

Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

Newsletter

October 2017
www.brymoreacademy.co.uk

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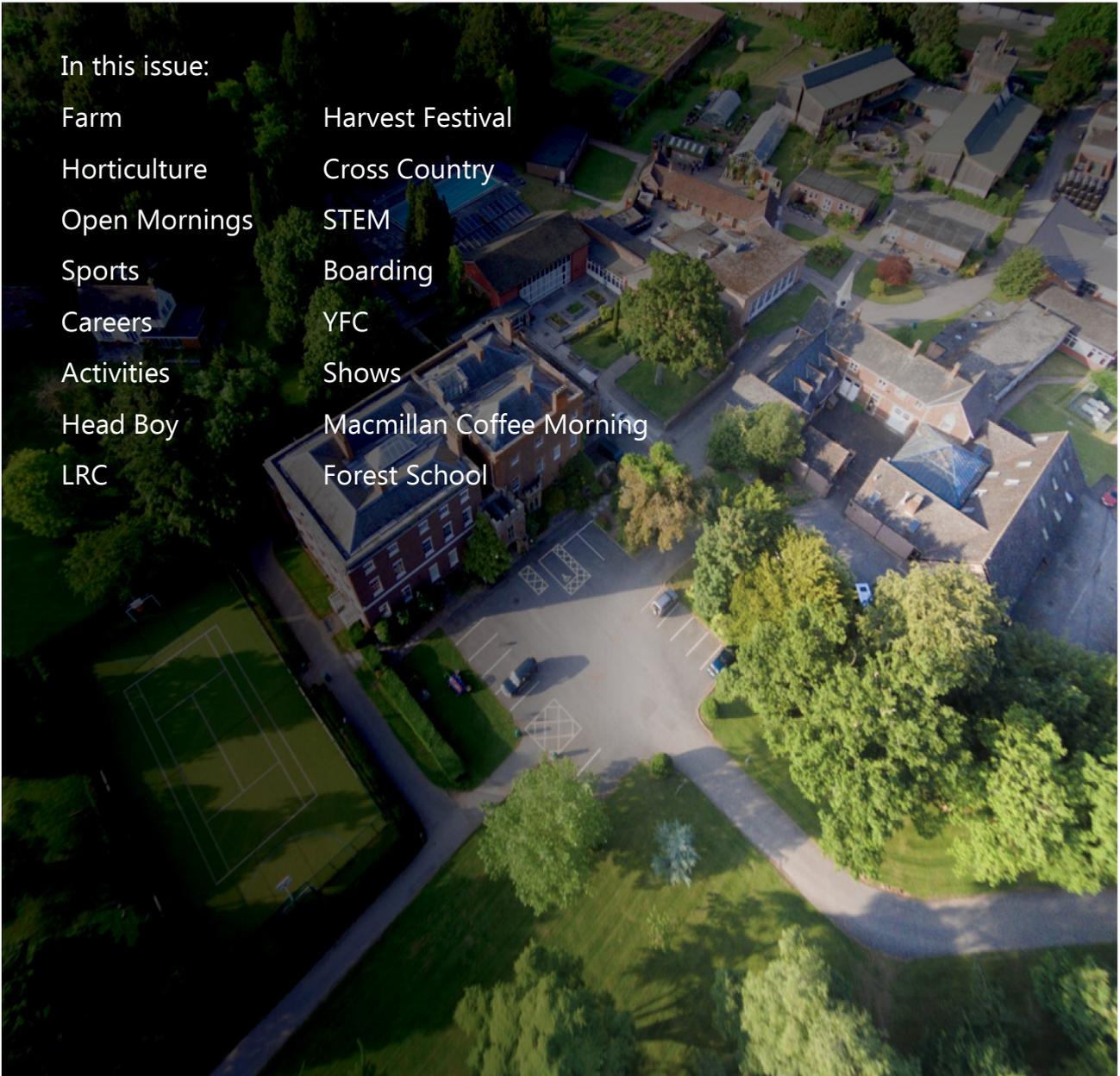
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Diligentia et Labore



Message from the Headteacher

During the first week of the half-term holiday I visited my niece who is in her first year at Cardiff University. Whilst enjoying a new found freedom of being away from home she was finding it difficult to manage her money. As a member of the first team hockey squad she had to pay subscriptions, a gym membership as two morning sessions a week are included in the training schedule, pay for her kit alongside all of the other student expenses. She had made new friends as she arrived knowing virtually no one and as we left was off out with a group of them to watch the boxing in the student union even though she had no interest in it. She was going because she knew it would help her fit in. I also met up with four of my school friends for the first time in fifteen years for a friends fiftieth birthday. All of us had moved away to university and had then remained away from home starting new lives in various parts of the country. Three had managed to eventually move back to Cornwall however not to our home town. It was a fantastic evening and we all slipped back into the old 'banter' as if we had never moved away.

