

# Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

## Newsletter

April 2022

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

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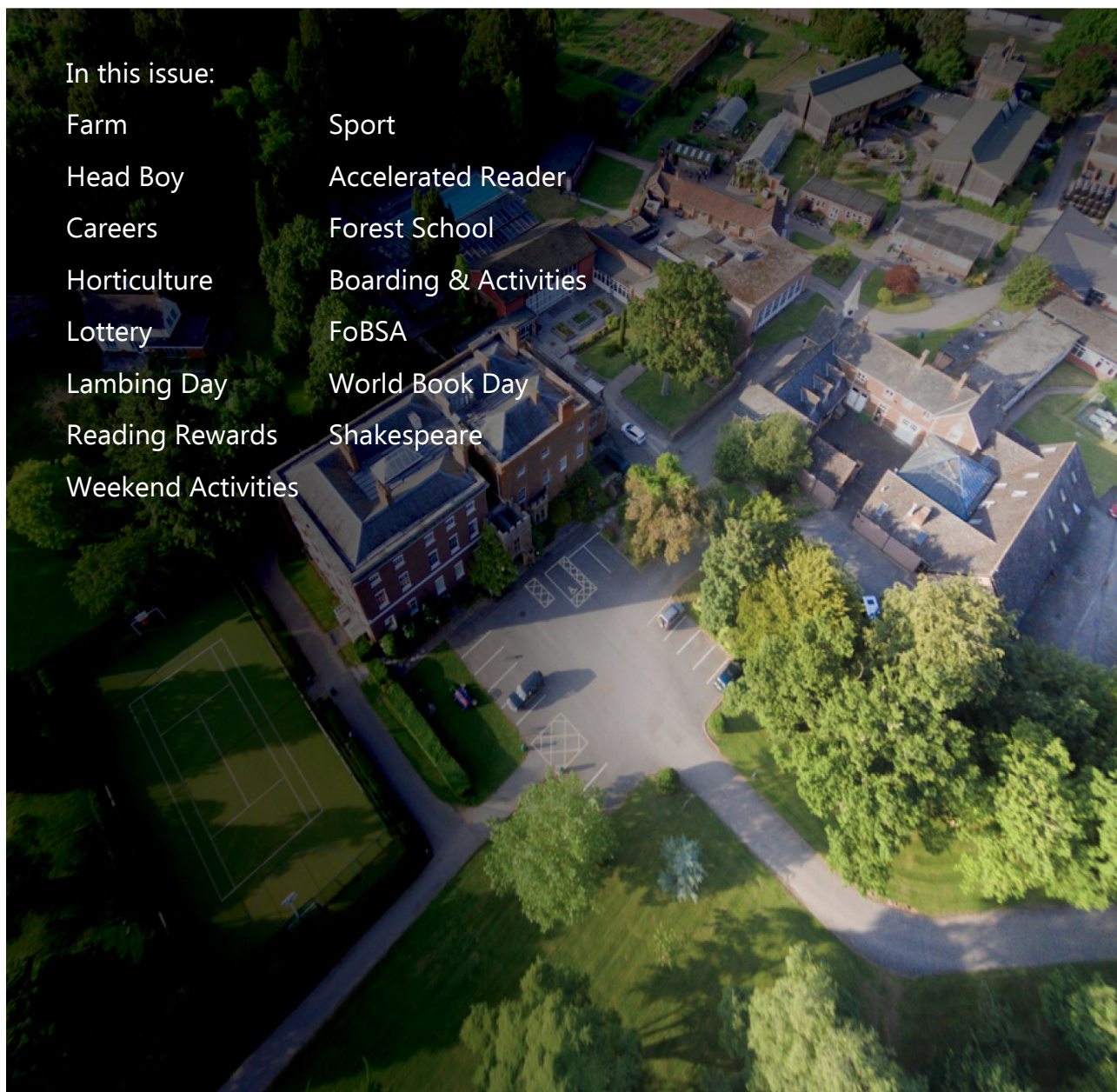
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*Diligentia et Labore*



## Message from the Headteacher

Despite the national picture being anything but 'normal' at the moment it has been a busy half term and it was wonderful to see so many people visiting us again for lambing day. With over 3,000 visitors to look after it was another case of staff and boys working hard alongside each other, to make the day happen. Indeed, we had more boys volunteer to help than we could manage, which is a really good sign that the pandemic has not affected the Brymore ethos of 'Diligentia et Labore'.

