

# Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

## Newsletter

October 2020

[www.brymoreacademy.co.uk](http://www.brymoreacademy.co.uk)

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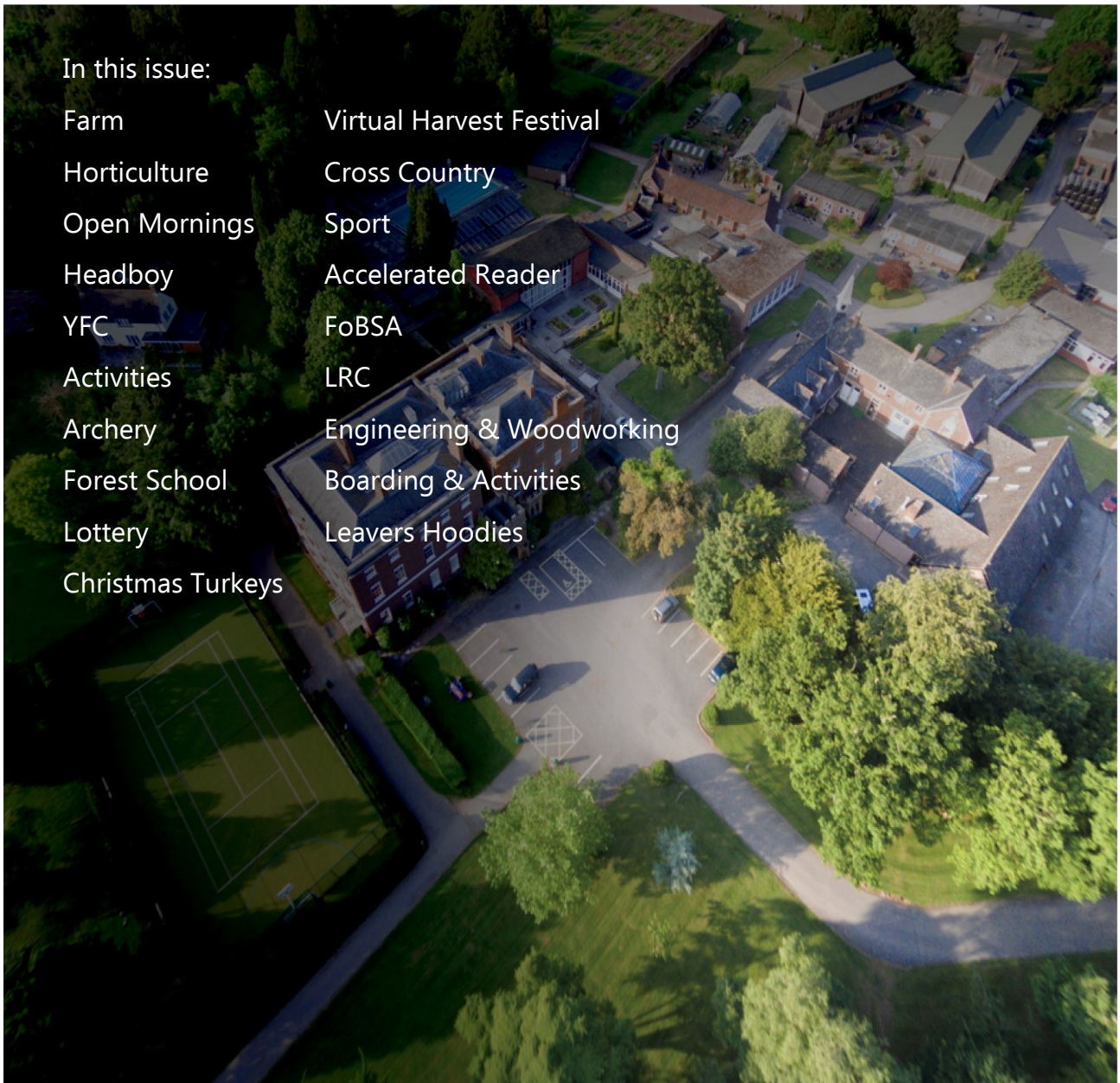
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*Diligentia et Labore*