What strikes me about both events is how life at Brymore prepares boys for the real world which often is not easy. Nearly all the boys who come to Brymore arrive knowing very few people, if any at all, as we do not have feeder primary schools in the same way other schools do. Boys therefore have to make new friends and learn to live with each other whether they have the same interests or not. Many of these will no doubt be friends for life and I am sure many will be meeting up in thirty years' time as I did last week. Rather than early morning gym sessions, boys are carrying out feeding or garden duties, fitness or Chads. They will no doubt be doing things that they would not normally choose to do, but do so because they may learn a new skill, or simply to make friends with others. If and when some chose to move on to university, even the out-boarders will have some experience of living away from home. Many will no doubt move away from home for work and even those that do not will probably find themselves working with people of all ages from all walks of life. It is the ability to cope with this and indeed thrive, that hopefully we are preparing the boys for because as we all know life has a habit of throwing obstacles in the way and testing us, and it is how we deal with these challenges that is so important.

I must finish by saying a huge well done to the Year 11 from last year who achieved some outstanding results. Our progress results continue to be some of the highest in Somerset with the English Literature results being the highest in Somerset, English Language second, Additional Science and DT also second with art and PE in the top 6. If comparisons were possible then engineering, agriculture and horticulture (having all achieved 100% pass rates) would no doubt be placed highly also. Whilst this says individual departments and the school has done well, it is in fact the boys themselves who have actually achieved these grades and it was a proud moment seeing them collect their results and celebrate in August.

Wishing you all a restful holiday.

Best wishes



Horticulture

As always the start of the Autumn term brings many jobs for the boys to get stuck into including

- Fruit picking
- Clearing up plots
- Plots allocated to new Year 7 boys
- Tidying up and weeding
- Apple juicing
- Replanting of flower beds

A big thank you goes to the HoDs within the department who have worked well during their duties and to Mrs Stanley who is a constant support within the department. Mrs Briggs has been a welcome addition to the team this half term and works well with all boys during the horticulture lessons.

We are currently preparing a patch just outside the walled garden in which to plant a wild-flower meadow so look out for that in the future.

Mrs Stanley has put together a 2018 calendar which we are selling and orders are being taken now so for a small fee of £3 you could own a little piece of Brymore for the whole of the year! Photos have been supplied for the calendar by students and staff.

We continue with our photography competitions and the next one is entitled 'Gardening at Brymore' so please submit any entries to me soon.

Cannington won a Gold award in the South West for Britain in Bloom with the national awards being announced at the end of October. Brymore assisted the village preparing for the visit from the judges by raising plants and planting up street displays. We were awarded the Burford Cup for best non-municipal flower display in the South West region and we were also awarded 'outstanding' in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' award from the RHS.

(Mr Willcocks)



Sky News

Sky News came in this half term to film some boys discussing social media. Rebecca, the reporter, was delighted with the boys who she described as 'a credit' to the school. The full news report can be seen on our Facebook page. (Ms Warren)



Race-walking

Congratulations go to Rhys Thomas, our Deputy Head Boy, who came third nationally in racewalking. Rhys, along with Mr Williams, went to the national championships in Lincolnshire at the start of this term and it is lovely to see the Brymore tradition within this sport continuing. (Ms Warren)



Young Farmers Club



This half term has started well for Brymore's YFC Group with over 80 boys becoming members. We have also had a run on YFC Somerset Hoodies at £25 and the boys would now like polo shirts. We have been given permission by Somerset HQ to produce our own, I am in the process of finding a firm that will quote a reasonable price, once this is confirmed I will post notices.

Three trips have been taken, one supporting the Rare Breeds Survival Trust annual show and sale at Junction 24, 20 boys were there to help with the moving, showing and caring for the animals on show. Mr Adamson donated a Kerry Hill Ewe lamb, in a tasteful shade of pink, to be auctioned in aid of Cancer Research, the group's charity of the year, she went for £210 and the donation bucket alongside her pen raised £41.56.

The second visit was to the Show Ground at Shepton Mallet the evening before the Dairy Show opened for a look around with Louis Bagg and Toby Ranson, preparing and showing a calf and a heifer, Louis showing on the Tuesday evening in the under 15 handler class. Toby showing in the show proper the next day, where he won his class.

The next day Ms Warren and myself took a group of boys to the Dairy Show, where some manned the school information tent and the remainder gave out programmes for the organisers, there was time allowed for the boys to look around and watch the events. We heard throughout the day many comments on the willingness to help and politeness of the boys.