The range of opportunities the boys have had this half term also really pleases me and it has only been possible due to the dedication of staff. Like all schools, we have had to deal with high levels of staff absence and illness (the worst day was when we had 22 staff unavailable) however, we have not had to send any year groups home. Moreover, we have not only had lambing day, but World Book Day, numerous visiting theatre companies, reading reward trips, horticulture trips, many sporting fixtures including Year 11's last game at North Petherton, the visit of Ollie Harrison the 'you-tubing farmer' and of course, the raising achievement parent session, parents Chads Hill run/walk and the House finals on the last day of term. Add to this the usual range of evening and weekend activities and that some boys are currently enjoying the annual ski trip as we speak, then it is clear the boys have had an action packed six weeks. Finally, it was great to see that boys were able to use the swimming pool last week, with many reporting how warm it was! We are having an official opening after the Easter break which also means that there will be a lunchtime finish on the Friday before the bank holiday weekend.

Sadly, Mr Winter has left Brymore as he has been promoted to become the Senior Deputy Headteacher at Stanchester Academy near Yeovil, which is well deserved. Mr Winter had been at Brymore for ten years and part of the senior leadership team for eight of them. He was instrumental in developing the safeguarding systems at the school which received significant praise during the last Ofsted inspection. What this really means is that he created systems to keep boys as safe as possible within school, especially those more vulnerable. This is never easy, and can never be perfect, but he worked tirelessly and often in challenging circumstances to ensure the boys received the care they deserved.

As always, I hope you are all now able to spend some quality time together as a family again. Year 11 do need to keep revising over the holiday period however, I hope you all do manage to have a good rest and come back refreshed and ready to go again after Easter.

Happy Easter.





## Boarding

It has been a busy, but great term in boarding here at Brymore. We welcome Miss Johnson as Houseparent in Reid House after Easter, replacing Mrs Long, who left Brymore some weeks ago after over five years of dedication. The boys sent her off in good style and had a lovely party to celebrate her years in Reid House. Mrs Mexson will be changing her role and become the House Tutor on Sundays in Reid House leaving her post as Assistant Houseparent in School House and Mr Chandler joins the team as the new Assistant Houseparent in School House. Mrs Rushbrooke leaves her role as House Tutor as does Mrs Keatch as Matron. We welcome our new staff and hope they enjoy their start here at Brymore and wish those leaving us well in their next chapter of work.

It has been a term of lasts really. Year 11s have had their mock exams. This week will be their last week of fitness and circuits. Last week they played their last ever rugby match at Brymore, going out on a high by playing at North Petherton. Easter will be a time to rest and recuperate but also a key time to further embed knowledge and skills ready for their final exams.

The Summer is always a magical term here at Brymore and it is so exciting to finally have the swimming pool re-opening! Long summer evenings playing on the field and being able to cool off with a dip in our glorious new swimming pool set against the backdrop of the woods. It will be great to have our Swimming Gala back!

Our gym gear and strength training equipment is literally going from strength to strength and the boys are loving the new functional training gear. Boys are learning warrior training with the new steel maces, practising their barbarian squats, amongst other gruelling moves such as the twisted sword draw! They are also enjoying the functionality of the sandbags, slam balls and bat-

tle ropes, which allow for exciting and original strength training too. Boys are training with the weighted vest to help their running and Iron Man Club is using this equipment to make the training new and varied for the boys.

Boarding has also invested in new RC trucks and this will be an activity on the field due to how fast they are! Each house will have a chance to design their own paint design for a car. The winning boy will be able to paint his design onto the car himself! We have bought scooters and jumps and ramps too for the boys to play on and this has been a popular activity.

This half term some boys have been enjoying craft making, with boys making hearts for Mothers Day and other crafts too. Cheese club has been popular with Kemp's fridge smelling rather interesting as a result! Now the days are getting longer there will be more opportunity to play outside!



Lastly, the boys are very thankful for all of the staff who have supported in Reid House and across boarding recently and are looking forward for a fresh new start next half term. (Mr Watts)



# Horticulture

This is the term when the drabness of Winter is replaced by the vibrancy of Spring. Daffodils, Crocus and now Tulips are blooming around the site. Hellebores have provided their muted colours for a while, along with polyanthus in various beds and the heathers and Chionodoxia have looked superb in the bed outside of the hall. The hanging baskets in the same area are also brightening up the place. The Amalanchia has just burst into bloom outside of matron's office (do take notice) and the crab apple (malus) beside the walled garden is forming buds, ready to burst.

