

## Newsletter

July 2023

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

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*Diligentia et Labore*



## Message from the Headteacher

At the end of another busy year I am always humbled by the effort put in by so many staff who ensure that the boys really do get the experience they deserve at Brymore. Just reading this newsletter gives a flavour of the rich and varied programme of activities, trips, visits and events that are on offer to the boys. Sometimes it is difficult to remember that we are also a school, and that the staff also spend many hours planning and delivering lessons, revision classes, catch-up interventions, as well as the numerous support sessions where staff work with boys both individually and in small groups. What makes Brymore so unique is that it is the staff body as a whole that makes this happen, from the office and site staff, to the boarding staff, teachers and support staff. I regularly say how proud I am of the boys, but I am also incredibly proud to lead such a dedicated staff team.

I would like to wish the outgoing Year 11 all the best not only with their exam results, but also with their new life beyond Brymore. The last few weeks are always intense, as the boys spend six plus hours a day completing exams and revision sessions, with very little chance to have a break. They responded to the pressures really well and I am confident their exam results will reflect the effort that they put in. For most, whatever the outcome, they can certainly feel proud that they gave it everything. I would also like to welcome the new Year 7's who are due to start in September. As I said on the induction days, you really do get out of Brymore what you put in.

Of course, this last term we have also had the added pressure of the Ofsted boarding inspection, where we continue to be graded as good. They reported that 'boarding has a hugely positive impact on the students' and, as is always the case, they commented on the positive behaviour of the boys. Thank you to all those parents who completed the survey, and I am pleased that 93% of parents said they would recommend the school. Whilst this is exceptionally high compared to most schools, indeed it is one of the highest percentages I have seen. I am mindful that there are clearly some areas we need to work on to ensure all boys, and all parents, feel that they are getting the best experience possible.

Sadly, we had to postpone the swimming gala and the end of year awards presentation on the last day of term. I think this is only the second time (other than Covid) we have postponed anything, but I was worried about having 400+ boys and parents surrounding a body of water, under a group of trees, during an electrical storm. However, it has only been postponed and the plan is to hold both on the afternoon on the first Friday back in September. I realise this is not ideal for the parents of full-time boarders, and those that cannot take time off work, however we have such a busy calendar that this is the only time we can do it. We intend to finish the day with the Hog Roast for Year 7 parents as we usually do.

Thank you once again to all the parents who have continued to support us this year. Whether that is through attending meetings and supporting your son individually, attending our key events or through volunteering with FoBSA. Your support always makes a huge difference to the boys. I really do hope that you are all able to re-connect and spend some quality time together as a family over the summer holidays, and I look forward to seeing you all back again for the start of term in September.



## Boarding

We have come to the end of another busy year in boarding which seems to have passed very quickly, with the Year 7s now well and truly settled into Brymore life, and saying goodbye to the Year 11s after their last exam.

What a busy term we had. We welcomed the Year 6's on our Induction Days showing them what they can expect when at Brymore, and they certainly had lots of fun and really enjoyed their taste of Brymore life. The boarding houses were full of new boys and our existing boys were tremendously welcoming and supportive. We hope the new boys have a lovely summer and really look forward to you starting properly in September.

Alongside Induction we had our Year 10s out doing their Work Experience as well as Year 11s finishing their exams. We wish our leaving Year 11s the very best moving forwards into their chosen pathways. At the same time as Induction and Work Experience many boys moved dorms and houses in preparation for the September arrangements, to allow them to become used to their new surroundings, staff and dorm mates.

Open Day was a huge success and this was largely down to the boys representing their school with their normal pride and enthusiasm. Well done boys! You can be very proud of your efforts. FoBSA were excellent and helped to make it one of our best ever days too.

This year, more than ever, there was a huge push and focus on supporting others outside of the Brymore community, with the ongoing efforts of each house raising funds for their house charities. With the end of another year almost complete, each house has counted up their totals and an incredible £3,500 has been raised for farming charities over all three houses!

School House has done especially well, making the most of their location and the facilities for selling waffles and desserts during Lambing and Open Day. This, together with a tuck

raffle and an in-house dessert night, has raised £1,466 for their charity 'The Farming Community Network'. This is a charity whose emphasis is supporting the farming community whether that be either personal or business related.

