

# Brymore

experience to last a lifetime



## Newsletter October 2014

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### Message from Mark Thomas - Headteacher

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 was an historic day for Brymore as the first ever Year 7 boys arrived before officially starting school the next day. Just like the class of 1952 they were pioneers, the first of their kind to experience Brymore and a new way of working. Things have changed slightly; undergrowth did not need hacking back in order to get up the drive, we have not set them challenges like seeing who could collect the most stones, excavating a swimming pool by hand or endless digging in order to establish the beds in the walled garden. However, records have been created. Nicholas Payne and Harry Meade are the Year 7 school record holders for 'front drive back drive'; their names will remain in the record books forever. Ben Coggan scored the first ever try for the Year 7 rugby team and Harry Meade is the first ever winner of the Year 7 school cross country championships. Each boy here has made history.

Meanwhile, let us not forget Year 9, who have created their own bit of history as they too have embarked on their Brymore career. It has been an incredibly busy half term and I would like to thank those boys in Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 who have helped support the new boys, modelling the way we do things at Brymore. There have been countless examples of older boys supporting, caring for and helping younger boys, which is a real pleasure to see.

Harvest is all about reaping what you sow, gathering the food which has been a result of months and years of hard work and hopefully celebrating a good agricultural year. On a similar note, I must congratulate the Year 11 of last year, whose results demonstrated their commitment to our motto 'Diligentia et Labore' and they continued the recent trend of achieving what will no doubt be some of the best progress results in the country. Of course that will not be reflected in the league tables, now that agriculture and horticulture do not count. However, it counts for them, and that is what matters. Part of my job is to convince Ofsted to look behind the headline figures, something that prospective parents clearly have done. Brymore is now 'full' in many year groups with expanding waiting lists. Last year, 18 families attended our Open mornings; this year, there were 79! The demand for places is high and I predict record numbers applying this year. Rest assured, however, there are no plans to expand further. Three classes in a year group, average class sizes of 16-17 and the ability for staff to really get to know each boy remain as key ingredients in the Brymore experience.

I write this the day before the Harvest Festival, cross-country championship and Pym's night - a day that, for me, sums up Brymore. It is a chance for parents to celebrate with boys and staff at the Harvest Festival, where boys who would not be given a chance to read elsewhere, and may well struggle, will stand in front of hundreds with confidence. Boys who may not be natural athletes will compete in the cross country striving to earn points for their house, no doubt cheered on by staff, boys and parents alike. Others will help run the event and ensure all competitors are safe. Meanwhile parents, through FOBSA, will provide much needed refreshments. Finally, as many of you will have arrived safely back at home, some Year 11, 12 and 13s will be serving the Old Brymorians at their annual Pym's night celebration, where the guest speaker will be Neil Parish MP - a former Brymore 'Old Boy' himself. 'Diligentia et Labore' and an 'Experience to last a lifetime', all in one day!

Thank you again to all staff who have worked incredibly hard this half-term, and I hope all staff and boys have a restful half-term break and that parents enjoy the time with their son, catching up on an eventful six weeks.

### **Forest School (Mr Ball)**

We have had a great start to Forest School for the Year 7s. The boys have greatly enjoyed these sessions. We started by looking at what's in store during their Forest School experience, discussing the health and safety issues associated with using tools, before boys practised safely using outdoor kettles to make tea and hot chocolate. We have also started to make wooden mallets that the students can use in future sessions of Forest School.



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

Piano lessons will begin after half-term, as we have secured the services of an excellent tutor. Lessons will take place on a Monday. Boys who have signed up will be given a timetable of their lessons. In addition, a new drum tutor has been appointed after Mr Kroll relocated at the beginning of the term. He did a great job and we are very grateful to him. Mr Forkes, the new tutor, has met the boys and will begin lessons after half-term on a Monday and Tuesday evening and again boys will be given their slots.

