

Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

Newsletter

February 2018
www.brymoreacademy.co.uk

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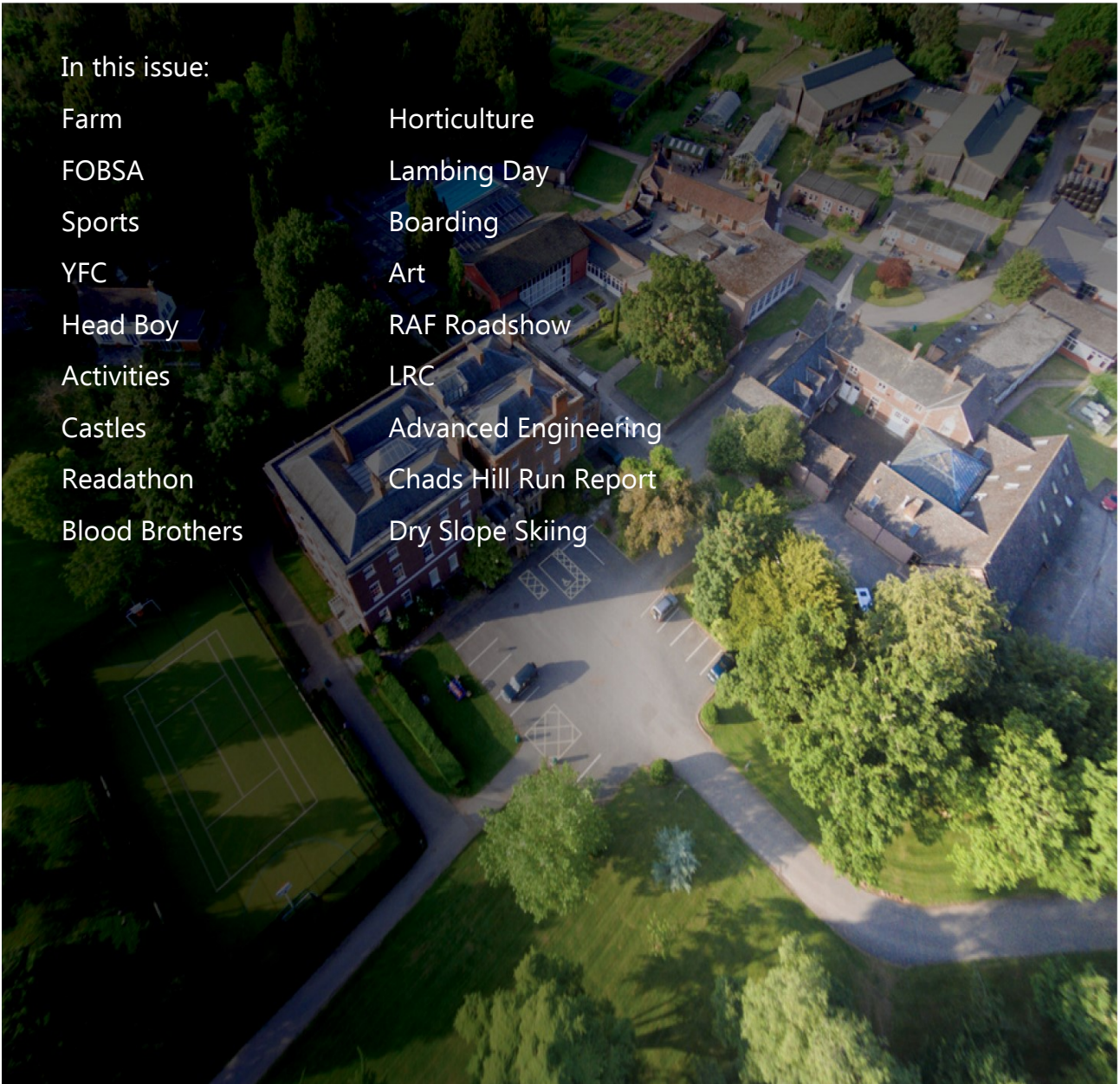
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Message from the Headteacher

