



# BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

19/05/25

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## WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

### 1. **May Charity Day**

Our next Charity Day will take place on Friday 23rd May. This will raise money for the Animal Rescue Centre in Bishop's Stortford, which is our chosen school charity for this year.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A NON-UNIFORM DAY**

### 2. **Teacher Ice Bucket Challenge**

We will also be hosting a Teacher Ice Bucket Challenge to raise money for our School's Charity of the Year as well as to support mental health awareness.

Tickets will be sold for £1.00. These can be purchased via ParentPay, or directly from our Sixth Form House Captains, who will be visiting form rooms during morning registration to sell tickets in person.

The deadline to pay on Parent Pay will be Wednesday 21st May.

### 3. **Enrichment Week Update**

Emails for bowling will be sent this week, payment must be made by **Sunday 1 June 2025**, all places will then be confirmed.

All other trips for Enrichment Week have been finalised and unfortunately, we cannot accept any additional students.

#### **4. Speed Chess Competition – Sign Up Now!**

We're excited to announce a [Speed Chess Competition](#), open to all year groups. Matches will take place during Monday and Thursday lunchtimes, starting from Monday 2 June.

Whether you're a seasoned player or just enjoy a quick game, all are welcome to take part.

Sign-up is now open in the library – don't miss your chance to get involved!

#### **5. Final Call – Co-Curriculum Prize Draw**

Don't miss your chance to be part of this half-term's Co-Curriculum Prize Draw. All students who complete one of our co-curriculum activities should complete this [form](#) to be automatically entered into our Ace and Superstar Lottery, with some great prizes up for grabs.

- Amazon vouchers
- Cinema afternoon for participants

Final winners will be drawn after half-term.

To discover our co-curricular, visit:

[www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk/page/?title=Co%2DCurriculum&pid=101](http://www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk/page/?title=Co%2DCurriculum&pid=101)

#### **6. Free May Half Term Activities**

East Herts Council has received funding to run FREE to attend sports and fitness activities, during May Half Term for 11- to 19-year-olds. The sessions will take place at Sworder's Field, Bishop's Stortford and are run by sports coaches from Sporting Inspirations.

[Please see poster here.](#)

## **YEAR 7**

#### **Message from Mr Edwards**

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Year 7 Parents' Evening.

It was a pleasure to speak with you and share the progress your children have made so far. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated and plays a vital role in their success.

## YEAR 8

### **Year 8 Options**

As part of our Year 8 Options process, students have now attended an assembly explaining the steps involved in choosing their Year 9 foundation year subjects. The deadline for completing the application form is **Friday 23 May**. All students and parents will have received an email from our online application platform, Applica. Please note that as a parent, you will only be able to view and confirm your child's subject choices once your child has submitted their application form.

If you have any questions, please contact [admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)

### **Resources to Support You**

- You can view the **full presentation** from the student assembly [here](#):
- We also encourage you and your child to explore our [Year 8 Options Information Booklet](#), which includes detailed guidance and FAQs
- These are both linked our website: <https://www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk/page/?title=Options+Information&pid=78&action=saved>

### **Cologne Pre-Trip Meeting**

The pre-trip meeting for the Cologne trip will take place on Thursday 22 May 2025 in the school library at 18:00. Where possible, students should try to attend with just one parent / carer, as the venue has a limited capacity.

## YEAR 9

### **Year 9 Options – Deadline Friday 23 May**

All students and parents should have received an email from our online options platform, Applica. Students can find this message in their Birchwood school email accounts. Please note that as a parent, you will only be able to view and confirm your child's subject choices once your child has submitted their application form.

Students are now invited to complete their online Options Form.

Full details about each course are available in the [Options Booklet](#)

Once your child submits their form, you will receive an automated email inviting you to log in and confirm their choices. Parents will only be able to confirm choices after the student form has been submitted.

The deadline for submitting all option choices is **Friday 23 May**.

### **Cologne Pre-Trip Meeting**

The pre-trip meeting for the Cologne trip will take place on Thursday 22 May 2025 in the school library at 18:00. Where possible, students should try to attend with just one parent / carer, as the venue has a limited capacity.

## **YEAR 10**

### **Year 10 Work Shadowing Day – Wednesday 25 June**

To help students gain insight into the world of work, we are running a Work Shadowing Day on Wednesday 25 June.

Students must log their placement details on Unifrog by Friday 23 May, which will trigger an employer approval process. Those without a placement will be expected in school on the day.

For more information, please refer to the FAQ sheet emailed on Friday, or contact [crimesj@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:crimesj@birchwoodhigh.org.uk).

### **Cologne Pre-Trip Meeting**

The pre-trip meeting for the Cologne trip will take place on Thursday 22 May 2025 in the school library at 18:00. Where possible, students should try to attend with just one parent / carer, as the venue has a limited capacity.

