



# BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

09/06/25

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## WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

### 1. **End of Term – Early Closure Notice**

Please note that on the final day of term, **Friday 18 July**, the school will close early. Students will finish the day at **12:30pm**, at the end of Period 3.

We will share an update regarding school bus arrangements closer to the time.

### 2. **Parent Trustee Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Trustee on the Birchwood High School Board. This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the strategic leadership of the school and support our students and staff.

No specific qualifications are required, just a commitment to helping the school thrive. To learn more about the role and how to apply, [please read this letter](#).

The deadline for nominations is Monday 23rd June.

### 3. **School Musical Auditions**

Well done to everyone who auditioned for [the school musical, Grease](#). We were thrilled to see over 60 students take part! The level of talent was fantastic, and we now face the exciting (and tricky!) task of casting the show.

Call-back auditions will take place on:

- Wednesday 11th – After School
- Thursday 12th – Lunchtime and After School

All students who auditioned should come to the Drama Studio at breaktime on Friday to find out more about the rehearsal schedule and show dates.

The final cast list will be posted on Friday lunchtime.

#### 4. Chemistry Week Competition

We're excited to launch our Chemistry Week Competition open to all KS3, KS4, and KS5 students!

This year's theme is "Picture Perfect Chemistry", and we're inviting students to submit an illustrated poem that creatively explores the world of chemistry. Entries should be presented as an A4 or A3 poster, combining artwork and poetry to celebrate the subject.

The winning poster will be displayed in the school corridors during National Chemistry Week, beginning 20 October 2025, and the winner will also receive an Amazon voucher to spend on anything they like!

Deadline for entries: Thursday 3 July

Posters can be submitted to the Science Office any time before the deadline.

We look forward to seeing your creative ideas come to life! Here are some examples to spark inspiration:



#### 5. Enrichment Week

You should have already received an email confirming your child's place on the trips they have been assigned during enrichment week (bowling will come today). Emails with additional information will be sent at the beginning of next week.

Students have also had the lists read out in form time, if you have any queries, please refer to your confirmation emails and wait for final details next week.

If your child is not on a trip, they will be expected in as normal and will be advised of their internal activities closer to the time.

#### 6. Hertfordshire Music Service Bursary Update

[We have received the attached letter](#) from Hertfordshire Music Service in respect of the HMS Music Bursary Award Scheme.

Please be aware that Birchwood High School is unable to offer any funding in respect of school support for this bursary. Therefore, in the event of a bursary being offered by HMS, the remaining 50% will have to be self-funded by parents/carers.

Students currently receiving 25% school subsidy for orchestral instruments at Grade 2 and above and those taking GCSE (Y10 & Y11) and A level will continue to receive the 25% discount irrespective of their instrument.

### **7. Summer Music Concert – Thursday 19 June**

We are delighted to invite you to our Summer Music Concert taking place on Thursday 19 June. This special evening will showcase the incredible talent of our students, with a variety of performances from across the school.

Tickets are available to purchase now via ParentPay.

[Please see the poster below for full details](#) – we look forward to welcoming you for a fantastic evening of music!

### **8. Supporting Links – Autumn 2025 Parent Courses**

We're pleased to share that Supporting Links, who run parent support courses across Hertfordshire, have released their course schedule for Autumn 2025.

Courses on offer include:

- Talking to Teens
- Talking Anger in Teens
- Talking Additional Needs
- Talking Families
- Talking Anxiety in Teens
- Talking Dads

These courses offer practical advice and support for parents and carers on a range of topics. The course list and referral form can be found on our website, linked here:

<https://www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk/page/?title=Letters%2C+News+and+Social+Media&pid=70&action=saved>

## **YEAR 7**

### **Year 7 Group Photo – Thursday 12 June**

We will be taking a whole Year 7 group photo on Thursday 12 June during Period 1, weather permitting.

Please ensure your child is in full school uniform and arrives to school on time.

## YEAR 8

### **Head of Year Update**

As Mrs Hinski will be on primary school visits this week, Mr Loney will be overseeing all Head of Year duties for Year 8. He will also be making regular contact with students and families over the coming weeks to ensure strong support is in place as the year group prepares for Year 9.

A reminder to please send any queries via the school's admin email. Behaviour expectations remain in place, including punctuality, full uniform, respectful conduct, and no mobile phone use during the school day.

## YEAR 9

### **Year 9 - D of E - Thursday 26 June**

Emails confirming your child's attendance for the DofE training day have been sent today but we still have limited places available - please email [trips@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:trips@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) to add your child's name to the list. If oversubscribed, names will be drawn at random.

In the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), participants engage in four main sections: Volunteering, Skills, Physical Recreation, and Expeditions. The DofE aims to help individuals develop personal skills and confidence through these activities. The DofE is designed to be challenging and rewarding, helping young people develop valuable skills and build their confidence. Participants set goals, track their progress, and seek feedback from assessors throughout the program.

At the taster day during enrichment week, you will complete some the activities that you will need for the expedition - tent building, cooking with Trangias, walking with equipment, map navigating.

## YEAR 10

### **Year 10 Mock Exams**

In order to prepare students for their public GCSE exams next summer, we will be holding a series of formal assessments over the next half term, which will feed into the final report of the year. These assessments will mostly take place between the 16 June to 4 July.

