

Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

Newsletter

April 2021

www.brymoreacademy.co.uk

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Diligentia et Labore



Message from the Headteacher

I suspect every Headteacher in the country will look back on this term and describe it as eventful and challenging. We began the term in lockdown delivering a mixture of online learning for most and face to face learning in school for others. We then had the task of ensuring every boy was tested in school three times before we were able to settle back into some sense of normality.

Yet again I want to thank all parents for your co-operation and patience when returning the boys to school to have their first lateral flow test. The process on the first few days went very smoothly and I was delighted we had the whole school back and in normal lessons by lunchtime on the second day. I was also pleased that we were able to ensure every boy received three lateral flow tests by the start of the second week with minimal disruption to their learning. This was made possible due to the huge effort of staff going above and beyond what was expected of them. The site team built the testing centre virtually overnight and were then able to dismantle it and build new testing booths in the boarding houses immediately afterwards. Many staff, led by Mrs Wilkinson, gave up hours of their own time to help administer the tests and complete all the necessary paperwork. The process of continuing to test the boarders and ensure that all out-boarders have enough home test kits has also meant additional pressure has been placed on staff on top of their normal day job. So, I want to thank all the staff who made this happen as once again I am reminded of how lucky I am to lead such a fantastic group of people.

Boys settled back into Brymore life very quickly and we have continued to offer as many of the after-school activities as we can. Chads has been well attended and we were able to hold the house rugby during games lessons. It is our intention to hold some sort of sports day this year, although we do not know whether we can invite parents at this stage. The key summer sports of cricket and athletics will take place however, we are again unsure whether we will be able to compete against other schools. It is also our intention to have a Year 11 Leavers Service and if we are unable to invite parents, then we will certainly ensure it is live-streamed so that parents are able to feel part of the service.

The key message this year remains the same. We will try and give the boys as many opportunities as we can whilst continuing to ensure they remain safe. Whilst it is pleasing to report that we have not had a case of Covid-19 in school, we of course will not relax any of the measures that we have in place until we feel it is safe to do so.

I hope you all have a relaxing Easter break and that you enjoy your time together as a family.



Horticulture

It's been a very busy time for us so we welcomed boys back with open arms to help in the gardens.

So much has been achieved including seed sowing, pricking out the seedlings and then potting on larger plants. Splitting and repotting perennials, watering and weeding.

We have also planted up the first of the raised beds outside Reid and Kemp House, planted a woodland themed garden outside the potting shed and started to replant the perennial border on the south side of the walled garden.

Rogue raspberry canes have been removed from amongst the soft fruit bushes. The canes have been cut back, replanted and tied in place. The soft fruit bushes have been pruned and given a dressing of farmyard manure. Fruits from last summer were frozen, made into jams and chutneys but we still have some available to purchase.

The early potatoes have been planted, as have the onions.

The rhubarb is growing well and the boys are getting their plots prepared and some have already sown various crops.

Garden duties are always a busy time and the new Year 10 HoDs have begun to learn how to manage students. Year 8 students need to remember to come appropriately dressed and ready to get on with tasks set but have been doing a good job every week.

The site is looking resplendent with all the spring flowers and the hanging baskets, planted up last autumn outside of the hall, are now coming into their own.

We are, as ever, grateful for all the hard work of the team and also many thanks to Mrs Kingston for managing a stall outside her house, selling plants to the public.

We are also glad when parents remember to ask us about plants when they are refurbishing their gardens. When you are allowed you will see all the hard work of Mrs Stanley and Mrs Osborne, who have revamped the sales area

and we hope it will make it easier to access the plants and to be able to see what there is on sale. Should anyone wish anything specific or have any requests then please do contact the school and we will see what we can do.

In the meantime we wish you all happy gardening and thank those who support the weekly sale cart on the basketball court.

