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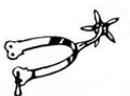
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Message from the Headteacher

I would like to start by thanking all those parents who attended one of our Christmas carol services which certainly put me in the mood for Christmas. Brymore is about so much more than exam results and we try to provide many different experiences for the boys and I think attending a church service to celebrate Christmas is an opportunity all young people should have. It makes it even more special if it is a shared experience and I know many families look back on our Christmas carol services with fond memories long after they have left Brymore. Mr Willcocks yet again put on two very special services and I am very grateful to him for all of his hard work in making both events happen. Thanks also to the boys, staff, parents and governors who read or sang at one of the services. Highlights for me were the lower school choir and the Price brother's duet, the first XI's first ever performance and the first XV who always add a certain Brymore feel to the carol service. I must also mention the duet of Mr Willcocks and Mrs Vearncombe who were equally impressive both with and without music.

On behalf of the staff I would also like to thank all of those people who sent in gifts for staff this year. We had a significant number of hampers and other such presents sent in during the last week, many anonymously. I think it shows how appreciative people are of the extra effort many staff put in for the boys at Brymore and it is always nice when someone recognises that. It certainly has been a festive last couple of weeks with Christmas lunch, Christmas tea including the traditional banging of the tables (please take a look at the video on facebook if you are not sure what this is about - only at Brymore!), Christmas parties, the Christmas jumper competition, decorating the dormitories, boarding houses and the many Christmas trees as well as singing carols in assembly in preparation for the carol service itself.

I really do hope that you all manage to have some family time together over the Christmas period. For many the build-up is incredibly busy, trying to buy all of the food and last minute presents, the relatively new stress of hoping the on-line orders arrive in time, for some packing up to visit family and friends or others the pressure of hosting and the preparation that also entails. However, eventually over Christmas Day and Boxing Day at least I hope that you do all find that precious time to share with your family and create some more Christmas memories.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing all of the boys back healthy and happy in 2019.



Horticulture

Another busy half-term as the weather turns colder! We have crushed apples for cider and are almost sold out of the juice made last half-term; which is great and thanks to those that buy it and love it as much as we do.

In the department we have planted out onion sets and broad beans into the walled garden and sown sweet pea seeds. Work has begun on clearing the perennial border and wall climbing shrubs on the south side of the walled garden and we have cleared the old herb garden in readiness for a pergola to be erected and then the sales area will be revamped, incorporating this new space. We have also been planting bulbs with Year 9s.

The Year 7s have been taken to Monkton Elm Garden Centre where they had a very informative tour, finding out how plants are bred, where the centre buys the plants, topiary and information about indoor plants too and then the boys had free time to look around. They were also told about jobs they could have in a garden centre (and horticulture as an industry) and how when they are looking for work experience, Monkton Elm will always consider a Brymore student having had many in the past and indeed have some ex-pupils working there at present. Year 10s have applied for HoD positions and will be interviewed shortly; please remember behaviour in and around school goes towards our considerations on this. Biennial bedding for early spring colour has now been planted out and winter hanging baskets have been hung.

We are collecting leaves for the leaf mould pile and transferring rotted leaf mould to the walled garden.

Many thanks to those who support the stall when we have it out on Fridays - all the money raised goes back into the department. Some plants were taken to Cannington Christmas event by Mrs Long to be sold so thank you to her for that.

Thank you to those parents who have offered to mend tools - any additional helpers are always welcome so please email me:
RWillcocks@educ.somerset.gov.uk
as it is appreciated.

Duties continue despite the dark evenings and many boys are very helpful, just a few need to catch up on duties missed.

A reminder that boys should have warm clothes to put on under their overalls, many at the present are just wearing overalls, and they should have wet weather gear because we continue to work despite the weather.



In addition to Show my Homework I always insist that all the boys write their homework in their books, so the excuse that they didn't know what to do because it did not come through on SMH does not mean they can miss their homework - any questions then please ask.

