



# BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

13/10/25

<a href="#">YEAR 7</a>	<a href="#">YEAR 11</a>
<a href="#">YEAR 8</a>	<a href="#">SIXTH FORM</a>
<a href="#">YEAR 9</a>	<a href="#">VACANCIES</a>
<a href="#">YEAR 10</a>	

## 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.



### **National Biology Week, 11 – 19 October**

We are excited to announce that this week marks the 2025 National Biology Week, an event which celebrates the biosciences, raising the profile of the field and the important work done by biochemists to support life on Earth through innovation. The week will consist of fun quizzes, competitions, scavenger hunts, and exciting science practical activities. An exciting week ahead. Be sure to ask students all about it.

### **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.



### **Birchwood Bonus Ball**

Who is feeling lucky?! Subscriptions for our Birchwood Bonus Ball Club are now open for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The Bonus Ball is a monthly raffle-style fundraiser. You can purchase up to 5 numbers per month at £3 each. This year, the monthly prize has been £178.50!

To take part, email us with your name and contact number:

[Treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com](mailto:Treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com)

Kind regards

Your PSFA Committee

## **YEAR 7**

### **Head of Year Update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all those who attended the Year 7 Settling-In Evening last week. I hope you found it useful and informative. A copy of the presentation can be found [here](#).

It has been fantastic to see the first set of Attitudes to Learning reports go home, and I'm pleased to say that the majority are very positive. However, it has been a little disappointing that a small number of students have made some unhelpful choices recently. During form time last week, our "Do Now" focus has been "Be sweet, not sour – kindness is power", and students have engaged

brilliantly in group discussions and written reflections. This makes recent incidents all the more disheartening.

Please take a moment to remind your child of our key expectations:

- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Use kind and appropriate language that you fully understand.
- Accept and respect others, even if they have different interests or opinions.

As highlighted in the Settling-In Evening presentation, most social media platforms (including WhatsApp, Snapchat, and Instagram) have a minimum legal age of 13 to hold an account. This is a polite reminder that Year 7 students should not yet be using these platforms. Please continue to monitor your child's phone use and chat with them about online safety.

Perhaps the darker evenings and the long autumn term are starting to take their toll — it's a good time to check that your child is staying organised:

- Completing homework on time
- Packing their bag the night before
- Getting a full night's sleep without interruptions from phones or devices

On a brighter note, it was wonderful to hear that the boys' rugby team drew against Hockerill last week. I was sorry not to be there cheering them on, but it's fantastic to see such a positive start to the season — still undefeated!

Looking ahead, our theme for this week is:

**“Turn up. Try hard. Push through.”**

In tutor time, we'll be encouraging students to start tasks/days with enthusiasm and to persevere, even when things feel challenging.

Around school, I've seen some brilliant learning taking place:

- In Textiles, students are confidently threading sewing machines and beginning their mini projects.
- In Maths, classes have been working on assessments and understanding the importance of showing their workings— particularly on questions worth 2–4 marks. Even if it's not explicitly stated, those extra marks are often awarded for clear reasoning! Please do discuss this with your child at home.

For those wanting to assist in additional learning at home, Seneca is a great online tool the school buys into to aid with revision and extra learning materials. Your child needs to log in using their Birchwood email. It covers a range of subjects at both Key Stage 3 and 4, you can either read around the topic currently being studied or alternatively stretch your child's understanding by exploring other topics.

Please ask your child to hand in their summer work to their form tutor I will be reading these over half term.

Finally, we're excited to celebrate Biology Week this week, with Mrs Pressland leading our Year 7 assembly — more details to follow soon!

Thank you for your continued support in helping Year 7 have such a positive and productive start to their time here.

Warm regards,  
Mrs Hinski  
Head of Year 7

## YEAR 8

### **Another busy week for Year 8!**

Firstly, a huge congratulations to all the students who represented the school in the recent Cross-Country event. Whether they were seasoned runners or giving it a go for the first time, each participant showed fantastic determination, sportsmanship, and team spirit. It was great to see them challenge themselves and support one another throughout the day.

Equally deserving of praise are our fantastic Sports Leaders, who played a key role in running the recent Primary Boccia Tournament. Their maturity, leadership skills, and welcoming attitude made the event a memorable experience for our younger visitors. They were a credit to the school, and it was inspiring to see them take on such responsibility with confidence and enthusiasm.

We'd also like to celebrate the many Year 8 students who have joined extracurricular clubs this term. From sports and music to creative writing and science, it's been brilliant to see students stepping outside of their comfort zones, pursuing their interests, and building new friendships along the way. We strongly encourage all students to continue taking advantage of these opportunities – they really help to enrich school life.

Finally, we are eagerly anticipating the entries to our **Haunted House Short Story Competition**. Year 8 always impress us with their creativity and flair, and we can't wait to see the spine-chilling stories they come up with this year!

Mr Edwards  
Head of Year 8

## YEAR 9

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

The deadline has now passed but there are limited places still available. Please email [trips@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:trips@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) to express interest.

## YEAR 10

### **Year 10 – Duke of Edinburgh’s Bronze Award**

Thank you to all the students who submitted their application letters to Miss LaLonge. We appreciate your enthusiasm and effort. Successful applicants will be notified next week.