### **Tutoring (Mr Winter)**

#### **Vertical tutoring**

This summer term saw the successful introduction of the vertical tutoring system, which meant creating 15 new tutor groups, which include students from Years 7, 9, 10 and 11. The aim was to improve cohesion across the year groups and provide even greater leadership opportunities for boys. To enhance the effectiveness of the tutorial periods, we increased the time spent with their tutors and have introduced a vertical tutoring programme to help improve the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development of the boys at Brymore.

The changes are already paying dividends, with improved relationships across the year groups. Thanks to the increased tutor time, staff have been able to get to know the boys in their tutor group quickly and get a much more detailed impression of how they are doing. Pairing Year 7 and 9 students with Year 10 and 11 students has provided opportunities for leadership and created friendship across the years. The most rewarding element by far has been the excellent commitment of older boys to looking after younger boys. They have led the way through kindness, empathy and consideration and it has been a pleasure watching them take care of new boys, offering them support. We are excited about the positive impact this has already had and look forward to building on the early successes of the programme.

#### **Mentoring**

Last week, tutors mentored the boys in their tutor group. Thus, every boy should be returning home this holiday having had a one to one session with his tutor, focusing on his academic targets and his own, personal growth. The boys will keep these targets in their planners and review them next half term, in their next mentoring session.



## Pastoral Student Questionnaire

This September saw the introduction of two new year groups and it was more important than ever to gain a better understanding of how the students feel at Brymore and to give the boys an opportunity to express their views. During tutorial, boys filled in an Ofsted Safeguarding Questionnaire and the results were highly encouraging. We promised the boys that we would let them know the outcome of the survey and this newsletter is a good opportunity to feed back the results. It is worth noting that in Ofsted terms, a response of 80% or above is considered 'outstanding'. The results of the Brymore pastoral questionnaire were as follows:

98% of boys felt encouraged to do things for themselves and take on responsibility.

95% of boys felt that teachers at Brymore explain how they can achieve more.

86% of boys felt that their views were listened to.

96% of boys felt that teaching at Brymore was good. (No boy disagreed). The remaining 4% felt they did not know, because they felt they had not seen enough of the school.)

80% of boys felt that behaviour was good.

91% of boys felt that they enjoyed school.

96% of boys said they felt safe at school, with the remaining 4% saying they did not know. Most importantly for us, no boy said that he felt unsafe at school.

91% of boys felt that the leaders of the school do a good job.

94% of boys felt that the school helps them to understand and respect people from other backgrounds.

87% of boys felt that the school helps them to prepare for the future.

All in all these results are highly encouraging. It is crucial for us to know that the boys here feel happy and safe, stretched academically and listened to. We took the opportunity to pick up any concerns raised by any boy because this is how we move forward, together.



## Parent Questionnaire

Meanwhile, new parents have filled in a questionnaire which centred on the process of induction and asked for valuable feedback with regard to how they felt it had gone. We do this every year and always adjust the following year's induction programme in response to suggestions.



96% of parents felt that the induction programme helped their son to settle in to Brymore.

98% of parents felt that communication from the school was good.

94% of parents said their son had enjoyed the first week of school. Given how easy it is to feel homesick in the early days at boarding school, this is truly encouraging for us.

Thank you to all parents who filled in the questionnaire and commented so positively on your son's first week here.

## Course Information Booklets (Mrs Davis)

A Course Information Booklet has been issued to parents of Year 10 and 11 boys. This document has been created with Heads of Department at Brymore and is to give you an overview of the topics that your son is studying each term and the assessments he is completing, so that you can support him at home or over the telephone in term time. If you have any subject specific questions please contact the Head of Department (contact names and email addresses can be found within the booklet).

## Morrisons Vouchers

Once again we are collecting the Morrisons vouchers for schools, which began being distributed recently. 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.