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# Message from the Headteacher

Dear parents

This is the first newsletter since we went into lockdown and I want to thank you all for your continued support, understanding and kind comments throughout the past few months. It was a real pleasure to see the boys back in September and as you would expect they very quickly settled into the new routines. Despite it being an incredibly challenging few weeks the responsibility shown by the boys has been fantastic and both Year 10 and Year 11 have stepped up to help run the school at break and lunch times. Of course, some boys had a more difficult lockdown experience than others and I know staff have been working closely with them, and their families, to support them through this difficult time.

I have been particularly impressed with the attitude of most of the Year 11 who have thrown themselves into the extra lessons and support sessions with real determination. Many staff are reporting that they feel the majority of Year 11 have caught up in terms of the content they need to know already. All boys have been making the most of the activities on offer and we have tried really hard to continue with as many as we can in a safe way. I know this is a different approach to most schools but we felt it is an important part of the Brymore experience and it is something we intend to continue for as long as we can. It was great to witness the usual Brymore determination, team spirit and support in the cross country championships this week, despite the fact that they did not receive the support of the large crowds they are accustomed to. We have also held a virtual end of term celebration assembly and harvest festival service, both of which we are hoping to make available to parents. It is these traditions and the involvement of parents that I am determined to keep going even if they are not in the form we would hope for.

I am pleased to report that a further £160,000 has been invested in the school farm with an additional multipurpose barn and feed store, and the complete re-surfacing of the area outside the milking parlour. The two new buildings and the yard really do look impressive and the boys now have the farm they deserve and can be proud of. We have also re-located the SEN base so that there is now a dedicated area for the SEN team and the school counsellor, ensuring that the support facilities available to the boys are second to none. The work on the walled garden has now been completed as well as the refurbishment of every dormitory in school house and the common rooms in Reid and Kemp. Work on the dormitories in Reid house will be starting shortly.

It was a real pleasure to celebrate the successes of many of the boys in our end of term virtual celebration assembly. It showed just how hard the boys have been working this half term both in class, on the sports field, the farm and in the gardens. Boys have come back with real determination and they have certainly lived up to the school motto of 'Diligentia et Labore' which is what I would expect of a Brymore boy. However, now it is time to re-join the family, spend some time together and re-charge the batteries in readiness for the next half term. I hope you all are able to enjoy the holidays in a safe way and I look forward to seeing the boys back at Brymore after half term.

Best wishes





## Horticulture

It's always demoralising to return to school in autumn to see the way in which the weeds have taken over in our absence, but within a few days the beds and plots were already looking so much better and the compost heap had seemingly grown to twice its size. This is the season for harvesting and preparing for winter, so we have been busy collecting fruit and vegetables and preparing them for sale and also clearing out the polytunnel. Cuttings in the greenhouse have been re-potted and more taken from the shrubs (which is an assessment for the Horticultural Skills Award) and the winter seasonal bedding has been prepared and is growing well. Some have been planted out or put into hanging baskets and also barrier baskets in readiness to display in Cannington (a part of our commitment to Cannington in Bloom).

The most exciting task is collecting apples and then juicing them! The juice is bottled, sterilised, labelled, sold and consumed all too quickly. The cider apples have yet to be prepared.

Assessments have continued for Years 10 and 11 as they work towards their Horticultural Skills Award, and lower years have concentrated in class on Health and Safety and cell structure.

Plots have been allocated to Year 7s and work has begun to clear, prepare and plant them and they have been shown how to prepare the soil by single digging and the 'no dig' method.

We continue to be appreciative of all the work Mrs Osborne, our Technician, has done to our department during lockdown and so far this half-term. I also want to say how wonderful it is to have such a good TA as Mrs Franks, who helps me both in the classroom and outside during practical lessons and evening duties. I have a very proactive, enthusiastic and able team, who work well with the boys and always go over and beyond anything expected of them.

