

# Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

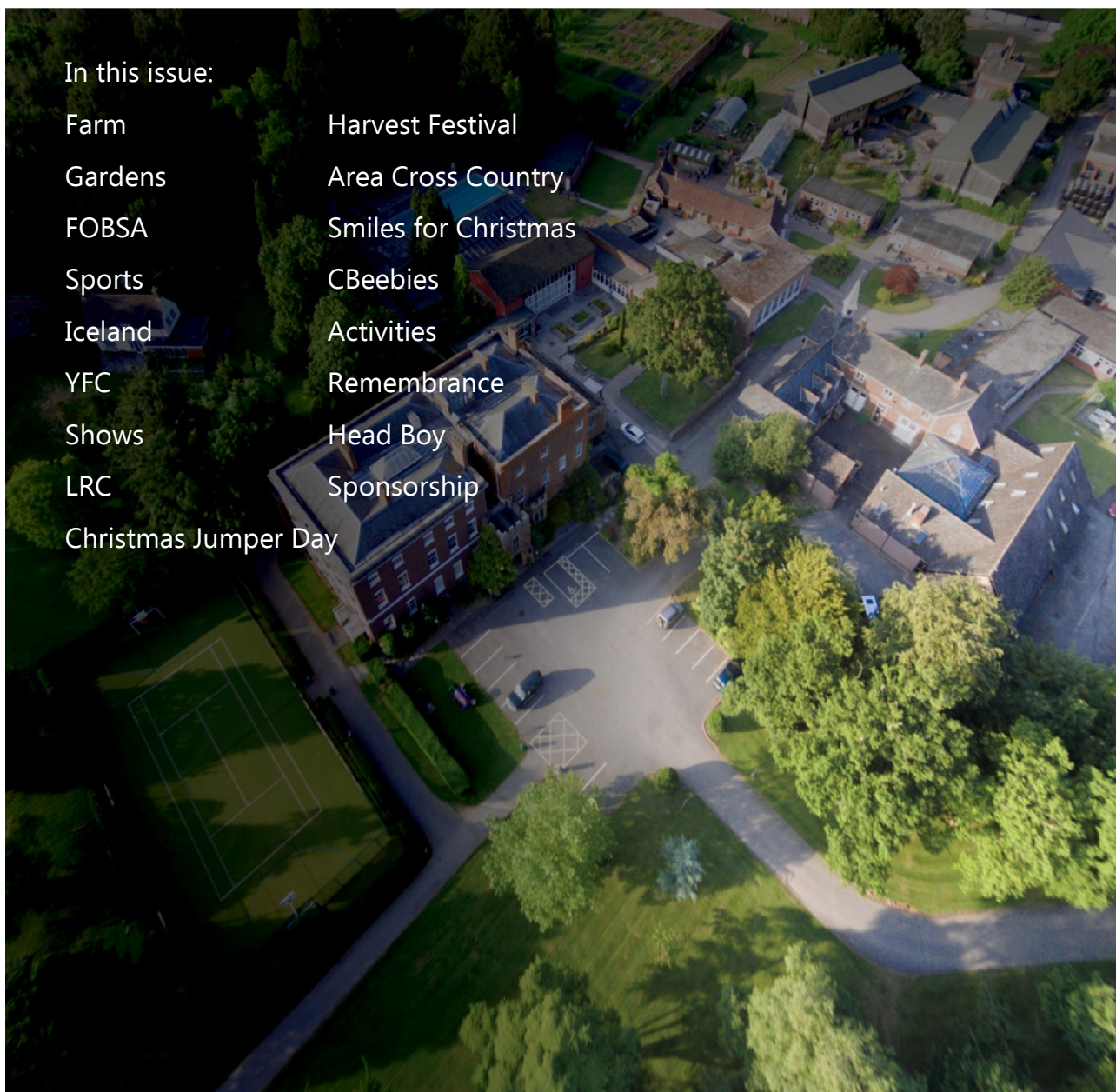
## Newsletter

December 2015

[www.brymoreacademy.co.uk](http://www.brymoreacademy.co.uk)

### In this issue:

Farm	Harvest Festival
Gardens	Area Cross Country
FOBSA	Smiles for Christmas
Sports	CBeebies
Iceland	Activities
YFC	Remembrance
Shows	Head Boy
LRC	Sponsorship
Christmas Jumper Day	