Another busy time, with seed sowing and pricking out, taking greenwood cuttings, pruning the apple and cider apple trees and trimming up the willow. The raised beds in the walled garden have been repaired, weeded and the paths were mulched with wood chip. The new raised beds outside of the polytunnel in the walled garden have also been planted up.

The refurbished beds outside the dormitories have now been replanted. Compost mixing, repotting and weeding are all picking up speed. We've mown the lawns in the walled garden with Year 10 boys getting excited about the opportunity to use machinery.

Assessments continue for Year 10 and 11 students to enable them to gain their Horticultural Skills Qualification. The verifier visited the last few days of term.

Year 9 students have been to see the Walled Garden and greenhouses at Cannington and enjoyed experiencing the different climates. They have also been to see the walled garden at Knightshayes Court, near Tiverton, Devon. They were given an excellent guided tour by the Head Gardener, Ed, whose brother came to Brymore a number of years ago.

Thank you for all the support at our stall on a weekly basis (outside of the LRC) and also on special occasions like Lambing Day. Also, a very big thank you to FoBSA who are funding the purchase of three picnic benches to replace wooden ones which need considerable repair.

In class we have looked at seed sowing and raising lettuce and potato crops with Year 7s, finished the topic 'Conservation' with Year 8s, and also completed life cycles, seeds and seed production and methods of asexual reproduction with Year 9s. Year 10s have been learning about soil science, as well as completing their land based mock exam and the actual synoptic assessment, which goes towards their final grade.

Once again, the Team have done amazing things, worked hard and enabled boys to cultivate, till and maintain their own plots. The HoDs have supported in a very mature manner and been an invaluable help in Garden Duties and boys on Friday Activities are regularly putting out the Sales Trolley. Thank you, boys.

Many thanks, especially to Mrs Franks, Mrs Osborne and Mrs Stanley for all their work above and beyond and to you for your continued support. (Mr Willcocks)





## World Book Day 2022

World Book Day was on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March this year and a huge number of boys opted to dress up (along with most of the staff) - a great deal of fun was had by all. The boys were given time in lessons throughout the day to either read or take part in a variety of book related activities. A prize was awarded to the best costume in each year and these went to Oliver Haggett in Year 7, Ben Sawyer in Year 8 and Corey Broadey in Year 9. A special mention to Toby Lee in Year 10 and Tobias Price in Year 11 who also fully embraced the day by dressing up. (Mrs Popham and Mrs Rogers)



## Shakespeare comes alive

*The new actor said "Macbeth" aloud. He's been Bard.*

Year 11 and Year 8 have had the pleasure of having a travelling theatre company come into school to workshop and perform two different Shakespeare plays, to support their understanding and enjoyment of these wonderful texts. Year 11 had the Young Shakespeare Company perform Macbeth to develop their knowledge of the play, its themes and characters in preparation for their GCSE exams in a few short weeks. The boys were, of course, a credit to the Academy and sat enthralled at the live action in front of them. One boy commented 'This really helps me to understand the motivation of the characters, I'm sure this is going to help with my GCSE's'.

Year 8s had another touring company come in and workshop with them on Romeo and Juliet. Students were encouraged to participate and there were many pertinent questions being asked - 'What's in a name' for example! Again the boys were enthused and many commented that they wanted to see more live theatre - something the English department has taken note of and will certainly be encouraging! (Mrs Rogers)



## Reading Rewards

There were 91 boys who had successfully reached 33% of their target or above by the end of the Autumn Term. These students were invited to have an afternoon out of school and go bowling in Taunton. These boys showed Brymore at its very best and did not only themselves but school proud.

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. (Mrs Popham and Mrs Rogers)



## Sports

Year 11 have played their final match under the lights at North Petherton. As usual boys acquitted themselves with Brymore ethos and stuck to the end demonstrating the RFU TREDs values throughout. They have come out of a tough two years and have performed well over the season (even though results may have said differently) but they have also been against some of the best schools in the County. We hope that they continue training up to Leavers Service in order to gain their all important Colours ties and continue to take their rugby into their futures.

House rugby has happened for all year groups with the final of KS4 being played out on the last Friday of the term with **Galsworthy** taking the title this year.

We also held the House 7 tournaments during Friday activities and every age group had a team playing in this.

With the kind support of the site team and Dr Grant, we have attended several inclusive sports events including Boccia, Table Cricket and pentathlon.