So, another busy term in our department, but then there is always plenty going on for the Horti team. My thanks as ever to Mrs Stanley, who continues to direct all the practical work

and to all of you who support us by purchasing produce. Don't forget that we have an extensive range of shrubs and perennials at much cheaper prices than you would find in the local Garden Centres. We can always be contacted through school and are happy to sell to your family, friends and acquaintances. The sale stand is usually out on a Friday evening too. Please support us, as all the funds raised go straight back into the practical side of our department. (Mr Willcocks)



## Y11 Leavers Hoodies

If your son is in the current Year 11 group there will be a letter sent home after Christmas explaining how to order and pay for your son's leaving hoodie. Boys have been asked to let me know if they want one so that I can put the correct cost in the letter. (Miss Bradford)

## FOBSA

As we all meet the challenges of these unique times, we felt it was important to advise new parents, staff and friends, and update our existing supporters all about FOBSA.

We are a voluntary group, mostly with existing boys at school or with and a historic relationship with Brymore. Our aim is simply to raise funds wholly for the benefit of the school, targeting items that provide a wide benefit, enhance the school experience and are items that otherwise were unlikely to secure funding.

### Fundraising & Expenditure

Normally, our main fundraising opportunities are through selling refreshments or raffle/tombola type activities at school-based events such as the country fair, lambing day, or sports events. Also popular are our Bingo evenings where everyone can try to win some of the generously donated prizes. We also collect and sell preloved Brymore uniform to help recycle, provide cost effective items to parents, and raise funds for the school. Despite the restrictions over the summer, parent donations, an online country fair and the purchase of school uniform over £1,000 was raised.

Our challenge is to now continue fundraising in a new social distancing way through new novel online events and activities.

We have registered Friends of Brymore School Association with *easyfundraising*, an online platform that generates FREE charitable donations from 4,000+ retailers. All you need to do to start raising money for the school is to join *easyfundraising* as a supporter of our cause and either begin all your online shopping via their website or download the *easyfundraising* app. Sign up and help us today: You shop at no extra cost, Friends of Brymore School Association gets money, for free.

Sign up for free at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> or click on the link on our website.

We are also arranging a Bags to School collection from school, so your unwanted textiles can be recycled and raise funds for us too, date possibly early November to be confirmed.

Support FOBSA by registering at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)



We hold periodic meetings where we consider funding requests from the school, items recently agreed include:

- \* An annual donation of £5,000 to offset the cost of the Summer Activities Week
- \* Reading books for English Dept.
- \* Weather Station Equipment for Geography
- \* The Educake App for Science
- \* A freezer for Horti to temporarily store grown produce
- \* Lambing pens for the Farm, and the payment for the portable toilet hire at Lambing Day
- \* Art department easels and equipment
- \* School team sports tops



### New Email and Website

We have a new dedicated email at [fobsachair@gmail.com](mailto:fobsachair@gmail.com) and a website at [www.fobsa.org.uk](http://www.fobsa.org.uk), where you can find further details or make contact with us. If you have not already done so, please request to be added to our email list and join our Facebook groups 'FoBSA (Friends of Brymore School)' and 'FOBSA 2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniform for sale', so we can keep you up to date with our latest information.

### 2020 Events for your diary

Annual General Meeting (via zoom) - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November @ 7:00pm

Bags to School Collection - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November (please bring items in before this date).

Bingo Evening (via zoom) - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November @ 7:00pm

Bagged Donations for a Grand Christmas Raffle to be supplied to the school office - 16<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Finally, we would like to thank the school staff who continue to support us, especially the facilities team who help prepare and even repair items for us, and the ongoing help of the team in the school office and support of Lorraine Warren, thank you. (Martin Barber and Debbie Hutter)



## Cross Country and Harvest Festival

Another casualty of Covid-19 was our annual cross county and harvest festival; a day in which families, staff and students all come together for the first super Saturday of the academic year but alas it was not to be. However, at Brymore we don't like to break traditions and so the boys ran cross country in their games lessons and we have recorded a video for a virtual harvest service.