Having reached the half way point in the academic year it always amazes me just how quickly time seems to go during term time. With a short half-term approaching of only four weeks the same amount of work needs to be completed but in less time, with Year 11 in particular facing an intensive few weeks. It is a time when we start to look forward to next year in terms of planning and preparation whilst continuing to keep an eye on the present. Next week Year 6 boys will find out whether they have been offered a place at Brymore, with places for both out-boarders and boarders being oversubscribed meaning more boys will be disappointed than ever before. We also start the process of interviewing for the new Head Boy and members of the Senior Student Leadership Team as well as Head of Department positions in agriculture and horticulture. I will be writing to all parents soon regarding the five day week proposals, however I can say it is now very likely that this will go ahead. Financial projections are currently being prepared before a final decision can be made but once that is complete we will start the process of informing all stakeholders of what it will actually mean in terms of the day-to-day operation of the school.

A highlight for me this term has to be watching the Year 11 rugby team play Haygrove in the District final. Unfortunately, they lost narrowly but the support from parents, staff and boys was yet again fantastic and I am sure it provided a memory for those in the squad that will stay with them forever. I continue to be convinced that it is opportunities like this and others detailed elsewhere in this newsletter that help develop a true Brymore boy. From boys producing work in engineering that is of a Year 12 standard, boys starting to prepare for the showing season, those preparing for the annual ski trip, boys having an opportunity to see the stage version of Blood Brothers, take part in paintballing, quad biking, go karting, boccia or even sausage making and all of those that will help run our Lambing Fun Day or Open Day later this year; these are all opportunities that help prepare the boys for life beyond Brymore. The fact that many are simply good fun is an added bonus.

I hope all boys are able to have a break over the half-term holiday and enjoy spending time with their family and I look forward to seeing everyone back next week ready to make the most of all that Brymore has to offer.

Best wishes



Horticulture

With spring upon us we are effervescently busy as always. Firstly I must thank everyone who bought and gave away calendars at Christmas. This was a great idea from Mrs Stanley and the photos within taken by staff and students were superb.

We are now busy seed sowing, beginning to prick out seedlings, and plots have been dug over and manure or leaf mould applied. We have our potatoes chitting, broad beans are being germinated and then planted out, and also flower beds have been weeded and mulched.

Pruning is continuing which is normal for this time of year. Year 10 boys have been assisting in the pruning and tidying up of the Willow House at Spaxton Primary School.

Year 7 boys have been to Monkton Elm Garden Centre as an introductory trip to see about different plants and careers. They found the monkey puzzle tree particularly intriguing. Most boys have been working very hard on their plots and this is pleasurable to see.

We have had the current Year 10 boys applying for the HoD roles within Horticulture and they have now all been interviewed and appointed as trial HoDs.

In the January edition of The Kitchen Gardener magazine we had a dedicated article featuring our boys and the horticulture provision available here.

We will be welcoming a new technician to the department soon in the form of Miss Meatyard. As always a debt of gratitude to Mrs Stanley for all she does. (Mr Willcocks)



Engineering

We have had a couple of real successes during the after school advanced engineering sessions. Drew Wotten and Harrison Scott have managed to design and make pneumatic engines; which is no mean feat when I think about how we used to deliver this to our Year 12 boys some years ago. Well done to both boys on their commitment, endeavour and determination to achieve making this advanced design. (Mr Ball)



Young Farmers Club

This half-term has sped by for the YFC. We began the new term with an informal visit from PC Ian Long, who asked the boys what they thought the role of the police was and how it affected them. He then spent time altering their opinions and perception of the force.

The next meeting was a short one as there was no speaker but Mr Adamson wished to let the boys know what the YFC and the school expected of them if they wished to either show animals or help with promoting Brymore at any of the summer shows. Good behaviours is a **MUST**, to be even considered.

Once a month, there is a quiz held in Cannington and January's was to support Brymore Academy, with the proceeds of the raffle and the evening quiz raising over £200. This was split between the YFC and the farms Showing Fund. Mr Adamson, myself and three Year 10 boys, (Cameron Kinch, Toby Ranson and Ollie Spence), made up the team. I am pleased to say we came 6th out of 15 teams, getting 10 out of 10 answers correct in four categories, including the one we played our joker. Well done boys and thank you to the generous residents of Cannington.