(Reuben Willcocks)



Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

Those boys that have ordered hoodies will be able to collect them at the end of May - more information will be given at the time and thank you to the 42 boys that signed up for one. (Miss Bradford)

Young Farmers Club



Due to the new Government guidelines surrounding Coronavirus this saw the Brymore YFC turn to virtual team meetings every other week and still they continue this way but we are hopeful for better things to come! Boys who have attended online have been engaged and we have enjoyed it. The boys bid Miss Bradford a fond farewell as she retires; Miss Bradford ran the YFC for a number of years and stepped down formally at the start of this academic year. She will be missed by many. (Miss Parker)



Farewell Miss Bradford

Miss Bradford sadly left us at the end of this term when she retired after more than 12 years at Brymore. Not only was she the librarian but she was a staff governor for many years and also an integral in the administration side of Chads for Mr Spridgens, along with picking up many other jobs along the way, including minibus driving for most departments. Miss Bradford always organised the annual paper aeroplane competition and so it was fitting that this year it was held on her last day! First place for the longest straight throw was Will Male, second place Henri Rowe, third went to Lee George and the furthest sideways throw was Harry Stamp. In a closely fought staff competition our IT Technician, Mrs Harding took the crown. (Ms Warren)

Sports Report

There has been good of attendance at rugby training despite no matches being able to happen, although we have some matches already booked in for Saturdays in September. There are lots of Year 7 boys attending practice but most more sporadically than regularly, so that would be good to improve. We held all year group house rugby matches using the Back to Rugby format and the boys have been enthusiastic. Years 10 and 11 also took part in house hockey fixtures as an addition in games lessons. The winning house : Taylor.



Fitness has happened for all years groups (this will be a fundamental requirement for being included on school teams next year as it was pre-Covid) but stops for the summer term as athletics and cricket is now starting.

Weekly lockdown sporting activities were placed on Teams and some boys were bombarding me with lots of evidence which was really heartening to see.

Numbers at Chads have been really good and these results can be seen on Teams - so please check to see how many your son has done and encourage him to do more if he is not up to date. It was great to have Miss Bradford as the starter at Chads for her last day and we have appreciated her helping with results every day and will miss her; hopefully she may be back to volunteer to drive a minibus for fixtures! Chads is a permanent fixture so continues throughout the summer term.

Due to the hall being used for testing we have been working outside in PE lessons on things such as stamina and fitness. Please ensure all boys bring in water bottles for the warmer months especially as we will be out on the field doing lots of sport during lessons and after school. (Mr Williams)

Farm

Our first year of lambing in the new shed kicked off with a good start on 26th February with a healthy triplet.

Since then we have had an exceptional lambing season with our lambing percentage currently sitting at exactly 200%, with two ewes left to lamb. The boys have enjoyed the lambs and the weekend boarders have been involved in helping too - even enjoying their takeaway on the farm.

Due to us having mainly Dairy Shorthorn cattle who were producing very little milk because of the 18 month gap, we took the decision to dry all 16 of them off now ready for block calving to begin in September.

We have had two more litters of Gloucester Old Spot piglets born on the farm so watch this space for pork being available in the coming summer months, ready for barbequing.

Thank you to everyone who completed our farm survey about a milk vending machine. We are progressing well with the venture of being able to sell our milk from the farm and will keep you all updated but we may well be looking for help with our label designs too! (Miss Parker)



BRYMORE LOTTERY

The results of the lottery for Spring term (Jan-Apr 2021):

Congratulations all.

The results for Spring half-term (February):

1st place - £40.00 Mr I Pye

2nd place - £25.00 Mrs G Smith

3rd place - £15.00 Mr P Austin

The results for end of Spring term (April):

1st place - £40.00 Ms H Moore

2nd place - £25.00 Mrs J Hutchings

3rd place - £15.00 Mrs V Bimson

It's not too late - if you would like to join the school Lottery please contact Mrs Catley-Day in the School Office. You have to be in it to win it!

