



# BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

02/06/25

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## WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

### **1. Welcome Back – Final Half Term of the Year**

We hope all our students and families had a restful and enjoyable half term break.

As we begin the final half term of the academic year, we're looking forward to a busy and exciting few weeks ahead. Highlights will include Enrichment Week, Sports Day, and hopefully plenty of sunny weather to enjoy along the way.

### **2. Teacher Ice Bucket Challenge – Thank You**

A huge thank you to all the staff and students who made our May Charity Day on the final day of term such a success. From the fantastic range of fundraising activities to the brilliant Ice Bucket Challenge, the day was filled with energy, fun, and generosity.

We're especially grateful to the staff who volunteered to take part in the Ice Bucket Challenge and to the students who supported the event so enthusiastically. The challenge alone raised over £500 for charity, and the atmosphere across the school was fantastic throughout the day.

Well done to everyone involved – a brilliant way to end the half term!

### **3. Enrichment Week – Trip Booking Has Now Closed**

The payment deadlines for all Enrichment Week trips have now passed, and final arrangements have been confirmed.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to accept any additional students for trips at this stage.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in meeting the deadlines and helping us finalise plans for what promises to be an exciting week of activities.

#### **4. 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.

#### **5. 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!

## **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**

#### **Year 8 Options – deadline has now passed**

The deadline for completing the options form has now passed. All students and parents should have received an email from our online application platform, Applica. Please note that as a parent, you are only 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)

## **Head of Year Update**

### **Message from Mrs Hinski**

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the academic year! Thank you for welcoming me into Birchwood and your patience whilst I learnt a lot of new systems and more about your child. The year group are moving in the right direction, and I think students are more settled with the expectations and structure of the school.

I'm pleased to share that a positive new change is taking place for Year 8 starting next term. I have been given the exciting opportunity to lead our new Year 7 cohort from September, and I'm looking forward to supporting them as they begin their Birchwood High journey.

In the meantime, Mr Loney will be taking over the role of Head of Year 8 into Year 9. He brings with him a wealth of experience in pastoral leadership and is well-placed to continue supporting the year group. I will also continue working closely with Year 8 later in the summer term to ensure a smooth transition.

If you have any further contact regarding your child, please send this to the admin email as I will be on Primary school visits from June and therefore Mr Loney will be overseeing the day-to-day business. Those on report will still run and meetings will continue as required.

It has been a real pleasure to begin my Birchwood journey with Year 8 – a fantastic group of students. I look forward to watching them grow and thrive as they move through the school.

Warm regards,

Mrs Hinski

### **Message from Mr Loney**

Dear parents/carers

I would like to firstly state how much I am looking forward to taking over as your child's Head of Year from Mrs Hinski at the end of this academic year. Mrs Hinski's hard work and diligence with this year group cannot go unrecognised, and I know that she will miss working with this year group. I will be in contact from the outset with some of you to ensure that we have adequate support in place for your child as we approach year 9, which represents a significant milestone. The options process should ensure that your child is pursuing subjects in which they have interest and a certain degree of affinity, which I am hopeful will translate into a motivated and purposeful year.

Your child will see me very frequently over the final half term, as I will be observing lessons across the school as well as at break and lunchtime. I would like to briefly outline what my expectations are for every student in the year group, which everyone will meet from day one:

- Arrive on time to all lessons, in proper uniform.
- Demonstrate politeness and tolerance to other students and teachers.
- Complete tasks in lessons quietly, and to the best of your ability.
- At no point should mobile phones be used throughout the day.

Note - please do not contact your child during the school day as this is likely to get them into trouble. If you need to get a message to them, then please call the reception and a message will be taken to them.

I am conscious that the majority of the year group will not know me particularly well as yet, but this does afford everyone – myself included – the opportunity of making a good first impression. Please remind your child of this, and ask them to come and introduce themselves if they see me around school. I will be in touch later in the term to share more with you, and I thank you in advance for your support.

Warm regards,

Mr Loney

*Current Head of Year 11 & Incoming Head of Year*

## YEAR 9

### **Year 9 Options – Deadline has now passed**

The deadline for completing the options form has now passed. All students and parents should have received an email from our online application platform, Applicaa. Please note that as a parent, you are only 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)

## 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.*

A small number of subjects will not be holding formal assessments either due to the recent completion of public exams or the fact that coursework is the current focus in lessons.

Class teachers will be preparing students for these assessments over the next few weeks and students will also receive briefings in assemblies and form time.

There will be further periods of mock exams across Year 11, full details of which will be shared in September.

## 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.

## **CAREERS**

### **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.

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

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