Our penultimate speaker, Mrs Wendy Welland, came in with various types of raw wool, brushes and a spinning wheel and spoke of the history of converting a fleece into garments, via the Romans and invading Vikings. It seems most of a fleece can be used for something. The boys were given a chance to card the wool and try their hand at slow spinning, using the wheel. Mrs Welland is planning to come in again, this time with an entire fleece to show which parts do what.



The last event of the half term, was sausage making demonstrated by Mr Westcott. Making pork sausages, using meat raised on the farm, the boys minced, flavoured, fed into the skins and ate the end product, all in one evening. Thank you to the catering department for allowing the use of the old kitchen, Mr Adamson for organising and cooking and an especially big thank you to Mr Westcott for giving up his time.



There hasn't been a great take up of raffle tickets for the family of hedgehogs raising money for Cancer Research, so that will be carried on until Easter - 10p a ticket.

(Miss Bradford)

Readathon

This year World Book Day is on Thursday 1st March (first Thursday back after half-term) and to mark the occasion we will be holding our annual Readathon on this day.

Last year we raised almost £600 to help provide a regular supply of brand new books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK. We were also gifted almost £100 worth of book vouchers to help us re-stock the LRC.

As usual, Year 7, 8 & 9 will be participating and, on the day students will read during lessons, even if just for a small part of it. Forms will be sent home for sponsorship. The English team will also be opening their classrooms at break and lunch to accommodate those trying to meet their sponsorship target. (Mrs Taylor-Lane)

Chads Run Report

The number of runs this half-term as of Thursday 9th February 2018 is 3,844, with 3,636 being run by boys, 170 by staff and 38 guests.

One Year 7 has reached 80, another 65 and two boys have completed over 50. 18 boys have run over 25 times including a member of staff.

I am pleased to report that most drivers have heeded my request to pull over and wait for the boys to pass them on the drive, although there are still a few in a hurry to collect their boy that put others at risk. Four minutes is all it takes before they have all left the site. (Mr Spridgens)

LRC

Once again we have been the grateful recipients of donated books, from staff, parents and a local Independent school, these will be placed on the shelves shortly. First I have to make some space which will mean getting rid of books already in the library.

I know this sounds like a contradiction in terms but I shall sort through the stock and many books not issued since 2010 will be donated to a local charity shop or the National Trust, excepting the classics. As Librarian I choose just what is a classic and live in hope that one day a boy will want to read a Dickens or Harper Lee! This weeding will continue throughout the year. (Miss Bradford)

Dry Slope Skiing

The ski and snowboard lessons have started in earnest at Mendip Ski Centre and continue right up until we leave for Austria at Easter.

Boys have done very well so far in learning new skills or honing old ones and we can't wait to see them put this into practice on the snowy slopes! (Mr Ball)

Blood Brothers

The Year 10 boys were lucky enough to experience their English textbook come to life on stage. As part of their curriculum they are studying Blood Brothers and Mrs Taylor-Lane organised the trip to Weston-Super-Mare. Boys had a great day and enjoyed the stage show version of this classic text. (Ms Warren)

BRYMORE LOTTERY

The results of the lottery for this half-term:

1 st	£40.00	Mrs A Chandler
2 nd	£25.00	Mr and Mrs Perrett
3 rd	£15.00	Mrs A Dyer

Message from the Head Boy

The end of my time as Head Boy is on the horizon with applications for the future candidates being handed out. My time as Head Boy has been incredible and has very fortunately opened up many new pathways for my team and I. I cannot wait to see how the new Head Boy and team step up as they set the foundations for the rest of their time here at Brymore and I wish them all the best of luck.

Playing in the Year 11 regional finals was an experience never to be forgotten. It was a devastating loss which left everyone broken, the team has worked immensely hard over the course of three years developing and improving into a brotherhood. The boys and I cannot express our thanks enough to our two brilliant coaches who fought alongside us and to those supporters who made the night the experience it was. Unlucky boys, this is not the end of the road yet! (Zaid Elmrahti)

Castles in History

A new annual event in the Brymore history department is the Year 7 Motte and Bailey castle project.

