

THE BIRCHWOOD NEWS



OCTOBER 2024

CAREERS FAIR

On Friday 18 October, students of varying ages across the school had the opportunity to attend the Birchwood Careers Fair in the Sports Hall. There was the chance to interact with and be advised by experts from all occupations. Businesses, colleges and training providers present included University Campus of Football Business, The Royal Navy and The National Council for the Training of Journalists. There were also some familiar faces, as we were lucky enough to be joined by some Birchwood alumni who have gone on to have highly successful and fulfilling careers. One of my stand-out takeaways from someone who has graduated from Birchwood, was the idea that University is not the only option and that there are other paths once you leave school. In conclusion, the Careers Fair has been a very eye-opening experience for students who are starting to consider their ambitions for when they leave school, as well as being a fun and engaging experience.

Amelie Humberstone, Year 13

BIRCHWOOD ALUMNI INCLUDED:

- Eilidh Malcolm: GSK, Quality Manager
- Jack Willmott: Willmott & Lake Estate Agent
- Lauren Marks: Britvic, Customer Development Executive
- Daniel Jones: Saffron Walden Building Society, Member Consultant
- George Keen: Tottenham Hotspur, Academy Strength and Conditioning Coach
- Tabitha Gray: Price Bailey, Apprenticeship Degree
- Gemma Day: Herdswoman
- Kathryn Day: Broomfield Hospital, Radiographer



MESSAGE FROM MR GRIFFIN

Dear All,

It is a pleasure to be writing to you at the end of a successful half term here at Birchwood High School. I would like to congratulate all of our year 7 students for the excellent start they have made during their time with us. It has been a real pleasure watching them grow in confidence and being supported by older students in the school. In addition, we have welcomed the largest number of students into year 12 which is a testament to the quality of experience within our sixth form.

For me, one of the highlights of the term was our open evening. We welcomed over 1000 visitors to the school and families were able to meet our students and to get a sense of how we do things here. It was clear from the evening that there is a lot of interest and engagement in what we do as a school.

It was also a delight to host our careers fair last week. We had around 40 local businesses represented including many former students who now work in the local area. Students from years 10 to 13 were able to gain valuable insight into the world of work and the opportunities that may be there for them in the future.

You will read elsewhere in the newsletter about the range of other activities and experiences that have been open to Birchwood students. If your child is currently not involved in an activity, I would encourage you to talk to them about getting fully involved in the life of the school.

Many of you have contacted us about the pressures of traffic congestion at the start and end of the day. We will be making some changes to the layout of the car park so that the drop off point is further away from the main building, which should ease congestion on parsonage lane. Thank you to those parents and carers who took the time to communicate with me about this.

The half term break is a short pause, and students will be back very soon and focused on upcoming exams and assessments. But it is important that they have some form of break over the coming week. I wish you and them a relaxing half term.

Sam Griffin, *Principal*



POLICE ONLINE SAFETY TALKS

Officers from Hertfordshire Constabulary attended Birchwood to speak with students about online safety and how to help keep themselves safe whilst online. They are seeing increasing reports of children in situations online which can leave them in a vulnerable position. This session aimed to teach our students how to better safeguard themselves online.

We are aware that online safety is a real concern for all parents, especially when trying to keep up with the ever-changing apps that children are using. Knowledge is power, and our aim from these talks is to provide your children with further understanding around the types of offences that can be committed online.

With Halloween and Bonfire Night on the horizon, the Police also talked through Halloween etiquette and Bonfire Night safety to ensure everyone in our community can enjoy themselves at this time of year.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Birchwood were proud to host our annual European Day of Languages Fair where our EAL (English as Additional Language) students showcase and celebrate their languages and cultures.

This year, we decided to include cultures from outside of Europe too. Representation included France, Germany, Spain, Poland, Portugal, Brazil, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Hong Kong and Iran. Students visiting the Fair could try new (and delicious) foods and earn a flag sticker by learning a little bit of the different languages and asking questions.

This was a fantastic, culturally rich event with a real buzz to it. Thank you to our EAL students and their parents, plus, our Year 11 and staff volunteers for so many of the incredible dishes and such an incredible event.