*Diligentia et Labore*



---

## Message from the Headteacher

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Despite the fact that I have been the Headteacher at Brymore for over five years I am still amazed that this newsletter represents just six weeks of work at the school. The amount of activities and opportunities on offer to the boys are incredible and include representing the school at rugby, hockey, stock showing, public speaking, a poetry competition and cross country. Boys have shown real responsibility through raising money for Children in Need, the Smiles for Christmas hamper competition and in the way they honoured Armistice Day. Horticulture, agriculture and forest school continue to offer a fantastic outdoor and practical experience as part of the curriculum. Boys have worked with the local and wider community during the FOBSA bingo, the South West Winter Fair, helping host the Somerset federation of Young Farmers AGM, through a variety of guest speakers at the Young Farmers Club, helping set up and pack away at the Blackmore by Candlelight event and with the visit of CBeebies. The extra-curricular provision continues to expand with a trip to Iceland, the remote control car club, choir practice, a Cribbs Causeway shopping trip and ice- skating, cinema visits, paintballing, mountain biking (at night)... the list goes on. Finally during Christmas week there was Christmas lunch with roast turkey and all the trimmings, Christmas tea, the prefect Christmas meal, the Christmas carol service, boarding Christmas parties and a Christmas jumper competition. This obviously does not include all of the usual activities and for some, the term ended with the annual school ski trip. All in six weeks! Staff would not give up their time to put on these events if the boys did not continue to show the right attitude and I can confidently say staff and boys alike deserve a good rest over the Christmas period.

We recently received comparison data that ranks Brymore against other schools nationally for last years' GCSE results. Brymore placed in the top 23% of schools nationally, with maths in the top 13% and English in the top 11%. Proof that all the activities and opportunities actually support academic progress, rather than get in the way of it.

For many, Christmas is about spending time with the family, and I always think Brymore boys should appreciate this more than most. Last year I talked about the commitment needed to be a Brymore boy, and the catalogue of what has happened here over the past six weeks certainly demonstrates that, so hopefully boys will savour their time at home because of it. I also hope all will make aspirational New Years' resolutions and, more importantly, come back with renewed commitment to achieve them.

So, from myself, my leadership team and all the staff we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



# Horticulture

What a busy term in the Horticulture department; including cider making, sowing and moving our tools due to the refurbishment, luckily the Horticulture staff and boys have worked hard to help all this happen.

We have been crushing apples for cider making, creating Christmas wreaths, collecting leaves and the plants in the polytunnel have been sorted and re-potted. We have also sewn some seeds for next summers wedding events as we sell cut flowers during the summer months.

The garden plots have been busily cleared and dug through and planted with a variety of beans, winter cabbage and other things.

The potting shed, tool shed, office and store rooms have been emptied to other places and our greenhouse is a temporary store shed whilst the refurbishment of our Horticulture block continues and boys have adapted well but we are hoping to be back to normal after Christmas.

Garden duties are going well and most boys are working hard, however I do need to emphasise that boys need to come to me before their duty night to discuss any changes to their duty in order to get all the jobs done. In addition to this, please can I remind everyone that all boys must have old clothes to wear under overalls for any practical work, whether it be agriculture, horticulture or forest school. They must also have waterproofs to wear.

We nearly always have the plant sale trolley out near the LRC on Saturdays so don't forget to check out what is available to buy. We always have lots of potted plants, shrubs and seasonal vegetables. Our thanks to all the boys that help out manning this stand.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas!

(Mr Willcocks)



## CBeebies

Early in September I was contacted by Gillian from Somerset YFC HQ and asked if Bymore would like to support CBeebies Radio, an online radio programme for young children; who were planning to produce a story about the geography of Somerset which was to include the question 'How does milk get from the cow to the fridge?' I, of course, said we'd be delighted and after many emails, Alex Harris the producer of the programme, arranged a visit. The programme, which will go out in the New Year, features the farm, four primary school children and Matt Ranson and Lee Marsh. The boys showed them around the farm answering questions put by the children and also showed them how the cows are milked. Big thanks to Danielle who waited about four hours to be milked and Ms Warren who had to step in as soundwoman when a member of the BBC crew went sick. The children, the adults supporting them and CBeebies all had a great day.