## Ploughing Match (Mr Kingston)

On a sunny Saturday in September Joseph Parkman, Alistair Rook, Billy Taylor and myself went to the Bridgwater Agricultural Society annual ploughing match. The boys performed superbly. They were the winners of the Under 21 category, came 4th in the hotly contested novice category, while the Brymore silage came 2nd. The boys conducted themselves really well and both the judges and the public were highly impressed by them.



## Horticulture (Mr Willcocks)

As always the first half-term is filled with our newest boys learning the ropes in Horticulture, at a very busy time in the horticultural calendar, where we harvest apples and turn them into cider and apple juice, which should be ready after Christmas.

Brymore has worked closely with Cannington in Bloom and we were delighted when recently we won the 'Outstanding Contribution by Youth' award at the 'South West in Bloom' prize-giving.

Lots of work is happening by boys on their plots, although I would like to take this opportunity to encourage those boys who still need to put in more effort. You really do get out what you put in. We are hoping to run some trips for the Year 7 and 9 boys and information will be forthcoming to parents on this soon.

Many thanks to the HoDs who help with the garden duties after school. This is an essential part of the school day and it helps the department to function better and ensures the school is looking at its best. In addition, the HoDs have done weekend watering which is vital, so extra thanks to those that did this. Boys have been involved with making confetti to sell at the upcoming wedding fair and Mrs Stanley has been helping show them the skills required for this. We have many winter hanging baskets and potted plants for sale and we are taking orders so please talk to myself or Mrs Stanley and we can create something for you.

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. As ever, we are grateful for your support in this matter.



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

This year's membership is currently standing at 45 - making us the largest club in the Somerset Federation. We are also very lucky to have Mr Alistair Weldon, the schools Blacksmith join Mr Mahon and myself as leaders of the club.

We have been very fortunate with speakers this half-term; Mrs Wendy Welland spoke to boys about identifying animal skulls; Michael Fry gave a fascinating insight into 'Being a Brymore boy in the 1950s'; Neil Garrod talked to boys about raising Gun Dogs, while I was able to offer my own experiences of 'Working in Thailand.' (And I still have my holiday snaps of the Galapagos' Islands if needed)!

Two senior members of the club, Zak Hevness and Rob Kerr represented the school at the Harvest Thanksgivng Service at Wells Cathedral and afterwards at the Harvest Supper at Wells Town Hall, where many old boys and supporters of Brymore took the time to speak with them.

Next half-term we will learn about Wild Fowling, Felting; Refereeing and we look forward to a talk from the Royal Agriculture Benevolent Institute. The Club and the Academy will be hosting the Annual General Meeting of the Somerset Federation of Young Farmers on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November; thus, our boys will not only be attending but are responsible for setting up and directing members to both parking and the hall.

The Club will also be represented at the Christmas Carol Service at Westonzoyland Church in December.

### **A word from the Head Boy (Silas Lawson)**

I am really pleased to be Head Boy of Brymore, giving me the opportunity to be a role model and to represent the Academy in positive ways, whilst striving to make it better. I came to Brymore because of the many practical subjects that we do here, especially the agriculture, which will help with my future because I want to work in the agricultural industry.

Since I have been Head Boy I have built a strong and dedicated team of Senior Prefects and Prefects. I designed the first duty rotas, which we now keep refining, as we aim to be the most organised, efficient and productive SSLT. A vital part of my role is listening to the views of the boys so that together, we can build Brymore's future. However, I would be unable to do this without the SSLT and the two Deputy Head Boys, Daniel and Bertie, who have contributed a lot to making Brymore even better. My aims as Head Boy are to give every boy the best experience of Brymore and to give everyone a voice in changing it for the better. Most of all, I feel it's my duty to lead by giving a positive attitude around the school.



### **Open Morning (Ms Warren)**

We held two Open Mornings for prospective parents this half-term and were overwhelmed by an unprecedented number of families who came to view the school.

The Year 7s and 9s, only weeks away from being new boys themselves, showed visitors around with pride and enthusiasm. As usual, we received countless compliments about the boys' manners, attitude, and confidence. Thank you to all the boys that helped on these days - you were a credit to yourselves and Brymore.