We have had two speakers in this half term. Mr Mike Fry, stalwart of the Old Brymorian's Association, came in and spoke to a large group on what it was like to be a Brymore Boy in the 1950s, where one evening activity was to pick stones alongside the main drive, to allow for turning and the planting of the trees that now line the drive. The stones had been placed there during WWII by the US Army as a hard standing for their tanks and heavy vehicles during training for D-Day. The boys were also told of 13 week terms, where you could go home the first Sunday of each month, if you could get there between Sunday Service, which ended at noon and Evening service which began at 6.00 pm. Quite a change over the last 60+ years!

Our final speaker of this session was Mr Chris Adamson who talked about undertaking the US Harvest, he accompanied his talk with pictures taken during the journey.

First Wednesday back will be a demonstration by BASC starting at 7.30 pm - with the first 25 boys to sign up guaranteed a go.

(Miss Bradford)



Careers and Work Experience

Please can all Year 10 boys and their families ensure they have discussed and returned the Work Experience forms given out recently. We need to ensure all the health and safety side of their work experience is sorted and that the placement is suitable. This takes Miss Bradford some hours to collate so your speediness with this is much appreciated.

We are hoping to try and get as many Year 11 boys to taster workshops at Bridgwater and Taunton College this term as possible as this allows them to get a feel for college along with being able to have a brief experience of what the courses may entail. Please discuss this with your son to see what they have chosen as their workshop choice and also which college open evenings/days they may wish to visit over the upcoming months. As a reminder it is a legal requirement until the age of 18 to do one of the following:

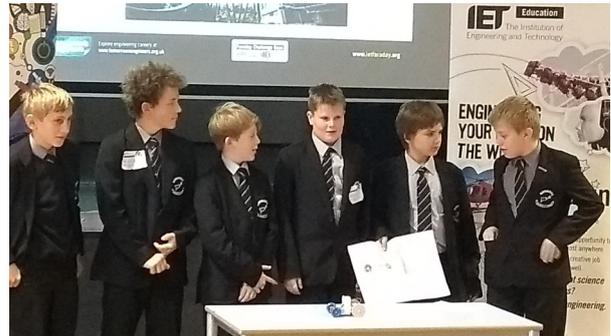
- stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship

It is vital that your son is thinking ahead to their post-16 education so if you have any questions then please contact the school. (Miss Bradford)

Brymore Boys at STEM Challenge

A team of six Year 8 boys competed in a Faraday STEM challenge day organised by the Institute of Engineering and Technology, hosted by Bridgewater College Academy.

The team of Josh Comer, Charlie Coombes, Charlie Green, Bobby Lock, Freddy Perham and Reece Stephens, gave a very creditable performance in a challenge that involved using electronics to create part of a new attraction for Alton Towers. Their entry of an electric buggy fell just short of winning on the day.



Luckily they weren't penalised for their buggy only being able to do "donuts" backwards! (Mr Armstrong)

GCSE PE

Please can all GCSE PE students ensure that they are completing and working on their PEP over the holidays and at weekends. Thank you. (Mr Williams)

LRC

Many thanks to FoBSA for a massive donation, by library standards, allowing me to purchase new books for the shelves. There is a sheet up in the LRC for suggestions of titles, with Haynes Land Rover manuals already jotted down!

Accelerated Reader is being pursued by Year 7, many boys having followed the scheme at their previous schools.

Boys are still very reluctant to return books, please encourage them to do so, as the fines system is now starting to kick in, 10 pence per day until the cost of the book is met. (Miss Bradford)

Message from the Head Boy

It has been a difficult, yet fun, start to the year with boys jumping head first into all opportunities. Both boys and staff have been busy working hard for the upcoming events like cross country and harvest festival; whether it's training for the running, practising a reading or preparing the grounds for the big day. The Senior Student Leadership Team have settled in well and are setting a positive example to the rest of the school and some boys have been working hard towards becoming prefects too. As a Head Boy it has been excellent seeing so many new Year 7s getting involved in a wide range of activities like rugby, Lego club, welding and many more. All boys have done incredibly well this half term representing Brymore whether it be high profile like Sky News or small events like the Macmillan Coffee Morning. This new year has opened a new door for Brymore with the boarding houses raising money for charities and we mustn't forget Max Nash who has been working hard to raise money for victims of Hurricane Irma. Finally, a mention to all rugby players across the year groups who have been working non stop in order to restore fitness levels lost over the summer which has clearly paid off as the success on the pitch has been great, Well done boys; keep up the hard work. (Zaid Elmrabti)



Macmillan Fundraising

We held our own Big Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research and the dining room was awash with cakes for boys and staff to buy. The dining hall was full to bursting with people eager to get their hands on the baked goods and we even had to extend break-time for a while. We raised over £300 for this worthy cause and the cakes donated by staff and families were a spectacle to behold so thank you to everyone!