## Lambing Day

The rain stepped to one side and allowed the glorious spring sunshine to emerge just in time for our lambing event. We last held one a few weeks before the first lockdown in 2020, so it was great to be able to welcome the public back to the farm. They came in their droves with over 3,000 people attending the event and seeing the newborns. The farm team, staff volunteers, site team, the FoBSA crew and the boys who helped out-did themselves on the day and worked like trojan horses to make this a success. With blacksmithing on display, numerous stalls and food on offer, along with lots of farm animals and some machinery to see, the public truly enjoyed themselves and the feedback has been nothing but praise for the school and students. Thank you to everyone that came and supported but a bigger thank you to our glorious Farm team and the Site team for their determination to make it happen, to the volunteers (both staff and parents) and especially the boys who didn't let us down for one second. Now we look ahead to our Country Fair in June where we do it on an even bigger scale and open up the whole school! (Ms Warren)



Cross Country wise we have had a number of races including winning the Kings Trophy at Neroche Forest, as a team, and again this was strongly supported by the Year 11 boys.

We have more than 20 boys competing in the athletics combined events in the first week back after Easter and we will start athletics on the field at lunchtimes and after school.

We have some cricket matches booked in for after the holiday and cricket practice will resume for all years after school too.

The swimming pool is open and we will have an official opening after the Easter break along with a Key Stage 4 swimming gala (the summer one for Years 7-10 will happen as normal in July). (Mr Williams)



## FOBSA

It's been great being able to have some of the main events again this term in person after so long and lovely to see how well the school is doing. Lambing Day was our main fundraiser this term followed with a Bingo Night and the Rugby House Finals/Chads Walk (or run for the brave!). We are very aware that some of these activities are new to Year 7, 8 and 9 parents following the Covid disruptions, please keep an eye out for the school notifications and FoBSA posts for information.

FoBSA is the Friends of Brymore School Association who fund raise to directly support the boys. Departments in the school are able to request items which enhance the boys education but wouldn't typically be covered in the school budget. Examples include financing the Educake program for the science department, buying calculators for the maths department, a large donation towards Activities Week and this term we will be purchasing three benches for the horticulture department costing £1,800.

FoBSA also run second hand uniform sales - these are donated items of clothing and footwear from parents and can be bought directly at some of the school events. Alternatively, there is a dedicated Facebook page called 'FoBSA Second Hand Uniform for Sale'. Donations can be left with committee members or in the main School Office.

Lambing Day - Freda (the Trust's food van) had a deep Spring clean and long awaited outing and we were able to serve hot pasties, sausage rolls and chips. Other refreshments and cakes were provided and FoBSA stalls included a tombola, tractor rides, treasure hunt, lolly pick and Name the Lamb. Thank you for your patience with the big queues at lunch time.

The weather was kind and the event was very well supported. The day was really successful with a profit of £770.14 to go towards the FoBSA funds.

Bingo - The evening was again very well supported with staff, parents, local residents and boarders, despite traffic problems causing a late start and people not able to reach the school. Mrs Mattocks was the caller for the evening doing an amazing job without a microphone. As always, we had some fantastic donations of cakes, bingo biscuits, bingo and raffle prizes and made a profit of £510.25. The bingo biscuits were very tasty! Some of the students did a brilliant job helping with refreshments and selling tickets.

Rugby House Finals - FoBSA provided refreshments and hot food after the Chads Walk/Run from Freda.

Looking Ahead - Next term will include Sports Day and Leavers Service, Open Day, finishing with the Swimming Gala.

FoBSA would like to pass on our massive thanks to everyone who supports us with the fundraising activities financially, with donations or with their time before, during and after events. It really is appreciated and is a massive benefit directly to the boys either through resources or money towards activities week. A special thanks also needs to go to the Estates team for their help and to the team of boys who volunteer to help with fund raising and sales.

FoBSA will be running a sunflower growing competition this year. Entry forms and 5 'Titan' seeds will cost £2. Entries are open to all, not just Brymore boys, so the whole family can take part. We will need a height measurement and a photo of the entrant stood next to the sunflower, taken the weekend before the end of the summer holidays. All instructions on growing and the competition itself will be included with the entry form. Anyone wanting to enter, please contact [fobsachair@gmail.com](mailto:fobsachair@gmail.com) or direct message through the FoBSA Facebook page. Seeds and entry forms can be posted but will have a postage charge added.

