please let me know and I will obtain one from the college in question. Speakers from various local colleges will be speaking to Year 11 this term; the first session by Bridgwater College has already taken place.

Your son can apply to as many colleges, and for as many courses as he likes. Application forms can be sent **as soon as they are completed and the school has attached a reference**. Formal interviews normally commence in April. Many Open Days are held during the schools half terms and holidays, if possible please try to visit at that time.

All applications (whether handwritten or completed on a computer and printed out) **should be returned to me** and I will arrange for a school reference to be written and sent off with the forms. Students will also be given the opportunity to work on their applications during their PSHRE lessons in school. **If an application is made on line, please let me know so that she can have a reference prepared when the colleges request it.**

We strongly suggest that you begin this process now. College Open days are currently being held throughout November and January so **we would suggest that you apply by the end of February 2015 at the latest**. If you have any questions about college applications please do not hesitate to contact me on:

hbradford@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Boarding News (Mr Watts)

It's that time of year already, where Year 7s are experiencing their first ever Brymore festive season, and Year 11s are enjoying their final Brymore Christmas cracker! This is a special time of year at Brymore with cold dark nights and mornings not deterring or preventing the vast array of activities, duties and general business of boarding at Brymore. The past two terms have been busy and eventful, with an added energy level given to the school by the introduction of our first ever cohort of Year 7s. Senior boys have taken on the responsibility of guiding and settling all new Brymore boys both in Years 7 and 9, whilst continuing with the ever mounting pressures of academic studies plus all the added extras associated with being a Brymore boy.

Looking back with fond memories since September there has been much to celebrate and enjoy, from large school events such as bonfire night and Halloween to watching older boys leading group reading activities in Kemp House. Some of the best memories over the past four months have come from the spontaneous events and activities that happen throughout boarding. Personally I have had the pleasure of witnessing a house dance off in Kemp and a number of epic and tense boardgame battles, to School House boys enjoying their new social area in their kitchen discussing the day's events, or who has the most powerful tractor!

As I write this we are enjoying the festive build up to the Christmas holidays in what is a very busy week (largely involving food!), with both boys and staff enjoying a number of events including the prefect Christmas meal, house parties, Smiles for Christmas assembly, mince pie registrations, Christmas dinner and tea and culminating with the Christmas Carol service. I always remember this time of year, as a former Brymore boy myself, as one of the most enjoyable and greatly anticipated, looking forward to spending time with family and friends which I had seen little of during the term. With that said it is also a vital point for Year 11s Brymore journey, with the new year approaching before you know it you will be leaving for exam leave, so please savour these experiences as you will miss them and your extended family here.

Have a great holiday!

RC Car Racing Club (Mr Simmons)

Some fast and furious racing so far this year, with a dominant Tom Watts stamping his authority on the other racers despite a strong challenge from Ollie Price. Several of our new students have lined up on the start and some new rivalries have been formed and some old ones continued with Dylan and Reece Waugh going head to head.

Our new 1/18 scale off road buggies have proven strong enough to take the pace and allow us to run four cars at once, leading to some close racing and spectacular crashes! All in all though everyone continues to enjoy the racing and rivalries are confined to the track.

The DT Department have helped the club with manufacturing some replacement body shells using the vacuum forming machine so the cars are now very distinctive and some of the boys have seen the process through from start to finish which was fascinating.

For next year we have ordered an automatic lap timing system to replace our manual system, this will allow us to time the car to within 1/10th of a second on every lap and should ensure that all racers can see their improvements in real time and have the results instantly, just like their full size counterparts.

It looks like the competition will be just as fierce next term so don't forget to sign up!



Brymore Young Farmers Club (Miss Bradford)



This last half term the Brymore Young Farmers have been busy both in and out of school. After the success of the Rare Breeds Show in September many members from Years 7 & 9 helped Mrs Warren and myself at the Live Stock Winter Fare again at Junction 24; helping the stewards show stock, sorting out and helping sell the prize turkeys and helping raise monies for Burnham on Sea Rotary Club with a 'Guess the weight of the Turkeys' raffle. As usual everyone we spoke to was very complimentary about our boys and needless to say they were a great credit to the school and to Young Farmers.