BRYMORE LOTTERY

The results of the lottery for this half-term

1 st	£40.00	Dr Louis
2 nd	£25.00	Mr Aikenhead
3 rd	£15.00	Mrs Warton-Browne

Should you wish to join the Brymore Lottery please contact Mrs Wilkinson in the school office on 01278 652369



Archery

Archery has had a good start to the year with the boys picking up the techniques very quickly, they have had an excellent archer to shoot with in the form of Hector Dunstan who is a member of an archery club outside of school. Well done to Raffy Powell who is very consistent in his draw, stance and release along with David Goodman who has displayed some excellent skills. (Mr Ball)

Forest School

I love the start of a new year in Forest School, getting back up in the woods and in the trees is great. The first sessions have been all about team work to tidy up the Forest School area, cutting wivvy for the fences and will eventually lead to making their own whistles. (Mr Ball)



Student Council

Our newly formed Student Council have met for the first time and will be working with the boys and SLT to discuss matters arising. Cameron Kinch is Chair of the School Council with Zaid Elmrabti heading up the Student Voice. Also part of the team are: Tyler Botterill, Henry Elliott-Grooby, Joe Finnis, Archie Hill, Bobby Lock, Thomas Marchent-Saunders, Ben Rexworthy, Rhys Thomas and Joe Wood. (Ms Warren)



Open Mornings

We threw open our doors to potential students and their parents on two Saturdays this half-term for the Open Mornings. Boys, as always, were enthusiastic and keen to show off their school and proudly toured families around the whole site. We had over 80 families attending over the two mornings - another indication that we are heavily oversubscribed and securing our belief that what we are offering is unique and in demand. (Ms Warren)

Showing

Boys have continued to amaze me with showing this year and I often say about them raising the bar even higher and on the back of the success from last year I was really worried about this year. However, I have to say I am even more worried about next



year as they have definitely kept that bar at the top. Embracing the true values of Brymore and showing that the boys are definitely out there to make our school known.

The first show after the summer term was the Dunster Show in August. This was a horrible wet and windy day but thankfully we had our marquee with us to keep dry along with both the cattle and sheep who attended. In the cattle, we had Forrester that won his class and was shown by Arthur. Albert, the bull calf mothered by Crocus, came 2nd to Forrester and Crocus came 3rd in her class. In the sheep, we had a team of three Kerry Hills with Maverick, Mable and Barbara. Thanks go to Henry, who left in June, for coming back to help trim and prepare them before going to the show. In the Young Handlers Sheep Henry won his class and then went on to win Champion Handler. We came 3rd in a large class in the Group of Three and thanks go to Miss Marks for assisting with this on the day and also to Mr Williams for transporting the livestock.

We followed on from Dunster with Dorset County show in September. We entered just cattle this time and with Forrester winning his class we got off to a great start! Arthur then continued taking him in the ring to get Champion. Crocus was awarded 2nd with Joseph showing her and with both paired together in the pairs class we won that too. In the young handlers once again we had a lot of Brymore

boys competing. Ben won the class with his Charolais, Arthur was placed 4th and Joe was placed highly commended.



Our last summer show was the Berkshire Show, which we do not normally attend, however it was this year host of the "Young Shepherd of the Year" final. This show was held over a weekend once we had returned to school. We took a team of four sheep to this event and no cattle. Henry Scott was competing in the Young Shepherd of the Year competition that he qualified for at the Royal Bath & West back in June and in addition we also had Joe, Harrison and Will showing for the team and competing to qualify for this prestigious competition. In the breed classes, we were placed 4th with Mario, 2nd with Mable and 4th with Martha and I have to say I have never seen so many Kerry Hills at a show so we did well to be placed highly. Once the



breed classes were complete boys took part in the young handlers; a final chance to qualify for the next days' national

competition that Henry was already in. Both Will and Joe did well but Harrison performed outstandingly and won his age group and thus qualified for the Young Shepherd competition the next day.

The Sunday morning started very early with both Henry & Harrison putting their sheep on the trimming stand making sure they were in top condition for the show ring. This was the best of the best with every handler being placed first at county shows across the country competing against each other. The judge put them through their paces and had to test every handler pushing them to the limit. After a lot of scrutiny, the judge made her mind up and awarded Henry champion not far behind she placed Harrison 3rd. After this achievement, I was overwhelmed and filled with pride that Brymore boys had achieved such a great title and both had never handled sheep in the ring before last year.

At the start of October we attended The Dairy Show held at the Royal Bath & West Showground. This was the first time attending this show and it was a great opportunity to compete with our new Dairy Shorthorns. To this we took Hook Ruby, who is our 100% Dairy Shorthorn (these are on the critical list for the RBST) and Fairy who is a freshly calved heifer recently purchased. Ruby was entered into the calf classes on the Tuesday night in the 'any other breed' class; she was the only Shorthorn in her class and she was placed 6th. Louis, who led her, then went into his young handler class and he was placed 10th out of 21 handlers. On the Wednesday, it was Fairy's turn and Toby came along to lead her into the "in milk heifer calving under three years of age" class. The judge chose her to be first and on the microphone said she had a lovely udder and great udder placement and that he thinks she is just going to get better and better. To top off a great show she was then placed Shorthorn Heifer Champion.