We are sorry to be losing Ms Mitchell at Christmas. She has only been with us for nine months and in that time has made a considerable impact into the department. Her willingness, knowledge and quiet way with the boys has gained her many friends and we shall miss her help and enthusiasm. She has decided that she wants to set up her own gardening business again, we whetted her appetite! So we wish her well and hope to see her again, but it leaves our department with a huge hole.

My thanks also go to Mrs Stanley for her constant enthusiasm and indomitable spirit, to Mrs Meatyard for her willingness, enthusiasm and initiative and to Ms Gardner who really gets stuck in with the boys when she supports on Wednesdays. I am blessed with a great team! Also special thanks go to Miss Bradford who very helpfully drives minibuses for us when we go out on trips. We could not do that without her. (Mr Willcocks)



Young Farmers Club



This half-term has been a busy one for the YFC group; our Wednesday meetings have seen us watch a DVD on pigeon shooting, which for those boys who stayed until the end of the hour, was a real laugh - watching a Peregrine Falcon taking a good 20 minutes to work out that the circle of pigeons that didn't fly away in fear were in fact plastic, 'Should have gone to Spec Savers'!

The following week saw the boys design posters for the Farm's meat sales at Blackmore by Candlelight; some boys also helped with the setting up of the event.

The next week was more exciting where we were lucky enough to have Mr Wescott return to show us how to make sausages, these turned out to be more rustic than planned as two rather important parts of the mincer had been 'lost' during a deep clean over the summer, resulting in hand diced pork, but they tasted really good as did the lamb and pork burgers that were also demonstrated and cooked.



Mr Wescott demonstrates



Filling the skins



Mr Adamson

Jason Hedaux came in to speak about budgies, he is a well-known breeder of the birds in the South West and likes to engage the boys with ideas that relate to the breeding that happens with animals on the farm. He showed a video which showed the birds in their green natural colours in Australia, spoke about breeding, nesting and what you look for in the birds. He then asked the boys to judge four cock birds that he had brought in, Harry Hardwill was the closest in his selection to Mr Hedaux's choices. This meeting was changed from the Wednesday to Thursday so apologies if it caused any problems with getting the out-boarders back in.

Our last meeting of the year was Christmas themed, with the boys producing cards and enjoying mince pies and Christmas cake. (Miss Bradford)

LRC

The Year 7 boys have continued to read well, taking out over 400 books since September, if only they would bring them back!

All books issued since the start of December have a return date of **9th January 2019**.

The LRC has had a delivery of recommended books for the lower ability reader, I am getting them on the shelves as quickly as I can.

We have also had a couple of generous donations from staff and families. Once again I am very grateful and these too are trickling slowly onto the shelves. New Year resolutions for the boys - read more and please return the books on time! (Miss Bradford)

Smiles for Christmas

On Monday 10th December we held our Smiles for Christmas assembly. Every year the three boarding houses hold a competition to create weird and wonderful hampers, with the donated items going to the Salvation Army to be distributed to those less fortunate during the festive season. All houses did brilliantly with Kemp showing off a book tree design, Reid creating a wonderful cracker but the overall winner was School House with their Christmas dinner (complete with turkey) hamper! Mark Godwin from the Salvation Army came to judge and was, once again, overwhelmed with all the donations so thank you to everyone who has contributed in some way! (Ms Warren)



Sports Report

Unfortunately, the Year 10 and Year 11 rugby finals were postponed due to the weather, but we are hopeful they can be played in the New Year and we will let everyone know once dates are rearranged. Both matches look to be good fixtures and the teams have earned their places in the finals. Training has been well attended and our thanks go to Mr Lines and Mr Carr for all their help with rugby.

We held the Area Cross Country final here near the end of term and out of all the schools in the area we had the most students participating - which says a huge amount about the boys. We also had a good number qualify for the County Championships and the boys that have been successful were given letters. Please ensure that your son has registered with the County Secretary via the website. All information was on that important letter given out.

