

Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

Newsletter

February 2020

www.brymoreacademy.co.uk

In this issue:

Rugby Final

Horticulture

Sport

LRC

Maths Trip

Boarding

FoBSA

Accelerated Reader

English, Woodworking & Tool-making

YFC

Phil Vickery opens new farm building

Art students visit Bristol

Archery

Ten Tors

Lottery

Hitler Trials

Lambing Day



Diligentia et Labore



Message from the Headteacher

Much has been written about the new farm building elsewhere in this newsletter however, for me it has to be the highlight of this half-term. Indeed it is one of the most important events since I became the Headteacher of Brymore nearly ten years ago.

When I first joined the school I was taken aback by the sheer passion the boys, staff, parents and community had for the school and the farm was very much at the heart of this. People were understandably wary of the new Head and I was regularly grilled about my intentions for the farm. At a time of financial vulnerability there were genuine concerns that I had plans to close the farm or even sell it off. Nothing could have been further from the truth and I quickly realised the importance of the four cornerstones of the farm, gardens, workshops and sport to the very essence of what Brymore is all about. It is what makes us different, indeed unique and the farm is an essential element in building a 'Brymore boy.'

The purpose-built milking parlour was designed with teaching the boys in mind, along with the ability to observe what is happening from the classroom next door through one of the first interactive displays of its kind to be installed in the country. The building also houses a dedicated classroom for agriculture and land based studies, which means that theory lessons can actually happen on the farm. The investment continues with the purchase of a cattle bolus to allow real time tracking and analytics which the boys can access through their mobile phone. There are also plans for a new general purpose barn, pig housing, specialist chicken housing and the resurfacing of the yard area. Along with the recent refurbishment of the horticultural area and potting sheds, this means over £750 000 will have been spent on land based studies over the past few years. This is why the new farm building is so important. It is a statement of intent of how vital we see our role is, in developing the workers for the land based industry of tomorrow, as well as the importance of the farm to Brymore itself.

What better way to teach the values of resilience, resourcefulness and responsibility and to instil the sense of 'Diligentia et Labore' than through the working of the land? So, whilst the new building is now finished and a new chapter in the history of Brymore has started, the hard work will continue. Hard work by myself and other staff in ensuring the investment continues and hard work by the boys themselves, in continuing to help run the farm just as generations of Brymore boys have done before them.



Horticulture

Once again this has been a busy term, but isn't each one in its own way?

Many thanks to the team who are establishing themselves now. Mrs Stanley continues to keep us organised on the practical side and she is now ably assisted by Mrs Franks and Mrs Osborne (two days per week), both of whom help in the classroom too. Mrs Franks is having a very positive effect upon the classroom displays, thank you.

In the gardens we have pruned back, weeded and mulched with woodchip, a number of the beds and borders. We have started pruning the soft fruit bushes and the apple trees and brought leaf mold up to the walled garden for use as a soil improver and crop nourisher on the vegetable beds.

Seeds have been sown by the Year 7s. We have been amazed at how quickly they have germinated and started to grow, and some of the seedlings have been pricked out, with varying degrees of success! This is such a delicate job which some boys find very challenging.

We have taken hardwood cuttings from rambler roses and cornus (dogwood), pruned and top dressed plants in the sales area, trimmed or cut back roses and grasses and generally tried to keep the department tidy. We have the early potatoes chitting, ready for planting next term and the tete-a-tete daffodils which we planted just before the end of last term have begun to flower.

The new raised bed outside Reid House has now been refilled with soil from the compost heap and will be planted up next term. Cider vinegar continues to be bottled although the apple juice is now all sold.

Many thanks to those who have supported our department. If you wish to buy plants and produce do contact us. (Mr Willcocks)

Archery

The boys enjoyed their time this half-term honing their archery skills on new targets that are much easier to move around, they particularly enjoy hitting some balloons and small packs of sweets to show how accurate they can be. A special mention needs to go to Daniel Brown who is only the second boy to receive the Excellence in Archery badge, well done Daniel. (Mr Ball)



LRC

We have over 150 overdue library books currently and would love to be able to bring that number down out of triple figures. If you know your son has some please get them returned. We continue to donate old books which are no longer needed from our LRC to a local charity in Watchet, The Harbourside Bookshop, and this helps us make way for new stock but also allows us to do something worthy with old books. (Miss Bradford)

Young Farmers Club

We were lucky this half-term to be offered two CPR and Basic First Aid evenings for the older boys; with farming suffering the highest amount of fatalities and injuries in the UK each year for the last 20. This is something that is important for the boys to learn.

