

Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

Newsletter

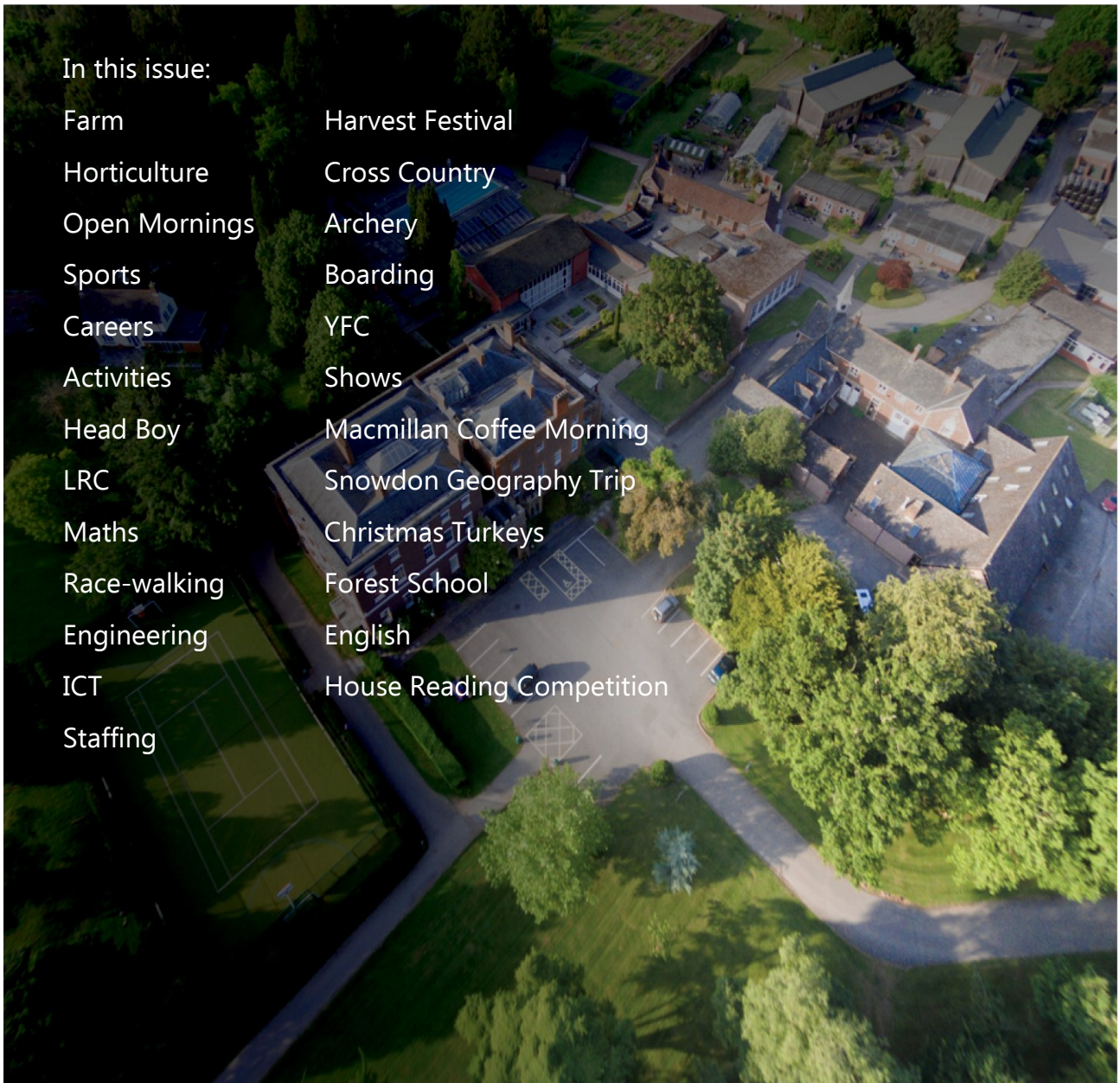
October 2018

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Diligentia et Labore



Message from the Headteacher

The first newsletter of the year always makes me think of three particular groups of boys. The Year 11's who have left us, the current Year 11 who are entering their last year at Brymore and the Year 7 boys who are just starting their journey. Of course it is an important year for all boys, however it is particularly significant for some more than others.