Reid House's fund raising speciality was Miss Johnson's indulgent milkshakes, with a number of flavours available and topped with whipped cream! These milkshakes were a regular feature of a Thursday evening and available for anyone to buy from any house. Overall, Reid House have raised £1,200 for their charity.

Kemp House asked their boys to do something for sponsorship to encourage them to get behind their charity 'Forage Aid'. A number of boys did something independently, getting family and friends to sponsor them, ranging from sporting activities to chores. Mrs Webb also gained some sponsorship of her own after she embarked on a Chads run that also involved a 'guess the time' of her personal Chads. She had a number of Kemp boys who ran with her, encouraging her not to stop and she finished with an overall time of 18.28. She was exhausted at the completion of it, but also with a newfound respect for the boys who run it so regularly!

Alongside all the normal busyness of the summer term, both staff and boys embraced the extra challenge and pressure of steering the school through their Ofsted boarding inspection, showing the inspectors the great opportunities and support that all boys receive within the boarding environment. The inspectors were glowing about the boys and their enthusiasm towards the school and their boarding houses, which was reflected in the feedback and report written by them. Well done to all the boys and staff for their continued efforts to make boarding the best experience possible.

The summer holidays gives everyone a chance to relax and enjoy time with their loved ones. Enjoy the holidays and come back full of renewed energy for another amazing year at Brymore. (Mr Watts)



## Farm

What a busy time we've had on the farm recently - Devon County and Royal Bath & West Shows and on both occasions, coming back with rosettes and some extra knowledge. The boys were complimented by all they helped. The judge and his wife from the Royal Bath & West, sent an email to Mr Thomas, overwhelmed by the manners and behaviour of the boys.

Then there was the build up to Open Day. Boys washing, clipping and grooming their animals ready for the big day. Lots of shampoo was used! Our Beef Shorthorn herd and hens were also on show. Mole Valley, BLM, YFC, John Deere and other stalls were on the farm and a special thank you to the ladies doing wool spinning demonstrations. The farm shop virtually sold out of our famous sausages, lamb and pork and we are looking forward to having a range of meat available in the autumn, including the very popular Beef Boxes. Without mentioning the "C" word we will also be welcoming the turkeys on site during the summer. Contact us if you are interested in any produce.

The boys showed the animals as true stockman with the following results:

### **Dairy Cows:**

1<sup>st</sup> Abe Tinney

### **Heifer Calves:**

1<sup>st</sup> Charlie Hector

### **Steer Calves:**

1<sup>st</sup> Reuben Edmondston-Low

### **Maiden Heifer:**

1<sup>st</sup> Ronan Marshall

### **Ewes:**

1<sup>st</sup> Rory Campbell

### **Lambs:**

1<sup>st</sup> Harry Stamp

### **Rams:**

1<sup>st</sup> Olly Newham



### **Supreme Championship:**

Champion C Hector / Reserve H Stamp

The week leading up to Open Day we sadly said goodbye to our Year 11 boys, a few of them drove their tractors down the drive on their final farewell, Mr Kingston was definitely a little bit jealous of the tractors, especially the Ford.

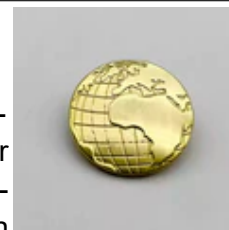
The Year 9 boys have done very well in their City and Guilds Level 2 in Agri. The external moderation went well and are happy to award the boys the grades they have worked so hard to achieve.

Dairy cows are still coming in twice a day for milking, this will continue for a few more weeks. Then they will be dried off before they calf and it starts all over again. Meanwhile, the rest of the stock are out enjoying the sunshine.

Hay making has started and we will continue to make sure we have enough feed for the winter months. We hope all of the students have a fantastic summer holiday, stay safe and will look forward to seeing you all in September. (Miss Nicholls)

## Geography Badges

From September 2023 onwards, boys will have the opportunity to earn a much-coveted geography badge based on their geographical prowess. The criterion for the award of each badge is unapologetically challenging and aims to build ambition and aspiration in all our boys. Badge holders will be offered the chance in the future to partake in a residential geographical adventure of their own choosing, so the chance to do something really exciting is down to them! This initiative was inspired by the boys themselves so we encourage them to look beyond the horizon. (Mr Ellis)



## FoBSA

FoBSA has been really busy this last term and we want to say a massive thanks to everyone who has supported us, the School, the Boys, Parents and Guardians. We supported the boys this year with calculators, PE changing room Wall Art, Recycling Bins, Duke of Edinburgh equipment and Activity Week for a total of £7,600. The final term we supported House Rugby and Sports Day which was a really well attended event and raised £1,000.