I was once again amazed how the boys and stock performed having never been to this show we were leaving with a Breed Champion Heifer. The boys and myself have really enjoyed showing the dairy cattle and we have become a common sight on the show circuit with our sheep and beef cattle.

This concludes our showing for now but all I can say is that the boys took the three R's and embraced them and once again showed that Brymore is taking this seriously. There is still a lot going on behind the scenes because we will be starting the Young Farmers auditions on a Wednesday evening for next year's showing teams; these are also based on behaviour, keenness and attendance. Before the auditions, we will run workshops so boys can get an understanding of what is expected in the show ring and we have independent people from the showing community coming in to help with the final decisions. I would like to say to the younger boys that their opportunity will come, so if they don't get to show in the first year or two then there is plenty of opportunity coming up as they get older. I'd like to thank everyone that has been involved in making showing possible at Brymore in any way and I am very grateful and hope you can be a

part of it next year as we are looking forward to it. (Mr Adamson)



Activities

As always, Term 1A has been a great success for activities. We had a record 293 after school activities signed up for, with most of these sending forms in before the term had started! Thank you to you all for your fantastic efficiency, it allowed me to get a bit ahead of the game! Some activities are now booked up completely for the whole year but we will have a second round of sign-ups after Christmas for anyone who didn't get their form completed in time. Weekend activities have been stronger than ever too with out-boarders filling up many of the slots for the first time and some of the activities being over-subscribed, once again, before the term started!

Go-Karting was great fun with lots of exciting twists and turns around the fantastic track in Cheddar. Those who did not make it on this term's trip have been automatically added to the trip next time. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, the mackerel fishing trip has been postponed until the Spring but all boys on the trip have been reserved for then. Airhop was fantastic as always with so much to do there - I'm looking at trying out the new FlipOut in Wellington next time to compare. If anyone has been to both and can give feedback, it would be most welcome.

Every half-term, I try to include a cultural evening to allow the boys to learn about different festivals around the world. This half-term was Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light and next half-term, we will be celebrating the Mexican Day of the Dead, remembering and celebrating the lives of all those we have lost. Free for boarders and just £2.80 to cover the cost of food for out-boarders.

Other activities later in the evening have grown in attendance too with many boys taking advantage of the later sports sessions with Mr Blake and Mr Collier and we've had a good turn out each week for X-box and Lego Clubs. These activities are free to join for boarders and free to attend for out-boarders, you just need to pay the after-school fee.



Next half-term doesn't slow down at all with some super activities currently being booked (see next page). We have plans to head to the cinema in Bridgwater to watch Paddington 2; we're just finalising plans to have Bubble Football visit us here at Brymore; the annual Cribbs Causeway shopping trip is always a huge success with at least 25 boys normally signing up to head out to buy Christmas presents for loved ones; I've booked a private party at Chilton Trinity swimming pool with their inflatable assault course; and we'll finish the term with a fiercely competitive game of Ten-Pin Bowling!

Based on the response this half-term, I would suggest that you email your requests for activities through to me as soon as possible to guarantee your son a place. Activities are filling up fast and each has limited places.

As always, a reminder that all activity information can be found in Holt's Hub, a set of large display boards attached to the side of the Old Dining Hall. Please ask your son to look here first as they can normally find everything they need!

Thanks again to everyone for making this half term so action-packed and fun-filled and I look forward to planning and organising some more excellent activities throughout the year.

(Mr Holt)
eholt@educ.somerset.gov.uk
07765 551324



TERM 1B WEEKEND ACTIVITY SUMMARY	
<p>PARENTS - How to book weekend activities:</p> <p>1. Talk with your son about any they would like to do</p> <p>2. Check they have sufficient funds in their activities account before the deadline date</p> <p>BOYS - How to book weekend activities:</p> <p>1. Have a look and see which activities you fancy doing</p> <p>2. Check you have enough money in your activities account before the deadline date</p> <p>You can book places by contacting Mr Holt over the holidays (see bottom of page) but your son will still need to confirm their place with their Houseparent on return to</p>	
<p>Week 1 - 11th & 12th November</p>	
<p>Saturday Evening</p>	<p>Sunday</p>
<p>What Day of the Dead Cultural Evening</p> <p>Where Dining Hall (Mexican Evening)</p> <p>When Over Tea</p> <p>Cost Free for boarders (Compulsory) £2.80 for Out-boarders</p> <p>Deadline Weds 8th November (for Out-boarders to book)</p>	<p>What Cinema - Paddington 2</p> <p>Where Bridgewater Cinema</p> <p>When Depart 2:30pm from School</p> <p>Cost £6 + cash for McDonalds (optional)</p> <p>Deadline LATEST Weds 8th November 09:00</p>
	
