

Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

Newsletter

February 2022

www.brymoreacademy.co.uk

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Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the end of what has felt like a particularly long half term once again, I find myself reflecting on the hard work that everyone has put in. Year 11, in particular, have responded well to the demands being asked of them, with many days starting with a 45-minute breakfast session before school, then six hours of lessons, before over an hour of additional English or maths after school. It has been relentless, but the resilience instilled in them over the years has begun to seriously pay off.

Staff of course have played their part, not only in delivering these sessions but also by ensuring all of the other activities have continued, despite higher than usual levels of staff absence due to Covid. We have not had to send year groups home as has been the case in many other schools, as all staff have continued to support and cover each other during this time. I think everyone deserves a good rest over the half term break.

I am delighted that we will be able to open the swimming pool soon following its refurbishment and the installation of a new heating system. We are currently waiting for staff to complete the relevant training and of course for the weather to warm up. Sadly, we have had to close the library building due to issues with the roof. We have re-located the books temporarily whilst we explore the feasibility of building a replacement. However, I am pleased that boys have continued to work on their reading as it was something that appeared to have dropped during lockdown.

Year 6 parents will soon be finding out if their son has been successful in obtaining a place at Brymore. We are in the fortunate position of still being the most over-subscribed school in the County and we will have a waiting list for both day and boarder places. Whilst this is good news for the school, it is of course disappointing for those that are unsuccessful. For those that are successful, we look forward to welcoming them into the Brymore family soon.

I hope everyone manages to spend some quality time with their family over half term and I look forward to seeing the boys when they come back after their well deserved break.



Boarding

Boarding continues to look at how we can make the experience of the boys more enjoyable and the boys' input in this is vital. The House Improvement Team (HIT) allows boys to meet and talk about how they can improve the equipment and decor within the houses. Since Christmas, Reid House has invested in gym equipment and lighting as well as craft materials, new Lego sets, a new oak dining table, a range of new PS4 games, a new TV surround sound system and star and solar system mood lighting. Kemp has bought some more lighting and toys. School House has got some new pool cues and tips, as well as the new Farming SIM 2022 game, new framing and décor for the back stair cases, like Reid House. Boys from all houses have made further suggestions to expand the range of on-site activities available and I am currently costing up and looking into purchasing a new range of outdoor off road RC cars, and also purchasing a number of stunt scooters and ramps, based on boys suggestions to what they would enjoy doing.

We invested in some new monster construction RC vehicles for all houses to book out and use. An excavator, dump truck and hopper truck as well as a low loader, have been bought and many boys have used these already - they are a big success. Young and old, working together to transport mini logs and dump sacks has been fun!

Boys who started this year are well and truly settled and should be getting the most out of their experience here at Brymore. Certainly, the staff are constantly encouraging boys to get stuck in and get involved. It is the best way to overcome homesickness.

Year 7s have been learning about toxic masculinity and the 'Everyone's Invited' cause. This is part of their 'Respect for all' Personal Support Workshop unit of education during prep. Year 8s and 9s are finding their rhythm again after two lockdowns in their experience of schooling so far and are doing well considering. Year 10s and 11s are working hard towards their results and futures moving for-

ward with Year 11s focusing on their final lap and terminal exams, as well as coursework deadlines.

Regarding charity events, School House will be holding a pudding night next month where boys can buy a pudding for £2. Kemp older boys will be invited up to the House as part of their transition later this year. School House's charity is the Farming Community Network. Reid House has sent letters out encouraging boys to do a sponsored event of totalling up their Chads runs to total the distance from Lands End to John O'Groats. Their charity is Cancer Research. Kemp House's charity is the WWF. Boys have chosen an endangered animal to sponsor and each dorm, (14), will have their own animal. They will get a plush toy and news updates about their adopted animal.

With regret we have to say goodbye to a long serving member of the boarding staff. Mrs Long leaves us and moves onto pastures new. The boys held a party in Reid to give their houseparent a royal send off! Mrs Long dedicated over five years of her life to the cause of making sure the boys under her care had the best possible experience and is the founder of our inaugural full time boarding house. We wish her every success in her life moving forward. We have appointed a new matron who has been with us several weeks now and we welcome Matron Keattch to the team.

