



<u>YEAR 7</u>	<u>YEAR 11</u>
<u>YEAR 8</u>	<u>SIXTH FORM</u>
<u>YEAR 9</u>	
<u>YEAR 10</u>	

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

1. Notice of Early Closure – Tuesday 4 March

Please be reminded that the school will close early for students tomorrow at 1:25 pm to accommodate Year 10 Parents' Evening. As Year 10 is a particularly large year group, the event will start earlier to allow more parents to book appointments with their child's subject teachers and to give staff time to prepare.

Anita's Buses and ACME Route A will collect their students at the earlier time of 13:30. All other ACME bus routes will collect at the normal time. Anyone else who receives transport via taxis or smaller minibuses should have been contacted directly by those companies with revised collection times.

2. Charity Day: Non-Uniform Day

We have designated **Friday 4 April 2025** as our third Charity Day of the school year and plan to raise funds for the school's chosen charity which for this year is the Animal Rescue Centre in Bishop's Stortford.

The Charity Day will be supported by a student 'non-uniform' day, whereby, they can attend school wearing more casual clothes. As this is a charity event, they are expected to donate of £1 minimum.

This money will need to be paid via Parent Pay, as we will not be taking any cash payments. The payment section is live on Parent Pay. Please contact jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk if you require your Parent pay login details.

Normal lessons will still take place throughout the day and students are expected to bring all books and equipment as required. Parents and students should bear in mind that the students' choice of 'own clothes' must still be sensible and in keeping with what is acceptable at school.

Rules regarding make up, jewellery etc. will remain and the wearing of shorts, short skirts or revealing tops would be regarded as inappropriate.

We will also selling Easter themed treats which are listed below.

- Option 1 – Easter Sweet Cones £2.00
- Option 2- Easter Sweet Kebab £2.00
- Option 3- Raffle ticket £1.00 for 5 tickets for the Easter Egg Raffle

Deadline for pre-order is Friday 21st March 2025

3. **Library Reward Scheme**

We are excited to introduce our Library Reward Cards, now available for students to collect from the library. This initiative encourages reading while offering great incentives:

- Students will receive a stamp for every book they read.
- 5 House Points will be awarded for each completed book.
- Once their card is full (6 books read), they will receive a special prize!

We encourage all students to take part and develop a lifelong love of reading.

4. **BBC Reporters Club Are Supporting Mahinga Primary School in Kenya**

We're collecting pre-loved trainers and sportswear to support Mahinga Primary School in rural Kenya. Over the past few years, we've provided every child with a pair of trainers for school, and we hope to continue this effort.

Many of these children walk long distances to access education, so suitable footwear makes a big difference. We're looking for donations of small sizes up to adult sizes.

If you can help, please drop your donations at Students' Reception. Thank you for your support!

5. **World Book Day Quiz**

Tomorrow is World Book Day. To celebrate, there will be a World Book Day Quiz in the Library at lunchtime on **Thursday 6 March**. See poster with full details [here](#).

6. **HAPpy Easter Camps – Free School Meal Students Only**

The HAPpy programme, part of the government-funded Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF), offers fully funded holiday activities for children and teenagers from Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals. SEND provision is also available.

The Easter programme runs from Monday 7th to Thursday 17th April 2025, with a variety of exciting activities on offer. Full details of venues and activities will be available when bookings open on Thursday 13th March at midday (12 noon). Unfortunately, we are unable to share details before this date.

Important dates:

- Tuesday 4th March – Look out for your child’s HAPpy booking code via email. A new Unique HAPpy Code is required to book a place.
- Thursday 13th March – Bookings open at 12 noon.

To find out more about what to expect at HAPpy Camps, you can watch a short video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lnj64auf3AU>

7. Message From Arriva Regarding Single Fare Cap

Please see the following message from Arriva Buses regarding the increase in the single fare cap to £3.00 from 1 January 2025.

<https://www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=182&type=pdf>

8. PSFA Quiz Night – Get Your Team Ready!

Join us for a fun-filled quiz night hosted by the PSFA. Test your knowledge and enjoy a great evening with friends. Poster can be seen [here](#).

- Friday 21st March
- Doors open at 7:00 pm, quiz starts at 7:30 pm
- Tables of up to 8
- £8 per person

To book your table, email treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com.