Extracurricular Activities Term 3a & 3b April 20th 2021

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
3:45 to 4:45 Out-boarders	Engineering/Toolmaking (6)	3:45 to 4:45 Out-boarders	Engineering/Toolmaking (6)	3:45 to 4:45 Out-boarders	Archery (6)	3:45 to 4:45 Out-boarders	Woodwork (6)		
3:45 to 5:15 Out-boarders	Copper smithing (6)	3:45 to 5:15 Out-boarders	Extra Blacksmithing (4)	3:45 to 5:15 Out-boarders	Blacksmithing (4)			3:45 to 6pm Pool and Fun Play	
	Chads 4pm		Chads 4pm		Chads 4pm		Chads 4pm		Chads 4:15pm
4 to 5pm Yr 7 Cricket	Field Yr 8 Athletics	4 to 5pm Yr 9 Cricket	Field Yr 10 Athletics	4 to 5pm Yr 8 Cricket	Field Yr 7 Athletics	4 to 5pm Yr 10 Cricket	Field Yr 9 Athletics		
4 to 5pm	Farm Duty	4 to 5pm	Farm Duty	4 to 5pm	Farm Duty	4 to 5pm	Farm Duty	4 to 5pm	Farm Duty
4 to 5pm	Garden Duty			4 to 5pm	Garden Duty	4 to 5pm	Garden Duty	4 to 5pm	Garden Duty
3:45 to 6pm	Pool and Fun Play	3:45 to 6pm	Pool and Fun Play	3:45 to 6pm	Pool and Fun Play	3:45 to 6pm	Pool and Fun Play		
4 to 4:30pm Bike Track	Year 9	5 to 6pm Boarders	Woodwork (6)	5 to 6pm Boarders	Archery (6)	4 to 4:45pm Bike Track	Year 7 & 8		
4:30 to 5pm Bike Track	Year 10 & 11	6 to 7:30pm Boarders	Extra Blacksmithing (4)	6 to 7:30pm Boarders	Blacksmithing (4)				Leadership team Prep 4 - 5pm
	TEA 5 to 6:10pm		TEA 5 – 6:10pm		TEA 5 – 6:10pm		TEA 5 to 6:10pm		
	Prep 6.15 - 7:15pm		Prep 6.15 - 7:15pm		Prep 6.15 - 7:15pm		Prep 6.15 - 7:15pm		TEA 5:30 to 6:20pm
5 to 6pm Boarders	Engineering/Toolmaking (6)	7:15 to 7:45 School House Pod A	Lacrosse MUGA	7:15 to 7:45 School House Pod B	Lacrosse MUGA	6 to 7pm Boarders	Green Woodwork (6)		
6 to 7:30pm Boarders	Copper smithing (6)	7:30 to 9p Boarders	Extra Blacksmithing (4)	7:15 to 9pm	YouTube or Netflix	7:15 to 9pm	YouTube or Netflix		
7:15 to 9pm	YouTube or Netflix	7:15 to 9pm	YouTube or Netflix	7:30 to 9pm Boarders	Blacksmithing (4)	7:15 to 9pm	Xbox Board games or cards		
7:15 to 9pm	Xbox Board games & cards	7:15 to 9pm	Xbox Board games or cards	7:30pm in Main Hall	Young Farmers				
7:45 MUGA	Year 7 Football	7:45 MUGA	Year 9 Football	7:45 MUGA	Year 7 Football	7:45 MUGA	Year 9 Football		
7:45 Track	Year 9 Athletics	7:45 Track	Year 7 Athletics	7:45 Field	Year 9 Athletics	7:45 Field	Year 7 Athletics		
8:15 MUGA	Year 8 Football	8:15 MUGA	Year 10 Football	8:15 MUGA	Year 8 Football	8:15 MUGA	Year 10 Football		
8:15 Field	Year 10 Athletics	8:15 Field	Year 8 Athletics	8:15 Track	Year 10 Athletics	8:15 Track	Year 8 Athletics		
8:45	Invite BPS	8:45	Invite BPS	8:45	Invite BPS	8:45	Invite BPS		
	Paid Activities		Duties		Sporting Activities		Boarding Activities		

Until further notice our activities programme will continue following Social distancing guidelines, check duties before booking a paid activity