Open Day is the biggest fundraiser of the year for FoBSA. All can relate to how busy the day was, being well attended by families and the community. A special thank you to the parents who volunteered an hour or two to help us reduce the queues to the barbecue, the food van and to all the other stalls such as Refreshments, Tombola, Uniforms and Adopt a Teddy. We also wish to thank the boys who helped us enormously, they were fantastic. The strawberries, donated by Osborne Farming Ltd from Curry Mallet, were very much appreciated by the visitors, although we ran out fairly early. Our apologies for running out of drinks in the afternoon too. It was indeed a hot day and we were taken by surprise by the number of visitors! Altogether, we raised £6,850, which is amazing and will help us support activity week for next year.

All year, Linda and Becky have been looking after the preloved uniform and have done an amazing job as they have raised about £2,800. Well done Linda and Becky and thank you so much for your hard work. Donations of uniforms are welcome throughout the year. Just leave them with Reception. Should you wish to buy some uniform, please contact the designated Facebook page called 'FoBSA 2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniform for sale' where you can message directly. We will be holding our AGM in the afternoon on 29th September 2023 around school pick up time - exact time will be confirmed in September. Should anyone like to join the committee and get more involved you are very welcome. Please contact either Gina or Nathalie at [fobsachair@gmail.com](mailto:fobsachair@gmail.com)

To raise such amount of money (around £18k this year), we need a strong team and a lot of organisation. Whether you are local or not, you can support. We

## Sports Day

The sun shone on our annual Sports Day as boys took part in everything from triple jump to the relay race. Scores of students, staff and parents shouted their house representatives home during races and clapped from the side-lines during the field events. Another great Brymore event was done for another year when Taylor house lifted the coveted trophy. Thanks go to Mr Williams and Mr Spridgens for organising the afternoon. (Ms Warren)





# Duke of Edinburgh

At the beginning of the year we re-launched the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award at Brymore Academy, something that has not been offered here for over 10 years. As the year draws to a close, we are exceptionally proud of our first cohort of Year 9s and 10s being signed off and ready to receive their Bronze Award, something which represents self-motivation, dedication and hard work.

Students have had to commit to a minimum of one hour per week for three months to each of the following: volunteering in their local community; developing a skill of their choice; and participating in a physical activity. They have also had to choose one of these to continue with for an additional three months. Whilst doing this, they have had to collect and upload evidence and assessors reports for all sections, as well as planning and completing a two-day, one night expedition. Consequently, these students have broadened their horizons, learnt new things and skills, made new friends, pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and acquired an internationally recognised award, highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers. Congratulations to: Richard Criddle, Reuben Edmondson-Low, Sam Findlay, Liam Galley, William Greville, Seth Hamilton, Harry Horn, Samuel Isaacs, Leo Kerr, Jack Morrison, Nathan Moseley, Heath Munday, Max Osborne, Alfie Parsons, Silas Pudge, Oscar Warren, Alex Warton-Browne and Joe Williams.

For the academic year 2023/24 we will again be offering the Bronze Award to all students in Year 9 and 10, with a view to then offering Bronze in Year 9 and Silver in Year 10. The boys have had an assembly explaining everything involved and the relevant letter and application form have been sent home via MyEd and Satchel One. If anyone who has already completed the Bronze award and is interested in progressing to Silver, they need to send Mrs Taylor-Lane a message expressing their interest on the Duke of Edinburgh Microsoft Team. The D of E team have had a fantastic time working with the boys this year and are excited to see who signs up for next year. All applications for Bronze award are due by 22nd September. (Mrs Taylor-Lane)





# Horticulture

In a year whereby each half term has felt like its own mini year, I'm pleased to say that all intended projects for this year have been completed, with a few extra added in too! The boys are equally as pleased, and rightly so, as they have played a major role in these projects and will watch the beds and borders mature as they grow through the school.