(Miss Bradford)



## Young Farmers



Thanks to increasing opportunities for activities in the evenings and following discussion with Mr Thomas and Somerset YFC Headquarters, we have decided to reduce the meetings to twice a month; these might be every other week or back to back weeks, dependant on the speakers. Advance notice will be given. Although each meeting is very well supported it is difficult to get different speakers for 30 evenings.

This half term we have once again been blessed with speakers willing to give up their warm firesides to talk to the boys: Mrs Kate Russell, who showed us how to make delicious pork pies in an hour, if you haven't had a recipe to make it at home yet, please get in touch. Jason Hedaux talking about budgerigars and in particular, how selective breeding turned birds from green as in the wild to grey or blue as seen in captivity. Neil Garrod and his two cocker bitches on training gun dogs; Mr Garrod will be back in the spring when the evenings are lighter for a practical demonstration and Mrs Kate Whyte showing how to make felt from unspun wool.

For the second year the school and therefore, the Young Farmers Group, hosted the Somerset Federation of Young Farmers AGM, the boys helped set up the hall for the delegates and speakers, directed parking and helped unload cars, carrying items to the hall; then packed away at the end of the meeting.

Six boys - Matt & Toby Ranson, George & Ben Clay, Henry Howlett & Ed Loder working together in two groups of three, represented the school at the Somerset YFC Public Speaking Competition coming a credible second and third; Matt, Henry & Ed were also placed in the Poetry Reading.

I'd like to thank any parents, who over the years have been coerced into speaking to our group, or have put us in touch with willing participants.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

(Miss Bradford)



## Message from the Head Boy

As the first term at Brymore comes to a close, all of the preparations for Christmas start to take shape. Christmas at Brymore is certainly different to any other school, especially as a boarder, with Christmas lunch and teas taking place, Christmas Jumper Day and boys decorating their dorms and common rooms earlier than ever this year (I think!). Christmas is a special time of the year and the thing that I enjoy most is the Smiles for Christmas hamper campaign. This is an opportunity for boys to donate some food stuffs to their boarding house to be put into a creatively designed hamper made by the boys in the house. It is a time to reflect on how lucky we are at Christmas to be with our loved ones and to have lots of food compared to people who are sat on their own with nothing special to eat just up the road from our school. It is always nice to see the generosity of families at Brymore with the house offices full of food and gifts. It is not so much about the winning as it is more about thinking about the people in need this festive season and I believe the people in need will be very pleased with the valiant efforts the boys made. I hope everyone has a well earned rest over the Christmas period and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year. Merry Christmas!

(Joe Parkman)

## Christmas Jumper Day

Following on from previous years we held our Christmas Jumper Day a little earlier than other schools as we break up before it happens. However, there was a huge array of woolly knits on display from both boys and staff, and senior students had the tough job of choosing winners of the best jumper!

Congratulations go to Jason, Matthew, Sam, James, Finn and Mr Craig who were all picked from the assembly to be winners of their category.



We raised over £180 for the charity Save the Children and thanks go to everyone who contributed.

(Ms Warren)

## Activities

The boys have had a wide variety of trips and activities this term. The cinema remains popular as ever and the new James Bond film was popular with all ages, including Mr Fewtrell.

We had a superb Bonfire night when the weather eventually relented and I managed to not set anyone on fire with my display. Other memorable events this term have been FoBSA Bingo which was well supported by boys and parents alike. The, now annual, trip to Cribbs Causeway for Ice-Skating and Christmas Shopping was a big hit and looks to be a new Brymore tradition. In addition to this, the after-school clubs have reached capacity this term and are full of boys being creative; in woodwork they have been making foot stools and country boxes, in engineering they have been creating screwdrivers, engineers squares and whistles, in advanced engineering they have been designing and making a pneumatic engine, in blacksmithing they have been forging candle holders, fireside pokers and shovels, in advanced blacksmithing they have been re-building a vintage plough. That's over 40 boys doing something very unique in their own time!

Next term there are more cinema trips with some new Blockbusters launched after Christmas, a race evening and a casino evening along with the usual favourites, finishing with a trip caving in the Mendips on the last weekend, provided we get the numbers.