We again have been very grateful to those speakers who have given up their Thursday evenings to talk to the boys, these include James Green of BASC speaking about water fowling, Richard Melinn on refereeing, Kate Whyte making felt over two sessions and Pam Willis from R.A.B.I. (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute) and how it has helped during and after the flooding of earlier this year.



Brymore was the host of the Somerset Federation of Young Farmers AGM this year. The boys stepped up to the mark once again and ably marshalled by Robert Kerr and Matthew Ranson organised the setting up and taking down of the hall and gowned in white coats and high viz jackets directed the attendees to their parking spaces. This could become a regular occurrence.

An inter-house sponsored 'Welly Relay Race' was held to fund raise for R.A.B.I. as part of their Welly Week country wide fund raiser. The race was won by Walker House with Taylor second and Galsworthy third. Running around the field in wellies whilst carrying one as a baton, was made to look easy.

Three boys entered the Public Speaking heats held at the Cannington Centre and they performed well and came a creditable fourth.



Social Media (Ms Warren)

We find that the use of our Facebook and Twitter pages are a great way to communicate with parents, carers and families with what is happening at Brymore when your son is here. We try to make sure different messages are going out and that we vary the photos of boys so that (if you have agreed) the image of your lovely boy may appear for you to see. Please feel free to 'like' our Facebook page or 'follow' our Twitter page, both of which can be found via the Brymore website so that you can see what is happening.

Year 11 Countdown to Exams (Mrs Davis)

Parents of Yr11 students should receive a Countdown to the exams in January, which features the key dates, deadlines and exam days coming up as the pressure increases and we head ever closer to the summer. This should help boys to get organised and avoid last minute panics. Currently in the process of being put together by staff, the countdown will be issued next term.

Next term will be extremely busy, with boys taking on extra revision sessions in English, continuing their evening sessions in Maths and History, ensuring their ICT coursework is complete to Merit standard, getting ready to hand in Agri and Horti work before the summer and working on their practical projects in DT. PE will be moving into exam revision, as will Science. The term is so short – only five weeks either side of half term – that it will disappear all too quickly and I encourage Yr11s to use this holiday to get on top of things, ready for January. In English, boys have been issues with a Christmas list of things to do to help them prepare for next term. I am sure they will be delighted to receive a York Revision Guide for Macbeth for Christmas! (Actually, I think many genuinely do want this...) My best wishes to all of Yr11. Hope you have a good break and come back prepared and ready to 'raise your game' in the New Year. In the meantime, Happy Christmas!

Prefect Dinner at Blackmore Farm (Mrs Davis)



It's been an exciting and challenging term for the Senior Student Leadership Team of 2014. In many ways they have been the best team we have had – with lunchtime duties sorted by the boys themselves, issues clearly reported and a genuine sense that the boys have led themselves with minimal adult input. At the start of the year the boys performed outstandingly well and led by example, helping younger students to settle in and tackling any concerns they had. Many of them have achieved great things in the last 12 weeks.

For this, the boys were rewarded with a grand Christmas Dinner at Blackmore Farm. They were joined by Mr Winter, Mrs Davis, Mr Watts and Mr Thomas. The lavish spread included succulent roast beef (with heaps of seconds available) and bowls brimming with fresh buttered carrots, cauliflower cheese, peas, broccoli and crispy, buttery roast potatoes. The puddings (as we have come to expect from Mrs Dyer) were incredible. Boys chose from a huge range that included toffee biscuit pudding, banoffee pie, white creamy roulade, strawberries and cream, Blackmore Farm ice cream and more. Even better, once again, everyone was able to indulge in second helpings, which was the highlight of the experience.

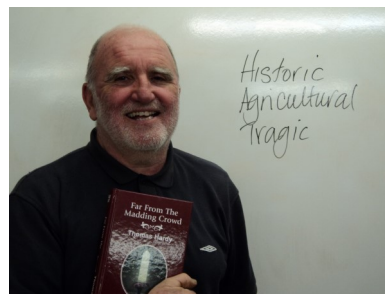
Leadership at any level is not any easy thing to get right and for Silas, Bertie and Dan , the senior prefects and the prefects, this term has been a steep learning curve. What I admire the most in this year group is the way in which, presented with a problem, they will not give up and are determined to see it through until it is right. This dogged determination does have its drawbacks and can make some meetings pretty feisty, especially when boys do not pull together as a team but this is perhaps the biggest lesson they have learned for themselves this term. I am delighted with the way the SSLT has been running in the final week – the level of co-operation and maturity has stepped up another gear and as a result, the school is benefitting from their input. Keep it up boys! Good luck next term.