The nine boys who took the CPR evening learned about when to apply CPR, how to carry it out correctly and what else they should do before and after carrying out the procedure.

The follow up session two weeks later was affected by the Year 11 Rugby finals, when four boys chose to watch - Brymore won, so it was worth it. The five boys who did attend the second session learnt about bandaging different injuries and dealing with shock. A big thank you to Andree and Charley Chandler for organising and delivering the two sessions.

In between these two sessions, Innes Findlay from BASC came in and held a very successful back-to-back Electronic Shooting hour, the juniors were from 6.15pm - 7.15pm and seniors from 7.15pm - 8.45pm. The boys shot in pairs at realistic projected pheasants, grouse, partridge and ducks, having a couple of rounds at each target, using a shot gun or rifle and then swapping. The junior session was won by our youngest member 10 year old Jacob. The winner of the senior session was won by Jed.



The next session was with two Police Community Officers, who spoke about why they became officers, how long the training was and the sort of incidents they attended; the boys asked many and varied questions which were answered truthfully and in a way the boys understood.

Our penultimate session was the showing of a new copy of Silence at Ramscliffe, about the Foot and Mouth epidemic that hit the UK in 2001, this showing was made all the more poignant, with the attendance of Tom, whose father owns the farm in the DVD and who hopes to take over when the running of the farm when qualified. Although not yet born when the disease struck, Tom spoke about the effect it had on his family.

The final evening was with Mrs Wendy Wel-land, showing another string to her bow and an evening of carding lambs fleeces and spinning the carded wool. (Miss Bradford)

Ten Tors

On Saturday 25th January our Ten Tors team continued their training on Dartmoor in fog and low cloud giving low visibility conditions which tested their navigational skills.

The team left Postbridge and visited Higher White Tor, Rough Tor, the standing stone called Beardown Man (photo) before heading to White Barrow and Holming Beam.

The low visibility meant that most sections were walked on a compass bearing and the ground was also very wet.

During the day we saw lots of teams out from other schools practising for the event on 1st May 2020.

Mr Dickson would like to thank all the parents who have supported the team by transporting and walking with the boys. (Mr Dickson)



New Farm Building

Rugby World Cup winner Phil Vickery did the honours of opening our brand new £600,000 farm building and spoke with passion about his background in farming and how the relentlessness of it helped form his career as a professional sportsman.

The former England star - and winner of Celebrity Masterchef - was shown round the school by the Brymore boys and spoke to staff and guests before unveiling a plaque.

Mr Vickery's nephew attends Brymore, Year 10 Ethan, and the rugby star said he had seen how the school had given him a sense of belonging and purpose during his education.

Phil spoke of his ties to the farming community, having grown up on a dairy farm and remains a qualified cattle inseminator, and how he still feels close to his roots. Even mentioning how the Schools' one acre walled garden bought back happy memories of his grandfather's own garden from his youth – a nod to the holistic approach to land based that Brymore teaches.

"I think it is fantastic the boys here have access to a facility like this - not everyone thrives in a purely academic background so it is important we give our young people a variety of opportunities," Phil said.

"Having been shown around today, having been greeted with welcoming handshakes and smiles by all the boys, and knowing the effect this school has had on Ethan, I will leave here today feeling inspired."

The new building gained funding from the Department For Education, and an additional £100,000 from the Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust will assist with an additional purpose built farm building the school is hopeful can be erected soon.

Mr Thomas spoke passionately about the school, his staff and the Brymore boys that attend now and those that have also gained from the school in the past. Guests from all walks of the agriculture industry, from The NFU through to Mole Valley, the Shorthorn Society and the Bath and West Show Society, along with the local MP and the Deputy Lord-Lieutenants mingled with some of the first ever Brymore students who attended back in 1952.

Mr Thomas said "The building has very much been needed by our farm, and we are delighted with the end result which includes a classroom and a new milking parlour. Agriculture is at the heart of what we do and this building is a real statement of intent for us as a school."