The Year 11's who left us in July have done so having yet again achieved a fantastic set of results. As a group they were amongst some of the highest achieving boys in Somerset with the results in English Literature and Design and Technology yet again being the actual highest. Special mention must go to Sam Tull who got the top grade (9/Distinction*) in geography, agriculture and horticulture, the second highest grade (8/A) in English, chemistry and DT, with all other subjects at grade 6 or 7. I would also like to highlight Patrick Ruell, who achieved on average three grades higher *per subject* than he was expected to achieve when he joined Brymore. Patrick made some of the best academic progress I have ever seen in my time here. I am proud of what the whole year group achieved and I wish them well with life after Brymore.

The current Year 11 have a lot to live up to especially as they are the first boys who have been with us from the very beginning in Year 7. They have now completed 25 half-terms and only have three 'normal' ones left before the exam season begins. I have spoken to them all in assembly last week and all will have an individual meeting with either Mrs Davis or myself to ensure we are doing everything we can to support them.

I have been really impressed with the way the Year 7's have launched themselves into life at Brymore. Their attendance at Chad's and fitness has been good and I am pleased with the application and effort being shown in lessons. With another busy half-term approaching long may this continue.

Thank you to all the parents, friends and family who were able to share the cross country and harvest festival with us last week. I think it makes a huge difference not only to your son, but to the overall ethos of the school and the message that we are sending to the boys. We are in this together, a partnership, where the collective will is so much stronger than that of an individual. I apologise to those parents who had to stand in the lower school service, but I am reluctant to limit those of you who want to bring other family members. We will try, where possible, to increase the seating for the Christmas service.

Thank you also for your patience as we have adapted to the five day week. Without a doubt the vast majority of the feedback has been positive and many have reported enjoying spending family time together at the weekends and taking up old hobbies again. Well done to those who have also had to adapt to being full-time boarders. I was heartened to see a group playing football together one Saturday, that consisted of boys from Year 7 through to Year 11, just like a family should be. Having spent last Saturday evening with the Old Brymorians, who told me they were only allowed home on Sunday afternoon following church, it made me realise that the full-time boarders are indeed pioneers themselves and it is important that we continue to support them.

I hope you all enjoy some family time together over half-term and I look forward to seeing you back after the holidays.

Best wishes



Horticulture

As always after a long summer with no boys around we have been busy, busy, busy preparing for the winter. This term has seen a lot of apple crushing, which is always a favourite job amongst the boys. We are selling apple juice, apple and pear and spiced apple too and we will be making cider after the half term.

The beds have been cleared and replanted and the new Year 7s have been given plots and so are busily preparing them.

The broad beans have been sown and some have germinated, perennial and salad seeds have also been sown, pricked out and potted on and some ripe cuttings were taken from some shrubs.

The Cordon apple trees against the wall have been pruned and we have harvested more rhubarb, leeks, potatoes, apples, pears, tomatoes, squash and marrows. Plenty of soil had been served, sterilised and made into our own compost and the winter hanging baskets have been planted. The wildflower area was left to die back and has now been strimmed and tidied up whilst the leaf mold has been put onto some plots as a soil improver and also farm-yard manure has been spread.

In class we have looked again at Health and Safety and reminded all the boys of the basic rules and their need to be aware that what they do can have an effect upon themselves, others or the environment.

Our Year 11 boys have been mowing and I must give grateful thanks to HoDs for their hard work during duties. Thanks also go to those boys that are keen to help with the sell-



ing trolley and their enthusiasm is brilliant to see. All of the monies raised goes back into the department so please support us when you collect on a Friday afternoon.

Those Year 8 boys who got 10/10 for each garden duty this term have received certificates and also those who got an average of 9/10 were celebrated too. It is really important that boys turn up for garden duties or let me know so we can swap them and also knowing they can gain these certificates should help improve the standard of work on duties.

The new team of Ms Mitchell, Mrs Meatyard and Miss Gardener are ably supporting in practical lessons and also duties and Friday activities too. Many thanks for their hard work and supportive ideas and commitment to the department.

As we go into the cooler months boys **MUST ENSURE** that they have wet weather coats available for practical lessons as well as layers of warm clothes to put on when it is cold. Practical lessons do not stop because it is wet or cold. Steel toe capped boots and overalls must be worn to practical lessons and duties, but school uniform **MUST** be removed first. (Mr Willcocks)



Young Farmers Club



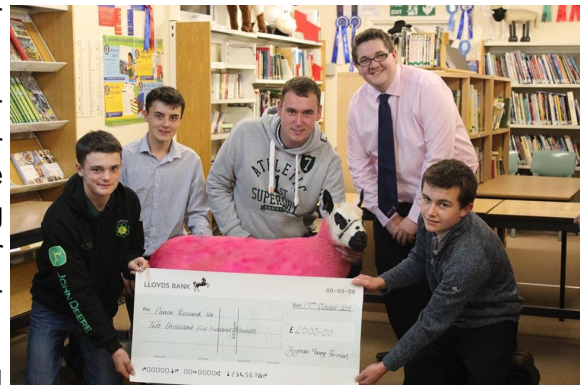
The Brymore Young Farmers continues to go from strength to strength with 90 members signed up so far. The usual requirements are in place for those boys wishing to represent the group and of course the school at events or shows. Boys must be a current member of the group, have less than 10 behaviour points and be allowed to miss lessons.