Miss Roderick, Head of MFL

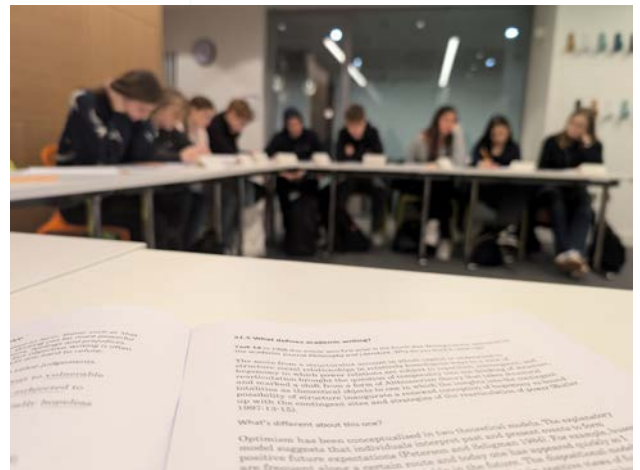


BRITISH LIBRARY WORKSHOP

Students took part in a “Develop Your Writing” workshop on Monday 21 October at the British Library. This workshop was delivered by Leigh Russell, a RFL Fellow writer and author of over forty acclaimed crime novels featuring British detectives Geraldine Steel and Ian Peterson, and international investigative reporter Lucy Hall.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn new skills to support their development of essay writing using a combination of practical tasks and discussion.

Mr Reilly, English



House



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Calling all budding photographers!

Our Autumn Scenic Photography Competition is back! This competition is open to all our staff and students. If you would like to enter, please email your photograph to acollyer@birchwoodhigh.org.uk along with your full name, form, year group and house.

Competition closes Fri 8 November. Winners announced Monday 11 November



Dane



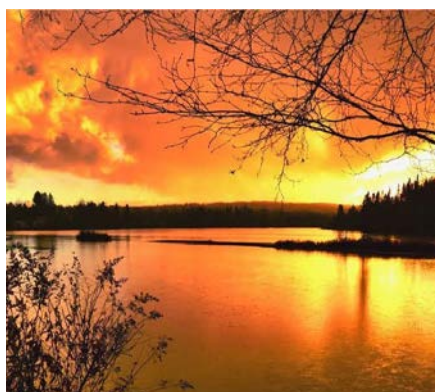
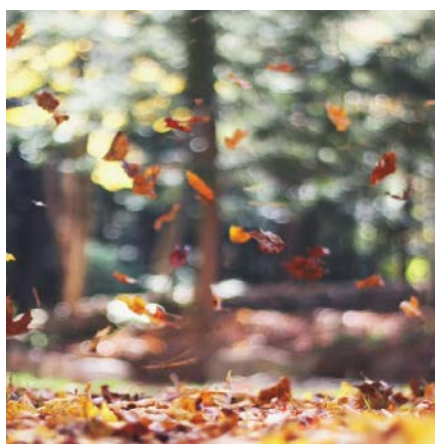
Hadham



Stort



Waytemore



Our new team:

Head House Captains:

Alex Curtis & Layla Ellis

Deputy Head House Captains:

Abigail Sear & Tabitha Hermit

Hadham

Lola Linsell

Layla Ellis

Joshua French

Michael Stables

Naomi Fuller-Lewis

Jayda Lloyd Warren

Dane

Ava Johns

Jack King

Tabitha Hermit

Aaron Shaw

Stort

Tessa Day

Eva Hall

Abigail Sear

Waytemore

Oscar Fulk

Luke Silvester

Jamie Paramo

Charlie Jones

Mia Naughton

Keira Picton

Rosie May

Leighton Bishop

Alex Curtis

Imogen Thorpe

Rosie Pressland

1st Place - Dane 6520

2nd Place - Hadham 6196

3rd Place - Waytemore 5991

4th Place - Stort 5790

GLOBE THEATRE PLAYERS



English was brought alive as Year 11 were treated to a visit from the Globe Players. After performances of *Romeo and Juliet*, *An Inspector Calls* and *A Christmas Carol*, students were given the opportunity to quiz the actors on the texts to help develop their own analysis as part of their GCSE studies.



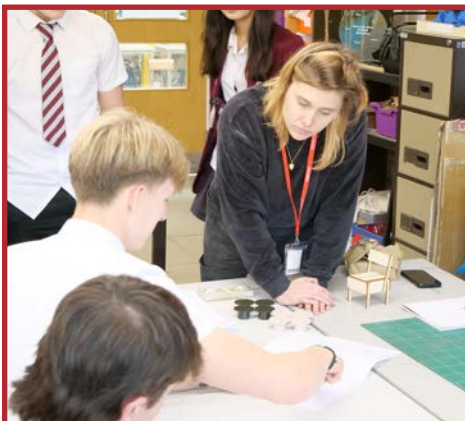
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RUBINO AND WILSON WORKSHOP

Daniela Rubino and Lauren Wilson are designers and sculptresses who specialise in working with steel and aluminium. They work for high end clients including the artist Grayson Perry, and businesses Next and CAT.