We had a coach from the Somerset Cricket Board come along to do some table cricket sessions with boys; this was well attended and the boys had a great time. The SCB will be running a competition next year which we are hopeful to get boys to.

We also attended a boccia tournament at Robert Blake and had four teams enter. More boccia to come next year including the County finals which we are confident boys can do well in.



The Year 7 and 8 boys got to go to the Area Sportshall Athletics this half-term and our Year 8 team did brilliantly, qualifying for the SASP Spring Games next year.

Please keep encouraging your son to run Chads and attend any fitness sessions for him - keeping fit and improving health is a key element of the Brymore life and is important for them in earning house points too. Wishing you all a happy Christmas. (Mr Williams)

Message from the Head Boy

We have been raising money again this term and we decided we wanted to support anti bullying as this is always a subject close to everyone's hearts. We had a 'wear blue day' which was very well supported by the boys and we raised some money for charity and hope that it helped raise awareness of bullying.

This term has also been a term of reflection for me and some of the SSLT, we have started to realise that our time at Brymore is nearly over and that very soon we will be taking

our GCSEs and going out into the real world. Year 11 have been taking our mocks over the last couple of weeks and thinking back over the last five years if I could go back and do it all again I would definitely have listened more and worked just that little bit harder. We hope that you enjoyed the Christmas carol concerts, it is always well supported and is always good to have a good sing.

I hope you have a great Christmas and relax and have time with your families.

Merry Christmas (Joe Finnis)



Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

A letter will be going out in February 2019, to all parents/guardians of the current Year 11, explaining how you can order and pay for your son's hoodie if he wants one.

Please take note of the deadline for ordering as late orders will not be placed. (Miss Bradford)



Archery

Well done to David Goodman and Jadan Calladine for shooting at a high standard throughout and having a good level of healthy competition. Also excellent technique and stance from Sam Chedghey. (Mr Ball)

History

As part of their history homework Year 7 boys were set the task of creating a Roman shield. All types of big, small and wonderful representations were bought in for Miss Owen to see and she was overwhelmed by all the hard work boys had put in!
(Ms Warren)



BRYMORE LOTTERY

The results of the lottery for this half-term:

