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WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

1. **Enrichment Week**

Please see the following link to the trips timetable for Enrichment Week. Unfortunately, any clashes are due to venue and coach availability and therefore unavoidable.

<https://www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=186&type=pdf>

Please note:

- Bowling is still to be agreed with the venue and emails will be sent in the next two weeks
- All payments for trips and events are non-refundable unless a replacement can be found
- For all trips to run successfully it requires the co-operation of students. Continued poor behaviour in school could result in your child being removed from the trip. In this instance no refund will be offered.
- Payment must be made via ParentPay and received in full by Monday 31st March 2025, If payment is not received, we will presume your child is no longer attending.
- We will fund one trip for those eligible for free school meals; any additional trips must be paid for in full in order to participate. Please email Mrs Young – jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk to confirm your child's place
- After the payment deadline you will receive a confirmation that your child has a place, if you do not receive this email your child is not confirmed on the trip
- If trips are under subscribed by the payment deadline, these trips will be cancelled, and you will then receive a full refund
- Please contact the school using the trips email – trips@birchwoodhigh.org.uk with any queries

2. Notice of Early Closure – Friday 4 April

Please be aware that the school will close early for students at 1:25pm on the last day of the Spring Term, Friday 4 April.

Please complete the following form regarding the early finish: <https://forms.office.com/e/NxvVUesxTa>

You will need to complete a separate form for each child attending the school.

If you do not complete the form by Monday 31 March, and have not informed us to the contrary, we will assume that you give permission for your child to leave the school site at 1:25pm.

Details for students that use Anita's, ACME coaches or other organised transport will be confirmed shortly.

3. 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 £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 be 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**

4. PSFA AGM Tuesday 18th March, 7pm in Room A2 (Sports Hall). All welcome.

We have vacancies for a Treasurer, Chairperson and Secretary - if you'd like more information on these roles please email us at birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com

Please note, if the role of Treasurer is not filled then the PSFA will have to disband at the end of the academic year.

5. DSPL3 – Courses and Training for SEND Parents

DSPL3 is offering a range of courses and training sessions for parents and carers of children with SEND. These sessions provide valuable guidance, support, and strategies to help families navigate their child's educational journey.

For full details and to book a place, please visit:

<https://www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=185&type=pdf>

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. Booking is now open: [Follow this link from Thursday 13th March to book your child's place.](#)

Please make a note of this booking code: **6G9@UU**

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. **Bishop's Stortford Initial Teacher Training information Evening 03/04/25**

If you are interested in starting a career in teaching, please see below the flyer for the upcoming BSITT Information Evening on 3rd April 2025 6-8pm

TRAIN TO TEACH

BISHOP'S STORTFORD
INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

tes
institute

MEET THE TEAM
Join us and find out how we can help you start your teaching journey!

Leventhorpe School
Cambridge Road | Sawbridgeworth | CM21 9BY

Thursday 3rd April 2025

6pm - 8pm

For more information or to register your interest, please visit www.bsitt.co.uk

8. **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.](#)

9. Weekly Safeguarding Tips: Attendance & Routine

Ensure your child attends school regularly and on time – routines help children feel secure and safe.

Inform the school immediately of any changes in your child's life that may affect their well-being.

YEAR 7

N/A

YEAR 8

Update from Mrs Hinski

It has been lovely to see some lively competition in MFL lessons recently demonstrating enthusiastic attitudes to learning and great teamwork. Meanwhile, avid discussions have been happening in English whilst delving into *The Tempest*.

A quick reminder that some students have been slipping into trainers - our school policy remains the same and students must adhere to wearing leather shoes. Tutors will be contacting home to see if any further support is required in fulfilling this school expectation.

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.

The online booking system opened at **7.00pm on Tuesday, 11 March**.

The link to the booking system is as follows: <https://parents-booking.co.uk/birchwood>.

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 day closer to the time.

Year 10 Dance Revision Sessions:

Please be aware of the following upcoming dance revision sessions with Mrs Goddard

- Thursday 20th and Thursday 27th March, 3.15-4pm in B23

Sheringham Trip

Please ensure you have completed the meal and room sharing options as these must be finalised this week.

YEAR 11

Year Group Photo

Due to poor weather last week, the Year 11 whole year group photograph will now take place tomorrow during form time.

Free webinar for students & parents: The UCAS Personal Statement is Changing

UCAS have recently amended the personal statement format from one longer essay to three structured questions, affecting all students applying to a UK university from next year onward.

To support your child in navigating these changes, InvestIN is hosting a free, interactive webinar led by experts, covering everything they need to know to make their application stand out.

We strongly encourage parents of Year 11 and Year 12 students to attend alongside their child to gain valuable insights into the new format and understand what skills and experiences will help them craft strong responses.

Date & Time: 26th March, 6-7pm

Online - Register [here](#)

If you cannot attend live, please register to automatically receive the recording.

Careers Notice: Engineering Experience – Loughborough University

Applications are now open for Engineering Experience, a three-day on-campus residential from 1st – 3rd July, designed for Year 11 students interested in studying engineering at university.

Successful applicants will take part in hands-on engineering workshops and industry talks, led by university academics, careers experts, and professionals. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore different areas of engineering, including fields they may not have considered before.

To apply and check eligibility criteria, please visit: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/school-college-liaison/key-stage-four/engexp/>

SIXTH FORM

Year 13 Prom

An email was sent out last week with further details about the Year 13 Prom, which will take place on Wednesday 2nd July 2025.

Payment should be made via ParentPay by Friday 4th April 2025. Please ensure payments are made on time to secure a place.

Yr 12 Business Mock Exam

Please be aware of the following date for Business students:

- Yr 12 Doubles: Unit 3 Mock on 27th March
- Yr 12 Singles Unit 2 Mock on 25th March Part A and 26th March Part B.
- Year 12 Doubles Unit 3 Grade Booster Trip to Westfield Stratford on 25th March.

Careers Notices: Finance industry insight day with Crédit Agricole Corporate Investment Bank

Crédit Agricole Corporate Investment Bank (CACIB) are hosting an **insight day for autistic young people** interested in learning more about the finance industry and what it is like to work for CACIB.

The insight day will give you the opportunity to hear from some of the different business departments at the bank and learn more about the application process and the support they can offer autistic candidates.

The insight day will take place in London on Wednesday 14 May, 10am-1.30pm. Find out more: <https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/what-we-do/services/i-am-an-autistic-young-person/employment-opportunities/cacib-insight-day>