<p>Week 2 - 18th & 19th November</p>	
<p>Saturday Evening</p>	<p>Sunday</p>
<p>What See display boards for full list of available onsite activities</p> <p>Where       </p> <p>When </p> <p>Cost      </p> <p>Deadline Weds 8th November (for Out-boarders to book)</p>	<p>What Bubble Football</p> <p>Where Brymore</p> <p>When tbc</p> <p>Cost £18.00</p> <p>Deadline Weds 8th November 09:00</p>
	
<p>Week 3 - 25th & 26th November</p>	
<p>Sunday 26th November</p>	<p>Sunday</p>
<p>What Volunteer to help at Blackmore by Candlelight</p> <p>Where Blackmore Farm</p> <p>When 10:00pm - 7:00pm</p> <p>Cost Free - See Mr Adamson for more</p> <p>Deadline Weds 8th November 09:00</p>	<p>What Cribbs Causeway Xmas Shopping Trip</p> <p>Where Cribbs Causeway, Bristol</p> <p>When Leave after breakfast, take a packed lunch</p> <p>Cost £5 (£tbc if ice skating)</p> <p>Deadline Weds 8th November 09:00</p>
	
<p>Week 4 - 2nd & 3rd December</p>	
<p>Saturday Evening</p>	<p>Sunday</p>
<p>What Private Hire - Super Splash Assault Course</p> <p>Where Chilton Trinity Swimming Pool</p> <p>When 5:00pm</p> <p>Cost £12.00</p> <p>Deadline Weds 15th November 09:00</p>	<p>What See display boards for full list of available onsite activities</p> <p>Where      </p> <p>When </p> <p>Cost      </p> <p>Deadline Weds 15th November 09:00</p>
	
<p>Week 5 - 9th & 10th December</p>	
<p>Saturday Evening</p>	<p>Sunday</p>
<p>What Ten-Pin Bowling, 2 games</p> <p>Where Hollywood Bowl, Taunton</p> <p>When Leave after tea, return 9:30pm</p> <p>Cost £11 + cash for McDonalds (optional)</p> <p>Deadline Weds 22nd November 09:00</p>	<p>What See display boards for full list of available onsite activities</p> <p>Where      </p> <p>When </p> <p>Cost      </p> <p>Deadline Weds 22nd November 09:00</p>
	
<p>Any questions about the activities, please speak to Mr Holt - 07765 551324 01278 655563 eholt@educ.somerset.gov.uk</p> <p>Prices, locations and times subject to availability and may change at short notice</p>	

Agriculture

Year 9 BTEC Opportunity

A chance to achieve a Level 2 Qualification in Year 9!

All Year 9 students have the opportunity to achieve a Level 2 BTEC in Agriculture. A BTEC qualification has NO exams and can be graded at Pass, Merit, Distinction, this is equivalent to GCSE A, B and C.

The course is made up of two units, Unit 15: Beef and Dairy Production and Unit 16: Sheep Production, each unit has two written assignments and a portfolio of practical assessments.

This is an additional qualification that gives the boys an excellent insight the Year 10 Technical Award in Land Based Studies. We would encourage all Year 9 boys to complete the course, and for parents to push them as much as possible, as we want to highlight what an amazing opportunity this is! (Miss Marks)

Christmas Turkeys 2017

We have a limited number of Brymore 'barn reared' turkeys for sale this year.

(Norfolk Black, Bronze and White breeds)
These will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Prices: £ per lb

- 12-14lb = £4.00/lb (£48 - £56)
- 16-20+lb = £3.80/lb (£60.80 - £76)

If you would like to order a turkey, please ring the school office on 01278 652369 with your details and requirements and a deposit of £30 (Please make cheques payable to Brymore Academy)

Farm News

Dairy ~ We are now gradually introducing the Dairy Shorthorns into the milking herd as they calve. We have two older cows and two heifers in milk alongside the rest of the herd. They were also good enough to produce two Dairy Shorthorn heifer calves with two Aberdeen Angus X bull calves.

The rest of the herd are producing good quality milk with butterfat of 4.8% and proteins of 3.5%. The boys constantly surprise me when the bactoscan results come back between 10 and 30 (nice and low) meaning that the milk is clean, which is the result of good, clean milking practices.

Sheep ~ The ewes have been sorted, the culls have been separated and the rest of the 'keepers' have been sponged (synchronized) and mated. The rams will be put back in shortly to cover any returns.

We have managed to purchase a lovely Suffolk

Pigs ~ We have bought a Lop Eared gilt (in pig) with the intention of using AI on her at a later date to start producing our own Lop Eared to sell.

