



WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

1. Parent Trustee Election

We are pleased to announce that we have four candidates for the Parent Governor vacancy, and a ballot is now taking place.

Parents and carers are invited to vote for one candidate. Each parent or person with parental responsibility for a Birchwood student is entitled to **submit one vote**.

How to vote:

- Online: Complete the form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/1e0cRkYXmv>
 - Parent Governor Ballot Form – candidate statements are included.
- Paper ballot: If preferred, request a paper ballot by contacting Reception at admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk or 01279 655936.

Deadline: All votes must be received by 3:10pm on Monday 14 July 2025. Please allow time for postal ballots to arrive, as late votes cannot be counted.

Your name and your eldest Birchwood child's name/year group will be requested to confirm eligibility; this information will be kept strictly confidential and not linked to your vote.

2. Sports Day

Birchwood Sports Day will be on Tuesday 15 July. This is always a fantastic event in the school calendar, bringing students together to showcase their sporting talents, teamwork, and house spirit.

There will be a range of events for all to enjoy, and we look forward to seeing students getting involved and cheering on their teammates.

Further details, including timings and arrangements for the day, will be shared later this week.

3. Induction Days

This week, we will be welcoming new students for two induction events:

- Tuesday 8 July – Sixth Form Induction
- Thursday 10 July – Year 6 Induction Day

Please be aware that the car park is likely to be busier on these days, particularly at the start and end of the school day. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we support our new students during their visits.

4. Head of Year Update For September – Year 10

Ahead of September, we would like to inform parents, carers, and students that Mr Hill and Mrs Collyer will be taking on the role of Head of Year for the year group next academic year, sharing the role and working together to support the students.

They will be taking over from Miss Munro, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the year group this year.

Further information about this change will be shared shortly. We are pleased to welcome Mr Hill and Mrs Collyer to their new roles.

5. Y12 DofE Gold

Mon 14 July – Thursday 17 July

Please meet at 6.00am on Monday in the car park ready to load the minibus for the trip to Wales with Mr Loveday & Miss LaLonge. We will return Thursday 17th July 10.00pm approx. Please remember no phones will be available once we have arrived in Wales as they will be sealed by the assessor, so be organised - if you need to take photos bring old phone (NO sim) or disposable cameras.

Any questions message Mr Loveday on TEAMS whilst you are on work experience.

6. Co-Curriculum

On Friday 11th July, we are delighted to be hosting a Co-Curriculum Rewards Celebration in the Main Hall. This event is a celebration of those students who have shown exceptional effort and commitment in going above and beyond their normal studies by engaging with our Co-Curriculum programme.

The Co-Curriculum is a special part of what we offer at Birchwood. It's designed to help students explore their favourite subjects beyond the classroom, discover new interests, and develop important life skills.

We are incredibly proud of the students who have taken part so enthusiastically, and this celebration is our way of recognising their achievements and encouraging them to keep striving, exploring, and growing.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us nurture not only academic success but also a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

7. Introducing the Cosy Corner

We are excited to share that our new Cosy Corner is now open in the library!

This inviting space has been created to give students a calm, comfortable place where they can relax and read for pleasure, helping to promote the importance of literacy across Birchwood.

A huge thank you to the PSFA for their generous donations, which made this wonderful addition to our school possible. We look forward to seeing many students enjoying the space and getting lost in a good book!



8. Summer Uniform Expectations

Following a review of the weather forecast, we would like to confirm that summer uniform will continue until the end of term. This means that students are not expected to wear blazers or ties during this period.

However, please note the following important reminders:

- **PE kits are not permitted.** Any student who arrives at school wearing their PE kit will be sent home and asked to return in the correct school uniform.
- Our usual rules regarding footwear apply: trainers are not allowed as part of school uniform.

9. End of Term – Early Closure Notice

Please note that on the final day of term, **Friday 18 July**, the school will close early. Students will finish the day at **12:30pm**, at the end of Period 3.

We will share an update regarding school bus arrangements closer to the time.

10. Mobile Phone Usage – Parent Communication

Unfortunately, we have noticed an increasing number of instances where students are receiving phone calls or messages directly from parents during lessons, break times, and other school activities. These interruptions not only disrupt the educational environment but also create conflict when staff enforce our policy.

To clarify:

- Parents and carers should not contact students directly via phone calls or messages during the school day.
- If you need to communicate with your child urgently, please contact the school office. Our staff will ensure that your message is passed on promptly and appropriately.
- Similarly, students are not permitted to use their mobile phones to message or call parents during school hours without express permission from a staff member.

11. Library Books Returns

As we near the end of term, please ensure that all library books are returned as soon as possible.

Reminders have been emailed out regarding overdue library books. Please ensure these are returned to Miss Shackleton in the Library by the end of term. Fines may be issued to those with outstanding library books.

12. Arriva Bus – 2025/26 Ticket Information

Arriva [have shared the following poster](#) with us with information on student discounted bus tickets for the 25/26 school year.

Parents and carers can contact their student mailbox talktous@arriva.co.uk with any questions they may have.

13. HAPpy Programme bookings are now live.

FREE HAPpy Camps will be returning during the summer school holiday, with opportunities for your children and teens to take part in camps and experiences from a host of trusted providers at over 160 locations around the county.

Children and teens living in Hertfordshire who get free school meals can attend HAPpy Camps for FREE. Camps offer physical activity, fun, and a free hot meal all in safe surroundings, with SEND provision also available.

Your child's unique booking code is: 9ZZ!DV

[Click here to book.](#)