## **YEAR 11**

### **Message from Mr Loney**

On behalf of all of our staff, we would like to wish a sincere well done to all of the students who have undergone a number of GCSE exams this week. Everything so far seems to be running largely seamlessly. The general feeling so far is that the papers have offered a fair and reasonable challenge, which are hoping will continue. It has become apparent that the year group have prepared well and have set themselves up to do very well in the remainder of the exams.

Please be reminded that students will not be permitted to wear hoodies, tracksuit tops or coats in the exam hall and that full Birchwood uniform must be worn. Please also confirm that your child has the necessary equipment for each of their exams as we cannot reliably have spares available.

All students are expected to be in school until May half term, which is rapidly approaching, then are welcome to only attend school for their exams. Please let me, Miss Adams, relevant form tutor or teacher know of anything that we can do to help over the last weeks.

### **Student Leave Information:**

All students are expected back in school until the start of May half-term on Friday 23rd May. It is incredibly important that, for the outset of exams, the students have the consistent routine that they have had throughout their time here and access to that support network.

Students return from half term on Monday 2nd June and from this date need only attend for their exams. All students are welcome to attend school as usual, meet their teachers or make use of other facilities if preferred. If you could please notify either your child's form tutor, or myself, in advance of this that would be useful - [admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)

A large number of subjects will be offering breakfast revision sessions. We are working to centralise this, but it is likely that individual subjects will be recording these on Satchel/Teams and letting students know in lessons, so please check these avenues.

### **Exam Procedure Information**

With the exam season now in full swing, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some important information regarding exam procedures:

#### **Uniform**

All students should attend their exams in full uniform - this morning we had a small number of students who did not attend in uniform and we had to make arrangements to provide them with school items.

To avoid delay to entering the exam hall and any potential embarrassment, we would appreciate it if you could remind your child that uniform is a requirement of all exams.

#### **Writing on skin**

A small number of students have attended exams with writing on their skin. Please note, the JCQ exam regulations advise us that this is not allowed even if the writing is not related to the exam. Again, please could you remind your child about this.

#### **Attendance to lessons**

As previously outlined, there is no formal exam leave until half term and we expect all students to be in lessons for the next two weeks, unless they have an exam. Maximising the time with teacher contact is vital to support students - it is a growing trend nationally for schools to retain students in school until all their exams are completed. We feel that retaining students until half term in lessons is a good balance for our students.

Due to safeguarding reasons we are not permitted to allow students to leave the school site before 3:10pm unless parents have contacted the school to request leave following the normal absence channels by either using the Arbor reporting app or contacting our Reception desk [admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) directly. Please note, individual teachers should not be contacted to request absences.

We wish all students the best of luck across the exam season and greatly appreciate your continued support.

### **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.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## 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.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## CAREERS

**Parents Guide to University**

The Parents' Guide to University has been produced by UniTasterDays.com in collaboration with HELOA - to help you, as a parent or carer, to support your young person with their higher education decisions.

Editorial has been provided by over 50 colleagues at universities throughout the UK. On topics including student finance, university applications, university events, student wellbeing and more.

[https://files.unitasterdays.com/downloads/UniTasterDays\\_Parents\\_Guide\\_to\\_University\\_2025-accessible.pdf](https://files.unitasterdays.com/downloads/UniTasterDays_Parents_Guide_to_University_2025-accessible.pdf)

### **Long Road Sixth Form College Open Evenings – July 2025**

Long Road Sixth Form College is inviting Year 10 students and their families to attend their Open Evenings on **Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd July 2025**.

The event is also open to Year 11 students who would like another opportunity to visit the college before making their final post-16 decisions in August.

Booking is now live, and all attendees must book a ticket in advance to ensure the event remains safe and enjoyable. Tickets are limited to a maximum of four per booking.

For more information and to book your place, please visit:

[www.longroad.ac.uk/open-evenings](http://www.longroad.ac.uk/open-evenings)

### **Career Magazine For Parents**

Please see the below link to the latest edition of Careermag. This edition is packed with expert advice and insightful features designed to help parents guide their children through key education and career-decisions, whether they're considering A-Levels, Apprenticeships, or other next steps.

<https://careermag.co.uk/career-advice/careermag/for-parents-guardians/issue/33/careermag-for-parents-carers-and-guardians-issue-13-may-2025>

# MAY HALF TERM SPORT AND FITNESS

SPORT AND FITNESS FOR 11-19 YEAR OLDS

TUES 27 MAY

**5.00pm-7.30pm**

**SWORDERS FIELD,  
BISHOP'S STORTFORD**



Many thanks to the following organisations who have contributed towards these activities: Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Sovereign Network Group (SNG), Sporting Inspirations CIC, HCC Services for Young People and East Herts Council. For information please contact [community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk)

**FREE, NO NEED TO BOOK!**

