

Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

Newsletter

December 2016
www.brymoreacademy.co.uk

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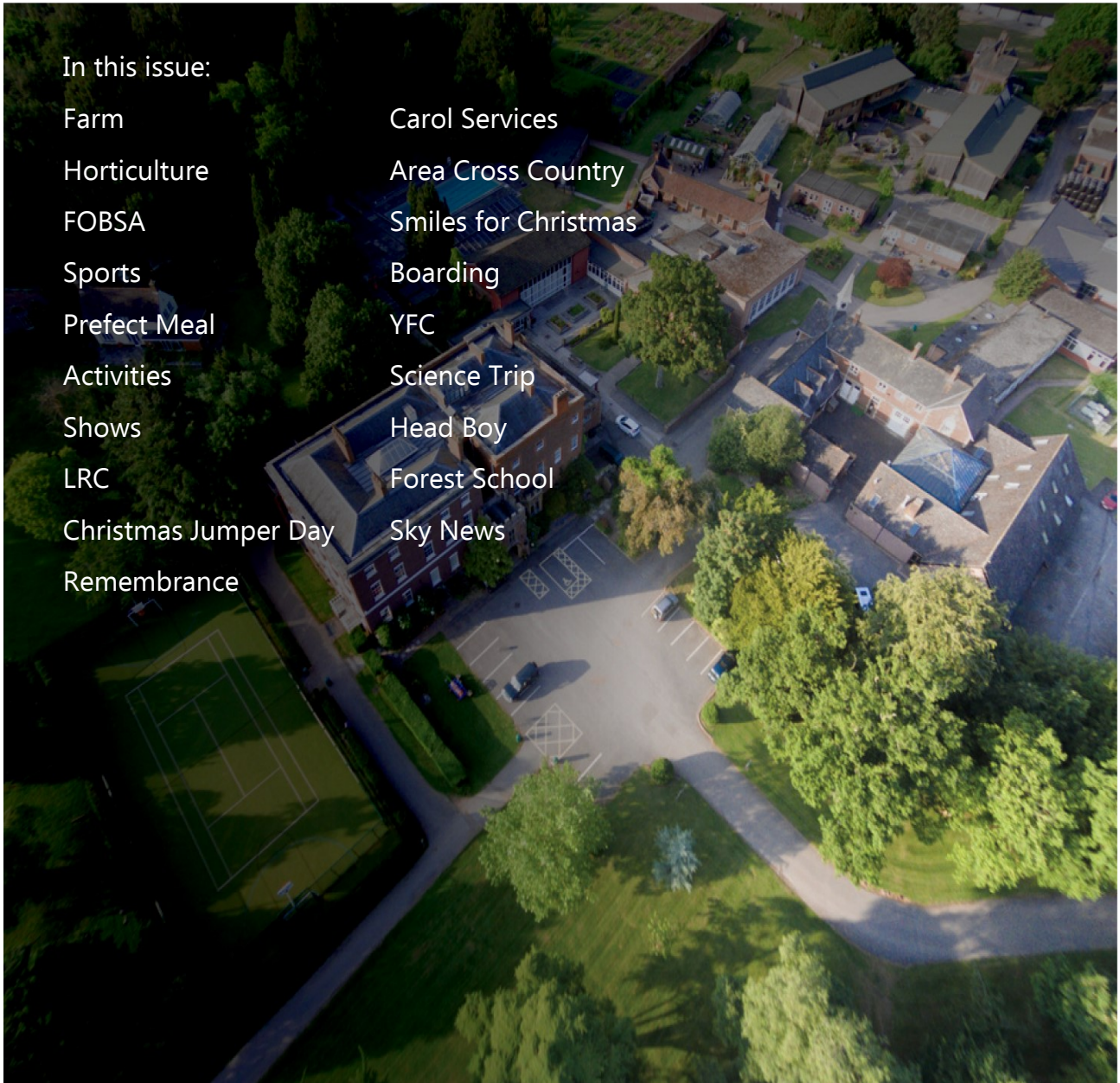
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Diligentia et Labore



Message from the Headteacher

Brymore has truly got into the Christmas spirit over the past week or so, even down to welcoming unexpected visitors at very short notice. Rather than a couple looking for somewhere to stay, three wise men, some camels and shepherds with their sheep (we already have those) it was in the form of four Ofsted inspectors. Whilst I was pleased with many things that were reported verbally, I was especially pleased that it was business as usual, with the vast range of activities, celebrations and festive events continuing.