Open Day was a great opportunity to show off these projects and it was heartening to stand by the entrance and listen to the gasps of awe and amazement as guests were greeted by the new herb garden on the left, the growing squash and pumpkin patch on the right, and the wildlife pond next to the cut flower garden alongside the new insect hotel.

The wildlife pond has flourished and is now home to adult toads, developing frogs hatched from spawn and a variety of water boatmen, pond skaters and pond beetles. Spotted breeding recently have been two varieties of dragonflies: the Broad Bodied Chaser and the Emperor and countless damselflies. The water lilies and surrounding flag iris have also taken off and now provide a lovely home for all that wildlife. Well done Year 9 - this was your project and you did it amazingly well.

Our new compost bays were admired by many visiting gardeners on Open Day who were impressed with the construction, and also the speed, of the composting process. Bay 4 is ready for a summer's heat and will be turned over into bay 5 during the first week returning in September. I envisage it being ready for spreading on borders in the autumn - not bad for something considered 'waste'! Year 8 constructed both bays, the closed fronted and open fronted systems, and should be very pleased with their efforts. However, I think the most surprising project of all has been the undertaking of tackling the borders by the swimming pool. This was a combined effort from all year groups and whilst the three house beds on the slope was an intended project for this year, and started in the autumn, I didn't expect to be able to focus on the twin beds by the steps until next year. A combination of good weather, energetic students and plants ready to be put in

the ground meant all systems were go - and what a transformation!

Planning is now afoot for next year's projects which will continue to enhance the aesthetics of the school whilst providing the boys with an insight to the world and possible careers in Horticulture. (Mr Namum)



## Senior Student Leadership Team

After the Easter break we set out on appointing a new Head Boy, Deputy Head Boys, Assistant Head Boys and prefects. Every year the competition for the top senior position within the school becomes fiercer. This year was no different and we make every effort to ensure boys have an opportunity to help run the school and shape the years ahead through their participation on the Senior Student Leadership Team. The boys who applied were put through their paces during a thorough selection process which included a presentation to the whole school and a nerve-wracking interview with members of the Senior Leadership Team and the outgoing Head Boy. All of the applicants, displayed courage and dignity throughout the process which was designed to challenge all the boys at the highest level.

During the deliberations the school selected Oscar Warren to be Head Boy, Deputy Head Boys - Tommy Bailey and Liam Hector, along with Assistant Head Boys - Freddie Farrance, Olly Newham and Ross Wills.

Congratulations to these boys and also the new Senior Prefects and Prefects that have been appointed. (Mrs Taylor-Lane)

## Staff Award Winner!

Our very own Mrs Stanley was quite rightly recognised for her many skills and was presented with the *2023 Farm or Garden Leader of the Year Award* by the School Farms Network.

It is a thoroughly deserved award, not only for all of the work Mrs Stanley does within Brymore (she never stops), but also in ensuring our links with the local community of Cannington remain intact, and she has been a pivotal cog in the running of Cannington in Bloom. At the time of writing, she was ensuring the beds of borders of Brymore are pristine to welcome the Britain in Bloom assessors into our grounds for judging. (Mr Naum)

## Message from the Head Boy

As this academic year comes to an end we have had some important days and challenges that the boys had to face and, I'm sure, have all done very well. This includes Sports Day, which I'm sure, every boy that took part in tried their absolute best to help win points for their house, along with reading lots to earn points, behaving well in lessons and the end of year biathlon run by Mr Williams. The Year 10 boys have also had their end of year mock exams and most of them (if not all) tried their absolute hardest to get the best grade they could. It was a good start for us all to learn revision techniques and what sitting the exams next year will truly feel like. Unfortunately, our swimming gala was postponed until September, the same with our end of year award ceremony but I'm sure both will still be a great success and boys will gain any rewards they have worked for, when it is held. So to end, well done boys for this year and get a well deserved rest but be ready to come back and work hard and enjoy the next academic year ahead of us. (Oscar Warren)





## Boarding House Charities

With the end of another year almost complete each house has counted up their totals and an incredible £3,449.47 has been raised for farming charities over all three houses!!