Miss Lee-Joy was astonished by the detail and high level of work that had been undertaken by the boys. Mr Thomas was, once again, invited to come and view the castles in all their glory and to judge which ones he deemed were award winning. Prizes were handed out in assembly. (Ms Warren)



Art

In KS3 Art lessons boys have been drawing some amazing cows in the style of artist James Bartholomew. (Ms Warren)



Free
Entry

Brymore
experience to last a lifetime

Brymore Lambing

Sunday March 4th // 10am - 3pm



Come and see our baby lambs and visit the ewes around their due dates!

We can't promise lambing live but the opportunity to bottle feed a lamb and cuddle one is just a step away with us at Brymore Academy.

Refreshments provided by Friends of Brymore Association.

No dogs permitted and pregnant women should not enter the livestock shed.

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Activities

TERM 2B WEEKEND ACTIVITY SUMMARY

There will be maximum numbers for some activities, each boarding house will have 5 allocated spaces and there will be a waiting list if people drop out.

Activities with limited (15) spaces are:
Flipout
Quad World

Saturday Evening		Sunday	
What	Where	What	Where
No Bake...No Cake!	School House	Paintballing	Cannington Park
7pm		Leave 9:30, return for lunch	
Free		£13.50	
MOS	Mrs Long	Mr Blake + Mr Weldon	
March 3rd + 4th			
			
Paired Pool League	Kemp	FlipOut!	Wellington
7pm - 9pm	Free	Leave after breakfast, take packed lunch	
Free		£20.00	
MOS	Mr Fewtrell	Mr Simmons	
March 10th + 11th			
			
Card night (prizes!)	Reid	Quad World	Devon
7pm - 8.30pm	£2.00	Leave 10am return after lunch	
MOS	Mrs Western	Ms Greenhill	
March 17th + 18th			
			

Boarding

It only seems like yesterday that the boys returned from their Christmas holidays full of verve and renewed energy in their pursuit to be a successful Brymore boy.

Boarders returned to find new mattresses for some and one dorm had been refurbished in School House, all of which were greeted with smiles and gratitude for the efforts of our site team and contractors alike. Such changes are part of an ongoing programme of works/ investment into boarding. I'm sure the boys are extremely grateful towards all of the site staff that invest so much time and effort so that Brymore is a cleaner, safer and more organised place to live and study at.

As well as new fixtures and fittings Brymore welcomed a new member of staff to the boarding team in Mrs Edwards, who has joined School House as their new Assistant Houseparent. After half-term Reid House will welcome their new Houseparent Mrs Western. We wish both very successful transition into their new jobs and every success in their new roles.

As usual the half term has been jam packed with exciting activities for boys to try and enjoy. The bike track has re-opened and weekend activities have been eagerly signed up for. We held some fantastic offsite trips for the boys who stayed in for them/ joined us for the fun. The boys went bowling and paintballing as well as visiting Street for some shopping, no doubt spending Christmas money on post season bargains. Go-Karting was a huge success and the boys who went really enjoyed themselves. It is always a popular trip, therefore, please book early for next half terms activities to avoid disappointment. Special thanks to all the staff who have helped such activities take place from Mrs Portland to Mr Simmons and a huge thank you to all staff who have supported the boarding team this half-term.



Speaking of support, the boys completed a mentoring survey. Mentors and mentees completed this and results were very positive indeed. 100% of boys (27 boys are mentors across the three boarding houses) said they enjoyed mentoring younger boys. The role sees mentors support the younger boys with their homesickness, encouraging them to do more activities and check-in and check-out with them once a week, simply meaning asking after them and seeing if they are ok, what they are looking forward to etc. One mentor said when asked to describe mentoring *'I think it is nice that we speak to the younger years and get to know how their day has been and what they are up to'*. 88% of mentees (60 boys are mentees across the three boarding houses) said they found their mentors to be helpful which is fantastic in that they have had help from an older boy, which would have made a big difference to their experience. The remaining 12% have been spoken to and some of them said they simply have had no reason to need support whilst others have said they did not see their mentors as much as they would like. The expectation is that the mentors should pop in once a week so there was a need to remind all boys that this is the expectation as the older boys have other commitments but it is nice that the younger boys want to see more of their mentors.