As part of their mentoring programme, they came into Birchwood to talk to our Technology students about their own career pathways and running their business. Hopefully in the new year some of the students will be able to attend their studio for a live fabrication workshop. They strongly believe that everyone should be given the opportunity to find a career that they enjoy.

Mr Newman, Technology



PE NEWS



FOOTBALL

Birchwood won an incredible 10-0 against Marlborough Science Academy in the second round of the HSFA County Cup.

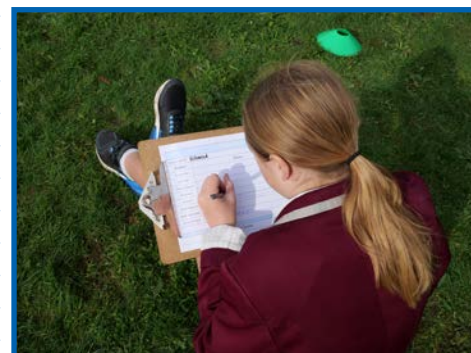
Notable performance from Deanna McCabe who was voted player of the match and scored a hat-trick and for Sarah Roberson who scored four goals. Onto the next round!



HOCKEY

Both Year 7s (left) and 8s (right) won their first hockey match vs. Hockerill. Year 7s won 9-0 and Year 8s won 2-0.

Notable performances from Ava Higgs who scored at least a hat-trick in the Year 7 game and from Eva Macfie who scored a brilliant goal for the Year 8s.



RUGBY

Our Birchwood Year 7 Rugby Boys Team won 25-10 against Helena Romanes.

SPORT KIT DONATIONS FOR BANGLADESH



Mr Barratt is supporting a team of cyclists who are attempting to ride from Cambridge to Bangladesh to raise money for The Dolly Foundation which aims to impact lives of those less fortunate than us. Together with raising money for this charity they would like to take any donations of sportswear from Birchwood which will be given to villagers along the route and help form part of their school PE kit / equipment.

BSP TRI GOLF

The Sports Leaders for Birchwood Sports Partnership have been busy with the first events of the season, Tri Golf and Basketball. Local primary schools enjoyed both events.

St Michael's won the Tri Golf.
St Joseph's won the Basketball.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to all the students who received their Student of the Month awards.
Only 10 of these badges and certificates are awarded from each faculty in the whole year - well done!



Sidney Rolfe-Miles
Art

Beatriz Pontes
Intervention

Stanley Curran-Willmott
Musician

Alexandar Todorov
Business

Filip Krysiak
IT/Computer Science

Anna Baros and Luca Groom
PE

Harry Collins
Chef

Evie Barber
French

Toby Merton
Performer

Milly Blackery
Dance

Zach Gill
German

Bobby Kenworthy
PLC

Harriet Stevens
English

Emily Guy
Spanish

Leila Boulwood-Hughes
Scientist

Leila Boulwood-Hughes
Film

Sophia Coles
Linguist

Macius Pejka
Statistician

James Allen
Geography

Oliver Ross
Maths

Evie Bateman
Technology

Erin O'Hear
History

Emily Macaree
Media



SIXTH FORM NEWS



MERSEA ISLAND RESIDENTIAL

We were really excited to take Year 12 on a mini residential to the Essex Outdoor Centre, Mersea Island this October. We were also really pleased that such an overwhelming number of students took up this opportunity to help support their transition in to sixth form and work closely as a year group.

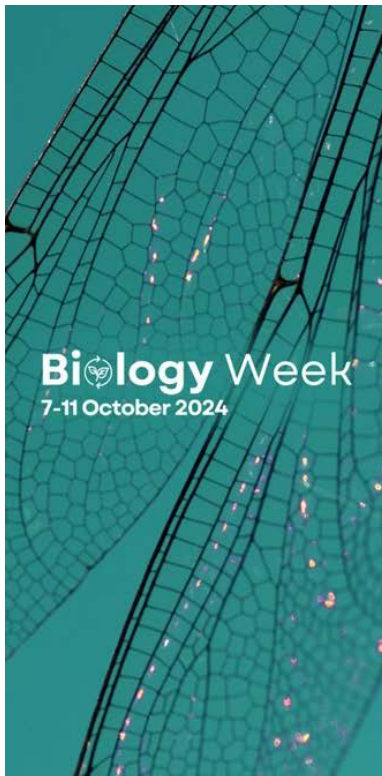
The setting was picturesque, nestled between the river Blackwater, and the Mersea coastline and beaches. We were blessed with some lovely weather for this time of the year, which always make these type of trips more enjoyable!

