

## Term 2 - School House Newsletter

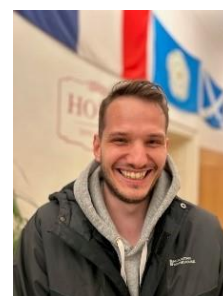


The beginning of the New Year and Term 2 followed some fabulous festive activities that included house parties (where in School House, we are never too old to play pass the parcel and musical chairs!) and a wonderful festive meal where boys were given the opportunity to dress up and take photos in our Christmas photo booth.

Staff from the Boarding team and day staff, who have supported and assisted throughout the year, especially Miss Moore, Ms Carter and Mrs Harris who helped cover the house when Ms Hoogenboom was off in Term 1a, all came together with our boys and SLT, enjoying the meal in the wonderfully atmospheric dining hall. It was particularly great to see Mr McHale with silly glasses and a feather boa to show he was getting into the spirit of things!



The beginning of the New Year was also the time when Mr Orr joined the Boarding team. An ex-Brymore Boy himself and now Activities Co-ordinator for the school. He will continue to run the familiar activities such as fitness, circuits, chads, rugby and hockey that keep our School House boys busy, as well as additional activities, such as indoor athletics and indoor cricket. Whilst the weather and the dark nights haven't been appealing for some of us, there is always activities for our boys to get stuck into if they should so wish.





For some who perhaps prefer the less active options there are plenty of opportunities to take part in informal activities within the boarding house, or take part in one of our weekly competition nights which this term have included Interactive quiz nights, Killer Pool, Darts or a firm favourite for most of the boys is a cuppa and a chat using our huge tea pot donated by FOBSA, together with of course a chocolate hobnob or two with Mrs Webb. It's a great opportunity to catch up with boys and chat about the events of the day, as well as creating a sense of community as boys interact with one another.



Food is in fact a theme that runs throughout much of what we do in School House. Both Mrs Webb and Ms Hoogenboom enjoy feeding the boys and this term we have had an almost weekly event that involves an extra meal! We have had pasta nights, Raman noodles, nuggets and chips, toasties, pancakes day and waffles. They boys are always appreciative of the food and it is always a great atmosphere when the boys from all year groups get together in the common room and eat together.

Several of the boys in School House are also keen rugby players and one of our significant events this term was the rugby finals at North Petherton, where Year 9, 10 and 11 teams played and fought hard against their opposing teams from other schools. All teams were victorious, taking home the winning cups. School House boys were hugely supportive of one another and many boys, as well as Ms Hoogenboom, went to the games to support and cheer on their teams. Mrs Webb had cheese toasties ready on their return.



A significant part of being in School House is our regular registrations and whilst this is an opportunity to convey messages of importance that relate to the boarding house, they are also an opportunity for boys to have their say about the things that are important to them. Recently boys have commented about the strip lighting in their rooms being too harsh and we have now purchased standard lamps for each room to encourage a more homely atmosphere. Fred T has already said how much more relaxing the room is due to the new lighting. Registrations too, give us a chance to commend those in our house that have stood out as being particularly helpful or have done something that deserves acknowledgment. School House boys are particularly good at being supportive and cheers and clapping in support of one another are renowned (and loud!!)

Exams have also been a prominent feature of this term and for many this brings a certain amount of worry and anxiety. As House Parents we want to see our boys reach their potential and we are concentrating on providing the best environment to encourage study and



revision. The boys use the meeting room to get away from distractions and focus on their work in preparation for their exams. We remind boys of the timescale that they are working towards and encourage them to make best use of every opportunity. We often say that it is important to balance studies with other things, so we also encourage regular breaks, to get involved in physical activities and of course, there is always a cuppa and a snack on hand to keep up their energy!

It is also this time of year that we begin the process of establishing who may want to apply to become Head Boy or to occupy a position of leadership within the school. At the time of writing, current Year 10's are beginning this process and will be applying and completing both the forms and doing relevant interviews over the coming weeks. We have a number of boys in School House that we are immensely proud of and will be taking part in this process. For some the prospect can be daunting but we encourage boys to step out of their comfort zones and we do our best to support them through the process.

A number of our younger boys will also be encouraged to take on areas of leadership and responsibility as we begin to think about roles for mentoring, as well as reps within the house for charity, house improvement and food as well as future Head of House and Deputy Head of House. They have big shoes to fill as Harry S and Harry R (our current HoH and Deputy HoH) have done an amazing job this year, leading the boys and supporting us as House Parents with the smooth running of School House. Currently our house team consists of Will P (Charity), Will B (Charity) Nathan M (House Improvement ) Joel C (Food).

Our Huse Charity for 2024-2025 was voted on by our boys and again the FCN (Farming Community Network) will be receiving our support. We raise money throughout the year and our next planned event this term is a run in fancy dress. Details will follow soon, but as parents and carers your support in sponsoring the boys will be much appreciated so we can support the FCN in their valuable work with the farming community.

Shrove Tuesday gave us yet another excuse to come together, as well as to raise money for our Charity and Ms Hoogenboom with her sous chef Joel C made 130+ pancakes from scratch. There was a selection of toppings from the traditional lemon and sugar, as well as syrup and sweet sauces. The evening raised £68 and gave Joel opportunity to show his pancake flipping skills...none being left on the ceiling!

As always, life is busy in boarding and as House Parents we are always up for a challenge, but we are looking forward to a break at Easter. Watch this space for next terms round-up of events.