9. GT Scholars – Free Workshops for Parents

GT Scholars is hosting a series of engaging and insightful workshops to help parents support their children's emotional well-being, mental health, and decision-making skills. These free sessions provide practical strategies from experts to create a more supportive and connected home environment.

Upcoming Workshops:

[Master Emotional Intelligence for a Peaceful Home – Tuesday 4th March](#)

Discover key principles of emotional intelligence and how to apply them in parenting. Learn strategies to improve communication, navigate teen emotions, and foster mutual respect, reducing conflicts at home.

[Improving Mental Health for Young People – Tuesday 4th March](#)

Join this expert-led session to explore ways to help young people manage stress, anxiety, and emotional challenges. Gain valuable insights into building resilience and creating a supportive environment.

[Teaching our Children: What are Good Decisions? – Thursday 6th March](#)

Help your child develop strong decision-making skills. This session covers brain development, impulse control, and practical strategies to guide children in making responsible choices, handling peer pressure, and becoming independent thinkers.

10. Co-Curriculum Reminder

Our Co-Curriculum (linked below) is filled with activities and ideas chosen by each of our subject departments to help you get inspired. These activities will give you lots of different ways to explore topics and learn more about the things you enjoy. You'll find suggestions for things to Watch, Listen, Read, Go, and Do—and they're designed to be interesting and challenging, so you'll always have something new to try!

[Discover more.](#)

11. Weekly Safeguarding Tips: Physical Safety

Teach your child basic road safety and the importance of being aware of their surroundings.

Ensure your child knows how to contact you or another trusted adult in an emergency.

12. Careers Notices:

- ***Apprenticeships Awareness Session***

The recording from our Apprenticeship Awareness Session can now be found on our website for you to watch. [Please follow this link.](#)

- ***National Careers Week 2025 starts on Monday 3rd March.***

[Careers Podcasts](#) are a great starting point to help you research your career of the future.

Many of the people in the videos have gone to school in Hertfordshire which makes them very relatable and a great resource to watch.

- ***Aspiring Allies Programme – Careers in Healthcare***

Aspiring Allies offers a virtual work experience for individuals interested in healthcare careers. Please see attached, and this link [Home - Aspiring Allies](#) for more details.

Current programmes available include:

1. AHP's - an overview of the 14 professions
2. Occupational therapy
3. Physiotherapy
4. Dietetics

5. Operating department practice

There is a live launch event, followed by 6 self-directed online modules, and a live finale event. Each module takes around 1 hour, and the two live events are also recorded.

- **Hertfordshire Parent/Carer Apprenticeships Survey**

This week marks National Apprenticeship Week 2025. In partnership with our local Careers Hub our school is participating in the annual Hertfordshire Parent/Carer Apprenticeships and Technical Education Pathways Survey.

It doesn't matter whether you have strong views or have little knowledge of apprenticeships to be able to complete this survey. Some of you may have completed previous years surveys – some questions have been added or slightly amended since last year.

All completed surveys are completely anonymous, and responses will be collated directly by Amazing Apprenticeships who have been commissioned to complete the survey across Hertfordshire. If we receive more than 50 responses our school will receive its own individual report which will be incredibly helpful for us in planning future careers activity for both students and parent/carers.

Link to Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/birchwood-high-school-parents-25>

YEAR 7

Update from Mrs Osborne

Now we have passed our spring half term, we just wanted to congratulate the majority of our Year 7 students for continuing to approach school life, learning and friendships really positively. It is always pleasing to see most of our youngest students conducting themselves sensibly and respectfully around the school site and making the most of the varied and enriching opportunities Birchwood provides. There have been some social challenges at times though and there will be new dynamics following recent set changes, but we hope that everyone settles back into good working patterns as soon as they can. Please remind your children that their form tutors and subject teachers are their first port of call if they have any concerns or questions and if necessary, these will be passed on to Mr Edwards (HOY) and Mrs Osborne (AHOY).

Wishing you all a happy and productive second half of term and we are looking forward to more learning and fun, the warmer weather and distant promise of PGL!

YEAR 8

Update from Mrs Hinski

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a restful half term. We are now halfway through the academic year, and hopefully as the weather turns more spring like, let's hope our Year 8 students will do the same and have a spring in their step.

Trainers seem to have been on the increase nearing half term, so tutors will be contacting home if this has not been rectified during the half term break. Please encourage your child to 'look smart and think sharp'. As this will be our Moto this half term.