(Mr Bagshaw)

## Farm News

**Cattle:** Our annual herd TB test was early in November and to our great relief the cattle all passed.

**BVD:** All the cows in milk at last month's Milk Recording had their milk tested for BVD by NML (National Milk Laboratories), all other cattle had a blood sample taken by the vet which was sent to the lab. The good news is that all the samples came back as negative. Any calf born from now on, will have a DNA sample taken at birth and sent off to NML for testing. This is a part of our Herd Health Policy to keep our cattle healthy.

We bought a Bateman calf weighing scale with the money that was donated from Jake Bowles family with the view to us buying educational equipment.

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual South West Winter Fair** on Monday 30 November 2015 at Sedgemoor Auction Centre. Mrs Warren and Miss Bradford took some boys to the market for the day to help the stewards and farmers with cattle, sheep and pigs entered for the Winter Fair. Mr Adamson took five boys, three of whom were showing cattle. Brooks Carey was showing one of his own cattle, an Aberdeen Angus cross, Jamie Barter showed one of our Brymore heifers, a Beef Shorthorn cross and Archie Hill showed on behalf of Brooks Carey a Limousin heifer. We came 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in both classes and Brooks came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Young Farmers, judged on how he prepared his animal and showed her.

**Pigs:** The pigs are now all indoors for the wettest months of the winter.

One of our young homebred pure British Lop gilts, Shirley had 7 piglets (Large White x Landrace x British Lop) which were weaned recently and sold at Sedgemoor Auction Centre and our sow Audrey had 10 piglets, also just weaned. These young pigs are now available for sale at £25 each. If you are interested in having some weaners to home rear, please contact Mr Kingston at the farm 01278 652428 or email:

[brymorefarm@brymore.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:brymorefarm@brymore.somerset.sch.uk)

We still have some frozen pork for sale at a \*special Christmas price\*. Leg, loin and shoulder joints: £5 per kilo.



## Area Cross Country

The SASP Sedgemoor area cross country finals were held at Brymore during the last week of term. Both boys and girls from schools in the area came to try out our course and see if they could come top. Brymore fielded strong teams in all the age groups: Years 7, combined Years 8 and 9 and combined Years 10 and 11 and with lots of top ten finishers we won all three age groups in the team competition!

Congratulations go to all the boys who ran and to the 22 boys who qualified for the County Championships, which will be held in Yeovil in January.

(Mr Williams)



## Halloween and Bonfire Night

We had a joint Halloween and bonfire night after half term and, although the atrocious weather meant we had to postpone to a different day, everyone enjoyed the evening. Boys bought in pumpkins they had carved, some wore fancy dress and Mr Orr built a bonfire that could probably be seen from space. Mr Bagshaw was chief firework lighter and the five minute display was full of 'ooooooooos' and 'ahhhhhhhhs' from boys and staff alike.

(Ms Warren)



## BRYMORE LOTTERY

**The results of the lottery for this half-term**

1 <sup>st</sup> £40.00	Mrs S Brooks
2 <sup>nd</sup> £25.00	Mr Eavis
3 <sup>rd</sup> £15.00	Mrs Wright

# Christmas

A Christmas at Brymore is quite simply not like the festive season at other schools. We have decorated the boarding houses, celebrated the Smiles for Christmas campaign, practised carols in assembly for weeks, worn festive jumpers and have spent the whole of the last week of term recognising that it is an important family season no matter what religion or nationality you are.

We have eaten our Christmas lunch to the sound of number one Christmas songs over the years and the boys have had house parties and we have laid on lower and upper school Christmas teas. In addition, the Prefects and Senior Student Leadership Team were treated to a slap up dinner at Blackmore Farm as a thank you for their hard work.

The culmination of the week is the Christmas carol services; Mr Bagshaw made us laugh with a Caribbean turkey twist, while Mrs Vearncombe revealed her singing talent in a beautiful duet with Mr Willcocks. The 1st 15 delighted all with their Brymore version of 12 Days of Christmas and we were extremely pleased to see the relaunch of the Brymore Choir at both services.

