

Newsletter

December 2021 www.brymoreacademy.co.uk



Diligentia et Labore





Message from the Headteacher

If ever there was a time when the Brymore values of resilience, resourcefulness and responsibility were needed then it has been this term. Not only from the boys, but also from staff and parents as well. Whilst Covid cases in boys have remained low, there has been considerable staff absence with as many as twelve staff out on some days. However, staff have continued to work tirelessly, covering each other, so that all activities and Christmas events could continue. Sadly, we did have to cancel the Christmas Carol Service, but this was a precautionary measure to protect boys, their families, and staff. Fortunately, we were able to go ahead with other Christmas events, such as the Christmas lunch, tea, and Christmas parties.

Personally, I am really looking forward to going 'home' to Cornwall to spend Christmas with my family, something that we were not able to do in the usual way last year. I really hope you are all able to have a normal Christmas and that you too can spend some quality time together as a family. Now, more than ever, I think we all need that time to rest and re-charge as the challenges have continued to be thrown at us this year.

I am always immensely proud of the amount and range of experiences that staff put on for the boys each year. Despite everything this has continued, this term and this newsletter showcases much of what has been happening in just the past six weeks. When you factor in that staff have been covering for absent colleagues, may well have been feeling unwell themselves and would have been dealing with the same family pressures that the whole country has faced, it is even more remarkable what has been achieved. The boys themselves have helped make this happen, through carrying out their duties and with the prefects helping run the school.

I am pleased to report that the swimming pool is on schedule to be finished at Easter and I know the boys are looking forward to it re-opening again. There is still further work to be completed on the farm, with work on the new pig housing to start soon. We have also purchased a marquee, which will be used for a multitude of events, including leavers service and open day, throughout the year. The refurbishment of the boarding houses is also ongoing as we continue to re-invest in the boarding facilities. All of this is made possible due to the hard work of the premises team, who can complete much of the maintenance work themselves, which again is testament to the teamwork that goes into ensuring that we are able provide the best experience possible for the boys.

Finally, I am grateful to all parents for their ongoing support as we deal with the ever-changing landscape created by the pandemic. The aim has always been the same, keeping the boys, their families, and staff safe, whilst trying to ensure it is business as usual as much as we can. We have had to stagger the return slightly in January, but the aim is to have the school fully open only one day later than was originally planned. Of course, if things change, we will let you know as soon as we can.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I hope that 2022 is a better year for us all.

Mark Thomas

MUL



Boarding

Christmas time is always a busy time of year as we celebrate the season and make sure boys are making the most of the festivities whilst also here at Brymore and within boarding we emphasis taking the time to think of others. The boys have really come into their own this term as there have been many opportunities to think of others. There have been funds raised for house specific charities, in addition to our annual charity campaign 'Smiles for Christmas campaign' as well as a non-uniform day for children in need.

Smiles for Christmas usually brings all the houses and boys together collecting food stuff and designing and creating a hamper for each house to be presented to the Salvation Army. This year unfortunately Covid made us change the way the campaign has been run, with houses raising money which will be donated directly to the local Salvation Army for them to buy food and gifts for the local community. All in all, our boys can be very proud of their efforts.

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

Looking back with fond memories since September there has been much to celebrate and enjoy, from large school events such as harvest festival and cross country to listening to the boys talk with joy of the numerous external trips that have

taken place this half term including, the skate park and attending local rugby matches, bubble bowling, cinema, various shopping trips and the timewarp arcade.

As ever at Brymore, the festive build up to the Christmas holidays stretches over a few weeks (largely involving food!), with both boys and staff enjoying a number of events including the Prefect Christmas meal, Christmas lunch, a vast array of chocolate treats in the houses, house parties finished with the Christmas feast. This will be the last Brymore Christmas for our current Year 11 so please enjoy the holiday period. Before you know it, the run up to exams will soon be with us! (Mr Watts)







Farm

DAIRY

It's really nice to be back in the full swing of milking again. Calving went really well giving us a really nice bunch of calves, of which the boys have had the experience of mixing milk, disbudding and weighing, along with everything else that goes with it.

It is really good to be selling our milk to Barbers cheese as it is a product that is really valued by them. We are excited to see where the relationship will go in the future.

Trying to get the cows back in calf is the current task. The A.I. technician generally gets to the farm during the day lessons. He has been very patient in answering any of the questions thrown at him.

We've recently bought four second lactation heifers to add to our little herd. This will help with the total in the tank.



SHEEP

The ewes are now hopefully in lamb with the scanning due to take place in early January when the boys get back from the Christmas holidays.