The first group to undertake their cross country were the Year 8 boys and they were supported by a group of Year 9 boys helping and a few sturdy staff members braving the showers. Year 9 and Year 7 ran back-to-back races and the new boys persevered with an unfamiliar and undulating course, with the older boys in 10 and 11 bringing home the final of the races.

In true Brymore spirit they ran their best, showing what a great bond they have as year groups, with lots of them running the last runner home down the final straight and cheering them on. The winning house will be announced in assembly after half-term and every boy that ran for his house should be extremely proud of themselves because every point matters.

We filmed during the last week of term to try and recreate some of the autumnal feelings associated with the harvest service and although we cannot sing as a big group together we managed to do one song in a socially distanced manner. We hope you all enjoy it and it can be accessed via our YouTube channel.  
(Ms Warren)



## Young Farmers Club

Young Farmers has been challenging for us but we've attempted to run some good sessions despite the restrictions. We are unable to have speakers and have used Zoom to get presenters to impart their wisdom and additionally we were lucky enough to have local police officer, Ian Long, join us. Adam Priest as Chair and Harry Hardwill as Vice Chair assist with the running of the evenings, so if any boys have ideas for YFC please talk to them. The final week we did a fun bingo and prize night and fingers crossed we will be back up and running more normally, with trips and in person speakers, as soon as we are allowed. (Miss Parker)



## Message from the Head Boy

With all that has happened over the last year I am sure most parents and guardians were expecting this first term to be slightly more hectic than usual, I know I was. However, while the first two weeks or so did bear a striking resemblance to the after-effects of a hurricane, I was amazed and delighted by the resilience showed by my new SSLT team. They attacked duties with rabid fervor, barely even noticing the new Corona-preventing obligations, and have showed such remarkable competence and diligence that I have been approached no less than eight times by teachers, each singing their praises.



Now of course, it has not all been sunshine and rainbows. Between lessons, catch up sessions, duties, homework, revision, mock exams, rugby and the myriad other obligations thrust upon Year 11s, many, including myself, have been burned out. However, my team and especially their leaders, have shown a dogged determination that has left me astounded. Each of the SSLT's leaders, my deputy George Winslade, my assistants Joe Fear, Ethan Gregory and Bennett Wheeler, as well as my senior prefects, have all stepped up and led the charge concerning duties. A miraculous feat considering the size of our new SSLT. Now things have once again settled into a regular rhythm, and we are rocketing towards a well-deserved break. I urge my team to take a while to simply sit back and relax, because of course we will be going straight back to full throttle when we return. I for one, however, am excited to see the challenges future events will bring, and eagerly await to spy how my marvellous team will deal with them. (George Davis)

## Farm News

We've decided to move our cows to an autumn calving herd so November and December will be a busy time. With veterinary assistance we will be synchronising the herd following up with artificial insemination - some to Dairy Shorthorn and the rest to a chosen few beef breeds. We've decided on this for two reasons: we have limited grass growth throughout the late summer therefore the cows will be dry at this point and educationally we will be able to chart growth patterns of both continental and native calves of the same age. Our cows have recently been given the all clear on the annual TB test which is great.

The 80 ewes have now gone to tup having all been sponged over a two-week period (two batches). We're hoping that everything will lamb in the spring half term. We've used a combination of Suffolk, Charolais and Beltex rams. Some of the Spring 19 lambs have gone on finished whilst some are entering the store market.

Over the lock-down period we had two litters of Gloucester Old Spot pigs born. Some have since been sold with us keeping two gilts for breeding and three males for meats sales at the school. The two sows are now running back with the boar and I am looking for a GOS boar, as we currently have to borrow one at the moment.

This year's turkeys are growing well, getting ready for our Christmas celebrations, however they may pan out!