Mr Willcocks works tirelessly to ensure we all know the carols and that the services are festive yet poignant, so a huge thank you to him for organising this. This year we chose RABI as our nominated charity and were fortunate enough to have Pam Wills representing them at the services; in total we raised over £400 and will be presenting the cheque to her in the New Year.

(Ms Warren)



## LRC

All change in the LRC this year as increased numbers have meant we are a classroom again. This leaves boys, teachers and myself learning to work together in perfect harmony. I block out the noise with headphones but have been asked not to sing along as they find it distracting and the boys have stopped jumping each time my scanner 'bleeps'. This half-term over 40 new reading books have been added to stock, several on the recommendation of boys; so there has been a fair bit of bleeping.

The library is still experiencing a lack of willingness to return books on time, the record so far this academic year is 222 days overdue – but it's now back on the shelf. The magazine section is still well read and the sale of old magazines raised £17.50 enough for six months subscription to a new magazine, I have asked for ideas.

At break and lunch times the LRC is well used with not all sheltering from the cold and wet! Most are reading albeit a phone or a tablet but let's face it reading is reading. As I type there are 35 boys in with me. I have had to allocate the five PCs, one year per day, due to squabbling over who was doing prep and who was playing games when prep for the next lessons was needed. So far it's working out well.

At the end of November the LRC was used as a base when CBeebies Radio came in to record for their online geography show aimed at 4-6 year olds, 'How does milk get from the cow to the fridge'. Two of our boys, both members of the school's young farmers, were the guides and children from Cannington Primary School were shown around the farm, met the animals and watched a cow being milked.

(Miss Bradford)

## Forest School

We have had a great start to Forest School this year and on the whole the weather has been very favourable. The boys have been setting up basecamp, making mallets and starting fires with flint and steels.

(Mr Ball)



## Sponsorship and Thanks

Our grateful thanks go out to Paul Atyeo Building Services and ASK Plant Services who have sponsored the Year 9 rugby kit. The boys are proudly wearing the shirts both on the pitch and off.

We would also like to thank Gordon Fraser who has donated some old ploughs to the school. Mr Weldon and some older boys are working on restoring the ploughs in the forge with a view to making a display once complete. In addition, Wheelspin Motors have spoken to Mr Simmons about helping out with the RC Car Club.

A big thank you to Ms Jane Haw, a parent, who has donated some halters to the farm which will assist them in showing both now and into the future.



## Staff News

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Yvonne Outhwaite who is retiring after 23 years at Brymore. Yvonne has been a member of the cleaning team and has spent the last 12 years arriving at 4.00 am to clean the teaching block and communal areas and we thank her for her dedication.

We are also saying goodbye to our Gap Tutors, Mr Chellew, Mr Whittaker and Mr Wood, who have been with us for a year and have done a sterling job in that time. As they return to the Southern Hemisphere and the warmth we wish them well in their future lives.

## Wheelchair Basketball

The PE department has, through Projectability funding, managed to obtain the use of wheelchairs for this term. Boys have really taken to wheelchair basketball and it has enabled them to see sport through the eyes of someone with a disability.

(Ms Warren)