In the autumn we purchased ten Devon Close Wools. We were lucky enough to be able to borrow a ram and now can't wait until the spring to see the lambs bounce about - hopefully a little more quiet than their mothers!

Nearly all of this years lambs have now been sold apart from a few Suffolk X Mule ewe lambs that will be kept for replacements. We've taken advantage of the high store lamb prices and have been very happy with sales.

PIGS

The summer litters have now either been sold for charcuterie or they have been made into sausages and bacon to be sold at Christmas.

We're expecting a litter before Christmas but the rest of the sows are enjoying still being outside in the relatively dry weather. We've opened up the whole field for them and it seems to be holding up quite well.

They've been enjoying apple pulp since the summer. We've been helping out a local apple juice producer and in the process reducing our feed bill which I think is a win-win situation.

In the last month we have had to say good bye to Mr Miller the farm technician. Although he has not been part of the team for that long he certainly made a great impression on the farm and through Hockey training. Mr Miller is moving on to manage a college farm and we would like to wish him all the best for the future.

This month we also have to say goodbye to Miss Parker, the Assistant Farm Manager. Miss Parker has given so much to the farm developing the buildings, livestock and meat sales and taking on the young farmers club. Miss Parker has been invaluable to me in the classroom and given support to so many students. We would like to wish you all the best for the future and hope that your new job brings you lots of happiness. (Mr Kingston and Miss Marks)



Christmas at Brymore

The last week of term is always festive at Brymore and despite some restrictions still in place this was no different. The boarding houses were decorated and boys enjoyed a feast night, the staff snaffled tubs of Heroes when on break and the whole school had a feeling of magic.

We took the opportunity to take part in Christmas Jumper Day as a way of raising funds for the boarding team Smiles for Christmas campaign which benefits the local Salvation Army. Boys and staff got fully involved with some very festive knits on display all ready for the Senior Leadership Team to judge the best woollies and present prizes!

We also went on to celebrate with our Christmas lunch, complete with festive music, turkey and crackers!

On the last day we had a virtual extended assembly where Mr Thomas presented end of term awards through tutors and the boys were then treated to members of the SLT reading the 'A Night Before Christmas' via a video they conjured up.

From everyone at Brymore may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful 2022! (Ms Warren)





Careers Pilot

Many of our boys are deciding on their next steps, whether that is choosing a college course in Year 11, finding a work experience placement in Year 10 or choosing GCSE options in Year 9. All these choices can have a massive impact on their future and the career they follow.

For many parents and carers this is a confusing time. Qualifications and career paths change so often that it is hard to keep up to date. This is where Career Pilot comes in! Each of our boys had a registration and can explore the vast



range of jobs and qualifications on offer. There is also a Parent Zone - just go to www.careerpilot.org.uk and register and you will be able to read the current information on the job market, local vacancies, colleges courses etc. There is information relevant to all year groups, with quizzes and activities to help work out what job an individual is suited to. Please log in and have a look. (Rev Briggs)



Ski and Iceland Trips

We had an overwhelming response to the Ski and Iceland trips running in 2022 so apologies to anyone who hasn't secured a space this time. We will be running more trips into the future, in fact Mr Sawyer has already secured accommodation for the next Iceland trip in the October half term of 2023 and there will be more information out about this in the summer term.

Grateful thanks from both Mr Ashton and Mr Sawyer for the support from parents for their enthusiasm in the two trips we are currently running. (Ms Warren)

Brymore Lottery

The winners for this half term are:

1st prize £40 D Hutter

2nd prize £25 A Lee

3rd prize £15 J Bruce

Young Farmers



This half term has, as always, been an enjoyable one. We have had two speakers in, one being Dr Alan Lavers who was in the second cohort of Brymore boys! The boys very much enjoyed finding out about Alan's adventures since leaving Brymore, including being part of a research team working on pesticide applications all over the world. Our other speaker was Loretta from Smaxtec who told the boys all about the bolus', how they work and what the alerts may mean for the cows and any further steps we as a farm team may need to take. Lots of the boys now have the app on their phone and can keep an eye on the health of the cows at the farm at any time. Our last YFC before Christmas is a fun one, our annual Christmas bingo. Unfortunately for me, this was also going to be a sad YFC, it was my last one. I would like to thank everyone for their support throughout my time organising the Brymore Young Farmers Club. I hope that the Club can carry on and flourish when I have gone. The current Chairman Adam Priest has done, and I'm sure will carry on doing, an amazing job. If you would like to come and do a talk with the boys please contact any member of staff here at Brymore and I am positive they will point you in the right direction. Hoodies are being sorted as I write this so I will leave all information with the Chairman and staff here. Thank you for everything, (Miss Parker)



Horticulture

Yet another busy term - which began with us continuing with the apple crushing as we gathered the fallen cider apples. We'll see if we can get any for decent cider next year, but it may end up as cider vinegar again!