Students worked in small groups with expert instructors, and key staff within the Sixth Form Team to complete a range of activities that included, Archer, Climbing, High Ropes, and the Team Challenge Course. Each of the activities were designed to push the students out of their comfort zone, develop teamwork, communication skills, and Year 12 certainly got fully involved which was lovely to see.

Head of Sixth Form, Mr Torrance commented "Year 12 were excellent over the two days, some sleepy heads on day 2, but 100% a success and ticked all the boxes of what we wanted to achieve from this event. It is really important to find yourself and belonging in the sixth form, particularly for our external students who sometimes find this a challenge. I witnessed some really important connections and what was really special was seeing these friendships continue when they returned back at school".

Mr Torrance, Head of Sixth Form





BioCraft Competition

4th OCTOBER – 4th NOVEMBER

Create a biology-inspired 3D artwork from recycled, or other, materials and send us a photo to enter. See Mrs Pressland in C10 for an entry form

BioCraft entries can take inspiration from all parts of science. Here are some ideas...

- The smallest parts of the natural world that only a microscope can see: cell structures, bacterial colonies and microscopic organisms.
- Environments and ecosystems: great savannahs, the deep oceans or immense rainforests.
- Lab or field equipment could be the focus of your artwork, with fascinating tools and apparatus being used by scientists.
- Your art could help explain a biological concept, theory or area of biology that particularly interests you.



Open to years 7-11, winners will be judged on:

- The variety of materials used
- The variety of creative skills used
- The aesthetic quality of the piece
- The originality of the piece
- How well the piece captures the biological basis of the subject matter

BIRCHWOOD BROADCASTING CORRESPONDENTS

What have our budding Birchwood journalists been researching this month?

THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago, mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1st. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, chilly winter.

What is Halloween now?

Nowadays, Halloween is a time for children of all ages to go around the towns and ask for sweets, often being dressed as witches, zombies, and other horrifying creatures.

Alex Burke, BBC Reporter



HALLOWEEN



C F B R N H C T I W F E I B M O Z Z C S
V M O N S T E R T O M B S T O N E A P U
V A M P I R E L Y L Y X T A E R T F N M
A F L H X R J Y Z A J T Q O C T O B E R
K C O S T U M E U W T J L N U U Q E K H
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G C G E E T A L O C O H C N X R K D A P
S I H V C R E D I P S S C Z U N Y Z C C
H R O F S T P D B L A C K M M A M J V K
L T S J G I U G M I Q H O H H C H S C H
C G T N R D A X N N O T E L E K S I F H

WORD LIST

BAT
BLACK
BOO
BROOMSTICK
CANDY
CAT
CAULDRON
CHOCOLATE

COSTUME
CREEPY
DOORBELL
FRIGHT
GHOST
GRAVEYARD
HALLOWEEN
HAUNTED

JACK O LANTERN
MONSTER
OCTOBER
PUMPKIN
SCARY
SKELETON
SPIDER

SPOOKY
TOMBSTONE
TREAT
TRICK
VAMPIRE
WITCH
ZOMBIE



Why not follow us on Facebook?

We have a Facebook page where you can keep up to date with events and meetings. Please follow us at Birchwood Parents Staff and Friends Association (PSFA)

Don't forget you can help us raise funds via TheGivingMachine

If you are a regular online shopper you can generate free donations to our school at no extra cost to you every time you shop via TheGivingMachine.

Please have a look online www.thegivingmachine.co.uk and search for Birchwood High School.

VOLUNTEERS

We would love to have some extra helpers if anyone would like to volunteer. This would involve two or three events each year and meetings once or twice per term. We can confirm there will be cake...

We also have a vacancy for a Chairperson, if you'd like more information on this role please email us at: birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com



BIRCHWOOD BONUS BALL

The lucky winner of the September bonus ball was Heather U, winning £177!

The Bonus Ball is a great way to support the school, and at the same time be in with a chance of winning some cash every month! It is £3 per month per ball, payable either in one lump sum or monthly as a standing order. A draw takes place at the end of each month and the winner receives half of the money collected, the other half going towards PSFA funds.

Our bank details are:

Barclays Bank

Account Name: Birchwood PSFA

Account Number: 23298728

Sort Code: 20-25-19

Email treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com if you would like to join in the fun.

PRELOVED UNIFORM

'If you are replacing items of branded school uniform and the old items are still in good condition, please consider donating good condition items of preloved uniform to the PSFA. Please drop off washed clean items of uniform to Reception.'

Help needed! Do you have an hour a week to help with our pre-loved uniform?

This could be during the day (DBS check needed) or after school, helping with sorting and hanging up donations and dealing with enquiries (e.g. finding sizes and bagging up orders)

Please contact birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com if you can help.