We rounded off the showing year with boys and staff attending the Greenslade Taylor Hunt Winter Fair and picking up yet more awards, before attending the gala dinner at Somerset County Cricket club. Boys continued to help out the local community by helping set up the traditional Blackmore by Candlelight event and then attending with our stand, complete with livestock and a blacksmithing demonstration by Mr Weldon. Boys also collected foodstuffs for the local community with the annual 'Smiles for Christmas' campaign. Lieutenant Mark Godwin of the Bridgwater branch of the Salvation Army commented that it was the most he had ever seen with the hamper competition reaching new heights, literally, with an eight foot plus Christmas tree/advent calendar winning the competition for Reid House.

Boys also had the opportunity to do what they do best - eat! There have been cheese and biscuit evenings; some tutors have taken out their group for a meal; Heads of Department were treated to a meal at a local restaurant; Prefects and the Senior Student Leadership Team were taken for a formal meal at Blackmore Farm; there has been Christmas lunch, two Christmas teas including the traditional 'banging the tables' by the Upper School and House Christmas parties with the infamous 'cola cake'.

Sport has continued with rugby fixtures right up until the last few days, finishing with an excellent Year 11 victory over Haygrove. We hosted the Sedgemoor Cross Country Championships, winning the team event, having two individual winners with many boys qualifying for the County Championships in January. Boys wore their Christmas jumpers with style on our Christmas jumper day and Reid House produced my favourite facebook post for some time (please have a look if you have not seen it) with the Reid House Mannequin Challenge, a cracking example of boys and staff working together if ever I saw it.

Finally, yet again Mr Willcocks put on two wonderful Christmas services, preparing boys and staff throughout this busy time. To me they typify Christmas at Brymore. Those taking part in the service included boys of all ages, staff, governors, parents and Old Boys - all of us working together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and showcasing all that is good about the school. I love the formal informality of the service, the fact that families can attend (we just about squeezed you all in for the Upper School service), that boys who struggle with confidence, or with reading, stand up in front of hundreds of people and the mix of the traditional with the 'Brymore' elements all taking place in a glorious setting.

And to finish? Well it is time for us all to go back home for Christmas and spend time with our friends and family. Whether that is a working Christmas as is the case for Mr Kingston and his team and many farmers across the country, whether it is time to switch off completely, to play to host or a time for visiting others. For all of us it is about creating memories and spending time with loved ones. For me, I cannot wait to put the CD in the car stereo because then I know I will finally be 'Driving home for Christmas.'

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas



Horticulture

There has been so much happening this half term that I just don't know where to start!

In lessons we have continued to juice apples, in preparation for the cider which will be ready in the summer. We have had visits from Tony Irons to talk about, and show, how to look after cacti for the Year 8 boys. Alan Down, who is a Brymore old boy running Cleeve Nursery, has written columns for the Western Daily Press and has also had a long running gardening programme on BBC Bristol, talked to Year 9 boys about careers in Horticulture.

We have visited Knightshayes Court (a National Trust property near Tiverton) and had very informative tours around the walled garden with Year 9 boys. A group of Year 8 and another of Year 9 boys went to Cannington Walled Gardens and we also saw their Tilapia project.

Year 7 boys have been to Monkton Elm Garden Centre (near Taunton) to find out about employ-



ment in their line of work; where they get their plants from, the kinds of plants they have and to learn a little about plant breeding too.

In lessons, Year 9 boys have begun the construction of raised beds to ensure we have more plots due to the popularity of them.

A lot of leaves have been collected and piled up to make leaf mould which will be used next year and we have started to dig over the plots and apply farmyard manure and leaf mould. In addition, we have begun winter trimming and pruning.



Thanks to those HoDs who turn up and help each week.

Duties MUST be completed and any boy who misses without asking permission to be excused will be given a level 2 discipline in the first instance plus a detention and also be expected to make up their day.

Usual reminder that boys MUST bring their kit, which includes warm layers of clothes and wet weather coats and trousers. Too many are coming ill-equipped and then unable to learn because they are cold or getting wet.

Many thanks to the team, Mrs Stanley, Mrs Richards and Ms Nash, for all their hard work over and above, as always.