We have been fortunate enough to have had three speakers in this half term, Wendy Welland sharing her collection of animal skulls, which she began whilst at primary school, they ranged from small mammals to large deer.

Julia Birchall-Mann speaking on behalf of BASC, British Association for Shooting and Conversation, explaining what the association is about, what members can expect and why certain restrictions are in place; she was also kind enough to bring in a selection of game recipes, copies of their magazine and instructional leaflets.

Phil Vickery was our last speaker of the half term with a presentation on the Kverneland Group, which is an international agriculture equipment manufacturing company. They are known for developing, producing, and distributing agricultural machinery and services to the farming community.

We also presented a cheque for £2,500 to Cancer Research, this total was raised by various raffles, a recipe book, and speakers asking for a donation to be made on their behalf and more importantly collecting buckets at every show attended by the school with Mr Adamson dyeing a Kerry Hill ewe pink for each occasion.



We have also attended the Rare Breeds Survival Trust annual show and sale at Junction 24 in September, the school received a letter of thanks for the work put in by the boys and praising their attitude to work and politeness.

Three boys showed heifers on the Tuesday evening at the Dairy Show at the Bath & West Showground gaining a couple of third placings in highly competitive classes and 20 boys attended the following day at the show proper, they weren't there for a jolly and had to spend a time on the main entrances handing out information on behalf of the organiser's, before being allowed to look around.

Four boys; two Year 10s and two Year 11s gave up their Sunday evening to represent Brymore Academy's membership at the Somerset Young Farmers Harvest Festival Service held at Wells Cathedral and afterwards joined in the Harvest Supper in the Bishops Palace, again not just a jolly but full school uniform to take the outgoing collection at the end of the service.

Our final trip out of this half-term was to The Wilton Sheep Sale in Wiltshire, this was our first time of attending this event and was at the request of a previous chair of Brymore YFC and Head Boy, Charlie Coleman who instigated our attendance. A great day was had by the boys who represented the school, who were worked hard shepherding 3000 sheep from holding pens to auction pen and back again, luckily the weather was in our favour and a good day was had by all. Big thanks to Mrs Warren who drove the minibus. (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 of the health and safety side of their work experience is sorted and that the placement is suitable and this takes Miss Bradford some hours to collate. Your speediness with this is much appreciated.

Colleges have begun to host their open evenings and taster workshops so please discuss options to visit any your son is interested in visiting with him. 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. (Ms Warren)

Farm News

Sheep - During the summer we were lucky enough to have been given a sum of money from the Beltex Sheep Society to purchase a ram. We also bought three pedigree Beltex two tooth of which are hopefully now in lamb. He has also been busy with a group of 30 Suffolk x mules.

Thirty other ewes have been synchronized and mated and all being well lambing at our lambing weekend.

Dairy - The cows have recently grazed off a piece of forage rape under sown with Italian rye grass. This was sown as an autumn feed to try and make our winter forage stocks go a little further - job done. The grass is now starting to grow on and may provide something for the store lambs over the winter and then maybe a cut of early silage.

We are mostly milking the black and whites at the moment as the dairy shorthorns are dry and due to calve over the next few weeks. Most are in-calf to dairy shorthorn sexed semen so I am particularly looking forward to rearing them.

We also have some in-calf heifers due to come in along with four bulling heifers to again go to dairy shorthorn semen, some being donated by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Pigs - We have just had a litter of ten born. They are pure British Lop Eared as we used semen from Ireland (Bezzural General). We are hoping to sell some for breeding. Artificially inseminating her proved for a couple of interesting lessons!

Beef - We are having to sell some of our older store cattle as I am worried about the shortage of winter fodder, and even now I am looking around for different sources. We will keep on the younger animals and the dairy heifers and see what the winter brings. We are able to sell as we have just passed our yearly whole herd tuberculosis test - always a worrying event as many of you will know. (Mr Kingston)



Message from the Head Boy

I can't actually believe we have been back at school for six weeks already after a long hot summer which I hope you've enjoyed as much as I did.