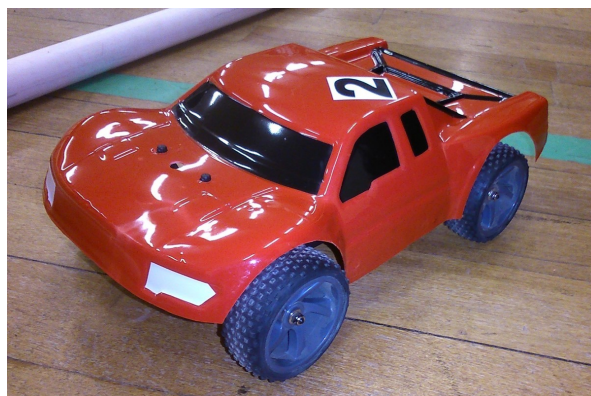


## RC Car Club

It has been an exciting championship for the RC Cars this half-term. A new group of racers have started the championship with a really competitive spirit. Tim Cook's experience shone through as he pulled out an early lead, lapping faster than the new racers George Cox, George David and Peter Mason. His advantage wasn't to last as the new racers quickly found their form and Round 2 was much closer as a result, with Tim just edging ahead to take the win. In Round 3 Tim's absence gave Liam Hillier a chance to challenge Tim by winning, a lap ahead of George David and Sam Brake who pushed him all the way. Round 4 saw Tim with an opportunity to wrap up the title, but Liam wasn't willing to let him walk away with it. After trading fastest times all evening, Liam finally came out fastest by just under one second. This meant that the championship goes on to the last round with Tim and Liam as the front runners with George Cox still mathematically able to win as well. For the final round the atmosphere was tense with both Liam and Tim determined to win and George keen to punish either of them for any mistakes. All three contenders fought until the end but finally Liam emerged victorious with a clear lap over George in second place. This meant that Liam clinched the championship from Tim by only one point with George in third, two points behind him.

Planning for next half term has already started and involves a change from the buggy bodies to the off road, baja style of the short course truck. This should make the cars easier to drive and more robust whilst racing, as well as looking pretty cool. There is also the exciting news that one of the largest and most respected models shops in the UK, Wheelspin Models, have kindly partnered with us to help support the RC car racing activity following the closure of our local model shop.

(Mr Simmons)



## FOBSA

Well we are half way through another school year; doesn't time fly?

On 21<sup>st</sup> November we ran our annual Bingo night for the boys and any parents or visitors that wanted to come along. We had an excellent turn out with several parents joining us for two little ducks and legs eleven and I believe every table won something. The fresh chicken dinner went to an excellent home with the Family Weldon and the fruit basket was won by some exceedingly excited Year 7s! As I was somewhat snuffly, Mr Bagshaw did a sterling job of calling - thank you Sir. We raised £300 from the evening, all of which will at some point go back to the school to benefit our boys.

We have been offered that chance to run a quiz, probably in February, which is a new event for us. It will have a variety of question categories and there is potential to team it with a fish 'n' chip supper so please look out for an email with the date & come along.

Sally Pritchard, our Vice Chair, is going to call a parents meeting in an effort to get more people involved with FOBSA. Participation seems to have dropped somewhat in the last couple of years and the three of us (Chair, Vice & Treasurer) will be stepping down in 2016. Again, please look out for the date and attend if you can. If you can't attend you can always email your thoughts through to us on [fobsachair@hotmail.com](mailto:fobsachair@hotmail.com)

We would like to wish you all the best for a Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

(Julia Birchall-Mann - Chair)

## Iceland Trip

Brymore's first trip to Iceland was a great success! After touching down at Keflavik airport we met our coach driver for the week, Christian, who took excellent care of us. During the five days boys visited some amazing sights - landscapes created by volcanoes and shaped by glaciers, rivers and the sea. This combination made Iceland a simply breath-taking location that demanded to be photographed at every turn.

Whilst the whole trip was amazing, several places deserve a special mention. Firstly, the Blue Lagoon - a naturally heated outdoor pool with beautiful aqua-marine water, steam and sauna rooms and an artificial waterfall you could stand under. Here boys spent nearly two hours relaxing in the warm waters, enjoying the therapeutic nature of the natural minerals in the lagoon. Geysir - a geothermal area featuring spouting hot springs and fumeroles, where we watched Strokkur geysir erupt every eight minutes or so. The island of Heimaey gave us several highlights; our march to the top of Eldfell volcano, which erupted in 1973 and the local swimming pool, which had the best slide of the trip - just ask the boys. We even got to glimpse the northern lights, albeit briefly. I would like to thank all boys and their families for supporting the trip, without whom it would not have been possible. Spaces are still available for the 2016 trip - we need another ten to make it viable, please sign up in the new year.

(Mr Sawyer)



## Brymore Remembers

Remembrance Day was honoured by the boys, governors, Old Brymorians and staff at Brymore as they lined the main drive on Armistice Day.

At 11.00 am as the school clock ceased its chimes the whole school held two minutes of silence before the Last Post was played. Mr Thomas read a poignant passage to everyone before the procession led by Deputy Head Boy, Jason James carrying a wreath and flanked by Assistant Head Boys Cameron Weldon and Alistair Rook 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, Rex Eastment and Mike Fry also laid a wreath on behalf of the Old Brymorians Association with Chair of Governors, Jenny Ashworth and Vice Chair of Governors, Ann Dyer also paying their respects.