(Mr Willcocks)



Young Farmers Club



This half term we have again been very lucky to have three speakers.

Mrs Pam Wills from RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution) spoke about how the organisation helps the farming community in many different ways and how the money to help them is raised. This gave the boys an opportunity to suggest ways they could help; ideas ranged from an inter-house tractor pull to car washing. One of these ideas will be put into practice in 2017, so look out for that sponsorship form! Three boys and myself attended the Somerset Federation of Young Farmers AGM, held at HQ in Westonzoyland, which has recently had a small stage constructed for just this event.

The following week we were lucky enough to have Richard and Heather Gibson from the charity Aid for Samburu, which they set up after Richard's appearance on the BBC2 documentary 'Toughest Place to Farm'. Richard explained about how the Samburu Tribe are semi nomadic as the young warriors have to move their cattle to where there is grass, when the summer droughts hit their villages. We saw clips of Richard climbing down a 40' well in an attempt to get drinking water, which was none too healthy and the tribesmen initiating Richard into the tribe. Then Richard and Heather spoke about why they set up the charity and how they were working with a country based charity to oversee the construction and maintenance of the waterway they have raised funds for. A well has been dug and the water is carried through pipes for 10km to storage tanks that use gravity to pump the water to taps a mile from the village. This is to prevent the spillage of water around the houses which would turn the ground into mud and attract mosquitos and other pests. A really interesting presentation. If anyone would be interested in having Richard and Heather speak to a local group you can contact them via their web site <http://www.aidforsamburu.org.uk>

Finally, Julie Edwards from Mole Valley Farmers gave another interesting talk on the history of the firm, growing from a small 8 farm co-operative to the 200+ stores that they are now, they are still based in South Moulton where they began. The range of goods and services they supply is quite fascinating. The evening ended with a spirited debate on the effect of Brexit on British farming.

(Miss Bradford)

BRYMORE LOTTERY

The results of the lottery for this half term

1 st	£40.00	Mr Tayler
2 nd	£25.00	Mr and Mrs Day
3 rd	£15.00	Mr Eavis

LRC

The LRC has proved so popular this half term that, due to demand, a numbers restriction has had to be put in place at lunchtimes. Each day is set aside for a specific year group: Monday Year 7, Tuesday Year 8 and so on. Saturdays are open to all, provided their conduct is appropriate, including those training to be the Library Assistants.

In the last week of term a Scholastic Book Fair was held with over £150 of books sold and the reduced size is now well designed for a small space.

(Miss Bradford)

Science Trip

The Cheltenham Science Festival came to the McMillan Theatre of Bridgwater & Taunton College on 1st December. An enthusiastic Year 9 attended the event with two one-hour shows dedicated to science. This is becoming a tradition at the Academy as this is our second year of attendance.

After taking their seats, Year 9 saw the first show by Zoé Gamble, which was entitled 'Music to your ears.' In this students were taught about how sound travels through the air and how we hear. This was followed by the technology of sound including how we produce and record sound and manipulate the sounds we hear.

The second show was delivered by Jules Howard entitled 'What might have been: An alternative history of life on Earth.' Students were introduced to the idea of how animals over time have changed shape through evolution and idea of 'survival of the fittest.'

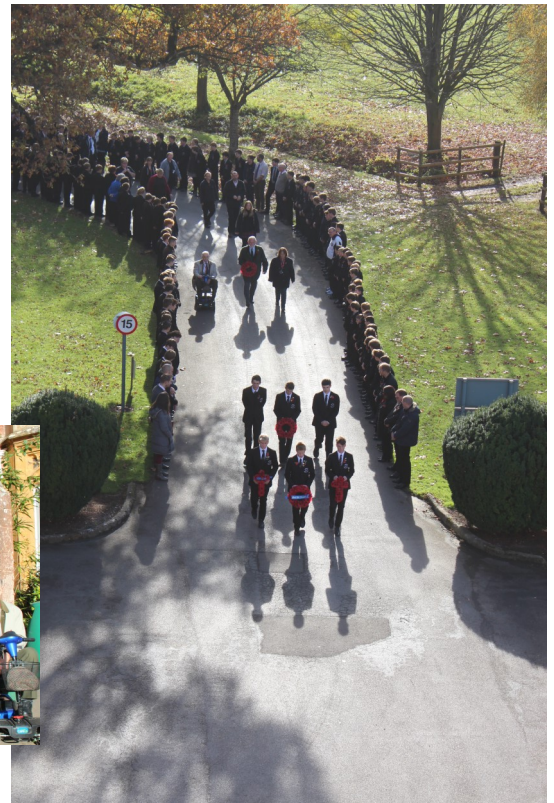
In both shows students were invited up on stage. In the first, one student helped demonstrate how sound waves travel using a slinky whilst two students were called up in the second to be involved in a survivalist game where rabbits were 'killed off' by natural disasters. Our students showed their drama skills in this with very theatrical 'deaths.'