The team and I have been quickly back in action, and have been helping the new Year 7s settle in, and as usual it's been a busy half-term. We have been helping out with open mornings and arranging some charity events, one of which was a Macmillan coffee morning where we managed to raise over £200, and the Young Farmers also raised an amazing £2,500 for cancer research which is a charity close to all our hearts. This term we are back playing rugby, which for me personally is great, the dedication and fitness that you need has really helped me throughout my time at Brymore and I hope that the younger years are recognising that too. At the time of writing we are preparing for our Harvest Festival and Cross Country which is usually a good day and it's always great to see so many supporters cheering the runners on.

I would like to thank my team for all their hard work this term we are working on a few events for next term that we hope you will support us on, but for now enjoy your break and I will hopefully catch up with you next term. (Joe Finnis)

Macmillan Fundraising



With the catering staff and Senior Student Leadership Team combining forces we held our own Big Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan 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 £200 for this worthy cause and the cakes donated by staff and families were a spectacle to behold so thank you to everyone!



Archery

My band of merry men this term are a good mix of beginners through to experts. I have introduced sights to those that have mastered instinctive archery and they are adjusting well to a different style. The beginners are picking up the basics as well and are starting to reap the benefits of being consistent with their shooting style. (Mr Ball)



Showing

With the end of the year fast approaching we have nearly finished off the summer season of shows and have a few winter ones coming just around the corner. In my last report I finished on mentioning that a few boys have qualified for some competitions. The first qualifier was the RBST Young Shepherd of the Year where Joe, our Year 10 student had qualified for at the Devon County Show back in the spring. This was held at the Great Yorkshire showground in Harrogate. It was very stiff competition with young handlers travelling from every corner of the country to compete. Joe did extremely well to make it to the final and came fourth overall in a very hard group at the final. Well done, Joe!



The second young handler qualifier is the Young Shepherd held at the East of England winter festival. Both Harrison and Angus have qualified from the Royal Cornwall Show and we wish them the best of luck.

Going back to the summer shows we attended the Yeovil show. This was a very good show and the boys really enjoyed it. The first classes were continental and Angus had brought his own Beltex sheep along to show under the schools name. He did very well winning the ewe class then going on to take breed champion. The Kerry Hills were placed in the 'any other breed' section but did very well with 20+ in the ring and we gained a 3rd with the ram lamb, ewe lamb and ewe. On the Sunday the boys got involved in the fancy dress class that was very amusing to watch; Percy and Joe dressed up as gardeners and flowers and even put a costume on the sheep. The next show was Honiton and this was the first time they held Kerry Hill breed classes and both the boys and I very much enjoyed the show. The day started with young handlers where Harry was placed 3rd and Will got a 1st. Will then went on to take the overall young handler of the show. After this we started with the breed classes where we had two 1st, two 2nd places and one 3rd. We finished the



summer shows for the sheep with Dunster. Will again, did very well getting a 3rd in young handlers. We also again did very well in the breed classes with the ewe and ewe lamb both getting 1st and the ram lamb getting 2nd, the shearling ewe and ram both got 4th.

We again attended the Dairy Show but unfortunately did not taking anything in milk as our showing cattle were in calf. We entered two homebred calves that were a year old. Toby and George did all the work behind the scenes with one of them being very stubborn to halter break. The calves are shown on the Tuesday evening with the young handlers starting first. George was in the older class now being sixteen unfortunately he did not get placed but got some great tips from the judge for next time. Toby then went into the next class where he showed himself and the calf off really well and came away with a third. We then moved onto the breed classes with very stiff competition and also being in with other breeds but Toby and George both did very well getting a third in both classes. My thanks go to Miss Bradford as this show would not have been possible without her driving the boys to the show on the Tuesday night and the Wednesday day.

I seem to be finishing my report every year saying the boys have done even better and keep setting the bar higher. Somehow year on year they seem to do it with this year holding the title of team challenge champion. Four boys qualified for national level sheep handling and we had one champion, four 1st places, four 2nd places and eight 3rd places in young handlers. We also had sixteen 1st places, eight 2nd places and seventeen 3rd places in the breed classes.