MUSICAL BINGO



Thank you to everyone who came to Musical Bingo on Friday 18 October, it was a great success, raising £1,050 for the school,

Watch this space for the next event.



TERM DATES REMINDER

Birchwood High School Calendar

2024 - 2025

Sep 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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30						

Oct 2024						
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Nov 2024						
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Dec 2024						
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30	31					

Jan 2025						
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Feb 2025						
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Mar 2025						
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Apr 2025						
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May 2025						
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Jun 2025						
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30						

Jul 2025						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

CPD Days – school closed to students
Student holidays
Bank & public holidays
School Open to Yr 7 & 12 only
Open Day
Year 6 Transition Day

2025

AUTUMN TERM

Wednesday 3 September 2025 - Friday 19 December

SPRING TERM

Monday 5 January 2026- Friday 27 March

Half term

W/B Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February

Easter Holidays

Monday 30 March - Friday 10 April 2026

SUMMER TERM

Monday 13 April - Thursday 23 July 2026

Half term

W/B Monday 25 May -Friday 29 May 2026

CPD Days for 2025 are still to be confirmed.

Please note that the school is closed to students on all CPD days, unless a member of staff has asked students to attend.

Christmas Music Concert



**Thursday 28 November 2024
in the Hall, 7.00pm**

Tickets now available via ParentPay - £4.00



Design The 2024 Birchwood Christmas Card

The card will be sent to the local schools, Governors and other local VIP's.

Prizes:

1st prize £15 Amazon vouchers + 30 house points
plus a set of printed cards of your design.

2nd prize £10 Amazon vouchers + 20 house points

3rd prize £5 Amazon vouchers + 15 house points

All entries will be awarded a House point.

How to submit your design:

Bring your card to Miss Morrison in C23 at lunch or break. Or give to your art teacher in lesson.

Make sure your name and form is on the back! Submit by Monday 25th November 2024.

If you want help and access to equipment you can come to Art club in C22 on any Wednesday lunchtime on the first three Wednesdays in November.

Judging will take place during the following week with Mr Griffin making the final judging decisions.

DO

Your card must be an original design.

Your card can be of any festive scene.

Your design **MUST** include the Birchwood logo.

Your design can be made using any media (see the don't list) and any size or format as your card will be scanned and reproduced.

Submit by Monday 25th November 2024.

DON'T

Make your card too light.

Include glitter.

3D elements.

Include any writing or seasonal greeting as this will be added electronically.



National Chemistry Week

Fun Chemistry Practical's taking place this week!

Tuesday 5 November

Science Practical's with Glaxo SmithKline
Lunchtime - making Lava Lamps C17

Thursday 7 November

Royal Society of Cosmetic Sciences career talk to Year 10

The Reuse Shop

Discover quality bargains

Hertfordshire County Council Reuse Shops sell good quality low priced items that has been dropped off at the Recycling Centres by members of the public. Through our Community Donations Scheme, we offer some of these items for free to registered charities, recognised community groups and schools in Hertfordshire.

Free items we offer*

Typical items we donate to schools, charities and community groups are:

- Jigsaws, craft items and toys to community groups.
- Garden pots and planters for schools gardening clubs and sensory gardens.
- Baskets and boxes for classroom organisation.
- Bikes/balance bikes for playground use.
- Furniture such as bookshelves for classrooms

* Stock availability varies. Sorry, we cannot offer white goods, mattresses, floor coverings or curtains.

How To Request Items

Complete our [online request form](#) at the point when items are needed. We will check our stock and get back to you, where possible, with a photograph and measurements of items that we have available.

Collection / delivery of Items

Once agreed, items can be collected from one of our [shops](#) located at Harpenden, Stevenage, Ware, Waterdale (Watford) and Welwyn Garden City Recycling Centres.

Please note that the Reuse Shops have limited storage space, so we are unable to hold items for long.

For oversized furniture we can arrange delivery through Herts Full Stop

For more information please contact:

hertfordshireusesshops@hertfordshire.gov.uk
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/reuse



(above) Bikes donated from the Reuse Shops to the Herts Disability Sports Foundation.



(left)

Wicker baskets donated to Holly Bush School for classroom organisation





CAMPEXCEL



CLUBEXCELCAMP

FOR
CHILDREN
AGED 4-13
YEARS

Club EXCEL

Multi Activity Camps
BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL



NEW CUSTOMER OFFER
GET 10% OFF

THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM!

USE CODE: NEW10

Please Note: Discount valid to new customers only. Code expires 31st December 2024.

Ofsted

Approved by Ofsted

01923 469475

WWW.CLUBEXCEL.CO.UK
INFO@CLUBEXCEL.CO.UK