(Mr Craig)

Remembrance

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month we marked Armistice Day with a two minute silence as boys and staff lined the driveway. Mr Holt played the Last Post on his trumpet and the Senior Student Leadership Team, along with two Old Brymorians, led the procession towards the front of school for boys to lay down their poppies in remembrance.

(Ms Warren)



Sky News

As Ofsted walked out of one door Sky News were knocking on the other! On the last full day of term we had a call from Rebecca Williams requesting to visit us and film with reference to a current news story about independent schools potentially being made to offer spaces to state school students in order to keep it's charitable status. As always our students had lots of views on this and some were captured on camera, along with the thoughts of our Headteacher, and aired to the masses. Our boys were articulate and well spoken and really did us proud at the end of what was a busy week. If you wish to see it then it is available to view on our Facebook page.

(Ms Warren)

Message from the Head Boy

It has been a very busy half term, with a large variety of events taking place. Mine began by travelling the long journey to Harrogate in Yorkshire, to represent the school showing the Kerry Hill sheep, competing in the RBST Young Shepherd of the Year competition. Next in the 4th and 5th week of this half term, Year 11 completed multiple mock exams in a wide range of subjects, providing valuable experience and information for the quickly advancing real ones! Besides this, the revision sessions have begun to increase and the prospect of leaving Brymore next summer seems strange.

It's great to see the Senior Student Leadership Team working hard to ensure all lunchtime duties are completed, helping these to run as smoothly as possible. A reward for this was the really good SSLT meal at Blackmore Farm, which was enjoyed by all. I look forward to returning after the Christmas break and to what that term may bring. I hope everyone has a really good Christmas and New Year.

(Henry Scott)

Christmas Jumper Day at Brymore

We took the opportunity to take part in Christmas Jumper Day in the last week of term to raise money for those less fortunate. Boys and staff went all out to impress and impress they did! The Heads of Houses (Mr Ashton, Ms Rundle and Ms Carter) spent the assembly judging individual year group winners and Zaid and Cameron from the school council judged the staff entries.

Mr Craig did the double and took the crown for the second year running, going the whole hog with his beard baubles, and individual year winners were Jordan, Tom, Callum, Alec and Charlie.

We then went on to celebrate with our Christmas lunch, complete with festive music, turkey and cranberry sauce!

A group of boys had been awarded a 'golden ticket' for achieving a certain amount of achievement points, high attendance, stars every week and limited behaviour points and their reward was sitting at the top table during lunch. Once settled down to their meal they pulled their crackers, were served special drinks by members of SLT and enjoyed treats in the form of mini chocolates too. All the boys enjoyed their festive lunch but those 'top tablers' revelled in their hard work and sat back soaking up the special extras.

(Ms Warren)



Boarding

It's that time of year already, where Year 7s are experiencing their first ever Brymore festive season, and Year 11s are enjoying their last ever Brymore Christmas meal, carol service and banging of the tables! This is a special time of year that always holds fond memories for me as a Brymore boy with all the festive fun leading up to the holiday period. The cold, dark nights and mornings have not been deterring or preventing the vast array of activities, duties and general busyness of boarding at Brymore this term, which culminated in the most successful and grand 'Smiles for Christmas' campaign to date. The past two terms have been busy and eventful, with added energy levels as always coming from the junior boarding house and a wide range of new equipment and activities available to all. Senior boys have taken on the responsibility of guiding and settling all new Brymore boys in Year 7 with mentoring going from strength to strength, whilst senior boys in Reid and School House continued to work hard and overcome the ever mounting pressures of academic studies plus all the added extras associated with being a Brymore boy.