Mr Thomas thanked the board of governors, the staff and students, Bridgwater College Trust, the neighbouring farmers, the parents and Friends of Brymore Association, Bridgwater Agricultural Society, the MP and EDF. (Ms Warren)



Boarding

It only seems like yesterday since we said good-bye and all enjoyed three weeks of Christmas holidays with our friends and family. This half-term has raced by and been jam packed with exciting events and happenings.

We are happy to report that School House is near completion with regard to its dormitory refurbishment. There are two dorms needing to be completed and it is hoped these will be finished ready for the return of boys after Easter. Kemp and Reid's common rooms and hallways will also be refurbished and boys have had an input into how this will be done. Another change has seen Matron Light leaving her role to take up another role in the school. She has been a fantastic Matron and is much liked by the boys for her never-ending kindness and support.

Boys are also able to have an input into what merchandise they want to sell each other via their House Improvement Team, also known as H.I.T. Currently the boys sell hoodies to each other and there is currently competitions to design a mug, hat, Baseball cap, key ring and a special edition rugby shirt. Winning entries will win a prize and we will then look to see if we can produce their design and sell it to boys. All profits will be used to improve the houses which are of course, used by all Brymore boys.

Kemp was able to purchase a new X-box which was what they wanted to spend the money on that had been donated to them. The boys are loving being able to book pre-timetabled slots that are available to book following instructions. They voted on the games and it is available for

all boys, should they wish to book a slot. Boys are booking the Xbox for a treat on their birthday for example so they can play for half an hour with their friends.

The mentoring report illustrated how highly mentees think of this peer support and proves to be yet again, a clear strength of Brymore and its boarding experience for boys. Mentors supporting homesickness, encouraging activities and generally being a supportive friend.

School House held a very successful pudding night and raised over £200 which will be donated to BlazeAid to support farmers affected by the tragic bush fires in Australia. Our boys certainly like their puddings but more importantly all boarders helped to raise the funds by taking part in this worthwhile cause! Reid House held a hotdog and ice-cream evening and raised a substantial amount too for their chosen charity STAR - Somerset Trust for Arts and Recreation. Kemp are busy preparing to hold their annual quiz night and details will be sent out soon.

Our Year 11s are working tirelessly to better their knowledge, ready to complete their mock exams and complete their coursework. Revision sessions are having a big impact on helping the boys to cement their knowledge and ensure success, as will their aptitude and attitude to do well for themselves and their futures.

Lastly, a number of our boys had the fantastic opportunity to play under lights and represent the school successfully at Rugby. Many boys and staff who went along to support, it was proven to be an experience to last a lifetime. (Mr Watts)

Engineering, Woodworking and Tool-Making

A great effort from the boys on these activities making a range of products from a country box with a webbing strap that has a curved side to sit comfortably on the hip, to a footstool and a special shout out to Toby Moyles who produced an excellent dog that was carved from a piece of lime wood. All the boys worked really hard to produce some great tools, that many adults would struggle to produce, such as; screwdrivers, whistles, engineers square's and a plumb bob, so a very well done to you all. (Mr Ball)



Hitler Trials

A group of Year 10 History students, and a couple of extras from Year 11 and Year 9, went to Bristol to an event run by the exam board to gain a better understanding of one topic. The Hitler Trials went through detailed exam paper questions and answers and what examiners, in particular, are looking for. This was then followed by an interactive performance of a court room effectively putting Hitler on trial and utilising characters, in full costume, who would have been close to Hitler in the years preceding and during WW2. (Ms Warren)



Art Trip

Our Year 11 artists set off to Bristol this half-term to take in the exhibition at the RWA Gallery which provided a very interesting look into different interpretations of the subject matter. Following some time looking at the City's architecture and wandering near the harbour-side the group went to the M Shed to see the outstanding photography on display in their Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition prompting some interesting discussions. (Ms Warren)



FOBSA

Wow, how has another half term flown by? Since Christmas we have had an idea planning meeting with some great fundraising ideas for the future. We also provided the refreshments to all the great visitors at the opening of the new farm building and Martin and I were lucky enough to meet the lady who started FoBSA many years ago. Phil Vickery was a great guest I'm surprised we did not find him a blazer and tie and get him back as a Brymore Boy!! The milking parlour and classroom are great even with a live link camera so you can watch milking from the classroom.

We had a formal meeting where we discussed six school staff requests and we agreed to fund some Rugby shirts (the boys looked fabulous in their winning match the other night); to give some money to the Science Department towards the Educake app, and we also agreed some funding to the Geography Department (towards new weather recording equipment) and the English Department for more books for reading intervention.