During the lessons, the Year 7 boys have collected leaves, planted broad bean seed and visited Monkton Elm Garden Centre, where we learnt about how the garden centre came into being and how it now tried to buy plants locally, but some are imported from Europe. We found out about grafting and plant breeding, where their Christmas trees come from and also met an ex-Brymore student, who told us what he does. Many thanks to Ms Warren who stepped in at thew last minute to drive one of the minibuses for us.

The Year 8s and 9s have been tidying beds and borders, putting on both leaf mould and farmyard manure as a mulch. They have also helped to collect leaves and have re-potted plants, mixed up compost and planted up winter hanging baskets and tubs for Cannington in Bloom. Bulbs have been planted and hellebores trimmed back. We have begun the process of edging the demonstration plots and Year 8s have been studying conservation with a number making fantastic bug hotels. Well done!

The Year 10 and 11 students have carried on with assessments in practical time, which are any of the above tasks, but all carried out independently and assessed and I'm pleased to say that many are heading towards top levels of award in this qualification.

We learnt how to carry out a traditional pH test on soil so that if this is required for the synoptic assessment in the City and Guilds Technical Award, they will be ready for it.

Mrs Franks has worked hard to get the paperwork up together for all the boys' assessments so we have tracking sheets and she has also put together this year's Horti Department calendar featuring phots taken by both staff and students. These will make excellent Christmas presents and can be purchased £5.00 from the department.

Please email us to order one: reuben.willcocks@brymoreacademy.co.uk.

Sadly, due to a family bereavement, Mrs Franks was not in for the last part of term, so we remember her and also Mrs Osborne who went through exactly the same scenario this time last year. My gratitude is extended to them both for all they do and of course to Mrs Stanley for her sterling support.

We have just interviewed Year 10 students who have applied to be appointed as HoDs and we will make decisions in the next week with a view to appointing. We appreciate their hard work and dedication, especially those Year 10 students who stepped up early to ensure that garden duties could safely continue. We are a team and the HoDs are an important part of that team and we are thankful for their assistance.

Dr Grant has been helping us in some practical lessons and also during Friday Activities, when he has headed up garden construction. He has repaired raised beds and also constructed more in the area in front of the polytunnel in the walled garden. We are extremely grateful for his support and willingness and look forward to the continuation of this as we progress into Spring.

Wreath construction has been underway, the potting shed is adorned with fairy lights and the department has a feint tinge of celebration as we headed towards the end of term. Spiced apple juice and the last few bottles of this year's apple juice are still on sale, as are some squash and marrows. Thank you to those who visit the sales cart and support the department and don't forget that if you are revamping your garden, we have a wide selection of plants available at very reasonable prices. (Mr Willcocks)





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. The Head Boy, George Jones, and his Deputies and Assistant Head Boys then walked slowly to the front of the school to place wreaths. They were joined by Oliver Mahon, one of our Old Boys. The remainder of the school followed behind them in silence to lay poppies and pay their respects. It was a tradition that was started by a group of Brymore boys who visited the battlefields on a school trip with us some years ago and one which we continue to this day. (Ms Warren)











Brymore Lambing

Saturday March 19th // 10:30am - 3pm





An outing for the whole family to come and see our baby lambs and visit the ewes on their due dates.

We cannot promise lambing live but the opportunity to bottle feed a lamb and cuddle one is just a step away with us at Brymore Academy. With other animals to see on our farm and a few family friendly activities we definitely hope you will come and see us!

Refreshments available courtesy of the Friends of Brymore Association.

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

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Message from the Head Boy

This half term has gone incredibly fast and the fact that we are now one third of the way through the academic year is simply immense. The Christmas half term is always packed full of fun activities leading up to the festive break, this includes Christmas activities in lessons and a Christmas feast at the end of term for boarders.

At the beginning of this half term the entire school lined the drive to pay our respects on the 11th November to all of those soldiers and servicemen who served and gave their lives so that we may be here today, I was



extremely impressed by the way all of the boys came together, united for this very special day.

This half term we also held a non-school uniform day in aid of Children In Need, this event raised £450 which was donated to the Charity. Next half term we hope to arrange and participate in many more charitable events.