English News (Mrs Taylor-Lane)

This term Year 7 have been trying to create a 'buzz' about books! Each student has been provided with a free book of their choice from Bookbuzz. Bookbuzz is a reading programme which supports schools to encourage reading for pleasure and independent choice and develop a whole school reading culture. Students have had the opportunity to choose their book from a list of 17 titles. The books are all suitable for 11-year-olds and are selected by an independent panel of experts to cover books across a variety of genres, styles and abilities.

Now students have their book, they have been charged with reading and enjoying their choice. In addition to this, there is a competition for Year 7s to enter where they have to complete a book review on the book they have read. The winning entries will receive prizes and their work will be displayed in order to help create a buzz about books for the next incoming year group.

In addition, staff have been bringing in their current reading books and have been photographed with words to describe the book - it is always great for students to see that we read too!



Head Boy Report (Silas Lawson)

This half term has been a very successful six weeks at Brymore, with the duty teams doing an excellent job at lunch times and break times, at various stations around the school, sorting problems out and also helping in the dining hall. To thank all the duty teams there is now a senior prefect and prefect common room with tea, coffee and biscuits as a reward.

There was also a senior prefect and prefect meal at Blackmore farm to reward all the hard work that has been done throughout the term. Leading up to Christmas has become more fun and exciting as every day passes with boys wearing their Christmas jumpers into tea and houses and dorms being decorated from top to tail with decorations. There has also been regular meetings with the student council where there have been a lot of good decisions made, especially the food group where we are working together with the kitchens to get more variety and better quality food.

With the ever growing pressure of our GCSE's coming up it is amazing how people have coped with the pressure along with doing their duty's and also the farm, gardens, DT and sports. Keeping up to date with subjects is vital and it's good that we have so many members of staff that will dedicate their time to helping us. I have no doubt that next half term will keep on getting better for us and so will the school.

Students Remote Access (Mrs Porter)

Students at Brymore have the ability to logon to the remote desktop from home, meaning any work they have saved at school can be accessed when on holiday or at weekends along with any resources on the system for them.

All boys have a logon and have received an email with the link for the remote desktop so that they can install on a home computer or laptop. Should any parents wish to clarify this further then please contact the school.

Saturday Activities (Mrs Jones)

Next half term sees another development in the diversity of our curriculum, made possible by our links with Bridgwater College. In order to further broaden our student's experiences here at Bridgwater we have teamed up with the staff at the Bridgwater College Cannington Centre to offer a range of practical activities and workshops as part of our Saturday afternoon programme. The first students will begin their courses in Tree Climbing (Arboriculture) and Angling and Fisheries in January and it is hoped to be able to continue to offer a range of courses each term. Letters will continue to be sent home via students and published on the parent letters section of the website so please take a look at the end of each half term!

Horticulture (Mr Willcocks)

Boys have been working hard to make Christmas wreaths to sell and they have proved very popular with both staff and parents alike. We would like to thank all parents and staff that purchase items from our Horticulture trolley on Saturday afternoons and at the end of half terms as this goes a long way to helping us purchase new things for the department. In addition a big thank you to students Max Nash, Max Webber and Samuel Perrett who help with the selling. Work has continued on boys plots and the weeding and general maintenance of them has given the boys lots to do. We have started pruning the soft fruit bushes in preparation for the summer. Maintenance work on the beds and borders continues in earnest, the boys are learning lots about this during their Horticulture lessons, and the leaf collection is still a job that is ever present to us. We have some interest shown in our production of cut flowers and we are readily preparing for this for next summer.



Please can boys in Year 7 and 9 return their permission slips for the upcoming Horticulture trips if they haven't done so already. All boys need to have warm clothes to wear under their overalls and wet weather gear as our practical outdoor lessons do not stop even in bad weather.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who has donated the Morrisons 'Lets Grow' vouchers - these do come in very useful and we use them on a variety of different purchases within the scheme.