Looking back with fond memories since September there has been much to celebrate and enjoy, from large school events such as bonfire/fireworks night and Halloween, to listening to the boys talk with joy of the numerous external trips that have taken place this half term including Bridgwater Carnival, Bubble Football, Ice-skating at Cribbs, Super Splash, Bowling and finishing off with Dunster by Candlelight.

As ever at Brymore, the festive build up to the Christmas holidays stretches over a week period (largely involving food!), with both boys and staff

enjoying a number of events including the prefect Christmas meal, house parties, Smiles for Christmas assembly, Christmas dinner and tea finished with the Christmas Carol Service (and an OFSTED boarding inspection just to add to the festivities!). This year we have asked boys to also focus on other aspects of Christmas such as enjoying every minute with family at home, and giving to others who may be less fortunate, this was very evident throughout the most successful Smiles for Christmas campaign we have ever had. This will be the last Brymore Christmas for our current Year 11 so please enjoy the holiday period.



Before you know it, the run up to exams will soon be with us!



This Christmas boarding has said goodbye to our Gap Tutors Mr Florance, Mr Neate, Mr Olson and Mr Sedgwick who will be returning home after spending a year with Brymore, supporting boys within the boarding houses and running activities. We will also be saying farewell to Miss Gardner who will be stepping down as House Parent in School House and focusing on her full time role within Brymore as an LSA. The boys will miss her greatly and we would all like to take this opportunity to say thank you for everything she has done over the past seven years.

(Mr Watts)



Sports Report

Fitness

Attendance for fitness remains incredibly high amongst the boarders. A good percentage of out-boarders also attend every session; please can I ask that as many parents as possible support their son by ensuring he is able to attend the session.

Cross Country

In the last week of term the Sedgemoor area cross country trials were held at Brymore. A large number of boys and girls from the Bridgwater area and West Somerset were in attendance. Brymore boys won the Year 8/9 team championship and the Year 10/11 boy's age group was also won by Brymore. Individual winners included Nicholas Payne and Will Jarman. A considerable number of Brymore boys have been selected to represent Sedgemoor in the County Schools Championships in Yeovil on 21st January 2017.

Hockey

The mixed age group hockey squad were hoping to play their first game but this was postponed due to the poor weather conditions. This game will be played in the new year.

Rugby

Numbers of boys training have been good in KS4 and it would be great to see the KS3 numbers increase. All age groups have had a good amount of fixtures and we've had some really good results throughout the year. After Christmas there will be fixtures for all teams. The Year 9s are in the semi-final of the area cup and the Year 10s will hopefully progress to the final of the area cup. The Year 11s have their annual fixture with Shapwick and will hopefully play North Petherton in a flood-lit match at the end of the season. It is important all players remember that to represent the school; Chads Hill and fitness become a prerequisite.

Chads Run

As of writing since September there have been 2,146 Chads Hill Runs, compared to the same time-scale last academic year when 1,476 runs had been completed. Of the 275 boys in school, there are only four who have yet to complete the run and I am pleased to say that every boarder has run it at least once. The senior school totals are very close, with Year 9 completing 500, Year 10 - 443 and Year 11 - 451; the junior school have also done well with Year 7 out-running Year 8 by 28 runs, 390 and 362 respectively. 199 boys have improved their personal best times this term.

Not to be left out, the staff have run 174 times and there have been 8 guest runners.

(Mr Spridgens)

Carol Services

Our annual Christmas Carol Services took place in St Mary's Church in the village and were well attended by families. The Friday night service was full of magic as the light faded outside and the Year 7 and 8 boys took centre stage with readings. The Saturday morning service was an upbeat, if slightly soggy, affair and everyone enjoyed listening to the first fifteen rugby team sing their tunes!

As Mr Thomas mentioned it is a time for presence over presents and much needed family time and everyone at Brymore wishes you all a wonderful Christmas. The collection for the Syrian refugees raised over £300.

(Ms Warren)

Activities

What another fantastic half term it's been for activities. So many brand new weekend activities were added this term but it all started with an old favourite - a bright and sparkling trip to Bridgwater Carnival where we had a perfect view of all the carts. The colours and lights were incredible and we can't wait to go again next year.

Zorb Football was a big favourite with the boys as they ran into each other and bounced around the hall. Equally popular was the Super Splash Assault Course at Trinity Leisure where they raced each other across the water inflatable without falling off - a feat many failed at achieving!