Towards the end of this term, Year 11 boys have experienced Christmas meals at Blackmore farm, this meal was first held for boys in Taylor house organised by Mr Willcocks and then again a meal for the SSLT the following week, this was very much enjoyed and appreciated by all the boys and certainly filled us up.

This half term has been a very busy one with rugby matches to participate in and mock exams to revise for however I think we can all agree that it has been a very good and beneficial six weeks.

Now that this half term has concluded I urge everyone to take a well-deserved rest and enjoy this Christmas with your friends and family ready to come back and embrace Brymore in the new year. (George Jones)

Blood Brothers

Written by Willy Russell, the legendary 'Blood Brothers' tells the captivating and moving tale of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with fateful consequences...

Few musicals have received quite such acclaim as the multi-award winning Blood Brothers. Bill Kenwright's production surpassed 10,000 performances in London's West End and Year 10 and 11 were lucky enough to see the play performed in Birmingham in November. Both year groups were enthralled by the performance, making



their GCSE text come to life, helping them to understand the characters and the dramatic story-line. The superb score includes Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotionally charged hit Tell Me It's Not True sung by the famous Lyn Paul of The New Seekers. The music was superb and it meant that toes were tapping throughout the performance. After the emotional ending the boys ecstatically raved about what they had seen using words such as 'excellent', 'awesome' and 'amazing' to describe this experience. Not only did they enjoy the trip but this experience translated into the mock exam papers that were written later that month where Blood Brothers was the best answered question by far.

The boys were a credit to Brymore at all times and the English department were proud of how they conducted themselves. (Mrs Rogers)





Forest School

The Year 7s had a very busy second half of the term. We have been clearing the woods of leaves and logs, and getting an area prepared to be another work space. The boys have worked their socks off and are rightly proud of themselves. There has also been some fire lighting practice, and of course the enjoyment of toasting marshmallows, as well as the biscuits and hot chocolate.

Can I please take this opportunity to remind parents that we are out in the woods in all weathers, so please en-

sure that your son have the correct outdoor wear, including waterproofs and this is for all Land Based lessons. Hope you all have a lovely break and look forward to seeing the boys back in 2022. (Ms Carter)

2020 Leavers Service

Ever since the Government announced school closures in March 2020 we have been promising those boys who were in Year 11 at the time their Leavers Service, and 18 months later, we eventually managed to deliver. It was truly heartwarming to greet these almost grown men and their families back to the school, especially given the brutal and sudden nature in which their time as Brymore boys ended. The new marquee looked beautiful, the video of photos bought tears to the eyes of parents and the awards



were much deserved by the boys and were voted for by staff back in 2020 - it just took us a while to gift them. (Ms Warren)



SSLT Christmas Meal

Mr Thomas and the SLT started a tradition nearly ten years ago where they rewarded the hard work and efforts of their Prefects, Senior Prefects and the Head Boy, Deputies and Assistants with a slap-up Christmas meal. It is fair to say that these handpicked senior boys from Year 11 definitely deserve a treat because they truly step up and embrace leadership and teamwork to help the boys and staff around school.

On the last Monday of the term we took them to Blackmore Farm, a local eatery, where they were treated to a turkey dinner, endless puddings and a cheese platter. Mr Thomas thanked the boys for their commitment to the school and for all their assistance and this was followed by a vote of thanks from George Jones to our hosts. (Ms Warren)



Sports News

Our Year 11 boys have had one of the hardest run of fixtures, due to the lack of state school fixtures because of Covid, so they have played a lot of the local independent schools' first teams. It has been tough but they have battled hard and learnt a lot about themselves and as a team. There were two big highlights to date and that was the hard fought win against Sidcot and then them putting all their efforts into beating Kingsmead in the County Cup, thus putting themselves into the next round. I hope these boys, particularly, keep fit over the festive break so that they can return ready to get stuck straight back into rugby. Year 11 boys also might want to be mindful to keep up with Chads and fitness after Christmas, in order to get their colours at their leavers service in May 2022.

We continue to have good numbers at all other year group training, more boys are always welcome and it is never too late to start coming along. As a school we have had 46 rugby fixtures across all age groups since the start of September and despite Covid have kept going. We looked for fixtures where we could because lots of the local schools are not playing and so my thanks go to those staff who have stepped up to help with teams, driving buses in order for boys to have the opportunities to play. House rugby matches will start after the February half term.