House Reading Competition

World Book Day 2021

World Book Day this year was a very different event to the one we usually celebrate at Brymore: no hilarious costumes, no competitions and no sponsored read. However, we couldn't let it pass unnoticed and therefore the English team set the students in Key Stage 3 a challenge: to read as many words as they could over a two-week period. The top 50 boys across the three year groups would be rewarded for their efforts and commitment to reading and had the chance to earn a new 'Reading Royalty' badge. The now coveted pewter pig badge, representative of Old Major from 'Animal Farm' taught in Year 9, was awarded to a mix of students across all ability ranges. Our top performing reader in year 9 managed almost 600,000 words in two weeks. Next year, students will be set the same challenge and they will have the opportunity to earn Benjamin, the pewter donkey badge.

Digital Library

Our new digital library 'myON' is proving popular with our Key Stage 3 students. All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have access at <https://www.myon.co.uk> They can log on using the same details they use for their Accelerated Reader account. Students can search for books in their Z.P.D, receive personalised recommendations and be taken straight to an Accelerated Reader quiz on completion of a book. All books have the option of being accompanied by an audio narration.

Student progress

As we are two thirds of the way through the academic year, we expect our students to be well on their way to achieving their personalised reading target set at the beginning of the year. If every student is on track, they should be in the region of 66%. The bronze, silver, gold and platinum reading badges will be awarded in the summer as usual as well as the house reading cup. If you want to check your son's progress you can by following the link below and using your son's Accelerated Reader username and password.

<https://ukhosted85.renlearn.co.uk/2259563/homeconnect/>

House Reading Totals:

Galsworthy: 14,606,490

Taylor: 18,945,334

Walker: 20,770,060

Top readers

Year 7:

Thomas Endicott 271.6%

Joe Hooper 66%

Tristan Hoy 99.1%

TJ Pearce 109.7%

Eric Pickering 124.6%

Charlie Sanders 151.8%

Year 8:

Samuel Adetunji 75.3%

James Bagg 78.3%

Corey Broadey 69.5%

Thomas Cave 50.2%

Oscar Warren 148.4%

Alex Warton Browne 168.9%

Year 9:

Aaron Adotevi 70.8%

Toby Moyle 179.6%

Todd Moyle 91.4%

Jack Pearce 189%

Arthur Shrimpton 108.5%

Anthony Vessier 68.3%

Word millionaires

Oliver Austin 1,129,915

Hadley Carreras-Bennett 1,253,749

Samuel Chedghey 1,047,884

Thomas Endicott 3,278,466

Samuel Findlay 1,095,940

Tristan Hoy 1,934,315

Toby Lee 1,208,729

Charlie May 1,032,676

Toby Moyle 3,358,080

Todd Moyle 1,951,653

Alfie Parsons 1,048,643

Eric Pickering 2,513,039

Charlie Sanders 1,222,340

Ben Sawyer 2,509,043

Alex Warton-Browne 1,974,894

Joseph Williams 1,337,312

Important Dates & Events - Summer Term 2020/21

Monday 19th April

INSET DAY

2.30 pm - 6.00 pm

Year 9 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

(appointments can be made via

www.brymoreacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk choosing parent login.

The booking system closes on 18th April 2021 at 12 noon)

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

Tuesday 20th April

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

4.30 pm - 6.00 pm

Year 9 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

(appointments can be made via

www.brymoreacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk choosing parent login.

The booking system closes on 18th April 2021 at 12 noon)

Friday 30th April

12 noon

All students depart for Bank Holiday weekend

Time tbc

Year 7 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

Monday 3rd May (May Day Bank Holiday)

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

Tuesday 4th May

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

Friday 7th May

3.45 pm

Normal school day

Saturday 29th May

8.30 am

All out-boarders arrive as normal

AM

Year 11 Leavers Service

PM

Sports Day

3.45 pm (*Time tbc*)

All students depart for summer half-term

Sunday 6th June

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

All boarders return

Monday 7th June

8.30 am

All out-boarders return

5th - 9th July (TBC)

Activities week

Friday 9th July

3.45 pm

All students depart for summer holidays

Saturday 10th July

Time tbc

Virtual end of term celebration ceremony

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