



# BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

29/09/25

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## WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

### **Home School Agreement – Reminder**

[The Birchwood High School – Home School](#) Agreement was sent out on Thursday 18 September. This is a reminder that all parents/carers need to read this with their child and complete the form included in the agreement.

### **Early Closure – Open Evening**

Please be aware that the school will close early to students at **12:20pm** on **Thursday 2 October** for our annual Open Evening.

Details for students that use Anita's or ACME coaches are as follows:

- Anita's Coaches will collect at the earlier time.
- Louie's Transport will collect at the earlier time.
- ACME are unable to amend timetables and will collect at their usual time of 15:20pm.

### **CPD – School Closure**

Friday 3 October is a non-student day.

## Flu Vaccinations

- **Years 7 and 8**

For those that missed the flu vaccinations, a second day will run on Wednesday 3 December 2025.

- **Year 9**

For those that missed the flu vaccinations, a second day will run on Wednesday 8 October 2025.

- **Years 10 and 11**

Will be held on Wednesday 8 October. Please ensure you respond with either consent or no consent via the link below, to help the day run smoothly and efficiently.

[Vaccination UK Immunisation](#)

## YEAR 7

### Year 7 Newsletter – Head of Year Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had another positive week in Year 7. The year group are now finding their way around school more confidently and are beginning to form new friendship groups, which is lovely to see.

That said, we have begun to see a small rise in behaviour points last week. In my recent assembly, I spoke to students about the importance of “re-setting” at any point during the day and always striving to make a good impression. I would encourage you to have a conversation with your child over the weekend to reinforce this message.

You can keep up to date with your child's progress using the Parent Arbor app, which shows attendance, reward points, and behaviour points. If you are experiencing any difficulties using the app, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Last week, Year 7 showed great maturity and responsibility during the flu vaccinations – well done to them. Looking ahead, the students are excited for **Open Evening on Thursday**, which is always a fantastic event. Please remember that Thursday will be a half-day so staff can prepare the site, and there will be **no school on Friday 3rd October** due to a staff training day.

Also on Friday 3rd October, the first Year 7 reports will go live to families. These will provide an *Attitude to Learning* grade for each subject. At this early stage of the year, please don't be overly concerned if your child does not yet receive the “exceptional” grade – many teachers are still getting to know their new classes, and the next report will give a clearer picture of progress. If you do have

concerns about a grade, please contact the school office, addressing your query to the relevant subject teacher. They are best placed to explain what is happening in the classroom.

By now, all students should be regularly logging on to Satchel One for homework. Please continue to support your child by checking they have completed tasks and packed their bag ready for the next day. Developing these good routines now will help them feel more organised and confident.

Finally, we have noticed a few instances of unkind behaviour within the year group. Next week, our focus will be on the message: *"If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all."* We will be encouraging students to support one another through kind words and actions, and to make sure that no one is left feeling isolated.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,  
Mrs Hinski  
Head of Year 7

## YEAR 8

N/A

## YEAR 9

### **Update from Loney – Head of Year 9**

Firstly, the options process seems to have been a success so far, with the vast majority of students now studying subjects that they are passionate about. There have inevitably been a few subject moves that have taken place, Friday 26 September marks the end of the period whereby students can swap options as the classes are now set. For your information, we run a revised option process with students choosing four options rather than the six they are studying currently nearer the end of the year, including a mixture of new options that were not available to be selected in year 9. Secondly, I want to thank you all for your support with the new behaviour and uniform standards that we as a school are setting. I appreciate that for the vast majority of you, nothing is functionally different as your child exhibits exemplary behaviour and attitude, but your support is greatly appreciated. Finally, students in JBD will be delighted to hear that Mr Budd has recently had a baby boy, I am sure that they and yourselves wish him the very best on his increasingly sleep-deprived journey.

### **Art Trip to Young V & A Museum**

The deadline for payment closes on Tuesday 30 September; please make payment on ParentPay to confirm your child's place on the Trip.

## **YEAR 10**

### **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze**

We're excited to announce that the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award assembly for students will take place on **Thursday 2 October 2025**. During the assembly, students will learn more about the award and what it involves.

A letter will be sent home this week with full details for parents, including information about the award, associated costs, and expedition dates.

The Bronze Award programme will officially begin after the October half term, starting on Friday 7 November 2025. Sessions will run every other week from 3:15 to 4:00pm, and attendance is compulsory.

### **Art Trip to Cambridge Museums**

The deadline for payment closes on Tuesday 30 September; please make payment on ParentPay to confirm your child's place on the Trip.

### **Film & Media Trip to Harry Potter Studios**

The deadline for payment closes on Tuesday 30 September; please make payment on ParentPay to confirm your child's place on the Trip.