The Cribbs Causeway shopping and ice skating trip was another huge success once again, with 30 boys heading out to buy Christmas presents for their families (and sweets for themselves!) and 18 of them choosing to take part in the ice skating. Some took to it like a duck to water, others like Bambi! Good old favourites like the cinema trips and ten pin bowling featured again in this half term and were loved by all, with staff having to pull names out of a hat to see who got to go to the new JK Rowling film; Fantastic Beasts!

We finished off the term with a trip to Dunster by Candlelight. The whole village and the castle were illuminated in candles, lights and fire with street entertainment, sword fights, Viking re-enactments and so much more. All that was needed was a final event of silliness with Mr Holt dressed up in fancy dress...and we didn't disappoint as the Mini Olympics hit the stage for the first time. Houses competed against each other in a series of pointless games in the woods!

You'll find next half term's weekend activity overleaf, however please bear in mind that activities are subject to last minute changes or cancellations but as much notice will be given as possible.

Extra-curricular activities continue to deliver some amazing results. This term the boys have made hammers in toolmaking, candle holders in coppersmithing and the blacksmithing, welding and woodwork are still producing some outstanding creations. If your son would like to join one of these activities, please ask them to speak to the teacher that runs each activity or come to see me in January. Please ensure they have the funds in their activities account so they can be signed up. There is no guarantee of a place as some activities are nearly fully booked for the year.

After school activities are still well attended. Please remember that your son is expected to attend his Garden Duties once per fortnight (Year 7 & 8), feeding duties (Years 9-11), his year group's fitness session(s) and must run Chads once per week. There is a big kudos that comes with being up-to-date with all activities at Brymore so please help your son to keep on top of these.

It's been another busy half term but we're not slowing down here. Activities continue to rocket on throughout the day, evenings and weekends. If you've got any queries, questions, suggestions or comments, please don't hesitate to send me an email.

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



TERM 1A WEEKEND ACTIVITY SUMMARY

PARENTS - How to book weekend activities:

1. Talk with your son about any they would like to do
2. Check they have sufficient funds in their activities account before the deadline date
3. Email Mr Holt to reserve your place if you are really keen to go to an activity
4. Get your son to tell his Houseparent his choices

BOYS - How to book weekend activities:

1. Have a look and see which activities you fancy doing
2. Check you have enough money in your activities account before the deadline date
3. Tell your Houseparent your choices

You can provisionally 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 school

Week 1 - 7th & 8th January	
Saturday Evening	Sunday
<u>What</u> Go Karting	Keep Britain Tidy - The Big Tidy Up!
<u>Where</u> Southwest Karting, Cheddar	Local Area
<u>When</u> Leave after breakfast	Mid-morning / Mid-afternoon
<u>Cost</u> £25	FREE!
<u>Deadline</u> Wednesday 4th January	<u>Deadline</u> Wednesday 18th January



Week 2 - 14th & 15th January	
Saturday Evening	Sunday
<u>What</u> Pizza Making Evening	Clarks Village Shopping Trip
<u>Where</u> Dining Hall	Street
<u>When</u> 5:30pm for tea at 6:00pm	Leave after breakfast, take a packed lunch
<u>Cost</u> FREE - Open to boarders staying in only	£5.00
<u>Deadline</u> Wednesday 18th January	<u>Deadline</u> Wednesday 18th January



Week 3 - 21st & 22nd January	
Saturday Evening	Sunday
<u>What</u> Cinema - XXX: The Return of Xander Cage	Timewarp Arcade
<u>Where</u> Scott Cinemas, Bridgwater	Bridgwater
<u>When</u> tbc	11am-12pm
<u>Cost</u> £6.00	£7
<u>Deadline</u> Wednesday 18th January	<u>Deadline</u> Wednesday 4th January



Week 4 - 28th & 29th January	
Saturday Evening	Sunday
<u>What</u> FOBSA Bingo (All parents invited too!)	Minehead Eye Skate Park
<u>Where</u> School Hall	Minehead
<u>When</u> 6:30pm Eyes Down	Leave after breakfast, lunch provided
<u>Cost</u> £1.00	£8
<u>Deadline</u> Wednesday 18th January	<u>Deadline</u> Wednesday 18th January



Any questions about the activities, please speak to Mr Holt - 07765 551324 01278 655563 eholt@educ.somerset.gov.uk

FoBSA

With a new committee in place it's time to introduce the main officers to you....