Each boarding house has been tasked with creating new opportunities, to build upon the success of last terms charity fund raising for their respective boarding house charity. I know Kemp parents can look forward to their son completing some form of 24 hour sponsored tech ban or silence - they will decide and details will be sent out shortly. (Mr Watts)

FOBSA



A big welcome to our new members and an enormous thank you to the team for all they do in helping run events and assist the school on their big days. Being part of the Friends of Brymore Association really is fun and I have made new friends through this, so would definitely encourage you to help if there is a call to arms, or even come along to one of our meetings if you can.

Bingo was another successful event ran by the FoBSA team. The hall was packed with parents, boys and the community. We raised over £1,000 which will be put back into the school to be spent on the boys. We would like to thank you for all the donations received to make the event successful. We have been asked to run another so watch out for dates for our "chocolate & sweet" prize bingo and we will be asking for chocolate and sweet donations.

Lambing day is fast approaching, Sunday 4th March, and the organising is under way. We are always looking for extra helpers, so if you can help please email on fobsachair@hotmail.com and we are always grateful for tombola/raffle prizes which you can leave in the School Office. In addition, there will be a shout-out for cake donations so if you can assist with this then we would be most grateful.

A BIG shout-out for helpers for our largest event of the year which is Open Day on Saturday 30th June. We will be asking for rolls and cakes nearer the time but will definitely need lots of helpers on the day, even just an hour of your time is precious to us so please, if you can be part of this great day please email me.

SCHOOL UNIFORM: Do you have any unwanted school uniform that is taking up space in the wardrobe? We need to build up the pre-loved boxes. I have a few emails a month asking for certain bits but at this present time I am unable to help as stock is very low. Please drop any unwanted uniform to the School Office so that we can make use of it and add funds back into the school through this service.

Once again thank you for all your support, we are always pleased to meet new members at our meetings. The next one is Saturday 21st April 2018 at 2.30pm in the Meeting Room by the Finance Office. The kettle is always on!!!!!!

(Chair of FoBSA, Kate Atyeo)

RAF Roadshow

Boys in Years 8 and 9 were given the opportunity to explore the science behind flight with an exciting and interactive roadshow delivered by members of the RAF. Using a combination of videos and live demonstrations, a team of presenters explained the physics involved in flying; the varied careers available in the RAF and the importance of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) in the armed forces. Towards the end of the session, the students were lucky to benefit from a question and answer session led by an RAF officer who fielded a range of questions about life in the RAF. Thanks go to Mr Craig for organising this interactive session for the boys. (Ms Warren)



Sports Report

Over 20 boys went to Yeovil for the County Cross Country Trials. All performed outstandingly with two boys making it to the reserve team for the South West Championships and they were Jake Thomas and James Ford so congratulations to them. During the holidays a select band of Year 7 and 8 boys are going to the Junior Championships at Kings College for cross country and we look forward to celebrating their results after the half-term. In the first few weeks after the holiday we have a number of cross country fixtures including defending our reign in the Mammouth Trophy.



The Year 10 rugby team made it to the regional stages of the National Bowl Competition missing out to Penryn College. They feature in the Area Final on Wednesday 28th February at North Pertherton RFC so we are hoping for big things from them.

The Year 8 and 9 rugby teams enjoyed a friendly tournament before the Year 11 final and all teams enjoyed the games and we saw improvements in their performances.

The Year 11s faced Haygrove in the Area Final and narrowly lost 17-12. A huge amount of respect is due to the boys and thanks also for the fantastic support from staff, parents and boys in what was a hard fought match. We continue to be proud of our Year 11 team with a squad size of 35+ players and their continued commitment to the team and we hope to have one final match for them to play as a team.



Next term will be house rugby matches which will take place during lessons and selected Saturday afternoons, please look at the Parent Bulletin for details. The house finals are on Saturday 17th March and the House Sevens tournament is on Saturday 24th March, both in the afternoon.