For all FoBSA events donations of cakes, raffle and tombola prizes are always needed, buying these items takes away from the money we can raise directly for the boys. Donations can be given to committee members, left at the main office or brought in on the day. Anyone interested in joining the committee or helping with any of the events is very welcome. We have some key members stepping down this year whose support will be very missed. We would like to extend a special thank you to Mr Barber who stepped down as Co-Chair last term - he has been involved with FoBSA throughout the time his son has been at Brymore. There is a dedicated website <https://fobsa.org.uk/>, FoBSA (Friends of Brymore School) page on Facebook or you can email the Chairs direct - [fobsachair@gmail.com](mailto:fobsachair@gmail.com) Keep an eye out for the date of our next meeting which we are planning for next term.



## Farm

### Sheep

Lambing 2022 has now finished and considering that there was no sponging involved, we were finished within the month which was a relief. We had a finished lambing percentage of 175% which was actually pretty close to the scanned percentage of 174!

Ewes and lambs are now out to grass and doing well and hopefully the cold spell forecast will be short lived. We recently hosted approximately 3,000 members of the public to our Lambing Day. The whole day went swimmingly due to the hard work of the staff and boys.

### Dairy

Cows are milking well and now enjoying their daytime out to grass. The weather needs to warm up a bit before the grass can keep up with them day and night but thankfully we do have plenty of silage left over.

The relationship between Barbers Cheese and Brymore is going well, and we are doing well from a much higher milk price than we have had from the liquid market in recent years.

We are exploring ways in which Barbers and Brymore can work closer in other areas such as work experience or work placements after school.

### Poultry

Unfortunately the birds are still under house arrest due to the bird flu. We were lucky enough to buy a new chicken house back in the Autumn which we haven't been able to try out yet. Maybe bird flu is something that the sector might have to learn to live with in the future.

### Other

Some of the boys are now helping with the Spring field work, rolling and harrowing which they are enjoying. Fence repairs are also happening due to some dead elms falling on fences during the recent storms. (Mr Kingston)



Free  
Entry



## 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!




Brymore Academy, Cannington, TA5 2NB  
01278 652369 www.brymoreacademy.co.uk









## Brymore Lottery

1<sup>st</sup> Prize (£40) Ms Helene Moore // 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (£25) Mr S Osborne // 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (£15) Mr BJ Living



## Weekend Activities

<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b> Timewarp Arcade Bridgwater 6.15pm - 8.45pm £7.50 Miss Helps		<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b> Beach walk and foot- ball Burnham Beach 2pm - 5pm £2 Mr Ashton	
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b> Skate Park Apex Park, Burnham on Sea 5.30pm - 9pm £1 plus spending money Miss Helps		<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Margarets Hospice Colour Run Taunton 9am - 3pm £13 Ms Hoogenboom	
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b> Cinema Bridgwater TBC £7.50 Miss Helps		<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b> Bubble Football Taunton 2pm - 5pm £33 Miss Eastham	

## Message from the Head Boy

For us Year 11s, the academic year is drawing to a close and so our time at Brymore is almost up. I'd like to thank all the prefects and senior prefects for the hard work and effort they have contributed over the past year. This half term has consisted of the usual revision, mock exams and our last rugby training and matches of the season, closing with a final match for Year 11 against North Petherton rugby club, to which we unfortunately lost. Even so, an amazing effort from the whole team throughout the year and to have the support of many younger boys at our final match was a tradition well-kept for the senior team.

With the pool opening on the last week of April (for the first time in four years) we are all keen to experience the luxury of the newly added heated system and begin practice for the upcoming events.

A group left early on Saturday morning to depart upon our well looked forward to ski trip, to Austria. We hope to put our dry slope lessons to the test, and all return undamaged and with a collection of good memories to share.

The selection process for the new Head Boy begins after the Easter break and so I wish all candidates very good luck and am sure that the Senior Student Leadership Team next year will be one to remember.

With the athletic and cricket seasons approaching many competitions have been planned and entered and practices will begin on the first day of our return, hoping for a very successful year from Brymore with hopefully some more boys qualifying to compete for Somerset.

As GCSE's are fast approaching, I urge Year 11 to revise this holiday but don't let it consume you and have breaks every now and again. More importantly enjoy our last half term at Brymore because it'll go fast, just as the past five years have. Before you know it, you'll be somewhere else! So good luck and have fun. (George Jones)

## Careers

This term as part of National Careers Week, Year 9 and 10 had workshops with HPC Inspire and Willmott Dixon. The boys were challenged to consider careers within the energy and construction sectors, and design a school of the future.