Mr Thomas is currently meeting and interviewing prospective boys and their parents. We have received a high number of applications for this time of year and early indications are that we will be oversubscribed for both Year 7 and 9 for September 2015.

## Cross Country

Another fantastic cross country day for Brymore took place at the end of this half term on a perfect autumnal day. As Mr Spridgens explained in his final speech, the key to cross country at Brymore is not the winner but the team.

Each house competes to achieve the least points (the first boy to arrive receives a 1, the next a 2 and so on) and so each and every boy who runs is running not just for himself but for the good of his fellow runners.

As is always the case it is an absolute pleasure to watch the boys applauding at the finish line, the applause getting louder and more appreciative until the last runner receives an overwhelming show of hands. At Brymore, the true winners are not just those who come first, but those who have the guts and stamina to keep going no matter what. Special mention is worth giving to Owen King and Jamie Ursell, who were 'backmen' for the day, helping those at the end to complete by shadowing the course several times - a true challenge and not an easy task to run that far either.

We would, however, like to congratulate those boys who did come first in their year groups: Harry Meade (Year 7), William David-Jarman (Year 9), Harry Taylor-Page (Year 10) and Daniel Holter-Hovind (Year 11) along with all those boys who ran for their team.

At the end of the morning, the trophy was awarded to Taylor, with Walker a close second and Galsworthy third. Mr Winter was rightly ecstatic with his team and is hoping that this is the start of exciting times on the sports arena for Taylor.

FOBSA did a superb job serving tea, cake and soup to the parents, with the best spread of cakes Brymore has ever seen. All monies raised will be re-invested in Brymore, thanks to FOBSA. Should anyone be interested in offering help to FOBSA, whether it be through baking a cake or fully joining the committee, then please contact Andree Chandler on 07754 545677.

We look forward to welcoming you to our next big Brymore event, the Christmas Carol Service in December.





## Sports Report (Mr Spridgens)

### Rugby

Unfortunately the Year 11 fixture list has been disrupted by the opposition cancelling and postponing matches. As a result they have only played one match so far against a very strong Haygrove team and after a very poor start in that game they pulled themselves together but still finally lost 34-0. In the junior age groups the Year 10s have lost two matches; the Year 9s have won one game and lost one game and in our newest age group the Year 7s lost their first game to Haygrove 35-5. Numbers at practice are good but there are still places for more boys.



### Hockey

Mr Sawyer has taken on running the hockey practice on a Monday. It is vital that boys attend practice and we are looking for more boys to ensure that the team is well trained and ready for matches. As yet there have been no fixtures.

### Chads

As you may already know the Cannington relief road will be cutting across various parts of the Chads Hill run within the next year. It is still a very popular activity and we will endeavour to carry on the run for as long as possible. Other routes are being looked at so that the idea of a school run continues after Chads finishes.

### Fitness

Congratulations to Year 7, Year 9 and Year 10 for their excellent attendance at fitness. While we recognise that Year 11 are under pressure in many areas, it is vital that they attend fitness, as this is a large part of helping them to feel fit, healthy and able to cope with the demands of such an important year.

### Cricket

Somerset CC have been holding training sessions on a Tuesday evening from 4.30 pm - 6.00 pm on the MU-GA. Any boys showing an interest should approach Mr Bagshaw for further information.

## Sports Equipment (Mr Spridgens)

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

## Harvest Festival

The sight of 200 Brymore boys heading down the drive in anticipation of another of Brymore's traditions is awe inspiring, to say the least. The Harvest Festival marked the Reverend Martin's first service since his illness last year and we were delighted to have him at the helm for this important event. As expected, the church was packed, with boys, parents and staff raising the roof with hearty harvest singing. Mr Willcocks organised a heart-warming service, run by the boys themselves. So many boys volunteered to read this year and, as ever, it was a pleasure to see them standing alongside staff, in front of parents, delivering the Harvest message with confidence.