Lastly thanks go to everyone, from parents to staff and other exhibitors and sponsors that have been very supportive of the showing.
(Mr Adamson)

Snowdon Trip

On Thursday 20th September, 25 intrepid Year 11s and three slightly aged staff(!) departed Brymore Academy in an audacious attempt to scale the highest mountain in England and Wales, namely Mt Snowdon standing at 1,085m. The weather forecast for our "summit day" was rather inclement to put it mildly, but after a short prayer the group set off from the YHA Pen Y Pass in search of glory! For the first hour things went well and we made good progress up the lower slopes of the mountain. However, the weather deteriorated rather quickly and soon the group was up against it in 60mph winds and driving rain and sleet. After a short discussion about a typical geography exam question 'describing the weather in a mountain environment', 13 boys and one member of staff returned to base camp in search of safety, warmth and food! The remaining 17 boys and two staff decided to strike out for the summit and despite the appalling conditions we made the summit in a little short of three hours, where the boys enjoyed a triumphant team photo and group hug! Two difficult hours later, the whole team was reunited back at the YHA where the boys demonstrated an unbelievable capacity for eating food, more food and then more food! We returned to Brymore the following day in much calmer weather conditions and looking back, it was these difficult conditions that made the assault of Snowdon a challenge in every sense of the word. Snowdon has been conquered, so the question is "what will the current Year 11s seek to accomplish on behalf of Brymore in 2020?" Watch this space..... (Mr Ellis)

Christmas Turkeys

We have a limited number of Brymore 'barn reared' turkeys for sale this year. 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 farm office on 01278 652428 with your details and requirements and a deposit of £30 (Please make cheques payable to Brymore Academy).



Race-walking

The two 'Wills' in Mr Hatch and Mr Holter-Hovind hopped in the car with Mr Williams to head to Bedford for the national championships. Both boys performed brilliantly in the south-west area finals to secure their place at national level and whilst they both did well on the day Will Hatch was placed 4th and Will Holter-Hovind was unplaced. It really is lovely to see the Brymore tradition within this sport continuing and grateful thanks go to the PE department for continuing to encourage the boys enabling them to get better and ensuring they are taking part in big championships. (Ms Warren)



BRYMORE LOTTERY

The results of the lottery for this half-term:

1st £40 Mr Keyte

2nd £25 Mr Tucker

3rd £15 Mr Bruce

Should you be interested in our lottery then please talk to Mrs Wilkinson in reception or call her on 01278 652369.

Activities

What a fantastic start to our weekend activities programme this year,. The programme is primarily designed to support our full-time boarders in Reid House so that they engage in a wide variety of activities. All activities are open to weekly boarders and out-boarders, if space allows.

Unfortunately a couple of our activities (Rugby and Aqua Splash) had to be cancelled at the last minute this term but as always that does not stop our boys from making the most of their weekend.

Everything kicked off this year with a boy's favourite, a game of bowling in Taunton with Ms Lillywhite. Reuben in Year 9 was this terms winner, they also went to Minehead that first weekend for a mess around on the beach and time in the arcade with Ms Warren.

Over the following weekends the boys have taken part in trips out to the Cinema to see Johnny English and The House with the Clock in the Walls, Brean Beach, Paintballing, Cannington Golf Range and Wookey Hole with onsite activities of Aqua Olympics (Water fight), a Treasure Hunt, a BBQ, Radio Controlled Cars and my personal favourite Bubble Football.

You can follow the boy's adventures every weekend on our Facebook page where we will always try to put up some photos of their antics.

Next Terms activities have now been published on the School notice boards, Website and Facebook. Have a look, see what you're interested in and speak to your relevant Houseparent to sign up.

If you have any ideas for activities that will be suitable and affordable for the boys to do on a weekend please contact me on nwestern@educ.somerset.gov.uk (Mrs Western)



Year 11 ICT

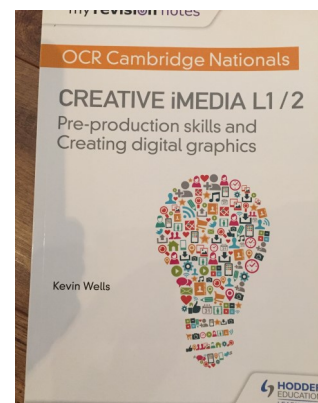
The Year11 imedia ICT exam will take place on 11th January 2019, which is the end of the first week back after Christmas.

In order to help you revise for this exam Mr Dickson recommends buying OCR Cambridge Nationals Creative imedia "my revision notes" by Kevin Wells published by Hodder Education.