As the days get longer, we welcome the news that the swimming pool should finish ahead of time, which will be an exciting addition to the school and just in time for the summer months to come later this year. Boarding have missed the pool as it was always nice on a hot day for boys to splash around and have fun in the cool waters of our outside pool! (Mr Watts)



Farm

Sheep:

The ewes are now safely in our lambing shed ready for lambing, due 7th March. We are looking forward to welcoming the public into the farm to our Lambing Day on 19th March from 10.30am - 3.00pm. Hopefully there will be lots of lambs on the ground for people to see and bottle feed.

Cattle:

We have sold some of our finished beef animals in the last couple of weeks and Mr Kingston was able to take some of the Year 9 boys to the market to help unload them and have a quick look around at the stock up for sale. The calves have settled into the beef shed, having been weaned, and are making good weight gains.

The dairy cows continue to milk well, and we are happy that everything is back in calf to continue our new block calving system which seems to be working well for us.

Pigs:

Our two litters have been growing on well. The Year 8 students have been monitoring their daily live weight gain. They have been causing havoc exploring the farm as free range piglets so we have now had to alter the pen to keep them in until weaning. We have some finished pigs ready to go and we will be offering sausages and a hog roast at the Lambing Day. We will have additional sausages available to purchase as well, please just get in touch if you are interested.

Curriculum:

Year 7 have been looking at animal welfare and notifiable diseases this term. Year 8 have been looking at beef production and monitoring daily live weight gains. Year 9 students have been busy completing their BTEC practical assignments. They have also completed the second beef and dairy written assignment. Year 10 are in the middle of completing their Synoptic Coursework for Land Based studies with practical assessments in the gardens and on the farm. They also have a 2,000 word assignment to complete by the 11th March. (Miss Marks)

Bee Club

Bee Club has continued this term and a few boys have been going to Spaxton Apiary where they have cleaned and prepared hives, learnt how to heft the hives (lifting them to weigh them) to see if more food is needed, made beeswax candles and foundation sheets and learnt more about the varroa mite and the foulbrood disease. We do not open the hives at this point because the change in temperature would kill many bees and we will continue after half term, every other Monday evening to learn more about Beekeeping. (Mr Willcocks)

Free
Entry



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.
A free Park and Ride will be in operation

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



Horticulture

Work carries on in the Horti department with pruning and tidying up being the focus. In the walled garden the cordon trained apple tree on the west wall has been pruned back, along with the gooseberry and blackcurrant bushes. The raspberry canes have been trimmed and tied up, after the wires were re-straightened, posts renewed and rogue plants dug up and replanted back into the line. In the central soft fruit area, some bushes have been removed, replaced by raspberry canes and the area weeded, dug over and new Mypex (a ground cover fabric) has been replaced. In the cut flower area in the walled garden, construction of new raised beds has been completed and replanting continues. The Year 7s have been taught about single digging and many are trying it out on their own plots. The plots are generally looking much better although there will be some boys who need to get their soil prepared, otherwise they will be delayed when it comes to planting. Mrs Stanley will be marking the plots at half term.

The herbaceous border on the south side of the walled garden has been cleared and prepared and has now been replanted with an underplanting of bulbs and various herbaceous perennials. There is a new garden being created in the same area, which will become a garden for HoDs to relax in at lunch time. There will be willow fencing and various herbs planted in the area along with a new bench, made from recycled plastic.

The HoDs are doing a fantastic job in the evenings and we are really getting a lot of work done by the Year 8s. We are truly very grateful to these boys for all they do, as our department would not be able to function without this extra help.

We miss the help of the Year 11s as many of them now use the horticulture lessons to revise. We do hope that they will find the time to complete the necessary assessments so that they can achieve their Horticultural Skills qualification.

The raised beds outside of the boarding houses are now being replanted, having been topped up with compost and then had bark chip spread on the soil surface. The area looks so much better and we are so grateful for all the hard work and expertise of the site team, who this half term have also reconstructed out top compost heap. Thank you.

The sales cart is out every Friday evening with produce and plants so please do drop by and see what we have for sale. All the sales support the practical side of the department. We also encourage you to walk around our sales area where you may find just the plant you need to fill that gap in your garden.

In class we have had some lively discussion with the Year 8s, as we consider more environmentally friendly methods of gardening and farming and the Year 9s have been studying life cycles and seed production. Who knew that the development of new varieties was so complicated? The Green Planet has been very apposite with the teaching and is well worth a watch if you have missed the series.

Once again, I have to thank the team for all they do day by day and to remind you all that your custom is much appreciated.
(Mr Willcocks)



FoBSA

We have had some changes recently to our team after Martin stepped down as Co-Chair. Therefore, Jo Walsh-Quantick is now Co-Chair, Lainey Carreras our Treasurer and Linda Campbell and Rebecca Knight are taking care of second-hand uniform. We had a successful clothes collection last term and will arrange another one when the animals are out of the barn.