The majority of subjects will be holding GCSE style assessments in lessons, but in order to ensure students become familiar with the processes of public examinations, we will be holding two full mock exams in the Sports Hall, one each for Maths and English. It will also be an opportunity for students who will receive exam access arrangements to experience the organisation of these processes.

| Subject          | Mock exam details            | Exam length | Date              | Start time: |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| English Language | Paper 1: Section A (Reading) | 1hr         | Monday 16th June  | 1pm*        |
| Maths            | Paper 1 (non-calculator)     | 1hr 30mins  | Tuesday 17th June | 9am         |

*\*Please note that for the English exam, students will receive an early lunch break during Period 4.*

### **Maths Mock Exam Revision**

To support preparations for the Maths Mock Exam on 17th June, and students transition into Year 11, Maths revision will be held each fortnight for the rest of this term:

Monday, Week B at 3.15pm in the Maths corridor.

Early next term, you will have the opportunity to purchase a pack of past papers for students to be using at home. This is in addition to those we have already started working through in school. If you are purchasing any other revision materials for your child to use at home, please be advised that we are following the Edexcel 9-1 course. Set 1 and 2 are following the Higher course; sets 3, 4 and 5 are following the Foundation course.

### **Year 10 English Revision Sessions – Starting 11 June**

We are pleased to offer after-school English revision sessions for Year 10 students as they begin preparing for next year's GCSE exams. These sessions will help build key skills in both Literature and Language, including essay writing, analysis, and interpretation.

Sessions run Wednesdays from 15:15 to 16:00, starting Wednesday 11 June, in D block classrooms. Students should attend their usual English teacher's room, or are welcome to join another group if their teacher is unavailable.

#### **Revision Schedule – Wednesdays (15:15–16:00):**

- Miss Braybrooke – D7
- Mr Smith – D4
- Mrs Osborne – D1
- Mrs Kee-Rose – C16
- Mrs Boittier – D6
- Mr Reilly – D2
- Miss Edwards – D3

Regular attendance is encouraged to support strong study habits and build confidence ahead of Year 11.

### **Arrangements for Study/Exam Leave after Half Term**

Year 11 students are not required to be in school after half term, except to attend their relevant public exams.

Teachers will be available in the normal timetabled slots until the last exam in each subject, should students wish to attend lessons to ask questions and receive help.

We would be grateful if you could remind your child of the following important points:

- Full uniform should still be worn, unless there is a specific agreement in place. Hoodies - whether leavers style or not, are not part of the formal uniform and are therefore not permitted in the exam hall.
- Students should be at the exam venue for 9am for morning exams. Students will effectively be registered in their exam by attendance so do not need to attend form time with their form tutor.
- Students should be at the exam venue for 1pm for afternoon exams. They should enter the site via Visitor Reception - for larger exams we will aim to briefly open the main pedestrian gate at 12.45pm
- Once an exam is completed students should either leave the site immediately or attend lessons for support from staff. For safeguarding purposes we cannot accommodate students onsite unless they are in an exam, waiting to enter an exam or within a lesson.
- A small number of students are still forgetting relevant equipment such as pens, pencils, calculators etc. please could you help support students in attending exams fully prepared.

Please note that the canteen will not be available outside of normal opening times, so students should ensure they attend school with full water bottles etc.

Our Year 11s have been fantastic in their attitude and approach to the exams so far - we wish all students good luck for the last few weeks of the exam period!

### **Year 11 PE Kit Donations**

As our Year 11 students prepare to move on, we would be very grateful for any donations of spare or no-longer-needed PE kit.

All items will be put to good use by the PE department for future students. If you have anything to donate, please hand it in to Miss Perrett.

### **Parent Pay Reminder:**

As your child will shortly be starting their study leave and may not be returning to school, we would ask that you review your ParentPay account.

If you have any outstanding payments, please ensure these are settled in full before your child leaves the school.

If your account holds a credit balance, we kindly ask that you email [jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) to ensure you are refunded.

## SIXTH FORM

### **Parent Pay Reminder:**

As your child will shortly be starting their study leave and may not be returning to school, we would ask that you review your ParentPay account.

If you have any outstanding payments, please ensure these are settled in full before your child leaves the school.

If your account holds a credit balance, we kindly ask that you email [jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) to ensure you are refunded.

### **Yearbook Collection:**

Yearbooks have arrived at school and look ace! You can collect them from Mrs Crimes Office. There is a small delay still on hoodies. They are expected by 20th June and we'll send a message on Teams when they can be collected.

## CAREERS

### **Amazing Apprenticeships**

Webinar for Year 12 and 13 parents and carers. Thursday 12 June: 3:30-4:15pm

If your child is looking for a post-18 qualification that is flexible, job-focused and an excellent way to progress to a higher/degree apprenticeship, a full degree or a highly-skilled job, join this webinar all about Higher Technical Qualifications (HTWs) run by Amazing Apprenticeships on behalf of the Department for Education.

Register here: <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/events/how-to-research-and-apply-for-htqs-2/>

### **Choices Magazine:**

Is your child considering an apprenticeship as their next step? Choices magazine is the ultimate parent and carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education! It is completely free of charge – find this month's edition here: [amapps.uk/parent-magazine](https://amapps.uk/parent-magazine) and sign up to receive it each month, direct to your inbox: [amapps.uk/choices](https://amapps.uk/choices)

Amazing Apprenticeships' Parent and Carer zone is also a great place to explore apprenticeships and technical education: [amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/parent/](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/parent/)



# GREASE



Is our next Musical. Speak to Drama, Dance or Music to get involved.

BIRCHWOOD'S MUSICAL DEPARTMENT PRESENTS...



# SUMMER MUSICAL PROM CONCERT

THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2025  
7.00pm in the Hall

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE VIA PARENTPAY £4.00