School House has done especially well, making the most of their location and the facilities for selling waffles and desserts during Lambing and Open Day. They sold their delicious and calorie laden treats from the School House kitchen window led by Ms Hoogenboom and a team of boys and volunteers. Tables were scattered under the trees in the garden area and people were able to enjoy a variety of desserts throughout the day. This, together with a tuck raffle, and an in-house dessert night, has raised £1,300 for their charity 'The Farming Community Network'. This is a charity whose emphasis is supporting the farming community whether that be either personal or business related. They completed their charity events with a recent stall at Armed Forces Day where more waffles were sold. Their overall total is £1,466.53

Similarly, Reid House's Charity 'Yellow Wellies' is a charity that is promoting the physical and mental wellbeing of the up and coming generation of young farmers. It aims to challenge and change the attitude towards risk taking behaviours, thus reducing the number of life ending or life changing injuries among farmers.

Reid House's fund raising speciality was Miss Johnson's indulgent milkshakes with a number of flavours available and topped with whipped cream! These milkshakes were a regular feature of a Thursday evening and available for anyone to buy from any house. They were also sometimes accompanied by cake or sausage rolls to purchase. Alongside her trademark milkshakes, Miss Johnson also arranged a 'Guess the Sweets in the Jar' and raffles that included sweets, chocolate and gardening equipment. Overall, Reid House raised £1,005.13 for their charity but they were intending to fundraise until the final day, hoping to increase this amount closer to £1,200.

Kemp House, not wanting to prevent their own boys from being able to indulge in calories and the opportunity to spoil themselves, had a number of doughnut with ice cream and sauce evenings, together with pancake night as another alternative (although still served with ice cream and a variety of sauces).

They also asked their boys to do something for sponsorship to encourage them to get behind their charity 'Forage Aid'. A number of boys did something independently, getting family and friends to sponsor them, ranging from sporting activities to chores. Some also embarked on work where the pay went to the charity as opposed to them personally. Mrs Webb also gained some sponsorship of her own after she embarked on a Chads run that also involved a 'guess the time' of her personal Chads. She had a number of Kemp boys who ran with her encouraging her not to stop and she finished with an overall time of 18.28. She was exhausted at the completion of it, but also with a newfound respect for the boys who run it so regularly!

This together with money raised from the dessert nights and Mrs Webb's constant supply of ice poles throughout the Summer, Kemp House raised £977.81 for their charity 'Forage Aid'. This charity co-ordinates the goodwill of the agricultural community and provides financial and practical support to farms hit by extreme weather or Acts of God. (Mrs Webb)

## Brymore Lottery

Look out on MyEd for a message coming out shortly with instructions on how to join 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. For further information please email:

[lisa.nash@brymoreacademy.co.uk](mailto:lisa.nash@brymoreacademy.co.uk)

The winners for this half-term are:

1st £40 M & E Yeandle

2nd £25 Mr C Nicoll

3rd £15 TJ & G Ballard

## Sports News

Despite it being the summer, we still played some rugby as Year 8s had a match at Taunton Academy and our Year 9 boys reached the finals of the National Touch Rugby tournament at Sixways Stadium. Summer sports have been plentiful with over 20 cricket matches taking place, including house matches within the school. Our Year 7 cricket team reached the County Finals due to be played at Somerset County Cricket Club in September (so hopefully those boys are all practicing their bowling and batting over the holidays!).

We have attended a lot of athletics tournaments including the Exeter Open, Schools Cup at Millfield, Yeovil Open along with the Somerset Combined Events, Somerset AA Championships and Somerset Schools Championships. We have five boys with their County vests: Tommy Bailey, Will Bennett, Leo Kerr, Archie Kidner and Ben Sawyer, with Will and Ben off to the English School Combined Events and Racewalking Championships in September.



Sports Leaders have supported the school in running a number of events including the Primary Area Sports Championships, Nether Stowey Triathlon and the Somerset Cricket Foundation's MLD Cricket Festival - their help has been invaluable and I thank them all.

Please keep an eye out for the rugby letter coming out soon with key information on selection, training and ethos and please note matches start the second week back and will be listed on the parent bulletin every week (subject to change as is the nature of schools sports).

We are missing some lost kit and please request you check at home (see picture), particularly the athletic vests which we need returning as soon as possible please.



Sports Day went very well and we are grateful to all the parents for their support and we look forward to holding the Swimming Gala in September. (Mr Williams)

## Forest School

It has been a busy year in Forest School. We started the year with a trip to Steart Marshes, the local WWT reserve. The boys enjoyed learning about the saltmarshes and what is being done locally to support in the fight against rising sea levels.