(Ms Warren)



## Children in Need

We held a cake sale for Children in Need and raised over £150 for the charity. Boys and staff queued up in the dining hall to purchase the sweet treats and as always, many thanks to the parents, boys and staff that contributed.

(Ms Warren)



---

## Sports News

### Rugby

We have had some really positive rugby results this term. The Year 7 team have started their rugby career under new RFU rules and have dealt with this well. Year 8 performances and results have improved and I'd like to thank Mr Coll for all his hard work with both age groups. Year 9 and 10 rugby teams have both had a successful start to the season with the Year 9s just missing out on the area final and congratulations to the Year 10s who have qualified for the area finals which will take place in March. The Year 11 team, under the tutorage of Mr Spridgens, have improved on many of the score lines since last year and it is heartening to see that most of the year group are involved in the team. Saturday activities has seen over 130 boys doing rugby as an option and this is hopefully indicative of our future on the field, however more boys attending training throughout Years 7-10 would be very beneficial to the squads. It is great to see George Watts, an old boy, come in on a Saturday afternoon to help with rugby and we must commend him and Mr Orr on completing various RFU course to help the rugby teams out. Throughout next term there will be the usual house competitions especially with regard to rugby and hockey. These matches are usually played on a Saturday afternoon to allow parents to support their son. However, the House finals for hockey and rugby will both take place on the final afternoon of the spring term which is Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### Fitness

Attendance in all year groups at the after school fitness sessions has been very high, even allowing for injuries and the recent bout of illness. Boys who miss sessions may make up on other year groups nights in order to maintain their attendance percentage.

### Chads

Chads Hill run has had to be re-routed on several occasions due to the ongoing building work with the bypass. However, numbers stay positive and those that run Chads on a regular basis are recognising the benefits of feeling fitter and healthier and we look forward to being able to create a more permanent route in the New Year.

### Hockey

We have attended a few hockey tournaments on a friendly basis locally and the team have enjoyed themselves, scored some goals and shown great team spirit. However, due to lack of numbers at training, future fixtures may not be able to be fulfilled so please come along on a Thursday after school to support the team. Thanks go to Mr Sawyer for leading this extra-curricular session.

### Cross Country

Previously mentioned in this newsletter was the area cross country final and along with this we have a few other Cross Country fixtures coming up in the new year and boys that wish to be selected for the team need to show dedication to the Chads Hill run. Even if boys did not run or qualify in the area competition, if they show enough spirit and determination they can still be picked for other competitions. Boys should talk to Mr Williams about this if they are interested.

### Boccia

The Year 10 sports leaders have been working really hard to lead lunchtime Boccia sessions and recently ran the area primary school Boccia competition with great feedback with some being nominated for the area leadership academy.

### Athletics

Some of our athletes have begun winter training with Mr Spridgens to ensure they are prepared for when the season begins. If any boys are interested please see him to discuss the possibility of getting involved.

(Mr Williams and Mr Spridgens)

## Smiles for Christmas

Boys, families and staff raised the bar once again through the Smiles for Christmas campaign held this half-term. The 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. The boys worked really hard on the designs and the winning Reid House was themed on the nativity story.



Representatives from the Bridgwater branch of the Salvation Army came into the school to judge the hampers and thank the boys. They were extremely grateful for all the hard work and efforts and the hampers will be used to help those locally, through the Bridgwater Salvation Army branch, have a smile on their faces this Christmas.

(Ms Warren)

## Boarding

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 busyness of boarding at Brymore. The past two terms have been busy and eventful, with added energy level given to the school with five year groups. 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/fireworks night and Halloween, to watching the mentor program throughout the houses going from strength to strength with potential future senior student leadership representatives in the making. Some of the best memories over the past few months will come from the events and activities that happen throughout boarding. There is something for everyone from Brymore's traditional sporting and workshop based pursuits to an increased popularity in more social activities such as board games, Xbox and dog walking.