We are now planning our next few events:

19th March - Lambing Day : Donation of tombola prizes would be much appreciated (tins of biscuits, sweets, books etc) and cakes.

1st April - Bingo : Raffle and bingo prizes such as bottles, chocolates, biscuits and smellies would be welcomed. If any businesses would like to donate a prize, we will be sure to mention them!

8th April - Rugby/Hockey Finals : Donation of cakes, if possible please.

We are always in need of parents to volunteer (Mums, Dads, Grandparents etc are all welcome). Please let us know if you can help in any way.

Does anyone have and children's pedal tractors they could lend us or donate if children have grown out of them, for lambing day? (Ms Hutter)



Friday 1st April in the school hall.
Doors open at 6pm
Eyes down at 6.30pm

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

Letters have been sent to the Year 11 boys with regards to ordering their leavers hoodies for this year. Thank you to those that have returned their order and just a reminder to those that are outstanding that the deadline is the beginning of March. (Ms Warren)

Brymore Lottery

Look for the letter within the school mailing giving information about joining the Brymore lottery. 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 Nash)

The winners for this half term are:

1st £40 Mr Ian Hamilton
2nd £25 Mr T Bruce
3rd £15 Mr David Gregory

Music

Peripatetic teachers continue to visit the school to teach piano (Monday mornings), drums (Monday evenings and we have now employed a second teacher to teach all the boys who wish to learn!) and guitars (Wednesday evenings). If there are other boys who wish to learn please contact me and I can give you all the details.

Also, the school choir meets on Thursday lunchtimes in Room 9. Again, see/contact me if you are interested in joining and enjoying singing together. (Mr Willcocks)

Forest School

The boys have been very busy in Forest School since Christmas, they have been working on the new area clearing and building a wall that doubles as a bug hotel. This will be used for practical lessons when we are using axes, knives, and billhooks. The boys have also worked on filling in the large holes in the woods, using wheelbarrows to shift large amounts of mud. The work ethic and positive attitude of the boys has been fantastic and the team and I have been very impressed with them. (Ms Carter)



Young Farmers

With the departure of Miss Parker last term the Chairman and Vice-Chair (Adam and Harry) have been working with me to create some interactive and fun sessions for the boys this half term. We have had a couple of games evenings but the highlight was, without a doubt, halter training the cattle ready for the summer showing season. We look forward to help from the new members of the team and the lighter nights so we can get outside much more.

(Miss Marks)



Free
Entry

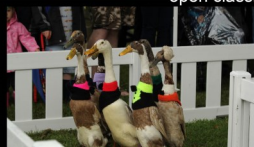
Brymore
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Country Fair & Open Day

Saturday June 25th // 10.30am - 5pm



Main ring entertainment // stock showing // duck racing // bike track
live music // tractor ride // classic cars // BBQ
childrens entertainment // craft stalls // open farm
face painting // 200 year old garden // school farm meat sale
stationary engines // ice creams // plant sales
open classrooms // blacksmithing demonstration
and much, much more!



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Sports News

In rugby, our Year 11 boys were knocked out of the County Cup in the semi final against Huish Episcopi but it was a great match and the team fought hard. Our Year 10 boys lost, but only marginally, in the Area Cup against Haygrove, under the floodlights at North Petherton. It was a truly gallant effort from the whole team. Numbers at training continue to be good and we have a whole half term of rugby left at Brymore. Some boys are falling behind with Chads and fitness so need to catch up on these. We have fitness at 4.30pm and 7.30pm on a Monday and Tuesday, so boys should not be missing any other activities to do fitness as there are ample opportunities to come along. We have House matches coming up throughout next half term including House 7s, and please watch out for Friday afternoon senior house matches where parents are welcome to come along and support. Next half term the Year 11 rugby team have two floodlit matches to finish their season and time here as a team in style.

In Cross Country the team won the Mammoth Trophy- a team event based at Clatworthy Reservoir. We had won this good looking trophy in the past and it was great to bring it home again. Upcoming this half term we will have the Quantock Relays and the Kings Cup Cross Country so more opportunities for our runners to get involved and be competitive.

We took two teams (Under 15 and Under 13) to the area indoor cricket competition - all boys played well and are looking ahead to a summer on the wicket.

