



BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

06/10/25

YEAR 7	YEAR 11
YEAR 8	SIXTH FORM
YEAR 9	VACANCIES
YEAR 10	

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

New Art Club: Celebrating Culture

We're thrilled to introduce our new art club, Celebrating Culture! Open to all students, this creative lunchtime club invites participants to explore and make a variety of arts and crafts inspired by different cultures and global celebrations. From vibrant traditions to unique artistic styles, students will have the chance to learn, create, and connect. There will also be themed competitions throughout the year — a great opportunity to showcase creativity and win prizes!

The club runs every week B Tuesday during lunchtime from 12:20 to 13:00 in Room C22. All students are welcome!

Drawing Club

Drawing club is open to all who have a love of drawing. Friday lunchtimes in C23, all welcome.

Art club – Years 7 and 8

Art club continues this year, run by Mrs Parker every Wednesday lunchtime in C22. You will enjoy a range of art and craft techniques. Sign up via SOC's or come along on the day to get involved.

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.

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](#)

Dare to Tell a Tale?

The Library invites you to enter its Short Story Competition, where the shadows whisper and the walls remember...

This year's theme: **"A Haunted House"** 🧛

Let your imagination roam through creaking floorboards, flickering candlelight, and secrets buried deep in the dark.

Deadline: All entries must be submitted to the Library by October 20th.

Prizes await the top 3 spine-chilling stories!

Whether it's eerie, emotional, or downright terrifying—if your story haunts us, you might just win.

YEAR 7

Head of Year Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start to the year it has been! I am incredibly proud of our Year 7 students, particularly for their outstanding contribution to our recent Open Evening. The maturity, enthusiasm, and pride they showed in representing our school was truly heartwarming.

A special mention must go to Scarlett and Poppy, who wrote and delivered exceptional speeches to a hall full of prospective families—not once, but four times throughout the evening! Their confidence and poise were praised by many visitors, and they truly embodied everything we hope our students will become.

As I walked around the school during the event, it was a joy to overhear Year 7 students confidently leading tours and engaging in meaningful conversations with prospective parents and children. Thank you for your support at home in preparing them for this occasion.

It was an utter pleasure to watch both the boys and girls compete in their first fixtures – the boys played an amazing game of rugby on Monday against Leventhorpe in a close fought match drawing in the end. For some of our players it was their first match so I am super proud of their achievement. On Wednesday, the girls played football against St. Mary's and stormed to an awesome 4-2 win. Special credit to Emma who plays outside of school and was a crucial player in the team. I look forward to cheering on many more fixtures this year for our year group.

In lessons, students are settling in well and are beginning to meet our high expectations, particularly around the standard of presentation in their work and the completion of homework. Should your child experience any difficulties accessing Satchel One, please don't hesitate to contact their form tutor, who can assist with resetting passwords or resolving any issues.

Reminders:

- **Mobile Phones:** A polite reminder that mobile phone use is strictly prohibited during the school day.
- **Messages During the Day:** If you need to get an urgent message to your child during school hours, please contact our reception on **01279 655936**, and a member of staff will ensure the message is passed on.
- **Year 7 Settling-In Evening:** This will take place on **Tuesday 7th October**. There will be one speech from myself and Mr Herbert. To manage numbers, we kindly ask that only **one representative per family** attends. Students are not required to attend this event. Please confirm your attendance via this [Form](#).

You will soon receive your child's first set of academic data. Hopefully, you will be pleased with their progress so far. If you have any concerns regarding a specific subject, please contact the relevant teacher directly via admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk.

Recently, I have seen some fantastic work in English, where students have been looking at the characters from *Oliver Twist*, and in Geography, where they have been learning about the diverse countries within Africa. Do ask your child to tell you more—it has sparked some great classroom discussions!

Finally, our year group motto for next week is:

“Be sweet, not sour – Kindness has power!”

Please take a moment to talk to your child about what this means to them, and perhaps revisit the conversation at the end of the week to see how their understanding and reflections have developed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Hinski

Rugby Match/Training

The next Year 7 rugby match is away to Hockerill on Tuesday 7 October after school. I will place a team sheet up on Thursday morning for those involved as unfortunately for this game I can only select 14 boys as space on the minibus is limited to these numbers. Training is on for everyone 3.15 - 4.30pm after school on Monday 6 October.