Old boys meet our new Year 7 (Ms Warren)

The surviving first three years of Brymore boys returned to the school, along with the first ever Deputy Head, to meet the inaugural group of Year 7 boys. Alan Hemming who is now 94 was Deputy Head from the opening in 1952 and stayed in post for 30 years.

The Old Brymorian welcomed Mr Hemming as their guest of honour as they planted a tree on the edge of the cricket field.

The first group of Year 7 boys in Brymore's illustrious history spent time talking to the first ever Brymore boys, who are now in their 70s, exchanging tales of how life at Brymore has changed.



Farm News

It feels like another six weeks have flown by down on the farm. We now have six Light Sussex hens bought in to go with the cockerel allowing us to incubate eggs to be hatched next half term during the Year 7 lessons. This should be a great addition to the learning of life cycles for the boys. Year 7 boys have been working on counting wheat, barley and oat in a 1000 weight project. They then had to work out the rates of seeds planting and placed grains on wet paper towels to see how many germinated in order to help them with their workings out.



Mr Bryant helped some boys weigh calves for the second time in 56 days and then for prep they had to calculate weight gains, work out the pen sizes for the calves and whether there was enough space in their 'freedom for discomfort' project.



Our lucky rams, Ronnie, Sammie and Charlie, have spent some time with the ewes this half term and hopefully will mean that lambing will be busy for us in March! We continue to take and sell lambs at the local market.

Cow 102 calved a Beef Shorthorn bull calf from when our previous bull, Adrian, served her. We also have a new Boar called Max so we look forward to seeing how he performs in the future.



Please can all parents ensure that boys have warm clothing to wear underneath overalls, including gloves and hats, and waterproofs for lessons.

Equipment (Miss Rundle)

Please can you ensure your son has all the stationery equipment he needs for lessons. Items such as pen, pencil, ruler, protractor and erasers are vital for their learning so please add them to their stocking this Christmas.

The visit of Sir David Carter—Regional Schools Commissioner (Mr Thomas)

As predicted two years ago, our exam results this year took a dip due to the non- inclusion of agriculture and horticulture in the league tables. This prompted a visit from Sir David Carter whose job is to intervene in 'under-performing' schools across the South West of England. He is a very experienced ex-Headteacher whose powers are wide ranging, including the ability to remove Headteachers and governing bodies if necessary! When I knew we were due a visit from one of his team, I wrote to him and asked him to visit personally, because I felt our drop in results was for a political reasons, not due to 'under-performance'. I am delighted to say he not only visited us, but was genuinely impressed with what he saw. He told me he was 'blown away by the quality of teaching and learning' that he saw.

Having met him again recently he also reported that he mentions Brymore in many of his key note speeches around the country, including those to Ministers, as an example of a school where the figures do not match what is actually going on. He felt that Brymore needs no intervention and he has lobbied Ministers on our behalf about the position of agriculture and horticulture. What about the figures? Well they have just been released and the predicted drop is there. Brymore has dropped from the top 3% of schools nationally for progress to the top 43%. So we are still in the top half of schools nationally, without the inclusion of our two highest performing subjects. If they were included I am confident we would have been in the top few percent again. I am also pleased to report that the progress figures for maths and English were incredibly high placing us in the top 13% and 15% of schools nationally for these subjects. The year group when they joined us in Year 9 placed in the bottom 3% nationally, so the figures are even more remarkable.

In summary, it is clear why Sir David was impressed and it shows that academically Brymore boys are as good as anyone when it comes to progress on a national scale.

Sports Report (Mr Spridgens)

Rugby

At last! After 20 matches without a win since they started at Brymore, the Year 11 team finally won a rugby match when they beat local rivals, Shapwick 37-7. Lo and behold this was followed by another win against BCA 43-12. In the other age groups all three teams are showing much promise, however, each team could do with even more boys attending practise. A good squad is usually made up of between 25-30 boys. Morgan Scott (Year 10) played in five consecutive Year 11 matches and therefore will receive his rugby playing tie, only the third time that a Year 10 boy has achieved this honour. Throughout the recent sickness bug the school managed to maintain its fixture list and never cancelled a fixture.