## YEAR 11

### **Y11 PE GCSE Climbing Wall Assessment – Harlow Outdoors**

Year 11 students will be heading to Harlow Outdoors on the 15, 16, and 17 of October for their Climbing Wall Assessment as part of their PE GCSE curriculum. This exciting off-site activity will give students the opportunity to demonstrate their climbing skills, teamwork, and physical endurance in a professional outdoor setting.

## SIXTH FORM

### **Year 13 English Theatre Trip – *Twelfth Night***

Year 13 English students will be attending a theatre performance of *Twelfth Night* as part of their A-Level studies on the 15 October. This is a fantastic opportunity to experience Shakespeare’s comedy live on stage and deepen their understanding of the text.

# CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK'25

13 - 17 October

Supported by:



**NatWest**  
Rooster Money



Bring some fun  
to the  
school run







Don't mind getting messy?  
Why not try this club?  
A bit messy, sure —  
but loads of fun,  
with endless creative options to explore...

Every Thursday, Lunchtime 12:40 – 13:10  
in The DT Workshop C7.

Please sign up first on SOCS, limited spaces.



# 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!

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MEET THE TEAM

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INFORMAL PRESENTATION

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CHAT WITH FORMER  
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PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST VIA OUR WEBSITE:

[www.bsitt.co.uk](http://www.bsitt.co.uk)



# 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?

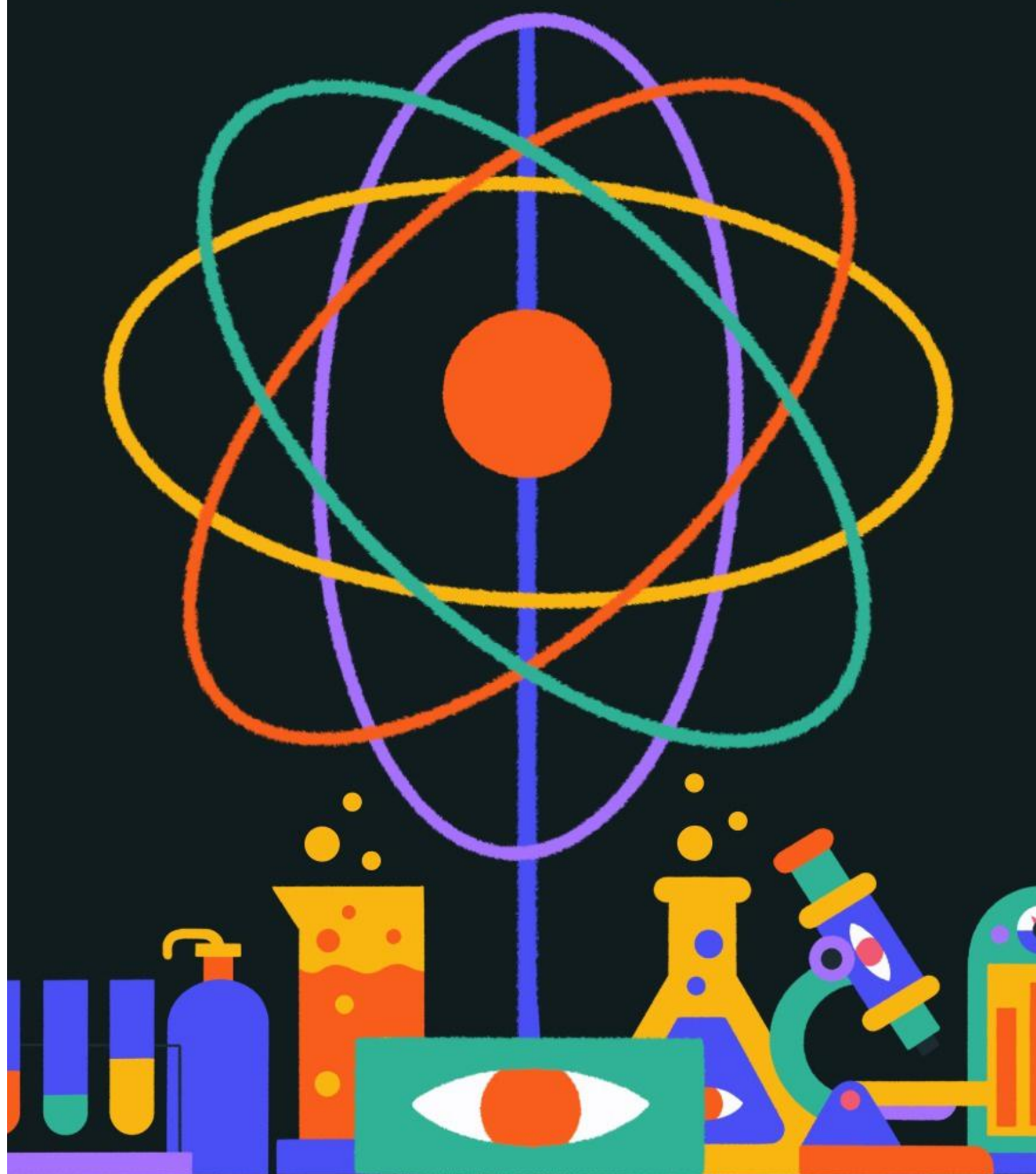
Perhaps you and your family have just moved to a new area and into an old worn-down house that your family has promised to rebuild. You hear rumours that the house you are living in is haunted. You laugh at how ridiculous this seems, until one night, you see something that makes your blood run cold...

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.

# CHEMISTRY QUIZ



12.30pm Lunchtime in the Library

**TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER**

Sign up with Miss Shackleton in the Library.