Congratulations to every boy who read, to Zak Hevness for his accordion duet with Mr Willcocks and to Bertie Mountford and Dan Potter for their duet. Our collection of over £300 went to the Somerset Levels Flood Relief Fund and we are grateful to everyone who contributed. Thank you in particular, to those parents who were prepared to stand at the back of the church - we hope the experience was worth it.



### **MP visits Brymore**

Before the boys returned from the summer holidays Dan Rogerson MP visited the school for a dinner served by Brymore Year 12 and 13 students. Mr Rogerson has been the Member of Parliament for North Cornwall since 2005 and Minister at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs since October 2013, with a responsibility for flooding. Also in attendance was James Wilshaw, a prominent local farmer who was badly affected by the flooding that hit the Somerset Levels during the winter and Justine Baker, a County Councillor, who worked closely with the Flooding on the Levels Action Group (FLAG).



### **Lesson Equipment (Miss Rundle)**

Please can all parents ensure that boys have the equipment they need for academic lessons within school. Items like calculators, pens, pencils, protractors and rulers are all needed for different lessons. Boys who arrive without these impact on lesson time and affect the learning of others, which is unacceptable at Brymore. I shall be selling certain items at break-time on Mondays, so should boys wish to purchase anything then, please come to the staff room to find me.

### **Winter on the Farm**

Please can all parents ensure that their son has warm clothing to wear whilst on farm duties and during Agriculture lessons under their overalls. It gets very cold in the winter months and it is vital that all boys have suitable clothing, including hat, gloves, thermals or warm underclothes and welly socks to ensure that they can continue with work on the farm.

### **LRC (Miss Bradford)**

This half term the LRC is seeing a higher usage by English classes than ever before! Having classes sitting quietly reading is a pleasure to see.

The number of library books issued has risen in conjunction with these classes, a joy for any librarian, let alone one in an 'all boys' school.

The Buzz Book initiative has resulted in a number of new reading books being donated to the LRC from the English Department - thank you Mrs Taylor-Lane.

The number of magazines has continued to rise and we are now up to 30 monthly, quarterly & weekly editions. Unfortunately, we have had to dispense with the Farmers Guardian after a number of years, due to the price hike, taking it to £119 per year - its loss has been little noticed!

### **Important Notice - Overdue Books**

Although I have mentioned '**overdue**' books in assemblies and tutors have reminded boys during their mentoring sessions, I have yet to receive any of the books that are overdue; letters will go out after the half-term break, requesting the return or replacement of books that have not been returned. Please check that your son is not holding onto one of these over the holiday - or you may be charged!



### 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. Please note that the dates are 29 June - 3 July 2015. 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 please contact Miss Bradford urgently.

### Activities (Mr Bagshaw)

The large take-up of activities by boys at the start of the year means that we have waiting lists for many of our paid activities. Boys are still able to sign up for activities but must understand that they may have to wait until the Spring before gaining access to Blacksmithing and such courses, due to the high demand.

We are currently sourcing a wider range of activity programmes and courses for our boys to access. Coming soon, we hope to be able to offer courses across a wide range of subjects, from Dry Stone Walling and hedge-laying to Canoeing, Kayaking and other Outdoor Pursuits. We are also preparing to offer some real surprises. Courses like this require specific numbers and so there will be a requirement for boys/parents to state an interest before the course is booked. Information on how to do this will be available in the course activity booklet.



There will also be a series of free courses run throughout the school year aimed at preparing boys for more independent living as they grow older. These will range from basic independent living skills through to Career Planning, Communication Skills and Teamwork.

Boys this half term have started with the airfix modelling, which has been very successful, along with the opening up of the bike track and road biking. Weekend activities have been well attended, including the ever popular paintballing and I would encourage anyone staying in at the weekends to try something new if they have not already done so.