New Chair

My name is Kate Atyeo and my son Lewis is in Year 10. I have chaired a PTA for seven years at Lewis and Sophie's old primary school. I like playing netball and have just started to run. I enjoy organising events, like bingos, discos and Christmas/Summer fetes and I like that we help with additional funding for our children that the school budget doesn't allow for. Over my time of being chair I have made some lovely friends, some of which are now my best friends. I like things to be fun but equally to a standard to meet the needs of the school and would really like to invite new members - come on mums, dads, nans and grandads...come along and meet us; have a chat and a cuppa. We really don't bite!!!!

I would really like to build up a great network of parents and would like to see what people can offer donation wise to help support this great school which we are all part of.

Do you own a business or do you work for a business that could donate goods, gifts or similar items for our future events? If so we'd love to hear from you!!!

Our first meeting is on 7th January 2017 at 3.00 pm in the meeting room, in readiness for our grand bingo on 28th January 2017 doors open at 6.00 pm for eyes down at 6.30 pm. We would love to see as many people as possible. Please contact me via:

FOBSACHAIR@hotmail.com



New Vice Chair

My name is Bénédicte Bagg and I moved to Somerset when I got married to a local farmer. I originate from France; my son Louis is a Year 8 at Brymore and is following in the footsteps of his grandad, father and uncles. Brymore is for our family, like a tradition and I'm now Vice-Chairman of FoBSA and hope to serve it well.

New Treasurer

I am Justine Comer and my son Josh is in Year 7. I have a catering business - making cakes and deserts for tearooms & farm shops and live on the Quantocks, having lived in the local area since a child. I enjoy mountain biking & running. Having only made cakes (!) for my son's primary school for seven years, the role of treasurer will be a new challenge which I am looking forward to.

New Secretary

I am Lisa Hill and am excited to be the secretary for FoBSA. I'm a KS1 teacher at Draycott & Rodney Stoke 1st School. Archie is a Year 10 boarder at Brymore and loves it! His twin sister attends Kings of Wessex in Cheddar but would prefer to be at Brymore!! We live on a farm near Cheddar.



Our first event of the year is bingo on 28th January 2017, we are looking for donations and happy to receive any unwanted gifts from Christmas or those leftover chocolates! Please leave in reception when you return to school and come along at 6.00 pm for fun on the night.

Forest School

We have had a great half term ending with two out of three groups completing the mallet project. Don't worry if your son hasn't brought you home a lovely wooden mallet as a gift, it will arrive after Christmas.

Just to give you a heads up on projects for the new year, we will be learning how to light fires by using a waffle and pyramid methods (don't panic mums). Also we will be making walking sticks.

To finish, just a reminder that if your son still needs to get waterproofs, please send them back with a set.

(Mr Ball)



Archery

Another good half term with budding archers emerging. We had balloons to shoot at and some zombie targets as well. It is great to see the level of skills increase as the weeks go by. Well done to all those taking part.

(Mr Ball)

Prefect Christmas Meal

The Senior Student Leadership and Prefect Team were taken to Blackmore Farm by our own SLT for a festive meal in the run up to Christmas. This was a reward for the boys for the hard work and endeavour they show in performing their senior duties. The boys always enjoy this occasion and it has become a tradition now and something they look forward to.

(Ms Warren)



Area Cross Country

The SASP Sedgemoor area cross country finals were held at Brymore during the last week of term. Both boys and girls from schools in the area came to try out our course and see if they could come top. Brymore fielded strong teams in all the age groups and congratulations go to all the boys who ran and to the 20 boys who qualified for the County Championships, which will be held in Yeovil in January. A special stand out 'well done' to Year 9 Nick Payne who ran his heart out and ultimately won his race.

(Mr Williams)



Smiles for Christmas

Boys, families and staff really went all out for the Smiles for Christmas campaign held this half term. The boarding houses were tasked with bringing in gifts to create a large hamper for those in need locally at this time of year and the result was three houses full of chocolates, biscuits, toiletries and bottles of drink. All with the purpose of putting a smile on the faces of people who may be alone or who do not have the money to enjoy Christmas like many of the rest of the country. In addition, the houses had to design the actual hamper to be judged by external visitors. The boys worked really hard on the designs and the winning Reid House was a (no exaggeration) huge advent calendar come Christmas tree!