Hockey

The mixed age group hockey team under the guidance of Mr Williams and Mr Sawyer recently played their first game of the season against Haygrove. Although they lost that particular match they went on to get a creditable draw against Chilton 0-0. The highlight of this second game was Charles Grossey playing for the school team as a Year 7 boy. Hockey practises take place for all age groups on a Monday at 4.00 pm.



Fitness

Attendance in all four year groups continues to remain very high



Chads

In spite of the threat of Chads finishing because of the work on the road going across the drive, we are still able to keep the run going for the time being and even when it is cut across the front and back drive, we hope to maintain this activity until the work actually reaches the Chads Hill road itself, when we may have to reconsider the route. At least 11 Year 7s have now run Chads having run the qualifying time for the front drive/back drive run. Nicholas Payne currently holds the fastest Year 7 time with 24 minutes 2 seconds.

A particular mention goes out to Year 9, Dylan Waugh, who completed his first Chads in a time of 1:02:32 to much applause.

The sports department continues to run because of the commitment of the staff and boys. At this point can I take the opportunity to thank the four Gap Students - Elliot Cooper, Jack Harnwell, Declan Heels and Andrew Lee, who have also supported us tremendously throughout the year. I wish them well for the future.

Activities (Mr Bagshaw)

These first two terms have been my first in charge of activities and trips and the message I'm hearing from the boys so far seems to be positive!

In terms of activities we've had the usual evening paid activities running with Engineering and Blacksmithing proving very popular. The new cricket and archery clubs seem to be thriving too with the school entering two teams into the Somerset Indoor Cricket League starting in January.

At the weekends we've had the usual trips to bowling and paintball along with regular cinema trips, (my brain is still struggling to come to terms with the ending of Interstellar!). Further afield we have visited The Fleet Air Arm museum, Weston-Super-Mare Pier, Taunton, Cribbs Causeway and Street Shopping Village.

My own personal favourites of the term were our first bonfire and fireworks night which went off with no hitches and plenty of bangs although I was a little concerned to see mine and Mr Fewtrell's faces attached to the School House Guy though! It was a very good evening all round.

Secondly, I thoroughly enjoyed taking nearly 50 boys to Bath Rugby Club to watch the Combined Services rugby team against the Barbarians Touring Team. It was a thoroughly entertaining game of rugby and the boys all seemed to enjoy the experience.

More trips are being put in the pipeline for the new term including Stonehenge and go-karting among the ideas being mooted at present. This will all be decided over the next few weeks and published ready for the new term.

Goodbye Gaps!

We are sad to be saying goodbye to our Gap Tutors, Mr Harnwell, Mr Heels, Mr Cooper and Mr Lee, who have been with us since January working with the boarding team. They have worked hard and integrated with the staff and boys with ease and will be missed by everyone, however we wish them a lot of luck as they embark upon the next phase of their lives back in the southern hemisphere. We look forward to welcoming the new gaps Mr Wood, Mr Whittaker, Mr Crow and Mr Chellew in January 2015.



Smiles for Christmas

For the third year in a row the boarding team have organised the Smiles for Christmas campaign and creating what is now an annual festive tradition for Brymore. Boarding houses were tasked with bringing in gifts to create a large hamper for those in need locally at this time of year and the result was three houses full of chocolates, biscuits, toiletries and bottles of drink. All with the purpose of putting a smile on the faces of people who may be alone or who do not have the money to enjoy Christmas like many of the rest of the country. In addition the houses had to design the actual hamper to be judged by external visitors. Alice Greenslade and Ted Cubitt came into the school to judge the hamper competition and to explain about their charity 'Cannington Combined Charity' which raises money and distributes to the local village community. They were extremely grateful for all the hard work and efforts and the hampers will be used to help those locally have a smile on their faces this Christmas.



Building works (Mr Thomas)

For many boys Christmas has come early this year with the influx of heavy machinery, diggers and cranes as the construction of the new dining hall and Cannington bypass gets underway. The dining hall is on schedule to be completed in May with the steel frame up and the walls beginning to take shape. The by-pass is a much bigger project. However, it is hoped that the disruption to the school will be minimal as it is being constructed. The front drive is closed over the Christmas holidays, but should be open again by the time the boys return in January. I would be grateful if parents could observe all signage during the construction as vehicles may, at times be diverted along back drive in order to enter the school.