We have discussed Lambing Day - The first one at the new farm after missing last years, and the first one for us as co-chairs!! It's a huge event and we are very grateful for all your help. If anyone else is able to help we will never say no. Also any donations towards tombola, raffle, cakes or anything else then this will be very much appreciated. We have another meeting on 28th February at 4.00pm in the meeting room.

New Members are always very welcome but if you want to discuss first then please ask reception to pass on your details to Martin or I and we can get in touch. (Debbie and Martin)

Year 11 Rugby Final

Our Year 11 rugby team were all smiles as they lifted the Year 11 Sedgemoor Area Rugby Cup this half-term. This rugby team have now won the area cup for three years in a row and it was a delight to them all that they have done the unimaginable and lifted it during their final year at Brymore.

The final, against Haygrove, was played at North Petherton Rugby Club and in great spirit both teams performed with their hearts on their sleeves but with our boys coming out as the victors with a 24-10 win.

With tries from Jamie Veale (2), Louie Liddle and Ben Rexworthy keeping the crowd entertained, along with two conversions by Ethan Carr it was a relief for the boys when the final whistle blew and they were crowned champions.

Mr Thomas said "I have never been so proud of how these boys conducted themselves on the pitch. It is great for the school and them to win but their attitude towards the referee and the whole manner in which they went about the game said everything about what great boys they are and how resilient they are." (Ms Warren)



North Petherton Rugby Club

Looking to enhance your son's school rugby? Why not try him out at North Petherton on a Sunday?

- Friendly club with community feel
- Highly qualified coaches
- Follows the RFU TREDs approach
- Enjoyment through a supportive set-up
- Lots of Brymore boys and parents already involved

Contacts:

U11 (Year 6) Sarah Williams sarah_williams@yahoo.co.uk

U12 (Year 7) James Morgan jimmormorgs1@btinternet.com

U13 (Year 8) Nick Coker hmc1966@hotmail.com

U14 (Year 9) Simon Reeves simonreeves645@btinternet.com

U15 (Year 10) Simon Gingell spgingell75@gmail.com

U16 (Year 11) Jake Ellis jake.ellis97@outlook.com

Girls rugby (all years) Gary Hall garyhall499@gmail.com



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New Year...New You

We can help you meet your fitness goals in 2020 with our 3 months half price offer.



Our team is focused on improving health and wellbeing for every individual in our diverse fitness community. We welcome everyone; no goal is too small or too big and corporate membership is available. We will challenge you, and help you to redefine your goals so contact us now to find out how you can get 3 months at 1/2 price.

Come along or call us on 01643 700367 for further details.

Half price offer for January until March for new memberships only.

West Somerset College Community Sports Centre, Bircham Road,
Minehead, TA24 6AY

01643 700367



House Reading Competition

World Book Day Thursday 5th March 2020:

Readathon 2020

For the last four years Brymore has worked with the charity 'Read for Good' and has held a sponsored 'Readathon' on World Book Day to raise money to take stories and books to seriously ill children in hospital. Last year, Years 7, 8 and 9 raised an impressive £2,310.95. 'Readathon' will be back again in 2020 and this time we're hoping to raise even more money. This year the sponsored read will span a month (27th February - 29th March) as we take part in World Book Day's national event, aiming for UK schools to share a million stories. In Reading lessons, your son will be setting himself a reading challenge to achieve in this month and will be bringing a sponsorship card home – please support him in getting sponsored and give whatever you can to this worthwhile cause.

Fancy dress competition: On World Book Day (Thursday 5th March) students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have the chance to enter our fancy dress competition, if they wish to dress as a character from one of their favourite books. Last year the efforts made were superb, with one student even crafting their own astronaut helmet out of papier-mâché! There is plenty of time to raid lofts, dressing up boxes or the local charity shops to create some amazing costumes. Prizes and house points will be awarded to the best entries - good luck!

Students will also receive a voucher on World Book Day which will allow them to enter most high-street book sellers and use their voucher to purchase a book from an exciting range of titles for just £1!

The UK's largest story writing competition for kids is back for its tenth year - BBC2's 500 word competition. Students can enter a piece of creative writing totalling no more than 500 words to win an array of fantastic prizes, including a trip to Buckingham Palace and their own height in books! All entries must be in by 27th February. Please see Miss Webber for further information.