The boys have taken on growth experiments using the pigs that were born back in the summer. Some are comparing different feeds and some comparing environmental conditions. We look forward to seeing the results.

Grazing ~ We have re-seeded two of the dairy grazing fields as the old pasture was a little tired. The seed seems to be coming up fairly well. This gave the boys an opportunity to either use the plough or see just how it works. The grazing has worked fairly well over the summer staying weed free and growing well. We have been using a plate meter to assess the dry matter yields of the fields which has meant that we can graze more efficiently.

Please can you ensure all of the boys have sufficient clothing for working in all weathers on the farm during the winter months.

(Mr Williams)

Sports News

Rugby has started well this term with some of the Year 7s getting stuck into the training and making sure they're keeping up with their Chads runs in order to be selected. During Year 7 it is non-competitive and we have played well at tournaments with the boys learning to gel together as a team.

In Year 8 we are struggling for numbers and I would ask you to encourage your son to join the rugby team as he would have plenty of opportunities to play and to develop as a player. The boys who have played have tried really hard during matches but without the squad depth they will continue to struggle to compete with other schools in the area.

The Year 9 team have had a steady start to the season and it is really encouraging to see lots of boys out training; although their behaviour in training needs to improve especially if they want to make the squad regularly on match days.

Our Year 10 team, under the watchful eye of Mr Spridgens, have had some tough games with wins and losses but we are delighted that they are through to the 2nd round of the National Bowl competition and will be playing in Lyme Regis after the half-term break.

With a really plentiful squad of over 25 players the Year 11 boys have dominated well in lots of matches this half-term and have played some outstanding rugby. Unfortunately, they had some sloppy play during a match against Frome so didn't progress in the Somerset Cup but are however, a couple of wins away from getting through to the final of the Sedgemoor Cup; which we won in Year 10.



Chads Run Report

The number of runs this first half-term as of 19.10.17 is 1,547, with 1,474 being run by boys, 65 by staff and 8 guests; this is 309 more overall than last year. 25 runs have been reached in the fastest time by a boy for a number of years; one boy has completed 200 runs since joining the school and another 150. Once again, there is a disappointing number of boys who are yet to run even once, these are five boarders and 16 day boys but on the bright side two of our least keen have surprised both me and themselves by completing a circuit. Most evenings there are between 30-70 boys commencing the run from the front of school house promptly at 4.00 pm. In the interest of the safety of the boys we ask that all parents driving up the front drive at this time pull over into a layby or at least bring their vehicle to a halt until the boys have passed, continuing to travel through the group of runners could result in a tragedy. All runners will have exited the school in under four minutes.

We are lucky enough here to have a number of staff helping out with practices and Chads during the week when I am with the team playing matches but it should be reminded that all boys need to show the same level of respect and behaviour to everyone during training. This behaviour teamed with the boys being up to date with Chads and fitness is important for the squad choices and I would ask any parent to check with their son if they are up to date and have shown respect because this may be why they haven't been chosen for a match. We have been awarding RFU TREDs green laces this term; keep an eye on the sports noticeboard for who has won. So far Daniel Levy and Henry Mills have been recipients of the coveted laces! You can follow the @BrymoreSport twitter page for regular updates of what we are up to in PE and Games lessons too. (Mr Williams)

Boarding

A new school year at Brymore and with that we have welcomed back our boys and have felt extremely privileged to have helped settle the many that have joined us. The new boys have settled very well and the older boys have helped hugely with this. The new students' Induction Week really helped settle them into Brymore life. Tractor tyre flipping and the tug of war were just some of the fun things the boys did during their first week here.

Key to the successful settling of all of the new boys has been the excellence of our older boys in their roles as Junior Mentors and Mentors as well as the Senior Student Leadership Team led by the Head Boy, Zaid. Such support has been vital and this has helped with homesickness and encouraging them with their activity participation as well as checking they are ok.

We have welcomed some new faces and some familiar faces into the boarding team. Mr Collier and Mr Blake have become House Tutors and have been joined by new staff members, Mrs Jordan and Miss Eastham.

Each boarding house has a house specific charity now and are working hard supporting their respective charity. Kemp House have chosen Help for Heroes, School House have chosen Cancer Research and Reid are supporting a local mental health charity for teenagers. Watch this space for each house promoting their chosen charities with various events from rock painting to quiz nights!

Speaking of charities, Brymore will yet again be contributing huge amounts of goodies to our annual Smiles for Christmas campaign where we ask boys to donate some foodstuffs and new toys for our Christmas Hampers which we will donate to The Salvation Army. Donations can be given any time after half term and boys who donate generously will receive a Smiles Champion certificate!