YEAR 8

Head of Year Update

Well done Year 8! I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic efforts and achievements of our students over the past week.

Firstly, I must commend our girls' football team. Despite the challenging match that ended 7-2, the team demonstrated incredible determination, spirit, and teamwork throughout. Their commitment to giving their best on the field, regardless of the scoreline, truly embodies the values we strive to instil in our students.

Similarly, our boys' rugby team put in an admirable performance. Although the final score was 45-15, the second half of the game showed a remarkable improvement in both strategy and teamwork. Their resilience and ability to respond positively to adversity were impressive and something to be proud of. The team's dedication to growth and sportsmanship is a great example to us all.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and praise to our Year 8 students who volunteered to help during our recent Open Evening. Their enthusiasm and maturity as guides and helpers in various faculties contributed greatly to the smooth running of the event. Their willingness to support the school community is commendable and highlights the positive spirit within our year group.

Thank you for your continued support at home. Together, we celebrate not just the results, but the hard work, determination, and community spirit that our students consistently show.

Mr Edwards

YEAR 9

Head of Year Update

This week, we celebrate the success of the Year 9 Rugby team who put in a dominant and cohesive performance against Leventhorpe, winning in a closely contested 50-40. The students who played should be immensely proud of their efforts and should have enjoyed a well-deserved rest on Friday. If there are any students who wish to join the school rugby team, please seek out Mr Evans or Mr Jones as a priority. I also would like to recognise those students across the year group who contributed to the 1030 house points received for hard work, effort, progress or kindness that we as a year group have achieved in the last week. It is so warming to see that so many of our students are having their efforts recognised by their teachers, long may it continue.

YEAR 10

Year 10 – Duke of Edinburgh’s Bronze Award

We’re excited to offer Year 10 students the chance to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Bronze Award – a nationally recognised programme that helps young people build skills, confidence and resilience.

The award includes four sections: Volunteering, Skills, Physical, and a two-day Expedition (planned for 16–17 May 2026). Students will attend fortnightly training sessions after school on Fridays (3.15–4.00pm), starting 7 November.

To apply, students must submit a one-page letter to Miss LaLonge by Friday 10 October, explaining why they want to take part and suggesting ideas for their activities. Places will be offered based on enthusiasm and behaviour.

The cost is £75, covering registration and training materials. Expedition costs (max £60) will be confirmed later. Equipment like tents and stoves can be borrowed, but students will need some personal kit (e.g. boots, sleeping bag). Pupil Premium/Free School Meals students will have costs covered and may receive additional kit support.

For more info, visit www.DofE.org or contact Mr Loveday (rloveday@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) or Miss LaLonge (clalonge@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)

YEAR 11

Head of Year Update

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the Year 11 students who took part in our successful Open Evening. Your enthusiasm, dedication, and support made a real difference, and we're proud of the way you represented our school—well done!

If your child would like to take part in the Year 11 revision sessions, there is still time to do so.

These sessions offer valuable support in preparation for upcoming exams, focusing on key subjects and study strategies. We encourage all students to make the most of this opportunity.

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 - Head of Year Update

Year 12 have got off to a brilliant start this year! It's been lovely to see our new students and those moving up from Year 11 mixing so well and quickly becoming a supportive, friendly year group. So many of them are already getting involved in clubs, activities, and helping around the school, which is fantastic to see. We're really proud of the positive energy they're bringing, and we're excited for everything they'll achieve together this year.

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.

TRAIN TO TEACH

BSITT INFORMATION EVENING

◆ MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2025

◆ 6PM - 7.30PM

◆ LEVENTHORPE SCHOOL
CM21 9BY



JOIN US & FIND OUT
HOW WE CAN HELP
YOU START YOUR
TEACHING JOURNEY!

MEET THE TEAM

INFORMAL PRESENTATION

CHAT WITH FORMER
TRAINEES



BISHOP'S STORTFORD
INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING



PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST VIA OUR WEBSITE:

www.bsitt.co.uk