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

(Ms Warren)



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)

Farm News

Crocus, our pedigree Shorthorn heifer, had a baby bull calf. It was named by a competition run through the Young Farmers Club and is called Albert.

September seems so long ago and alot has happened since. The 80 ewes were sponged, separated and put with the rams. Some ours, some borrowed and one kindly donated. We have since scanned the ewes and taking out the show Kerry hills it looks to be around the 170% mark.

We have also passed our whole herd TB test. This was sparked off by a neighbour going down with TB. There was initial relief - however since then there have been more reactors in the area. Worrying times.

We have received funding for a reed bed drainage system. 90% of the work has now been carried out with just fencing and the planting of the reeds to take place. Thankfully, all of the work has taken place in the dry weather. The weather has also allowed us to spread a lot of FYM and we still have some yearling cattle out enjoying the outdoor life.

The pig block has yet again come in handy as we have had to house the chickens due to the avian flu scare. We now have some very unhappy chickens.



South West Winter Fair

Brymore's attendance at the South West Winter Fair has become an annual affair with members of the YFC helping out and some boys showing cattle.

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



Mutch, Max Retallick and Oliver Scott represented the school in the ring and we even managed to have our own Brymore Young Handlers class which Lewis happily won! All the boys involved in showing were invited to attend the GTH presentation night at the Somerset County Cricket Ground and had a great night mixing with the great and the good from the agricultural community.

(Ms Warren)

Showing

During the October half term we had two boys that had won a place in the final of Young Shepherd of the Year. Countryside Live was held at the Yorkshire show ground and was where the final was being held, it was an exciting but nerve-racking time for both Ben Clay and Henry Scott who had made the final through their hard work showing at the Bath and West show. One of the shows rules was that rams were not allowed to be shown in the final and this was a great disappointment to Henry as he had been showing Maverick the ram all summer. However, undeterred Henry chose to show a ewe lamb that we had recently purchased from Wales as he wanted to show the judge that he had halter broken the lamb and done all the work preparing her. Henry's hard work paid off and it was with great delight that he was awarded Reserve Champion out of a really strong class of 22. Ben also did very well in the younger class, with his homebred Jacob Sheep, being awarded highly commended.



We also attended a number of winter shows assisting Mr Clatworthy with showing his cattle. Boys worked hard to train the cattle before the events and during the shows and came away with lots of awards. Congratulations go to Archie Hill for being placed as the overall champion young handler at the English Winter Show today! The other boys also did well with Lewis Atyeo and Arthur Butt being 'highly commended' along with Arthur being awarded for his effort over the weekend with best handler at the English Winter Fair. Harrison Scott also did well in showing the sheep at this show. Thanks go to the Clatworthy family for the opportunity and to the boys for their hard work.



The Yorkshire Show was the round up to the summer show season and what a first year season it was. I have looked back through the results and we have attended 8 shows, been awarded 12 champions, 4 reserve champions, 25 first places, 22 second places and 14 thirds. I'm very proud of that and all the boys who have taken part. It has been a really enjoyable year for me as North Somerset was my first show and as the teacher I had to learn quickly to relay the skills to the boys. It was really enjoyable to work with boys that have shown all their lives and ones that haven't. It is inspirational to see the ones that have not shown before strive to be at the same level as everyone else and see the skills progress show by show. A true model of this is Henry who had never shown before the North Somerset in May. Henry was entered in the young handlers class, where he was not placed, however, he then went back to the judge and asked how he could improve his showing skills. Taking this information on board and practising hard at school he went and won champion young handler at the Bath and West show a few weeks later. Proof that hard work, understanding and dedication goes a long way. My thanks go to all the people that have supported the showing side of Brymore throughout the year - it's so good to see the school and boys shown off in such a brilliant way.



(Mr Adamson)



Upcoming Important Dates

2016/17 BRYMORE'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 3 January 2017

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

Wednesday 4 January

8.30 am All out-boarders return

Saturday 4 February

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

1.00 pm - 3.30 pm Year 8 Parent Consultation

Monday 20 February

3.30 pm - 5.00 pm Year 10 Parent Consultation

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm Years 7, 8, 9 & 11 boarders return

Tuesday 21 February

8.30 am All out-boarders return

Saturday 25 March

10.00 am Raising Achievement Sessions 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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