



Birchwood High School Sixth Form

SIXTH FORM LIFE

WELCOME TO BIRCHWOOD



It is a real privilege to welcome you to Birchwood High School's Sixth Form Open Evening. I can honestly say that Birchwood's Sixth Form truly is the jewel in the Birchwood crown. Year 12 and 13 sees the culmination of all the hard work that the students have put in from Year 7 and we see the blossoming of inquisitive, curious, and focused young people. We develop new leaders prepared to take on the next step, whether that be to University, Apprenticeships, or into the world of work. We firmly believe that with our tried and tested triangle of support, we are able to nurture both our internal and external students in a way that means they can be challenged and supported, allowed to explore new and deep ideas and experience a wider world that enables them to be successful, confident and responsible citizens. In essence as a student of Birchwood you will:

- Experience great teaching, in first class facilities.
- Kick-start your career thinking with dedicated careers support and fantastic work experience opportunities.
- Be supported by subject teachers, personal tutors and have bespoke careers advice.
- Be given amazing enrichment opportunities.
- Be encouraged to lead and to contribute, ensuring that you leave us as a successful adult ready to take on the world.

We hope you have a wonderful evening and very much hope to see you in September 2025!

Mr Sam Griffin
Principal

Welcome from Dillon Brown, Birchwood's Principal Student



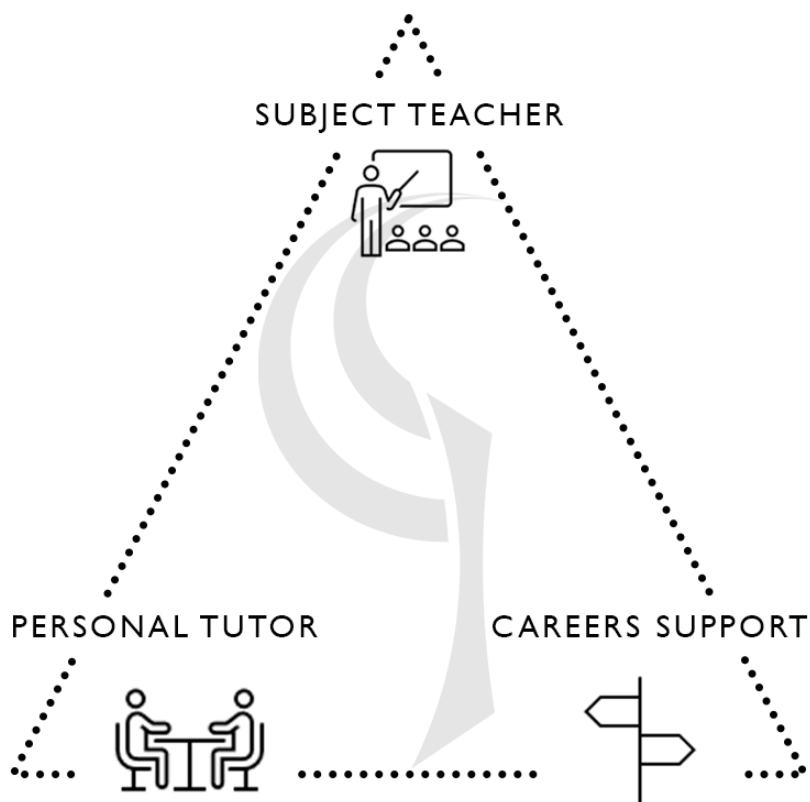
Hello and welcome! I know for many of you, this feels like one of the biggest decisions you'll make for your future - I certainly felt the same. While it's true that this is the beginning of many important choices ahead, I can assure you that Birchwood will be there to guide you every step of the way.

The Sixth Form Leadership Team, teaching staff, and our dedicated careers adviser, Mrs Crimes are always available to help you explore your post-16 and post-18 options, as well as provide day-to-day support. It's incredibly reassuring to know that you'll always have someone to turn to, no matter what you need. This support extends to our subject teachers, all of whom are passionate experts in their fields, bringing a love for teaching that creates an inspiring and motivating learning environment.

At Birchwood, we value academic achievement, enrichment opportunities, and above all, inclusion and diversity. We are committed to listening to the student voice and ensuring that each student has the resources they need to thrive. As you explore this evening, take the time to chat with our subject teachers, attend the Principal's Talk, and most importantly, speak to our current Sixth Form students. They are the best people to give you a true insight into what life at Birchwood Sixth Form is all about.