Onsite, the boys have been busy creating new habitats for hedgehogs and insects; we have been building woodpiles and leaf mounds.

There has also been ground clearing so that we are able to plant some native trees in the woods.

All Year 7 groups have been making mallets which they enjoyed, some made whistles as well, but they require a lot of patience and resilience!

The favourite part of most sessions is the hot chocolate and marshmallows.

### Help needed!!

We have constructed another working area for Forest School, and I am hoping that we can start to use it in the Autumn term; however, I am in need of some stumps to be dug into the ground as seats/workspaces. Please contact me if you are able to offer any help with this. (Ms Carter)





## Activities Week

Boys enjoyed a final week of activities as they headed off to Go Ape, Longleat, Crealy, Blean and many more places. Our Year 9 boys took part in the Quantick Challenge helping their navigational skills and teamworking by navigating the Quantocks. Year 10 had the opportunity for a whistlestop tour of London taking in all the sights and having a ride on the London Eye. The final day was spent onsite, slightly amended due to the weather, which everyone found very enjoyable. Thanks to FoBSA for giving the school £6,000 to help fund the week and make it more affordable to families. (Mrs Roberts)



## Country Fair

We had wonderful sunshine for our busiest Country Fair ever and it truly was a magnificent day from our point of view. It is always a huge day to organise and this year was no different for me, but I feel privileged that I get to be the small cog pulling it all together as everyone has such an enjoyable day. We heard earlier in the newsletter about the showing, and I am always appreciative of the various teams around the site who pull together to make this a successful day and that includes the farm, site, PE and horticulture departments. The site team in particular do a sterling job in parking everyone and helping set up around the school in the weeks before and FoBSA are great at helping provide the masses with refreshments - so my personal thanks to them. We look forward to next year with excitement and can only hope it tops this year! (Ms Warren)





## Leavers Service

As a school we do our Leavers Service slightly differently to other state schools and we do go all out to give the boys a send off fitting for a Brymore boy. As with every year, it's emotional for staff, parents and boys in many ways and we all feel great pride in watching those deserving of awards achieving them. The boys will, no doubt, go on and flourish and we look forward to welcoming them back in future to see how they're getting on. (Ms Warren)



AWARDS	RECIPIENT
Head Boy Award	Rhys Carr
The Elmrabti Award	Toby Moyle
Outstanding effort in English	Hadley Carreras-Bennett
Outstanding effort in Maths	Toby Moyle
Tony Edwards' Cup	Max Jefferies
Award for Creative Endeavour	Toby Lee
Hutson Design Award	Digby Freeth
Engineering Award	Fraser Phillips
Cavendish Cup	Stevie Naish
Most Chads	Keiron Price
PTA Victor Ludorum	Jared Lockyer
Somerset NFU Agriculture Award	Charlie O'Brien
Old Brymorians Agriculture Award	Harry Golding
Beekeepers Cup	Oliver Mattocks
The Willcocks Horticulture HoD Award	Leandro Evans
Kino Owl Public Spirit Award	Hadley Carreras-Bennett
Mark Hill Cup	Stevie Naish
All Blacks jersey for senior rugby	Charlie O'Brien
Troy Plate	Aidan Crispin
Gary Morgan Cup	Harry Burnside
BSA Brymore Boarding Cup Societal Cup	Callum Havard
Adamson Award	Digby Freeth
Brymore YFC Special Award	Max Jefferies
The TTBC Community Leadership Award	Jared Lockyer
The Ray Culliford Cup	Toby & Todd Moyle
The Windows Cup	Leandro Evans
Headteacher's Prize	Max Jefferies
Brymore Spur	Charlie O'Brien



## Coleridge Society

The Coleridge Society from Brymore visited their namesakes' cottage in Nether Stowey, where they were delighted to have a private tour and were captivated and inspired by the poet. They wrote some poetry using a quill and ink, walked up to the top of the castle and engaged in traditional Games of the Georgian era. The boys had an amazing time and one young man said 'I now feel inspired to write poetry myself, I've never thought about it before'. (Mrs Rogers)



## Careers

It has been a busy end to the year for the Careers Team. All of Year 10 have been on work experience, and the feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive. As always, our boys have excelled, with several employers saying that they would be delighted to employ one of our boys as an apprentice next year. Well done to them all.