As ever, at Brymore the festive build up to the Christmas holidays stretches over a week period (largely involving food!), with both boys and staff enjoying a number of events including the perfect Christmas meal, house parties, Smiles for Christmas assembly, mince pie registrations, Christmas dinner and tea finished with the Christmas carol service. This year we have asked boys to also focus on other aspects of Christmas such as enjoying every minute with family at home, and giving to others who may be less fortunate (this was very evident throughout the successful Smiles for Christmas campaign). This will be the last Brymore Christmas for our current Year 11s so please enjoy the holiday period as, before you know it, the run up to exams will soon be with us! This is also the one and only Brymore Christmas our three Gap tutors will be lucky enough to enjoy before they return back to 30+ degree heat, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Chellew, Mr Wood, Mr Whittaker and Mr Wood on behalf of all the boys and staff for the year you have given to Brymore.

(Mr Watts)

## South West Winter Fair

For the fourth year in a row members of the Brymore YFC have helped out at the South West Winter Fair. The exception this year was that we managed to take boys to show cattle in the fat-stock classes with the help of the farm and in particular, Mr Adamson.

Over the past few years boys have really shown their worth in helping Greenslade Taylor Hunt on the day from moving the sheep and pigs to helping with the turkey carcass judging and carrying the meat. The boys who represented the school this year were no exception in their dedication to show the school off in the best light and staff were rewarded with compliments on their behaviour.

Brooks Carey, Jamie Barter, Glyn Hooper and Archie Hill were involved with the showing element and arrived at the market early doors to get the cattle ready for the ring. The boys were highly commended and it was mentioned a number of times over the microphone that Brymore are producing the future of the industry. Brooks was crowned Junior Handler on the day and all the boys involved in showing were invited to attend the GTH presentation night at the Somerset County Cricket Ground. It was a night full of praise for Brymore, and in particular the boys, with Brooks collecting his trophy and all of the boys being presented with certificates and rosettes.

(Ms Warren)



## Work Experience

All boys in Year 10 should now have found, or be actively looking for work experience placements. The important task of getting the paperwork completed and signed and then returned to school is a priority and should be done as soon as possible. Ideally this should all be done by Christmas to ensure we can undertake all the relevant health and safety checks. However, for any boys still struggling please see Miss Bradford as soon as possible for information and advice.

(Mr Willcocks)

## Upcoming Important Dates & Events

<b>SPRING TERM</b>		
Sunday 3 January		Year 12 return
Monday 4 January INSET DAY	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Year 11 Parent Consultation Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 boarders return
Tuesday 5 January	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Saturday 6 February	12.00 pm 1.00 pm - 3.30 pm	Years 7, 9, 10 & 11 depart for Spring half-term Year 8 Parent Consultation
Friday 12 February		Year 12 depart for Spring half-term
Sunday 21 February		Year 12 return
Monday 22 February	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Year 10 Parent Consultation Years 7, 8, 9 & 11 boarders return
Tuesday 23 February	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Thursday 24 March	10.00 am 11.30 am 2.00 pm 4.00 pm	Raising Achievement Sessions for Parents Parents School Run/Walk Rugby & Hockey House Finals All students depart for Easter Holidays Year 12 depart
<b>SUMMER TERM</b>		
Sunday 10 April		Year 12 return
Monday 18 April	3.30 pm - 5.00 pm 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Year 9 Parent Consultation Years 7, 8, 10 & 11 boarders return
Tuesday 19 April	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Saturday 30 April	12.00 pm 1.00 pm - 3.30 pm	Years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 depart for Bank Holiday weekend Year 7 Parent Consultation
Monday 2 May	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	All boarders return
Tuesday 3 May	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Saturday 28 May	11.30 am 1.30 pm 3.45 pm (approx.)	Year 11 & 12 Leavers Service Sports Day Students depart for Summer half-term
Sunday 5 June	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	All boarders return
Monday 6 June	8.30 am	All out-boarders return
Saturday 25 June	10.30 am - 5.00 pm	Open Day and Country Fair
27 June - 2 July		Work Experience Week (Year 10)
4 - 9 July		Activities Week
Saturday 9 July	10.30 am 12.00 pm	Swimming Gala All students depart for Summer holidays
Wednesday 20 July		Year 12 depart

### CONTACT

Brymore Academy, Cannington, Bridgwater,  
Somerset TA5 2NB

T: (01278) 652369 F: (01278) 653244

E: [office@brymore.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:office@brymore.somerset.sch.uk)