We have had two hockey fixtures, both played in great spirit, with a team made up of Years 9, 10 and 11 boys. Mr Miller was a great coach for the team and my thanks go to him for all he has done to assist, as he heads off to pastures new.

We hosted the Area Cross Country event during the last week of half term and boys in all years participated, with many qualifying for the County finals next term which is great news for Brymore athletics.

The numbers of Chads boys are running continue to be positive, however there are some Year 7 boys who have fallen behind in their once a week run which is required by the school. Can parents check that their son is running Chads and look to catch up where possible.

We have had a coach, Thom, visit from Somerset Cricket Foundation every Friday of this half term, working with some boys in the lower years to help them learn table cricket and indoor cricket. Thom has also been working with sports leaders to help teach them skills and team working and we are hopeful to be attending some tournaments after Christmas. (Mr Williams)





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:

Galsworthy	Taylor	Walker
4,569,800	5,156,797	8,662,533

Congratulations to Walker who continue to storm ahead with the most words read since September!

We would also like to give special mention to the top readers in each class, these boys are consistently reading for over 20 minutes on average each day. They are all well on their way to achieving their annual reading target.

Year 7:

Finley Linford, Elijah Thomas and Ethan Wright

Year 8

Samuel Findlay, Eric Pickering and Harry Stamp

Year 9:

Corey Broadey, Alfie Parsons and Harry Thorn

We also now have two word millionaires:

Eric Pickering who has read a massive 1,389,197 words and Ethan Wright who is well on the way to reaching multi-millionaire status with a whopping 1,825,115 words.

A massive well done to both boys!

The top performing class across key stage 3 continues to be 8.1, who have taken 369 quizzes and passed 309.

A reminder of reading expectations:

To have a reading book with you at all times

To read a book within your ZPD

To aim to read 2-3 books (depending on length) per half term

To take responsibility and 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 your class

To work as part of a team and read in order to earn points for your 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.

You can see how well your son is progressing towards their target by visiting:

https://ukhosted85.renlearn.co.uk/2259563/homeconnect/ and log in using your son's username and password. If you have any concerns or questions about reading, then please contact your son's reading teacher or myself, who oversees the running of Accelerated Reader.

7:1, 7:2, 8:1, 8:2, 9:2, 9:3 - Miss Webber - alice.webber@brymoreacademy.co.uk

7:3 and 9:1 - Mrs Rogers - victoria.rogers@brymoreacademy.co.uk

8:3 - Mrs Hartley - kimberley.hartley@brymoreacademy.co.uk

General enquiries - clare.popham@brymoreacademy.co.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!

For those students who reach 33% of their target by the end of the Autumn Term, a reward trip will be taking place in the Spring Term - COVID-19 rules permitted. (Mrs Popham)



2021/22 Upcoming Important Dates

Spring Term

Tuesday 4th January 2022 (INSET DAY)

1.30 pm - 1.50 pm
1.50 pm - 2.10 pm
2.10 pm - 2.30 pm
2.30 pm - 2.50 pm
2.30 pm - 3.20 pm
Covid Testing for Year 11 Out-boarders
Covid Testing for Year 9 Out-boarders
Covid Testing for Year 8 Out-boarders
Covid Testing for Year 7 Out-boarders

3.00 pm - 6.00 pm Year 11 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

Wednesday 5th January 2022 (INSET DAY)

3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
4.30 pm - 4.45 pm
4.45 pm - 5.00 pm
5.00 pm - 5.15 pm
5.15 pm - 5.30 pm

Covid Testing for Year 7 and new starter Boarders
Covid Testing for Year 11 Boarders
Covid Testing for Year 10 Boarders
Covid Testing for Year 9 Boarders
Covid Testing for Year 8 Boarders
Covid Testing for Year 9 SchoolCloud

Thursday 17th February 2022

5.00 pm - 7.00 pm Year 8 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

Friday 18th February 2022

12.00 pm All students to depart for Spring half-term
1.00 pm - 4.00 pm Year 8 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

Tuesday 1st March 2022 (INSET DAY)

3.00 pm - 6.00 pm Year 10 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm All boarders return

Wednesday 2nd March 2022

8.30 am All out-boarders return

5.00 pm - 7.00 pm Year 10 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

Friday 8th April 2022

3.45 pm Students depart for Easter holidays

Summer Term

Monday 25th April 2022 (INSET DAY)

3.00 pm - 6.00 pm Year 9 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm All boarders return

Tuesday 26th April 2022

8.30 am All out-boarders return

5.00 pm - 7.00 pm Year 9 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud



CONTACT

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