Well done to those who have represented the school at Boccia this year and we had three boys go to the county finals performing well in their age group. (Mr Williams)

SPECTATOR AND PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Show respect for officials and other players
- Encourage in your support
- Be courteous to all
- Applaud good play
- Verbally support in a proactive manner
- Remember victory is not everything
- Children are playing for their own enjoyment
- Enjoy the day and transmit that enthusiasm to the players



www.rfu.com

Both the staff and boys always enjoy spectators at events but please may we ask that, especially during rugby games, you respect the RFU rules of conduct as stated above. We, as a school, have signed up to the RFU Old Mutual Wealth Kids First which puts children first. Aimed at U7-U13 boys and girls, it upskills coaches and creates a great rugby environment, so that everyone stays in the game for longer. The Old Mutual Wealth Kids First is transformational as it puts kids first not coaches: it is inclusive, it ensures rugby's rules support children's development - they are deliberately uncomplicated, progressive and flexible, it defines the commitment and expectation of adults, it directly impacts on the next steps for players and it is consistent between clubs and schools. Mr Williams has had extensive training in the delivery of this programme and passionately believes in the ethos behind it, so your assistance in helping us to ensure success would be gratefully received. (Ms Warren)

Farm News

DAIRY

We have had a busy few days nearing the end of the half term (for us) with four cows calving over a week. Around about nine months ago it must have been a busy week for Forrester also! The cows are now milking well and the calves are settling into the calve unit with their jackets on - a must in this cold weather.

The silage bales are getting fewer but I am hoping that before the end of February the dairy cattle might be grazing for a few hours a day. I am also hoping to get a bit of fertiliser on the re-seeds as soon as the grass shows signs of growth.

We have also had a busy couple of weeks inseminating cows. A lot have been going to dairy shorthorn, some sexed semen.

SHEEP

The last of last year's lambs have been spoken for leaving us free to concentrate on this year's lambing. The ewes have been scanned and now sorted according to their condition (fatness). The poorer ewes have been brought in for a little more care consisting of hard feed and silage. The rest of the ewes will be coming in just before lambing is due to commence. We're hoping that come Lambing Sunday we will be at our busiest!

POULTRY

We are now getting the poultry area ready to receive our new point of lay hens! I am looking forward to getting back into egg production.

PIGS

All of our sows are in pig, it is now just a waiting game. We will start to get the paddocks ready for summer and turn them out when the ground and weather allow. We will attempt to A.I. our pedigree lop hoping for a nice British Lop litter.

BEEF

It has been a nice short housing period for the beef cattle due to the dry autumn and I am looking forward to turn-out. The cattle are growing really well on the hay and silage. The yearlings are also receiving 2 kg/hd/day of concentrate which seems to be doing them well also.

The weaned calves are on 3kg/hd/day providing growth rates of 0.8 kg/day.

LESSONS

This half term we have been busy hedge-laying, fencing and learning other maintenance skills. The hedge-laying is slow but steady progress but hopefully it will be rewarding for the boys to see it grow up in the spring. With lambing on its way some year groups have also been learning about the lambing process and the aftercare that goes with it. (Mr Kingston)



2018 BRYMORE'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 26 February 2018

INSET DAY

3.30 pm - 5.00 pm

Year 10 Parent Consultation

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Years 7, 8, 9 & 11 boarders return

Tuesday 27 February 2018

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

Saturday 24 March 2018

10.00 am

Raising Achievement Session for Parents

11.30 am

Parents Chads Run/Walk

2.00 pm

Rugby & Hockey House Finals

4.00 pm

All students depart for Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM

Monday 16 April

INSET DAY

3.30 pm - 5.00 pm

Year 9 Parent Consultation

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Years 7, 8, 10 & 11 boarders return

Tuesday 17 April

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

Friday 4 May

12.00 pm

Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 depart for
Bank Holiday weekend

1.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Year 7 Parent Consultation

Monday 7 May (Bank Holiday)

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

Tuesday 8 May

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

Saturday 26 May

11.30 am

Year 11 Leavers Service

1.30 pm

Sports Day

3.45 pm

Students depart for half-term

Sunday 3 June

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

Monday 4 June

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

Saturday 30 June

10.30 am - 5.00 pm

Open Day and Country Fair

2-7 July

Work Experience Week (Year 10)

9-14 July

Activities Week

Saturday 14 July

10.30 am

Swimming Gala

12.00 pm

All students depart for summer holidays

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