Paperback price £8.99

E-book price £4.99

Remember you will be having a mock exam in November so why not use half-term for some revision? (Mr Dickson)



TERM 1B WEEKEND ACTIVITY SUMMARY November 2018

Full-time boarders will take priority where weekend events are limited by numbers

<p>Week 1 - Friday 9th, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th Nov</p>			
<p>Friday 9th Nov Driving range Cannington golf club 18:00 to 20:00 £6.00 Mr Blake</p>	<p>Saturday 10th Nov Bowling Hollywood Bowl Taunton 13:30 to 17:30 £8 Mrs Western</p>	<p>Sunday 11th AM Remembrance St Mary's 9:10 to 12:00 Free Mrs Western</p>	<p>PM Stearth Marsh Combwich 14:00 to 16:00 Free Mrs Lillywhite</p>
<p>Friday 16th Nov Tuck Shopping Bridgwater Retail Park 18:00 to 19:30 Free Mrs Lillywhite</p>	<p>Saturday 17th Nov Super Splash Swim Bridgwater 15:15 to 17:30 £9 Mrs Phillips & Mr Blake</p>	<p>Sunday 18th Nov Pitch and Putt Brymore 14:00 to 15:00 Free Mr Blake</p>	<p>Sunday 25th Nov Swimming Bridgwater 14:00 to 16:00 £5.00 Mr Fewtrell</p>
<p>Friday 23rd Nov Driving range Cannington golf club 18:00 to 20:00 £6.00 Mr Blake and Ms Edwards</p>	<p>Saturday 24th nov Beach and Arcade Minehead 13:30 to 17:30 £3.00 Mrs Lillywhite</p>	<p>Sunday 2nd Dec Paintball Cannington Paintball 13:30 to 17:30 £13.50 Mr Ashton & Mr Blake</p>	<p>Sunday 9th Dec Christmas Shopping Clarks Village 12:00 to 17:00 £3.00 Ms Greenhill</p>
<p>Friday 30th Nov Tuck Shopping Bridgwater Retail Park 18:00 to 19:30 Free Mrs Lillywhite</p>	<p>Saturday 1st Dec RC Cars Cannington xmas On Site 14:00 to 15:30 18:00 to 20:00 £1 Free Mr Simmonds Mrs Long</p>	<p>Saturday 8th Dec South west carting Cheddar 09:00 to 13:00 £35.00 Mrs Lillywhite</p>	<p>Friday 7th Dec 15+ Cinema Trip Max 6 Boys Scott Cinema TBC £7.00 Mrs Long</p>

To book, or if you have any questions about the activities, please speak to your House Parent or Mrs Western

English Department

During the autumn term the English department will once again be participating in the Bookbuzz scheme. Bookbuzz is a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in Year 7 and 8 students.



Students in Years 7 and 8 have had the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles suitable for 11 to 13-year-olds. They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality and suitability. Their selected titles will be arriving after the half-term break; 'Car-Jacked' by Ali Sparkes has been a popular choice. Ask your son which one he has chosen and if they're enjoying it!

This year the English department are working hard to encourage boys in Years 7, 8 and 9 to increase their 'engaged' time when reading. They should all be aiming to read independently for at least 20 minutes a day. In order to inspire them we are offering a number of new incentives as rewards this year. We have individual badges to be earned for those students who achieve their individualised targets, class competitions in each year group and for the first time ever, Accelerated Reader is now one of the Brymore 'big events' and the house

Year 11 Maths

The 'Walk and Talk' maths sessions will be taking place every Thursday evening for our Year 11 boys starting with the first one on 8th November in the hall.

Every Year 11 boy is expected to attend every session from 6.15pm - 7.15pm as this forms a huge foundation in their learning before the exams in the Summer term.

Statistically the boys that have attended every session have improved their overall result by at least half a grade - which has often proved to be the difference between boys not having to re-take at college and having to redo their maths GCSE. (Mr Ashton)

who has read the most words at the end of the academic year will receive an extra 500 house points to help them win the house cup.

You can see how well your son is progressing towards their target by visiting

<https://ukhosted85.renlearn.co.uk/2259563/homeconnect/> and log in in with your son's username and password.

Should you require any assistance or have any questions please contact your son's English teacher.

Congratulations to the following boys who have made an excellent start in progressing towards their annual target: Jude Ballinger, Dylan Carreras-Bennett, Hadley Carreras-Bennett, Josh Catherall, Billy Cole, Archie Collins, Ross Donaldson, David Goodman, George Jones, George McCormack, Thomas Sweeney and Zak Warton-Browne.

This year we have invested in an app based reading journal to help students record their daily reading habits. We ask that they log 20 minutes a day and these entries will be used to form the basis of discussions about their progress in their weekly reading lessons. Look out for a letter soon explaining how the app works and giving instructions on how to set up a family reading group should you wish!
(Mrs Taylor-Lane)



LRC

I'd like to welcome the families of Year 7 to the LRC. Each Year 7 is entitled to one library book at a time, these books are issued for 21 days and the return date is written on the slip attached to the inside of the front of the book. Books not completed in that time scale can be renewed but I need to see the physical book to do so. Books lost or damaged can be replaced by previously read books from Amazon or charity shops.