The chickens were laying well but are now starting to moult.

Wow - what a difference to our yard. We've been in the new parlour and classroom for nearly a year now which has been exciting enough but now we have a lovely new multi-purpose barn and feed store along with acres of concrete to brush! We really aren't going to know ourselves. We thank everyone from Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust and of course Paul Govier Fabrication for the swift work they have put in over the summer. This is going to make such a difference for us all year round and we look forward to showing it off at a Lambing Day if COVID-19 allows. (Mr Kingston)





## Forest School

Forest School has got off to a good start with the Year 7s. They are looking forward to the projects we will complete, such as; shelter building, mallet making, whistle making and much more, and of course lighting fires and roasting marshmallows with our hot chocolate. (Mr Ball)



## Engineering & Woodworking

Some good work is being produced in the Engineering and Tool-making classes, with Alex Huxley and Will Ingram starting the Pneumatic Engine project.

The woodworkers all completed their tool boxes and well done to William Guest for finishing a footstool with some complex wood joints. (Mr Ball)



## Open Mornings

Unfortunately, we could not throw open our doors to welcome prospective families this year at our open mornings, however after trial and error, we were able to do some virtual live events. Stepping outside his comfort zone by doing a live online presentation, Mr Thomas, took the bull by the horns and entertained over 90 families over four different events in two weeks, both evenings and weekends. The amount of interest we have had is another indication that we will be heavily oversubscribed, securing our belief that what we are offering is unique and in demand. (Ms Warren)

## Brymore Lottery

- 1<sup>st</sup> £40 - Ms L Carreras
- 2<sup>nd</sup> £25 - Miss E Hawkes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> £15 - Mr R Sanchez Lopez

A letter giving information about joining the Brymore lottery is enclosed with this newsletter - you have to be in it to win it and every penny of profit goes back to the school. So if you are not already a member please consider joining to support the school. (Mrs Catley-Day)

## 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.

The price is £9.50/kg.

If you would like to order a turkey, please ring the farm office on 01278 652428 or email

[BParker@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:BParker@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

with your details and requirements. A deposit of £30 is required. (Please make cheques payable to Brymore Academy).

## Sports News

Numbers at rugby practice are good with boys putting in lots of effort, especially those who haven't played before and this, combined with more boys joining external clubs for Sunday rugby, is very heartening. Unfortunately in these current times we cannot have games against other teams and contact is reduced due to the RFU regulations. However, boys are getting on with it on the whole and getting stuck in. We have worked our way through with the regulations in place to ensure fitness, rugby and Chads can happen along with cross country, our next focus will be bringing back circuits and hockey - we will let boys know if these can happen once we have this information.

Chads: It is very reassuring to see lots of Year 7s running regularly, however there are some boys in the rest of the school who are yet to complete one run this half-term, which is disappointing as this was advised as a necessity to all boys prior to joining Brymore. There are plenty of staff to trundle around the route at different paces, so even our slower boys should not feel they cannot run, especially as for us it is about quality over quantity when it comes to Chads. Parents, Carers and Guardians please encourage your boys to run, as exercise is great for mental and physical health and Chads forms an important part of what we do here.

Due to the circumstances with social distancing in changing rooms, every boy needs to ensure they bring a reading book to PE/Games lessons as on very wet days we may need to utilise the hall for reading, so that the boys are not stood out in the rain waiting to get changed. (Mr Williams).