- £40 Mr D Veale
- £25 Mr Hill
- £15 Dr Burden

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



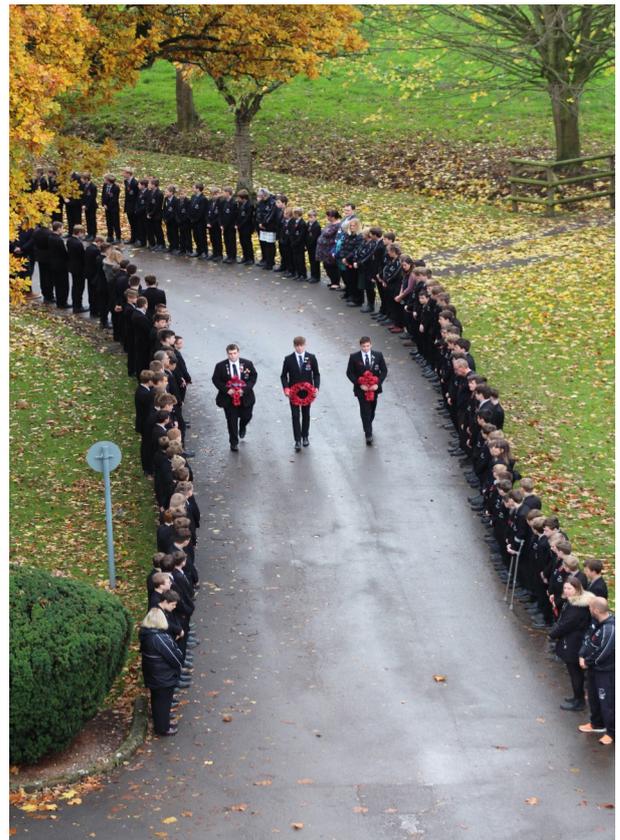
Festive Week

The last week of term before Christmas is always a very festive affair. Our annual Christmas jumper day alongside Christmas lunch has a real buzz about it - the tunes playing and the festive knitwear making it a really fun day. In boarding the evening house parties and the Christmas teas create lots of memories amongst the frivolity. It wouldn't be a Brymore festive week without the carol services and, as always, well attended by the families (standing room only!) and full of the true meaning of this time of year. An opportunity for us all to reconnect as the Brymore community. (Ms Warren)



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. The signal of the Last Post rang out over the school followed by a poem by Mr Thomas and Reveille. Joe Finnis, along with the Deputy Head Boys and Assistant Head Boys led members of our Old Brymorsians back up the drive to lay wreaths at the front of school. This was then followed by every boy and member of staff who also quietly paid their respects. (Ms Warren)



Ten Tors

A group of boys spent some of the weekend on Dartmoor for Ten Tors training.

A great trip led by Mr Dickson and assisted by Mr Austin, where nine boys started their training with more looking to join them next time. Conditions were very challenging as it was wet and muddy underfoot but a good time was had by all!

(Ms Warren)



Somerset Hockey

Well done to Charles Grossey one of our Year 11 boys who scored the first Somerset U17/U18 goal against Cornwall during this half-term. A great achievement gaining a place on the County team!

(Ms Warren)

Farm News

Dairy

Our dairy shorthorns have been calving down over the last few weeks and are now milking well in the herd. Two of them that held to sexed semen have had lovely heifer calves that will eventually enter the herd. Ruby, one of our, 100% Dairy Shorthorns has calved a bull calf. As it is 100% pedigree, and being so rare, we hope the Rare Breeds Survival Trust will have an outlet for him. Ruby is milking very well and has surprised us with her yields.

Beef

We have been selling some of our Beef Shorthorn X store cattle at Sedgemoor recently. They have been selling very well topping £860. Most of the cattle have been out until now, which is unheard of. We have been supplementing them with silage but the ground has held up. We hope to sell a few more heifer store cattle in the coming weeks before our pre-movement runs out. Exciting times are ahead for our Beef Shorthorn venture with the purchase of a cow with a calf at foot. We have been very lucky with **Yeovil Agricultural Society** and **Bridgwater Agriculture Society** covering the full cost of the purchase. We hope to have taken delivery of the new stock for the boys return after the Christmas break.

Sheep

The ewes are doing very well and are now grazing some of Mr Baker's grass lays (neighbouring farm). We scanned them on the Friday morning before we finished with some of our Year 9s. They have scanned out to a percentage of 164, which we are pleased with, although obviously would prefer more. Our small flock of Beltex's will be the first to lamb in January. With the Kerry's and the commercial ewes following in March. We have nearly sold all of our lambs with most going through the fat trade. We sent some last week to Sedgemoor as stores and they sold very well making £64 per head.

Pigs

As mentioned in previous reports we have cut down numbers due to the new developments. But our one sow Chilthorne, Sunshine, has now been weaned and her piglets are doing very well. We hope to retain a few of the gilts for breeding but will sell gilts and boars if approached. Hopefully Sunshine is pregnant again, being served last week to AI. A close eye will be kept on her over the next few weeks.

Poultry

The chickens are still laying well even with the cold snap. We are still selling our eggs from our honesty box to the local villagers. We have prepared everything for the festive turkeys and took the Year 10 boys to the slaughtering as part of their education to understand the end process. The turkeys have grown well and we could have sold out twice over.