There are a number of new books to be added to the shelves and I hope to do this soon.

There will also be 'weeding' of books over the next half-term, with the History, Geography and Science sections being reviewed. (Miss Bradford)

Forest School

We have had a good start to the Forest School sessions with the weather on our side. We have just completed the introduction session and the den building sessions which the boys really enjoyed.

After half-term we will be making mallets and tree identification. Well done to Josh Norman, John Cullum and Ollie Kent for achieving Forest School students of the week in this half term.

It will be getting cold from here on so warm clothing and waterproofs are a must. (Mr Ball)



Engineering

Engineering & Tool making

It's been great to see an enthusiastic start to the term, with Year 7s just starting out learning the basics of tool-making right through the other year groups extending their knowledge in tool-making and engineering. Well done to Alex Huxley, Year 8 who has produced a lovely screwdriver and to Jamie Veale, Year 10 who has been making a drill stand from a BTEC level 2 Engineering manual.

Woodwork & Intro to Wood Carving

Good effort put in by all the boys on these courses. Well done to Ben Palmer in woodwork for excellent effort and a shout out for all the boys on the wood carving course as this is a new course for this year and it certainly is not the easiest. (Mr Ball)



Open Mornings

We threw open our doors to potential students and their parents on two Fridays and a Saturday 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 three mornings - another indication that we are heavily oversubscribed and securing our belief that what we are offering is unique and in demand. (Ms Warren)



Sports News

Rugby, as ever at this time of the year, is full on and all year groups are getting matches. It is great to see them all getting stuck in and enjoying it. In the national cup our Year 10 boys lost out to a very strong Wellington School whilst in the County Cup, the Year 11 boys have been working hard and are still in with a shout and our next opponents look to be Nailsea. Years 9, 10 and 11 have been performing well in the Sedgemoor League and still have a number of matches with the local schools to play. Our newly formed Year 7 group along with the Year 8 team have been playing friendlies locally and are starting to form as units which will help them enjoy their long Brymore rugby career. It would be great to see a few more Year 9 boys out at training and there's always room for more Year 7 and 8 boys. It's important that parents remind their child that they won't be first choice selection for the teams if they are not up to date with their Chads runs and if your child is not selected this may be one of the reasons why. A special thanks to Mr Carr, Mr Nurton, Mr Western and Mr Blake for all their support and help with rugby this half term - it is much appreciated.



We have had some great matches for both the KS3 and KS4 hockey teams and training continues to go well and we have more coming up before Christmas.

We attended the English Schools Cross Country Cup at Kings College recently and boys competed really well against very strong opponents. The Juniors came in 8th overall and the Inter boys were 10th. We will be hosting the Sedgemoor Cross Country on 12th December and boys will also be participating and parents

will be welcome to watch - boys will be notified in due course if they are running.

We have a table cricket coach from the Somerset Cricket Board coming in this half-term to deliver some coaching - an exciting innovation and great for co-ordination and team working. We hope to get this delivered to about 24 boys in Years 7, 8 and 9 and it will happen during the school day.

It is vital that boys participate in Chads at least once a week- it helps their overall fitness and exercise has been a proven method for feeling better both inside and out. Those wanting to be included in the school teams need to be undertaking this once a week at the least. There is no limit to the amount of times boys can do Chads and for every one they do they gain vital house points for Taylor, Walker or Galsworthy. Fitness for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 is also an important component of the boys week and missed sessions can be caught up so there is no real excuse for weeks to be missed. As ever parent support with all we do in the PE department is always very helpful and we thank those parents who encourage their son to take part and enjoy. You can follow the @BrymoreSport Twitter page for regular updates of what we are up to in PE and Games lessons too. (Mr Williams)

House Reading Competition

This year the house that reads the most words gets additional points for their houses just like they would if they won the cross country/swimming gala etc.. Below are the current totals after the first half-term. Well done Walker!

	Galsworthy	Taylor	Walker
Number of words read	2,426,651	2,128,155	3,414,749

Boarding

The summer holidays now seem like a distant memory, but we seem to have been lucky this half term to still hang onto the last of the sunny weather into October and the Autumn term. As always with the start of a new academic year, boarding has been busy with much having changed from when we broke up in July. All houses have settled and adapted to the changes exceptionally well, with both boys and staff moving houses over the summer break in order to accommodate the five day week. Both boys and staff have worked hard to minimise the impact of the house movements and changes in routine, which is a first for everyone considering this is the first time Brymore has not had a full days school on a Saturday. This has led to a number of changes and alterations to the boarding routine, but in true Brymore style boys and staff have taken it in their stride and you would think this has always been the way.