Dillon Browne,
Principal Student

The Birchwood Triangle of Support



Careers

At Birchwood High School, we are committed to preparing our students to manage their future education and career path by offering a planned programme of career and work-related education and timely information, advice and guidance (CEIAG).



This includes opportunities to engage with a variety of businesses, employers and apprenticeship providers, as well as work experience, university and college talks, careers and apprenticeship fairs and other opportunities. This careers education aims to encourage our students to carefully consider their individual progression pathways, with the belief that every individual matters, and should receive equal access to provision, advice and guidance. For some, this will mean encouragement and mentoring for applications to universities. For others, it will mean similar encouragement for a career-related path. All academic and vocational paths are covered fairly and impartially.

Students have access to one-to-one guidance and support through Mrs Crimes who is a fully qualified Careers Adviser based in the Sixth Form.

Please see our destinations map below from our 2024 Year 13 leavers.



Tutors

Birchwood is extremely proud of the support offered to the students. This all starts with a Personal Tutor. Tutors are the first point of contact for students and parents & carers. They see the form every day at morning registration. The Personal Tutor will be with your child for their two years at Birchwood, they will guide them through induction into the Sixth Form and then help with settling into courses and any changes that need to be made. They will be a point of call for any issues academically, socially or emotionally.

They will support with work experience placement, university, apprenticeship, and job applications and will be a central point in the students' lives for their time at Birchwood.

Trips

Sixth form trips and visits are many and varied and enrich the student experience at Birchwood.

There are a number of curriculum trips including Geography fieldwork visits and external workshops for Politics, Business and Economics. Drama and Dance students attend live performances which broaden students' knowledge and interpretations. Our Modern Foreign Languages faculty encourage the use of the student's chosen language and offer experience of the culture of those countries including film festivals, plays and Christmas markets.

This year, our Year 12s travelled to Mersea Island to take part in a range of teambuilding activities designed to push them outside of their comfort zone and get to know different students within the Sixth Form.

Birchwood also offers an annual ski trip. Last year, we took 50 Year 13 students to Sestriere in the Italian Alps. It was the first year that we have had a snowboarding group, as well as our normal larger pool of beginners and one group of experienced skiers.

We also ensure we offer students an opportunity to attend the UCAS Discovery Exhibition, which offers lots of relevant information about the way forward after Sixth Form.



Facilities

At Birchwood, we understand the importance of providing excellent resources to support student success, whether they are preparing for higher education or employment. Our comprehensive range of facilities ensures that all students have access to the best possible learning environment to support our students' academic and personal development.

Study Areas

We offer a variety of dedicated study environments to meet different needs, including silent study rooms and group study areas. The Sixth Form Study Room, located upstairs in the Sixth Form block is designed to help students benefit from a dedicated quiet study space, with full access to computers and Wi-Fi, ensuring they have the right tools for both focused work and collaborative learning. The library is accessible throughout the day for students. We stock up-to-date text books for all the courses on offer in the Sixth Form and also display a wide range of further reading material to encourage and support student academic research.



Sixth Form Common Room

The Sixth Form Common Room is a dedicated space for students to relax, socialise with friends, or study in a more informal setting, either individually or with groups. It includes a kitchen area, providing students with a comfortable environment to unwind between study sessions.

Café and Outdoor Spaces

Students have access to the school café throughout the day. Additionally, Birchwood offers beautiful outdoor spaces, including courtyards with picnic benches, perfect for relaxing or studying outdoors during warmer months.

Leadership

Service to the wider school community is one of Birchwood's Sixth Form's great strengths. There are a variety of leadership roles and responsibilities that students are encouraged to take on. These include: the Sixth Form Leadership Team, Senior Prefects, House Captains, Mentor Prefects, Environment & Wellbeing Prefects. The hard work of all our students in leadership roles has a huge impact on making the school such a vibrant, inclusive, and successful community.

The Sixth Form Leadership Team responsibilities:

- Be an ambassador for the school and act as a role model.
- Plan and deliver assemblies.
- Support school events.
- Create a sense of pride within the Sixth Form community.
- Liaise, support and work with the wider Sixth Form Leadership Team and school Principal.

Attributes needed:

- Be 100% reliable and fulfil duties, giving up your time as and when required.
- Be visibly committed to the school community and ethos; your conduct and appearance should provide a consistently positive role model for others.
- Display effective leadership and organisational skills.
- Have good team and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work to deadlines and manage your workload.
- Be willing and able to speak confidently at school events.
- An interest in shaping the future of the school.

The Application Process includes:

- Letter of Application addressed to Mr Torrance.
- 5-minute presentation on a topic of interest.
- Formal interview.