Congratulations:

Well done to following boys who have become word millionaires less than half-way through the academic year: Harry Daykin, Toby Lee, Alfie Parsons, Feliks Poskus and Artie Shrimpton - a fantastic achievement!



House Reading Competition:

Congratulations to Taylor who are currently leading our house reading competition, an extra 500 house points are awarded to the house who have read the most words at the end of the academic year. (Mrs Taylor-Lane)

Sports Report

The Year 11 and Year 10 rugby squads were both outstanding in their Sedgemoor final matches, with the 11s coming off as champions but the 10s doing really well to keep the score low from both teams. The key now for Year 11 is to keep on top of Chads, circuits and fitness to ensure they get their colours ties in May. Friendly matches continue to be played as often as possible and house rugby matches are during Friday activities in the next half-term. We entered two teams into a table cricket tournament and both did really well but also had an enjoyable time at the County Ground. Our Boccia teams have been performing well at tournaments and we have one team through to the County final which takes place next half-term. Our athletes continue to take part in cross country races. The key upcoming one will be the Mammoth Trophy at Clathworthy Reservoir and we are keen to retain the trophy again on 21st March. We are on the lookout for athletic spikes for the summer months so if anyone has any to donate to the PE department then this would be great.

We are hosting the County Cyclo-Cross championships next half-term along with the primary cross country, and the sports leaders will be helping run these important events. (Mr Williams)



Maths Trip

Our Set Zero maths students had an early start to get to Cardiff for an inspiring morning of maths and how it can be seen differently. After parking and walking to the theatre we were met with BBC Radio 4 presenter Timandra Harkness as the MC and what followed was an interesting group of presenters showing us maths in a unique and thoughtful way. Following this, boys had the opportunity to look at the centre of Cardiff, eat lunch and also see the statue of the founder of the NHS Anuerin Bevan. (Ms Warren)



Donations of books

If you have any books at home that have been read and enjoyed and are ready to be appreciated by someone else, then please consider donating them to the English department instead of the charity shop! Books aimed at all abilities are welcomed, although we do ask that they are age appropriate. Books supported by Accelerated Reader are especially welcome. Any donations can be left at the main office for the attention of the English department. Thank you in advance!

BRYMORE LOTTERY

The results of the lottery for this half-term:

- 1st Ms N Fairfax £40
- 2nd Mrs E Wotton £25
- 3rd Mr S Kidner £15

**Free
Entry**

Brymore
experience to last a lifetime

Brymore Lambing

Saturday March 7th // 10:30am - 3pm



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

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

Refreshments provided by Friends of Brymore Association.

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

**Brymore Academy, Cannington, TA5 2NB
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2019/20 Upcoming Important Dates

Monday 24th February

INSET DAY

3.30 pm - 5.30 pm Year 10 Parent Consultation

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

Friday 13th March

2.00 pm

House Rugby Match 1: Galsworthy -v- Walker (Year 10/11)

Friday 20th March

2.00 pm

House Rugby Match: Loser (Match 1) -v- Taylor (Year 10/11)

Friday 27th March

2.00 pm

House 7s Rugby (All years)

Friday 3rd April

10.00 am

Raising Achievement Session for Parents

11.30 am

Parents Chads Run/Walk

2.00 pm

Rugby & Hockey House Finals (Year 10/11)

4.00 pm

All students depart for Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM: Monday 20th April

INSET DAY

3.30 pm - 5.30 pm Year 9 Parent Consultation

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm Year 7, 8, 10 & 11 boarders return

Tuesday 21st April

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

Thursday 7th May

12.00 pm

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

1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Year 7 Parent Consultation

Sunday 10th May

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

Monday 11th May

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

Saturday 23rd May

8.30 am

All out-boarders arrive as normal

11.30 am

Year 11 Leavers Service

1.30 pm

Sports Day

3.45 pm

Students depart for summer half-term

Sunday 31st May

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

Saturday 27th June

10.30 am - 5.00 pm

Open Day and Country Fair

29th June - 3rd July

Work Experience Week (Year 10)

6th - 11th July

Activities Week

Saturday 11th July

8.30 am

All out-boarders arrive as normal

10.30 am

End of Year Award Ceremony

12.00 pm

All students depart for summer holidays

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