Our Year 10 sports studies students attended the Step into Sport conference in Yeovil along with a couple of Year 9 boys. It was a great event about inclusive leadership. Our Year 10 and 11 sports students are looking forward to badminton fixtures starting after half term too.

We have athletics upcoming after the Easter break and all boys welcome to training after school. We are hopeful that there will be a number of competitions on this year after the Covid break and give boys the chance to compete with others in track and field events. (Mr Williams)



Maths Trip













The 12 Year 10 and 11 members of Set Zero visited the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff to see a Maths Inspiration Show at the beginning of the month, accompanied by Mr Ashton and Miss Rundle. Maths Inspiration is a national programme of interactive maths lecture shows for teenagers, that gives them a chance to experience the UK's most inspiring maths speakers presenting mathematics live in a context of exciting, real-world applications. This year, the host and ITV's resident statistician Professor Jennifer Rogers dispelled some myths and newspaper scare stories about the proportion of vaccinated patients hospitalised with COVID - using GCSE

maths skills! Rob Eastaway spoke on 'Maths on the Back of an Envelope' providing useful ways for estimating everyday calculations, surprisingly a highly sought after skill by many employers, despite us having a calculator everywhere we go on our phones. Sammie Buzzard presented on working in the Arctic and Antarctic; showing how a career in maths can sometimes be adventurous and challenging. And finally, Ben Sparks enthralled the audience with 'The Sacred Geometry of Chance', with some fascinating insights into gambling and ended with a live performance of the Sting track Shape of my Heart. Lunch in Cardiff and a spot of shopping rounded off an enlightening day. (Mr Ashton)

Weekend Activities

Weekend Activities Term 2b March 2022

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Friday 4 th Mar Superstars of Wrestling Chard Guildhall 17:45 to 22:00 £16 Miss Helps |  | Sunday 6 th Mar Hollywood Bowl Taunton 13:30 to 17:00 £14.50 Ms Warren |  |
| Friday 11 th Mar Card Making 19:00 Miss Helps |  | Sunday 13 th Mar Scott Cinema Bridgwater TBC £7.50 Mrs Rushbrooke |  |
| Friday 18 th Mar TimeWarp Arcade 18:15 to 20:45 £7.50 Miss Helps |  | Sunday 20 th Mar Minehead Beach and Arcade 13:30 to 17:00 £1 plus spending money Mrs Rushbrooke |  |
| Friday 25 th Mar Quiz Night Reid House 19:00 to 20:00 Miss Helps |  | Sunday 27 th Mar Exeter Chiefs v Tigers Sandy Park 13:30 to 19:00 £23 Mrs Webb/Ms Hoogenboom |  |
| Friday 1 st Apr FoBSA Bingo Doors open 18:00 Eyes down 18:30 School Hall Duty Staff |  | Sunday 3 rd Apr Shopping Bridgwater Retail Park £1 TBC IA |  |

Message from the Head Boy

Another half term gone and the end of the year getting progressively closer. This half term is the longest of the academic year with it being seven weeks long, so I'm sure everyone will be looking forward to a well-deserved break. Despite all the revision sessions throughout the week we have still managed to keep up with duties and the requirements for our colour's awards. With GCSE's getting closer as every day passes, I'm sure all of Year 11 will look forward to being able to relax for a week (when not revising of course).

Throughout this half term the boys have participated in showing down on the farm, skiing at the Mendip dry slopes (in preparation for when we go to Austria), rugby matches, developing our DT project so that the work-shops fill up with all kinds of contraptions and 'boxes' and much more.

So, lads have a well-deserved break and return in March with a mind ready to work and learn. (George Jones)



Careers

Our careers programme at Brymore aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make successful transitions to the next stage of their life. We update the Careers page on the website often and message parents with important information, although please contact me or Rev Briggs if you have any further questions. This half term we have talked to boys about apprenticeships linking into National Apprenticeship Week and more information is available on our website or via the government website www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

Every boy also has the opportunity for a career guidance session with myself, a Level 6 qualified careers adviser, and Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust Careers Leader. These sessions are bespoke to the student's needs and can be arranged via parent, tutor or self-referral. My email address is clare.lewis@btc-trust.org

We value input from our parents and alumni. If you felt able to help us with our careers programme in any way (sharing your career journey, work experience, apprenticeship placements, mock interview help etc), we would love to hear from you! (Mrs Lewis)

Work Experience

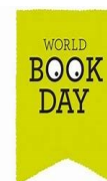
Well done to those boys who have returned forms, having found a placement, taken the forms to be signed, checked that they have Public Liability and Employer's liability insurance and remembered to hand the forms to us.