The new boys have settled very well and the older boys have helped hugely with this. The new boys 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. Year 7s have taken to Brymore life like a duck to water, becoming heavily involved in all aspects of Brymore and the activities available to them within boarding time. The speed and ease at which the Years 7s have settled has been helped by our older boys in their roles as Junior Mentors and Mentors as well as the Senior Student Leadership Team. 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.

Friday afternoon finishes have now meant that boarders are able to enjoy a full weekend of relaxation and time to unwind from the very busy weekdays that Brymore boys experience, with Kemp and School house boys going home for their weekends and the majority of Reid house boys enjoying the weekend activities program which has grown significantly this year, including such activities as paintballing, trips to the beach, RC cars, cinema, bowling, bubble football, treasure hunts, golf driving range and a BBQ. Feedback from boys has been positive and the extra days rest is much welcomed and needed to allow the batteries to be fully charged for the upcoming weeks work.

Boys have been very busy completing their weekly Chads Hill runs, circuits, rugby and hockey practices and doing their fitness. 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?

I hope everyone enjoys a well deserved rest over the half-term and take time to enjoy and relax with family and friends. (Mr Watts)

Staffing

A number of staff have left us this half-term or are due to leave us in December. Mrs Clark (Teacher of Art) will leave at Christmas as she looks to develop her own company. We have already appointed her replacement, Ms Jackson who has previous experience working at an all-boys school in Northampton. Mrs Lillywhite will not return after the holidays as she embarks on a new career training to be a pharmacist. Mrs Lillywhite has been instrumental in supporting the boys and the school through a difficult time post-Ofsted and will be difficult to replace. Mrs Mollineux, Pastoral Manager has also left us to pursue a career in nursing and is replaced by Mr Lund who brings with him great experience working in a similar role within Bridgwater College Trust previously. Mrs Blake (Pastoral Admin Assistant) is leaving and is also having a career change as is Mr Collier (Exams Officer). Finally, Mrs Armstrong (in the laundry team) is retiring having worked at Brymore for nearly 20 years which is a fantastic achievement. All staff will be sorely missed and I thank them for their hard work and commitment to Brymore and wish them luck in their future careers. (Mr Thomas)

Cross Country and Harvest Festival

The Autumnal sun came to join us for our annual Harvest Festival and Cross Country day and after having to postpone last years' due to a storm it made a very welcome return. Both the upper and lower school services at St Mary's Church were well attended by families and boys did superbly with their readings. Every year we hold a collection and this year we raised over £600 for St Mary's Church in Cannington where the service was held and also Taunton Foodbank.

By 11.30am the starter pistol signalled the first race and our Year 7 boys were off on their first ever cross country. All the other years battled hard during their individual races and the overall points when totted up meant that Taylor house won the coveted trophy! Grateful thanks go to FOBSA volunteers for their efforts supplying tea, cake and pasties to all the families in attendance and for raising even more money that will be fed straight back into the school. (Ms Warren)



Hog Roast

On the first Friday of the new academic year we hosted a hog roast for the families of the new Year 7 boys utilising our very own Brymore pigs. This is always a lovely event that we hope celebrates the end of a good week for the boys and hopefully allows the families to really feel a part of the Brymore community. (Ms Warren)



2018/19 Upcoming Important Dates

Autumn & Spring Term

Monday 5th November

INSET DAY

- 3.30 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 Years 8, 9 10 & 11 boarders return

Tuesday 6th November

- 8.30 am All out-boarders return

Friday 15th December

- 4.00 pm Lower School Christmas Service, St Mary's Church, Cannington, TA5 2HP
- 5.00 pm Years 7 & 8 can depart for Christmas Holidays

Saturday 16th December

- 8.30 am Years 9, 10 & 11 attend school as usual
- 10.30 am Upper School Christmas Service, St Mary's Church, Cannington, TA5 2HP
- 11.30 am Years 9, 10 & 11 can depart for Christmas Holidays

Monday 7th January 2019

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 8th January

- 8.30 am All out-boarders return

Friday 15th February

- 12.00 pm Years 7, 9, 10 & 11 depart for Spring half-term
- 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm Year 8 Parent Consultation

Monday 25th February

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 26th February

- 8.30 am All out-boarders return

Saturday 6th April

- 8.30 am All students attend school as usual
- 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

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