Ardeche 2026 - Current Year 8

The payment deadline to sign up for Ardeche 2026 trip has been extended to Friday 7 March at 9am. Please pay the £150 deposit to express your interest.

YEAR 9

Year 9 Parents Evening

Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 18 March from 4:00pm to 7.00pm. These meetings will be booked online and held in-person at the school. More details on how to book appointments will be emailed to you later this week.

Science Museum Trip

Please ensure you have signed your child up to the Science Museum for the trips on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 March via ParentPay. Confirmation emails will be sent this week.

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.

Year 10 Provisional Mock Dates

Year 10 Mocks are set for the week beginning 16th June. Students will sit 1 exam per core subject. This is scheduled at the end of the public exam period. We will confirm which exam is on which days closer to the time.

Year 10 Parents Evening – Tuesday 4 March

Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place tomorrow from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. These meetings will be booked online and held in-person at the school. More details on how to book appointments has been emailed to you. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Kimberley ekimberley@birchwoodhigh.org.uk.

Business Studies: Component 2 Business Ideas (Presentation Pitch).

Reminder that Year 10 Business Presentations will take place on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 March

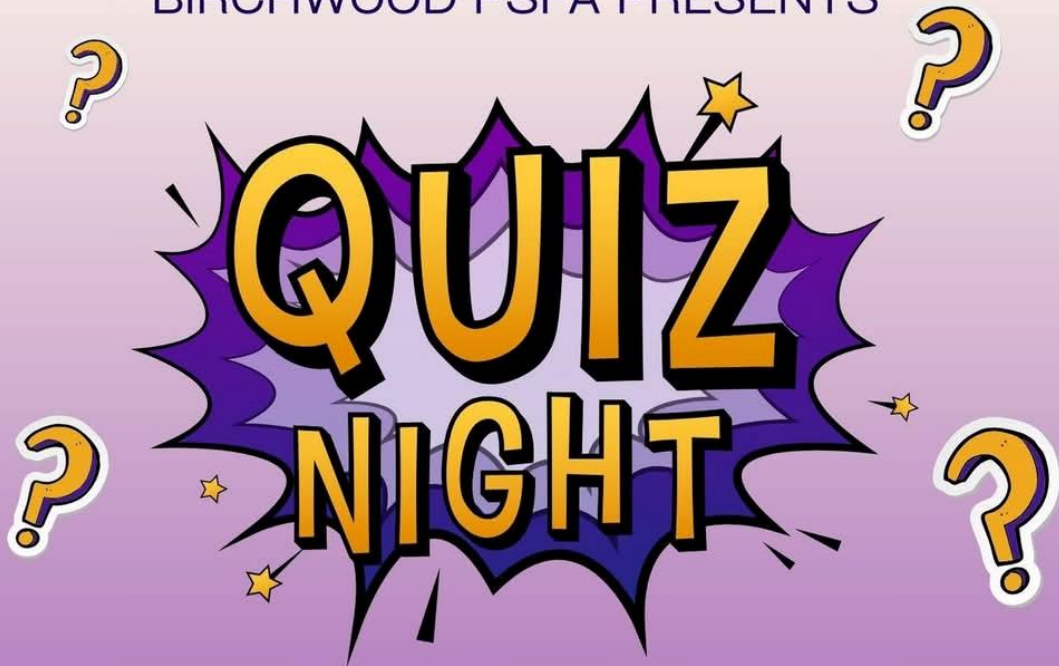
YEAR 11

N/A

SIXTH FORM

N/A

BIRCHWOOD PSFA PRESENTS

A central graphic for 'Quiz Night' featuring the words 'QUIZ NIGHT' in large, bold, yellow letters with black outlines, set against a purple, jagged, starburst background. The text is surrounded by several yellow question marks and small yellow stars, all with white outlines. The background of the entire poster is a gradient from light purple at the top to dark purple at the bottom, with orange accents at the top-left and bottom-left corners.

QUIZ NIGHT

WITH SIMON & DAVE

**BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
FRIDAY 21ST MARCH 2025**

7PM FOR 7:30PM START
TABLES OF UP TO 8 PEOPLE
£8 PER PERSON, BRING OWN DRINKS AND NIBBLES

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!
TREASURERBWPSFA@GMAIL.COM



WORLD BOOK DAY QUIZ 2025



THURSDAY 6 MARCH IN THE LIBRARY AT LUNCHTIME – PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM!!!
SIGN UP WITH MISS SHACKLETON