Land/ machinery

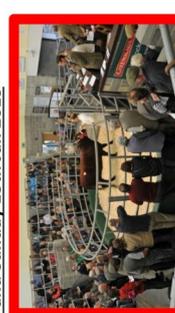
As I have said above, stock has only just come in and the land has held up very well even being mostly clay. We re-seeded one of our fields to a mixed long time lye at Ashford, our rented ground. This had a good growth so has now been grazed off by our ewe lambs and remaining stores. To much of the boys excitement we have taken delivery of a new 4wd T5 tractor with loader. This has replaced our old one with our contract coming to an end.

Heads of Department

To be a HoD on the farm or in the gardens is hard work but looks great on the boys' applications to college. We have interviewed all of the prospective HoDs from Year 10 and will be going through their forms and looking at the behaviour logs before making our decisions. It is important that all boys (current applicants and future ones) understand that behaviour around school and in boarding time impacts on our decisions. (Mr Kingston and Mr Adamson)



TERM 2A WEEKEND ACTIVITY SUMMARY January 2019
Full-time boarders will take priority where weekend events are limited by numbers

<p>Friday 11th Jan Tuck Shopping Bridgwater Retail Park 18:00 to 19:30 Free Ms Eastham & Mr Nurton</p>		<p>Saturday 12th Jan Farmers Market Junction 24 9:00 to 12:00 £1 Mrs Long (Car)</p>		<p>Sunday 13th Jan Great Wood Walk & Cafe Nether Stowey 13:45 to 16:30 Free Mrs Warren</p>	
<p>Friday 18th Jan 15+ Cinema Trip Max 6 Boys Scott Cinema TBC £7.00 Mrs Long (Car)</p>		<p>Saturday 19th Jan Clay, Air Rifle and Archery Heywood Estate, Wellington 12:15 to 17:00 £42 Mr Blake & Mr Nurton</p>		<p>Sunday 20th Jan RC Cars On Site 14:00 to 15:30 £3.00 Mr Simmonds</p>	
<p>Friday 25th Jan Tuck Shopping Bridgwater Retail Park 18:00 to 19:30 Free Ms Eastham & Mr Nurton</p>		<p>Saturday 26th Jan Cinema Bridgwater TBC £7.00 Mr Fewtrell</p>		<p>Sunday 27th Jan Pier and Arcade Weston Super-mare 9:30 to 13:00 £3.00 Mrs Long (Car)</p>	
<p>Friday 1st Feb Driving Range Cannington 18:30 to 20:00 £5.00 Mr Blake</p>		<p>Saturday 2nd Feb Shopping Taunton 9:30 to 13:00 £3.00 Mrs Western</p>		<p>Sunday 3rd Feb Bowling Taunton 9am to 12:30 £8.00 Mrs Western</p>	
<p>Friday 8th Feb Quiz Night Reid 19:00 to 20:30 £1.00 Mrs Edwards</p>		<p>Saturday 9th Feb U20's 6 Nations Rugby Sandy Park, Exeter 10:00 to 15:30 £19.00 Mr Western</p>		<p>Sunday 10th Feb Just Keep swimming Chilton Trinity 14:00 to 16:00 £5.00 Mr Ashton</p>	

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

English Department

Blood Brothers

This half-term Year 10 travelled to the New Oxford Theatre to watch a production of 'Blood Brothers.' As ever, the cast didn't disappoint and delivered a powerful, lively, funny and poignant performance. It really aided in developing the boys' understanding of one of theatre's most popular musicals. Ask your son, "And do we blame superstition for what came to pass? Or could it be what we, the English, have come to know as class?" and I'm sure they can give you their opinion!

Accelerated Reader News

As we are a third of the way through the academic year boys should aim to be a third of the way through their personalised annual reading target. Congratulations to the following boys who have met, and in a lot of cases, exceeded this: Oliver Austin, Hadley Carreras-Bennett, Sam Chedgey, Anthony Hill, George McCormack, Lennon Rose, Henri Rowe, Anthony Vessier, Aidan Crispin, Harrison Golding, Toby Lee, Artie Shrimpton, Leandro Evans, Henry Stanton, Jack Bacon, Tyler Botterill, Dylan Carreras-Bennett, Aiden Grandfield, George Jones, Jamie Lander, Henry Mills, Ethan Parfitt, Jake Thomas, Bevan Webber, Jude Ballinger, Archie Collins, Tyler Hills, Ethan Lockyer, Josh Catherall, Jaden Prendergast, Bennett Wheeler, David Goodman, Zak Warton-Browne, Harry Atkinson and Ethan Gregory. Well done all.