I have written about the bypass many times before. Yet now that it has started, I must yet again state that it is something that I have been opposed to from the outset. I would like to thank the construction company who have been incredibly helpful in working with us to minimise disruption to the day to day working of the school. Nevertheless, it is clear that part of the history of the school was lost with the removal of twelve trees that formed part of our magnificent driveway. Brymore will continue to have a grand entrance, but not the entrance it once had.

Christmas Jumper Day (Ms Warren)

On the last full day of the school term before Christmas we joined in with the national Save the Children initiative and asked boys and staff to wear a festive knit for the Christmas Jumper Day. We were delighted with the variety and effort and prizes were given out in assembly for the best judged outfits. We raised just shy of £200 for this charity to help children across the world.



Junior Leadership Team in Boarding (Mr Fewtrell)

All Year 10s are invited to apply to become part of the new JLT (Junior Leadership Team). The JLT will support Year 7-10 boys after school. The JLT will be given specific responsibilities and as a member of the JLT boys will need to be resourceful, responsible and resilient. Ask a Houseparent for more details.

Staffing (Mr Thomas)

I would like to thank the gap tutors who are written about elsewhere in this newsletter for their magnificent work this year. Thanks also to Mr Manlow who yet again agreed to come out of retirement to teach maths this term. As a Headteacher it is always comforting when you know that you have someone of his quality and experience to cover a temporary gap. I am delighted that we have eventually secured an experienced full time maths teacher, Mr Hildred, who joins us from Bucklers Mead Academy in January.

It is with real sadness that we say goodbye to Sue Baker, who retires after 20 years of service as a cleaner in the school. Towards the end of her career Sue would start work at 4.30am and many staff would not only be greeted by a clean classroom or office in the morning but a smile and an amusing story about what she had been up to. She was typical of Brymore staff: hard working and superb at what she did. She will be sorely missed and we wish her a long and restful retirement.

Brymore Lottery

Winners of the December draw are:

1 st	£40.00	KL & CA Hall
2 nd	£25.00	Mrs Foster
3 rd	£15.00	Mr Pike

Cheques will be in the post to these lucky people. If you would like to join please contact Mrs Hill in the main office.

FOBSA

We are grateful to FOBSA for all their hard work. Should you wish further information then the following parents are the main FOBSA contacts:

Chair: Andree Chandler

Treasurer: Michelle Harris

Secretary: Delia Brandwood

Should anyone else wish to join the FOBSA committee, offer help for key events or simply get in touch, then Andree can be contacted on: 07754 545677 or andree2058@gmail.com

Upcoming dates for the diary - Spring and Summer Terms 2015**SPRING TERM**

Monday 5 January	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm	Year 11 Parent Consultation
INSET DAY	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Years 7, 9, 10, 12 & 13 boarders return
Tuesday 6 January	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Saturday 7 February	4.00 pm	Years 7, 9, 10 & 11 depart for Spring half-term
Friday 13 February		Years 12 & 13 depart for Spring half-term
Monday 23 February	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm	Year 10 Parent Consultation
INSET DAY	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Years 7, 9, 11, 12 & 13 boarders return
Tuesday 24 February	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Saturday 28 March	10.00 am 11.30 am 2.00 pm 4.00 pm	Year 11 Raising Achievement Sessions for Parents Parents Chads Hill Run/Walk Rugby & Hockey House Finals All students depart for Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM

Monday 13 April		Years 12 & 13 return
Monday 20 April	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm	Year 9 Parent Consultation
INSET DAY	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Years 7, 10 & 11 boarders return
Tuesday 21 April	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Friday 1 May	12.30 pm	Years 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 depart for Bank Holiday weekend
Tuesday 5 May	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	All boarders return
Wednesday 6 May	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Saturday 23 May	11.30 am 1.30 pm 3.45 pm (approx.)	Years 11, 12/13 Leavers Service Sports Day All students depart for Summer half-term
Sunday 31 May	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	All boarders return
Monday 1 June	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Saturday 27 June	10.30 am - 5.00 pm	Open Day and Country Fair
29 June - 3 July		Work Experience Week (Year 10)
6-10 July		Activities Week
Saturday 11 July	10.30 am 12.00 pm	Swimming Gala All students depart for Summer holidays