65% of our pupils will have jobs in the future that don't yet exist - so getting them to think about the growth of digital literacy, automation and artificial intelligence is an essential part of ensuring they understand the importance of building transferrable skills.

Years 9, 10 and 11 were invited to attend our Goals and Aspirations careers fair where higher and further education institutions and local training providers showcased their post 18 offer, and were available for parents and students to answer questions about different pathway options.

We also challenged stereotypical job profiles through a Careers Breakfast with Farrier, Lisa Collins. These smaller scale careers events are designed for students who are specifically interested in learning more about the career of a visiting professional. Lisa gave the boys a chance to construct the lower part of a horse's leg and hoof with bones, feel the different weight of horse shoes including the latest plastic designs, and talk through her mobile forge set-up and discuss the essential skills and training requirements of her job.

Personal Guidance meetings continue to run for any boy who would like advice, and our new Careers Corner in the main teaching block has an array of careers literature available for the boys. We hope our careers education helps the boys to reflect on their ambitions, interests, strengths and abilities, and to have a greater understanding about career options, the labour market and employment. (Mrs Lewis)

## Forest School

Spring has seen the woods bloom into life, with daffodils as far as the eyes can see.

There has been lots of hard work getting the trees pruned and chopped back after Storm Eunice, clearing the ditch to assist with water flow through the site, as well as working on clearing the bike track ready for the boys to enjoy mountain biking again. (Ms Carter)





# House Reading Competition

Well, what a busy few weeks we have had with regards to reading across the whole of Key Stage 3. With Readathon, World Book Day, Reading Royalty and reward trips, this past term has been filled with celebrating the fulfilment of reading.

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
15,252,049	20,255,407	22,388,057

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:

Rory Campbell, Frederick Lowth, Elijah Thomas and Leon-Jack Williams

## Year 8:

Samuel Findlay, Eric Pickering and Harry Stamp

## Year 9:

Feliks Poskus, Ryan Walls and Logan Winter

We now also have five word millionaires:

Eric Pickering has read a huge 1,871,967 words,  
Harry Thorn has completed 1,140,142 words,  
Ollie Scott has also completed 1,127,949 words,  
Carlos Machadinha has read 1,108,995 words and  
Ryan Walls has currently achieved 1,046,063 words.

And congratulations to the following boys as we now have two word multi-millionaires:

Ben Sawyer has now reached an incredible 2,120,352 words and storming ahead with an outstanding 4,049,436 words is Ethan Wright.

Incredible work boys, well done and keep up the good work!

The top performing class across Key Stage 3 continues to be Year 7 set 3, who are reading an average of 27 minutes a day and have passed an outstanding 1,820 quizzes.

## Readathon and Reading Royalty:

Alongside World Book Day this year we also held our annual sponsored Readathon challenge, where students were encouraged to set their own target to read as much as possible between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022. As a reminder, the money raised is now due so that we can send it off to the 'Read for Good' charity.

In addition to this, the top 50 boys in Key Stage 3 who read the most words in their ZPD during that time have also become Reading Royalty, earning one of our prestigious Animal Farm badges - this year it was Benjamin the Donkey. The boys are so proud of their badges and are extremely keen to explain how they received them - well done boys! (Mrs Popham)

For any information on reading please contact me at: clare.popham@brymoreacademy.co.uk

## 2021/22 Upcoming Important Dates

### Summer Term

#### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> April**

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

#### **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

11.30 am - 1.00 pm

#### ***PLEASE NOTE CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER DETAILS***

Swimming Gala for Years 10 & 11

*(Parents invited from 11.15 am - letter to follow)*

1.15 pm

All students depart for May Day Bank Holiday weekend

#### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> May**

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

#### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

8.30 am All out-boarders arrive as normal  
11.30 am Year 11 Leavers Service  
1.30 pm Sports Day  
3.45 pm Students depart for summer half-term

#### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

6.00 pm - 9.00 pm All boarders return

#### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

8.30 am All out-boarders return

#### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

10.30 am - 5.00 pm Open Day and Country Fair

#### **4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July**

Work Experience Week (Year 10)

#### **11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Activities Week

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

8.30 am All out-boarders arrive as normal  
10.30 am Swimming Gala (Years 7-10)  
12.00 pm All students depart for summer holidays

#### **CONTACT**

Brymore Academy, Brymore Way, Cannington, Bridgwater,  
Somerset TA5 2NB

T: (01278) 652369 F: (01278) 653244

E: office@brymoreacademy.co.uk