### Bonfire Night (Miss Gardner and Mrs Lillywhite)

On Wednesday 5th November there will be a firework and bonfire night for boarders and any out-boarders who wish to stay in. All out-boarders need to let their houseparent know in advance if they are hoping to stay in on this night.

The night will begin straight after tea from 6.30pm to 8.45pm and will include games, toffee apples, hot chocolate and marshmallows, alongside competitions for the best spooky mask, the best pumpkin and the best fancy dress. Prizes will be awarded!

Masks and pumpkins will need to be created this holiday and brought in after half-term, along with your fancy-dress outfit and a torch.



### School Lottery Winners - October 2014

1st (£40) - Mrs Herbert

2nd (£25) - Mrs Chandler

3rd (£15) - Mr Perrett

Should you wish to join the lottery then please contact Mrs Hill in the school office.

## Farm News

**Dairy** - The cows have now been brought inside to their newly refurbished cubicle shed. The shed has been slightly re-designed to give the cows more standing space and a larger 'loafing' area with an extra water trough. New mats have been fitted to all the cubicles and we hope to see the benefits with the cows being more comfortable. We had two Dairy heifer calves born this half-term, one to cow number 41, Milly and one to Danielle, one of our Jersey cows.



**Sheep** - Our planned time for lambing is between February half-term and the Easter holidays, so that as many boys as possible get the chance to help. The three rams were put in with the ewes at the start of October so the first lambs should be born on about 27 February 2015. This year we have bred our own replacement ewes. They are Suffolk X Mule ewe lambs (Suffolk Ram, Mule Ewe) and they are running with our new young Charolais ram. Our Suffolk ram, Sammy is running with the Mule flock and Ronnie our Texel ram is with the older Suffolk Mule ewes.

**Pigs** - Sybil and Sunshine both farrowed the first week of term each having a litter of 12 piglets. Actress farrowed on Sunday, giving birth to eight piglets. We bought a new Boar this month. He is a Large White x Landrace and the piglets he produces should be faster growing and quicker to reach finished weight than the pure British Lops. We will have British Lop weaners and a couple of young store pigs available for sale, details from the farm office (01278 652428).

**Poultry** - The delicious eggs from our field ranging hens are always very popular and to meet demand we have added 30 new Point of Lay Pullets to our Poultry flock this month and already they are producing eggs for us. They are a mix of Redco (Columbian Blacktails) and Lohmann Classic. They all lay beautiful mid brown eggs.

**Year 7** - all the students have now had their first farm walk. Their first topic for Agriculture is 'The Five Freedoms', so we looked into the welfare of the animals, how different types of animals are looked after and what we have to provide to keep them healthy and happy on the farm at Brymore.



**Year 9** - all the new boys have had their farm walk and have had a chance to do some work on the farm. They have been having tractor driving lessons, learning about Health and Safety on the farm, power washing, mucking out and some have helped with feeding duties after school.

**Year 10** - have been introduced to the BTEC course and have been learning some of the skills which will help them to pass their assessments. Tractor driving skills learnt in Year 9 are now being tested!

**Year 11** - This term they have been assessing the lambs and learning how to grade them to send to market. They are learning advanced tractor driving skills and some have been helping a neighbouring farmer disbudding calves. The written assignment for this term is Dairy Production.





### HIT Team (Miss Gardner)

Looking for Christmas ideas?

Why not see me and place an order for a hoody, winter hat, polo shirt or mug? Please place your order with Miss Gardner by Monday 17th November to guarantee Christmas delivery. All the profits made go back into improving the houses for the boys. Last year, some of the money raised went towards making the house offices more welcoming and inviting. Boys get an opportunity to have their say in how to spend the money too. I can be contacted via email [LGardner1@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:LGardner1@educ.somerset.gov.uk) or you may call School House Office on 01278 655568 during the evenings.

### Brymore Weddings (Ms Warren)

We recently obtained our wedding licence and held our first Brymore wedding during the summer holidays which was a very successful day. We have a number of bookings already for next year and with many more enquiries it seems that Brymore really can offer wedding memories to last a lifetime!