### **Spanish trip to Madrid**

Sign up is open for the year 10 Spanish trip to Madrid; deposit payment of £150 is due by Friday 3 October 2025.

### **Y10 Work Experience**

The Year 10 Work Experience week has been set as 29 June to 3 July 2026. All Y10 students are encouraged to find their own placement with parental support.

[For parents and caregivers: how to help your child find a work placement : Unifrog Placement Guides](#)

If you and/or your child needs support then please speak to Mrs Crimes ([crimesj@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:crimesj@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)) at the earliest opportunity.

## **Exploring Post 16 Pathways**

Hertford Regional College – Open Event - Tuesday 30 September 2025 - 17:30 - 20:00

Stansted Airport College – Open Event – Saturday 11 October 2025 - 10:00 – 14:00

Harlow College – Open Event - Thursday 16 October 2025 - 17:00 – 20:00

Cambridge Regional College – Open Event – Wednesday 22 October – 16:30 – 19:00

Boys High – Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 5 November – Check website

St Mary's - Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 6 November – Check website

Herts & Essex – Sixth Form Open Evening – 12 November 2025 – Check website

**Birchwood Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 13 November 2025**

## **Discover Apprenticeships with the British Army**

Join us for two exclusive webinars with the British Army, to learn more about the 40+ different apprenticeship opportunities in the British Army available, from engineering to animal care, to logistics and HR. The October date is aimed at parents and carers with the February date perfect for young people and those supporting them

[\*\*BOOK 21 OCTOBER\*\*](#)

[\*\*BOOK 3 FEBRUARY\*\*](#)

## **Discover Apprenticeships at the BBC**

Join us to discover exciting apprenticeship opportunities at the BBC in business, data and digital technology, engineering, journalism, and production. This engaging session is designed for school leavers, career changers, or anyone curious about what it's like to work behind the scenes of the UK's leading public service broadcaster. During this session, you'll hear directly from the BBC about what it's like to be an apprentice, gain valuable insights into the structure and benefits of the apprenticeship schemes and more!

[\*\*BOOK NOW\*\*](#)

## YEAR 11

### **Revision Quiz.**

Can all Year 11 students complete this short questionnaire about what revision they are currently doing and what they need help with:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=L0Bqhkmm1EylEv\\_5SAuKx0lrbS5jHfdMgvb3KtGWijdUQ1FXQTNDN0lxMDZRSFE1Q0hKRzVIRENESy4](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=L0Bqhkmm1EylEv_5SAuKx0lrbS5jHfdMgvb3KtGWijdUQ1FXQTNDN0lxMDZRSFE1Q0hKRzVIRENESy4)

## SIXTH FORM

### **Bishops Stortford Means Business event**

Year 12 Business students will be attending the Bishops Stortford Means Business event. On Wednesday 22 October 12.20 at South Mills Art Centre.

### **Y12 Work Experience**

The Year 12 Work Experience week has been set as 23 - 27 March. All Y12 students are encouraged to find their own placement with parental support.

[For parents and caregivers: how to help your child find a work placement : Unifrog Placement Guides](#)

If you and/or your child needs support then please speak to Mrs Crimes ([crimesj@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:crimesj@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)) at the earliest opportunity.

### **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>

### **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)

## **Registration Now Open for TheatreCraft25!**

TheatreCraft, the UK's largest free offstage theatre careers event, is back! Taking place on Monday 3 November at the Royal Opera House and venues across the West End, this year's event promises even more inspiration, insight, and industry connections.

Whether you're just starting out or stepping up in your theatre career, TheatreCraft25 offers:


 Interactive Q&As, Talks & Workshops

 On-Stage Demonstrations & Backstage Tours

 1:1 CV Clinics

 Exhibitor Marketplace with 70+ universities, drama schools, and theatre organisations

Can't attend in person? Keep an eye out for TheatreCraft Online updates.

 Register now to secure your spot and gain early access to the full programme before it's announced publicly in October.

 Visit [theatrecraft.org](https://theatrecraft.org) to register and learn more.

# A HAUNTED HOUSE

## SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The Library is running a short story competition based on the theme "A Haunted House".

What eerie, haunting and mysteriously creepy stories can you conjure up from the depths of your imagination?

Perhaps you and your family have just moved to a new area and into an old worn-down house that your family has promised to rebuild. You hear rumours that the house you are living in is haunted. You laugh at how ridiculous this seems, until one night, you see something that makes your blood run cold...

Perhaps you're the ghost that haunts the house, determined to never share your home with anyone. What is your story?

Whatever way you choose to write your story, Prepare to Scare!!

Please hand all entries to Miss Shackleton in the Library no later than 20 October.