Diwali night was enjoyable and the Dining Hall staff cooked some lovely food to help us celebrate the evening. The weekends have been thoroughly entertaining for the boys staying in with trips to Airhop, Go-Karting and Clay Pigeon Shooting being just some of the exciting trips that have taken place this half-term. Book early for next half-term to avoid disappointment.

Boys have been very busy completing their weekly Chads Hill runs and doing their fitness as well as competing in rugby matches and practise. Well done to those boys who have completed at least one chads a week. Every boy should be on at least six Chads by now. Mr Spridgens knows only too well that those boys who keep up with such commitments are the same boys who pass their exams with flying colours.

As the wind leaves trees with no trace of their former covering, our footsteps become crunchier and the colours of autumn sweep before us. Pretty soon we will welcome the winter months as the nights grow ever longer with it getting darker earlier and earlier. A time to wrap up warm and dust off the gloves and bobble hats. A time to be inside during the cold crisp evenings. Spare a thought though for the hardy Brymore boys, who through gale, hail and rain run like the very wind they charge into during their display of resilience, responsibility and resourcefulness, each and every time they complete their fitness and Chads, not to mention their commitment to various duties as well. That is what being a Brymore boy is all about...dedication and glowing with knowing satisfaction. (Mr Watts)



Harvest Festival and Cross Country

Many thanks to all of you who attended the Harvest Festival services on the last day of term despite the difficulties many of you will have faced traveling through Storm Brian. Yet again, I was impressed with the number of boys who are prepared to stand up in front of a large congregation to deliver various readings and prayers as part of the service. Thanks also to Mr Willcocks for two excellent services and to the Reverend Alison for continuing to support the school. Well over £700 was raised for the National Charity - Send a Cow. It was unfortunate that we had to postpone the Cross Country, however, we will let you know in due course when this will take place.

Trespass Camp

Before the winter weather kicked in we managed to have our first trial of 'Trespass Camp'. A group of boys agreed to be guinea pigs to work with myself and Mr Weldon to set up a camp in the corner of the school fields. Currently the only camping we do is during the summer term activities week and we have been slowly collecting together bits of equipment for this. However some very generous recent financial help from FoBSA means we have acquired some smart new tents and Trangia cookers.



It was a request from some of the boarders that they might be able to use some of this gear on a Saturday night that started us thinking. Could we find a spot where they could set up the tents and learn to use the cookers, then bring out their bedding from the dorms before settling down to a night around a campfire telling stories and watching the stars come out? And so we did it.

The boys pitched tents next to the discus nets, then carried out water and all the equipment so that we could dig a fire pit, which they lined with stones before finally learning the safe way to use the cookers. After tea in the dining hall we all met as the sky went dark, lit the fire and told some truly awful stories and some even worse jokes. After a torchless midnight walk to see if we could find any wildlife, they brewed their own hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows (incinerated might be a better word) before turning in to cosy duvet filled tents.

In the morning two boys even set alarms and sneaked out of their tents to carry out their feeding duties on the farm, whereas the rest of us made it out in time for school breakfast. All boys then helped take down the camp and clean the gear.

It was a good night and I would like to think that we will repeat it when the weather warms up again. Trespass Camp is an opportunity for boys to put something a little different into their routine, a chance to be outside and a time to enjoy their surroundings. I would like to thank all the staff who helped, FoBSA for their support and the boys for being brave enough to give it a go: Nathanael Broom, Basil Davies, William Holter-Hovind, Toby Ranson, Harvey Reading, Ollie Spence and Devon Thompson. (Mr Austin)



Adult Readers

Our English department is looking for adults to help listen to some of our boys read to enhance their learning. If you don't mind giving up an hour or two a week to assist and are happy to be DBS checked then please contact Ms Taylor-Lane, Mrs Popham or Miss Webber to discuss.

Upcoming Important Dates

2017/18 BRYMORE'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 7 November

INSET DAY

3.30 pm - 5.00 pm Year 7 Parent Consultation with Houseparents, Heads of House & Registration Group Tutors
Academic Progress with Senior Leadership Team (Selected Year 11 students only)

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm Year 8, 9 10 & 11 boarders return

Wednesday 8 November

8.30 am All out-boarders return

Friday 15 December

4.00 pm Lower School Christmas Service
@ St Mary's Church, Cannington, TA5 2HA

5.00 pm Years 7 & 8 depart for Christmas Holidays

Saturday 16 December

10.30 am Upper School Christmas Service
@ St Mary's Church, Cannington, TA5 2HA
Years 9, 10 & 11 depart for Christmas Holidays

Monday 8 January 2018

INSET DAY

3.30 pm - 5.00 pm Year 11 Parent Consultation

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 boarders return

Tuesday 9 January

8.30 am All out-boarders return

Sunday 10 February

12.00 pm Years 7, 9, 10 & 11 depart for Spring half-term

1.00 pm - 3.30 pm Year 8 Parent Consultation

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