A wedding fair has been organised at Brymore by local company BoxClever for Sunday 26th October, 11.00am - 3.00pm, and we will be providing tours on that day to prospective brides and grooms.



### Iceland Trip (Mr Sawyer)

During next year's October half-term (2015) I am running a residential trip to Iceland! It is an amazing opportunity for all current Year 9 and 10 boys to visit this awe inspiring country, visit the capital of Reykjavik, relax in the Blue Lagoon and see glaciers along with other exciting excursions. I have given out letters to all interested students but should your son be interested and not have received one or should you have any questions about the trip, then please contact me via email: [TSawyer@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TSawyer@educ.somerset.gov.uk) and I will endeavour to get back to you.



## Pym's Night (Mrs Davis)

It was a genuine pleasure last Saturday evening to work alongside the Brymore boys who had volunteered to stay at school, after the Cross Country to serve the Old Brymorsians at their annual Pym's Night dinner. More boys than ever volunteered and I have to say, they were outstanding. They arrived on time, smartly dressed, eager to please, polite and confident. They mingled with the Old Brymore boys prior to the dinner, approaching and engaging guests in conversations which they initiated. They took direction from James, the Catering Manager, who created a smooth, professional system to ensure that diners received hot food, on time, in a co-ordinated manner. Each boy took responsibility for one or two tables and began by taking down the numbers of orders for their table. Boys supported each other to make sure every boy could play their part. These orders were read out in the kitchens and the group then worked together as a team to get plates to tables. My job was made easy, with the boys taking the initiative throughout the dinner, acting with common sense and forming the most efficient, well organised and self-directing team of waiters I have seen in my time at Brymore.

During a break in service, the boys gathered around Michael Fry, who showed them black and white photographs of the Old Boys.

At the end of the meal, Mr Thomas gave a speech updating diners about the latest developments at Brymore. It was with great pride that he discussed last year's results, the fact that the boys did well and that so many of our departments have ranked highly in Somerset. In particular, English is top in Somerset for the second year in a row and likely to be in the top 1% nationally again. Science was sixth in county, with outstanding results from Year 10s (now Year 11) in Core Science. History came third in Somerset and DT came first in Somerset by a huge margin, proving that Brymore boys will achieve more than a grade higher here than they would in any other school. Agriculture and Horticulture results were excellent, with Mr Willcocks' Department reaching their best ever results - a 94% pass rate and a record number of Distinctions.

Neil Parrish, MP for Honiton and Tiverton gave the main speech of the evening, reminding us of his own education at Brymore and promising to raise the issue of Land Based subjects needing to count on the league tables upon his return to Parliament. Thank you to Peter Harris for his work in organising the evening, to James and his team for the excellent work they put in and most of all, to the boys who served. They were the best examples of Brymore success.





IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY		
AUTUMN TERM		
Monday 3 November INSET DAY	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Years 7 & 9 Parent Consultation with Houseparents and Tutors Year 11 Academic Progress with SLT (selected students only) Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 boarders return
Tuesday 4 November	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Saturday 22 November (tbc)	6.00 pm	FOBSA Bingo
Saturday 13 December	10.30 am 12.00 pm (approx.)	Christmas Service at St Mary's Church, Cannington Years 7, 9, 10 & 11 depart for Christmas Holidays
15 - 21 December		Ski Trip to Italy
Thursday 18 December		Years 12 & 13 depart for Christmas Holidays
SPRING TERM		
Monday 5 January INSET DAY	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Year 11 Parent Consultation 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 INSET DAY	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Year 10 Parent Consultation 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 INSET DAY	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Year 9 Parent Consultation Years 7, 10 & 11 boarders return
Tuesday 21 April	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Friday 1 May	12.30 pm 1.00 pm - 3.30 pm	Years 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 depart for Bank Holiday weekend Year 7 Parent Consultation
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