Sheep Showing

Two of our Year 11 boys qualified for the finals of Young Stockman of the Year at the Winter Stock Festival in Peterborough. Both boys did brilliantly with Angus winning the Young Handlers competition at the show and being placed fifth in the Young Stockman and Harrison gaining third place in the Young Handlers. Both boys also assisted in showing the sheep in their classes and we gained a number of rosettes from this. (Ms Warren)

The English team hope to run a reward trip for these boys in the Spring term along with anyone else who can hit 33% of their annual target by the first day of the spring term so watch this space!

House Totals

This year reading has been classed as a 'big' Brymore event, with the house who has read the most words over the course of the academic year winning an additional 500 points for their house. For the majority of the autumn term Walker has been enjoying a significant lead, but in the last week Taylor pulled out all the stops and has just taken first place, well done Taylor! Walker and Galsworthy, you still have another two terms to try and take the lead back - may the best house win! (Mrs Taylor-Lane)

Galsworthy	Taylor	Walker
6,339,751	7,552,739	7,386,807



Forest School

Forest School - We have had another good half-term in Forest School. The sessions have been based on fires and the different types of structure for these fires eg waffle and pyramid, and the materials and tools to light them and, as you can imagine the boys really enjoyed this. Another reminder that it will continue to be cold and wet, so waterproofs are a must. (Mr Ball)



Engineering

Engineering and Woodwork

Engineering & Tool making -

Well done to Sam Sleep and Zander Smith with their continued endeavour in producing a Pneumatic engine. A good effort also from David Goodman producing a lovely whistle from mild steel and brass.

Woodwork & Intro to Wood Carving -

Good effort put in by all the boys on these courses. Well done to Jon Grimoldby in woodwork for producing a tall side table and to Lysander Allen-Skinner for his efforts in wood carving. (Mr Ball)

South West Winter Fair

Some of our Young Farmers went to the South West Winter Fair to help the organisers, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, at Junction 24. Boys were very helpful in sorting out the sheep, pigs and cattle for the sale and assisting with the auction of turkeys. (Ms Warren)



FOBSA

Dates for your diary - FOBSA 2018/2019 events

School Compulsory Events

Date	Event
20.10.2018	Harvest Festival
14/15.12.2018	Christmas Carol Service
06.04.2019	House Matches
25.05.2019	Leavers Service /Sports Day
29.06.2019	Open Day/Country Fair
13.07.2019	Swimming Gala

FOBSA Events

23.11.2018	Christmas Bingo
TBC	Lambing Day
29.03.2019	Easter Bingo
25.05.2018	'A bit of a Do" TBC

FoBSA Meetings

25.01.2019	Catch up from 2018
01.03.2019	To discuss bingo on 29.03.2019 and House Matches 06.04.2019
26.04.2019	To discuss leavers Service/Sports Day 25.05.2019
07.06.2018	To discuss Open Day 29.06.2018
05.07.2019	To discuss Swimming Gala
October 2019	AGM

Prefect Meal

Mr Thomas, Mrs Davis and Mr Watts took the Senior Student Leadership Team to Blackmore Farm, as part of the now annual tradition, to reward and thank our Year 11 boys. The SSLT work with us to ensure duties are covered and that they show the younger boys an example to look up to, so a traditional roast turkey meal with all the trimmings in the local country house is always a nice evening for them. (Ms Warren)



2019 Upcoming Important Dates

SPRING TERM

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 Year 11 Parents/Guardians

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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