The forms should have been returned by the end of November 2021 and so, for those who have not yet completed this task, please get it done as soon as possible. Use the half term to get confirmation of placements and get the forms completed.

Be aware that other school students are also looking for work placements too, so the longer you leave it the less chance you may have to get one where you want to go.

Think broadly, do not go for the easy option (where you have worked before or where a family member works). Use the website to give you lots of ideas but above all else please do not forget to get the forms (which you have all received) completed and returned. (Mr Willcocks)

World Book Day 2022



World Book Day is back this year and will be held on Tuesday 8th March 2022, boys in Key Stage 3 are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character for the day and a variety of reading and book activities will be taking place within lessons. Prizes will be awarded to the best fancy dress outfit and commendations will be awarded to those who dress up. I know many members of staff are already planning their outfits and are looking forward to getting dressed up too.

Readathon and Reading Royalty:

Alongside World Book Day this year we are also holding our annual sponsored Readathon challenge, where students are encouraged to set their own target to read as much as possible between the 4th and 18th March 2022. The money raised will go to the 'Read for Good' scheme which provides books for children who are in hospital. A portion of the total raised will also be given back to the School to provide new and exciting books for students. In addition to this, the top 50 boys in Key Stage 3 who read the most words in their ZPD during this time will also become Reading Royalty, earning one of our prestigious Animal Farm badges - this year is Benjamin the Donkey. (Mrs Popham)

House Reading Competition

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Galsworthy 8,947,955 | Taylor 12,522,108 | Walker 15,012,363 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Congratulations to Walker who continue to race ahead with the most words read so far this year!

An extra special mention also needs to go to the top readers in each class, these boys are consistently reading for over 20 minutes on average each day and quizzing in order to reach their targets. They are all well on their way to achieving their annual reading target.

Year 7:

Benjamin Attwell, Carlos Machadinha and Leon-Jack Williams

Year 8:

Thomas Endicott, Siegfried Loder and Max Marchent-Saunders

Year 9:

Ollie Berry, Alex King and Ryan Walls

We also now have three word millionaires:

Eric Pickering who has read a massive 1,539,073 words; Ben Sawyer who has successfully read a whopping 1,661,696 and Ethan Wright who has now reached multi-millionaire status with a whopping 2,953,937 words.

The top performing class across key stage 3 is now Year 7 set 3, who are reading an average of 24 minutes a day and have passed an outstanding 1,310 quizzes.

Rewards for your class

Before the Christmas holidays, it was announced that the classes with the most reward tokens would earn a free English lesson, with the choice of which activities they would like to do. These classes were 7.3, 8.2 and 9.1, well done boys!

Reward trips

There are 91 students who have successfully reached 33% of their target or above in the Autumn Term. These students will be invited to attend the reward trip which will be taking place before the Easter Holidays, more details will follow shortly. For those who have narrowly missed out on this reward trip, the next one will be held at the end of the Summer term and the top 60 boys who have made the most amount of progress towards their target will be invited to attend.

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 - Ms Rogers: Victoria.rogers@brymoreacademy.co.uk

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

General enquiries: Clare.popham@brymoreacademy.co.uk

2021/22 Upcoming Important Dates

Spring Term

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

8.30 am All out-boarders return
5.00 pm - 7.00 pm Year 10 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

Friday 8th April

TIME TBC Raising Achievement Session for Year 11 parents/students
2.00 pm House Hockey & Rugby Finals
3.45 pm Students depart for Easter holidays

Summer Term

Monday 25th April (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

8.30 am All out-boarders return
5.00 pm - 7.00 pm Year 9 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

Friday 29th April

3.45 pm Students depart for May Day Bank Holiday weekend

Tuesday 3rd May (INSET DAY)

3.00 pm - 6.00 pm Year 7 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud
6.00 pm - 9.00 pm All boarders return

Wednesday 4th May

8.30 am All out-boarders return
3.00 pm - 6.00 pm Year 7 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud

Saturday 28th 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 for summer half-term

Sunday 5th June

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm All boarders return

Monday 6th June

8.30 am All out-boarders return

Saturday 25th June

10.30 am - 5.00 pm Open Day and Country Fair

4th - 8th July

Work Experience Week (Year 10)

11th - 15th July

Activities Week

Saturday 16th July

8.30 am All out-boarders arrive as normal
10.30 am Swimming Gala
12.00 pm All students depart for summer holidays

CONTACT

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