Earlier this term Year 10 were also invited to visit Plymouth University. They were able to tour the site, meet current students, and hear what life at university is like. They were amazed at the wide range of courses available, and we hope that they have been inspired to continue in education once they finish college. Of course, college is their next step and in order to help them make this enormous life decision, all of Year 10 went to Bridgwater and Taunton College for the day. The College has wonderful facilities and had arranged for students to try out possible courses, speak to lecturers and tutors, and learn more about the different types of qualifications available to them. There were opportunities to discover the possibilities of A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships and Vocational Courses. However, it is not only Year 10 who have been exploring Careers and work-based skills. There have been assemblies for Year 7, 8 and 9 covering construction and engineering, and Wessex Water visited to talk to our boys about green careers and how the employment landscape is changing to more sustainable and planet aware jobs in the near future.

All our boys continue to develop the skills they will need for the future. Boys have received careers lessons and all have also received lessons using the Skills Builder Framework. The school achieved the Skills Builder bronze award this year and we intend to develop this further next year. If you would like to know more about the Skills Builder Framework please use this link to access the Homezone - <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone>

The Royal Engineers spent a day with Year 9 boys completing a variety of engineering and critical thinking challenges. The senior officer was delighted with the good manners, respect and sheer resilience of the boys, even when faced with challenges they found difficult. Again, well done boys and thank you for showing the Brymore core values of resourcefulness, resilience and responsibility to the fullest.

We may still be in the Summer Break but we are already making plans for September. Boys going into Year 11 will be completing college and apprenticeship application forms before Christmas. I will continue to share opportunities to visit college open evenings, virtual work experience programs and other opportunities via Satchel One. Those boys going into Year 10 will be organising their work experience placements at the beginning of the academic year too. It would be great if boys could spend some time over the summer looking at all the possibilities and be ready to contact potential employers as soon as we return.

Thank you for everything you do to support our boys as they get ready for the world of work. We received a certificate from Careers South West to show that we are 100% Gatsby compliant. This means Brymore meets all the standards for excellent careers provision - an achievement of which we are very proud and which we could not have achieved without the unrelenting support of the whole Brymore Family. (Rev Briggs)

## 2023/24 Upcoming Important Dates

### AUTUMN TERM 1A - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

INSET DAY

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

INSET DAY

- 5.00pm New Year 7 Boarders arrive
- 6.00pm - 9.00pm Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 boarders return

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

- 8.30am All out-boarders arrive/return

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September

- PM Potential re-scheduled date for the Swimming Gala (Year 8, 9 10 & 11)
- 4.30pm Hog Roast for new Year 7 and their parents

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

- 9.30am - 12.00pm Open Mornings for future prospective students

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October

- 10.00am Upper School<sup>1</sup> Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church, Cannington, TA5 2HP
- 11.30am Whole School Cross Country
- 1.30pm Upper School<sup>1</sup> depart for half-term
- 2.15pm Lower School<sup>2</sup> Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church, Cannington, TA5 2HP
- 3.45pm (approx.) Lower School<sup>2</sup> depart for half-term
- 3.45pm (approx.) School transport departs

### AUTUMN TERM 1B - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October

INSET DAY

- 3.30pm Year 7 Parent Consultation with Houseparents, Heads of House & Registration Group Tutors
- Academic Progress with Senior Leadership Team (Selected Year 11 students only)
- 6.00pm - 9.00pm Year 8, 9 10 & 11 boarders return

### Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October

- 8.30am All out-boarders return

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

- 4.00pm Lower School<sup>2</sup> Christmas Service - St Mary's Church, Cannington, TA5 2HP
- 5.15pm (approx.) Lower School<sup>2</sup> depart for Christmas holidays
- 5.15pm (approx.) School transport departs

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

- 10.30am Upper School<sup>1</sup> Christmas Service - St Mary's Church, Cannington, TA5 2HP
- 12.15pm (approx.) Upper School<sup>1</sup> depart for Christmas holidays
- 12.15pm (approx.) School transport departs

<sup>1</sup> Upper School (Years 9, 10 & 11)

<sup>2</sup> Lower School (Years 7 & 8)

#### CONTACT

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