## Boarding and Activities

It was never easy trying to ensure that we could keep the boys and staff safe from COVID-19 in the boarding environment but measures have been put in the place and the boys have been as resilient, as ever, to help with this. We have managed to put activities on during the weekends and evenings, and thanks go to staff for assisting with this and doing additional duties and activities, so that boarders and out-boarders could keep in their bubbles. Blacksmithing, rugby, Chads and archery have been just a few of the many evening activities taking place and unlike many other schools, we were determined we wanted to give the Brymore boys their experience to last a lifetime, even if there were different rules around this. At weekends we have had to limit our trips due to the rule of six but boys have been swimming, taken part in walks in the countryside, been shopping in Bridgwater, competed at ten pin bowling and staff have also utilised our lovely school site for boys to have outdoor BBQs, games on the field and laps around the bike track. We look forward to much of the same next half-term and thank you to all boys and parents for working with us through this time. (Ms Warren)



## LRC

This half-term has been very odd to say the least. I am now part-time and working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Books can still be taken out on the other two days, thanks to Mrs Franks who covers the lunch times. There is a form that **MUST** be filled in before the book can leave the LRC.

I have appointed two Year 9's, Toby and Hadley to be Library Assistants, they are proving to be most able and a great help to me with returning books and keeping the shelves tidy.

As usual I ask that all parents/guardians check with their boys that they don't have overdue books, all books issued before lockdown and since the beginning of term are now due back please. (Miss Bradford)



# House Reading Competition

The house that reads the most words in the school year receives 500 house points towards their house end of year total. The totals so far this year:

<b>Galsworthy</b>	<b>Taylor</b>	<b>Walker</b>
<b>4,260,887</b>	<b>6,752,303</b>	<b>7,705,409</b>

As you will see, Walker have taken an early lead!

We would like to give special mention to the following boys, who have set in place some consistently good reading practice and are already making good progress against their annual reading target:

Year 7: 1<sup>st</sup> = Ben Sawyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Thomas Endicott and 3<sup>rd</sup> = Tristan Hoy

Year 8: 1<sup>st</sup> = James Bagg, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Alex Warton-Browne and 3<sup>rd</sup> = Harry Daykin

Year 9: 1<sup>st</sup> = Toby Moyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Sam Chedgey and 3<sup>rd</sup> = Todd Moyle

We already have three word millionaires, they are: Toby Moyle (1,606,365), Ben Sawyer (1,573,831) and Thomas Endicott (1,477,840).

## Expectations:

- To have a reading book with you at all times
- To log at least 140 minutes of reading per week on 'Reading Rewards' (20 minutes per day)
- To read a book within your ZPD
- To aim to read 2-3 books (depending on length) per half-term
- To take responsibility to work hard in order to try to achieve your annual personal target
- To work as part of a team and read in order to earn rewards for my class
- To work as part of a team and read in order to earn points for my house
- To share stories you have enjoyed with your peers and recommend books you have enjoyed to others
- To respect, look after and return the books you enjoy from the LRC and Room 4



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 me on [vmcfall@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:vmcfall@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

## Rewards for your class!

The class who reads the most books in a term receives a reward lesson. The first reward lesson will be during the last week, before the Christmas break.

## Reward trips! \*

33% of target by December

72% of target by summer term 1 to secure a place! Good luck boys! (Mrs McFall)

\*Reward trips are currently on hold due to COVID-19.

# Archery

We have had a great start to the new term despite the added challenges of social distancing and masks.

Well done to Bevan Collicott-Webber and Toby Moyle for winning their respective Archery competitions. (Mr Ball)



## 2020/21 Upcoming Important Dates

### Autumn & Spring Term

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

INSET DAY

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

12.00 pm

12.30 pm - 4.00 pm

Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 depart for Christmas Holidays

Year 11 Parent Consultation

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

***School Closed***

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

INSET DAY

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

12.00 pm

12.30 pm - 4.00 pm

2.15 pm

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

Year 8 Parent Consultation

Year 11 depart

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

INSET DAY

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

***No Year 10 Parent Consultation***

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

10.00 am

Raising Achievement Session for Year 11 Parents  
(subject to COVID-19)

11.30 am

Parents Chads Run/Walk (subject to COVID-19)

2.00 pm

Rugby & Hockey House Finals (subject to COVID-19)

4.00 pm

All students depart for Easter Holidays

**4.00 pm**

***The above will be replaced with a Year 10 Parent Consultation  
if COVID-19 restrictions are still in place.***

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