



BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

14/07/25

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

1. Thank You for a wonderful School Year!

As we come to the end of another fantastic school year, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our students, families, and staff for your continued support.

A special thank you to the staff members who are moving on — your contributions have made a lasting impact, and you will be greatly missed. We also warmly welcome the new staff members joining us in September – more information to follow.

Wishing everyone a joyful, restful summer. We look forward to welcoming back our returning students and families in September!

2. Free Period Products Available for Students

We're pleased to let you know that free period products—including Tampax, pads, panty liners, and more—are available for students who need them.

These items can be collected discreetly from Student Reception or the Library on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

This initiative is part of our government-funded program to support students' wellbeing. We would love to make these available to those who can benefit from them.

If your child would like to access these products, there's no need to sign up—just let them know they can collect what they need during the designated days.

3. Parent Trustee Election – Deadline 3pm today

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.

4. Sports Day

Birchwood Sports Day is still scheduled to take place tomorrow, 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.

5. Free Sports and Fitness

Thanks to generous donations from Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Buntingford Town Council, Hertford Town Council, Ware Town Council, and East Herts Council, along with support from Sporting Inspirations and the East Herts Community Safety Partnership (CSP), we are excited to announce that FREE sports and fitness activities will once again be available for 11–19 year olds throughout the summer holidays!

This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to stay active, make new friends, and have fun—all at no cost! Please see the poster below.

6. Message from New Head of Year – Current Year 10

Dear Parents/Carers of the current Year 10,

I hope this message finds you well.

As Miss Munro takes on her new role as Head of Design from September, I'm pleased to share that Mr Hill and I will be taking over as Heads of Year 11 for the upcoming academic year. We are both really looking forward to stepping into this role and working closely with your children as they begin this important chapter.

Year 11 is a pivotal year in every student's journey, and our aim is to support them in making the most of the opportunities ahead, both in preparing for their exams and in planning their next steps.

Although the year group will be split for pastoral purposes (details will be released in September), please be assured that students are welcome to approach either myself or Mr Hill for advice, guidance, or support at any time.

We are committed to working collaboratively with students, parents, and staff to ensure a successful and positive final year. We hope your child has a restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming them back in September, ready to make a strong start to Year 11.

Kind Regards,

Mrs A Collyer and Mr S Hill

Heads of Year 11 (Current Year 10)

7. Amber Heat Health Alert – East of England

The amber heat health alert is in effect across the East of England. The amber alert has a matrix score of 12.

Key Impacts:

- Increased risk of illness and death, especially for older adults and those with health conditions.
- Higher demand on health and social care services.
- Overheating in care settings and homes.
- Disruption to services due to heat and staffing issues.
- Possible power demand issues and travel delays.

What to Do:

- Follow guidance in the Weather Health Alert System.
- Use action cards for your sector (e.g., care homes, hospitals, community care).
- Stay updated via the UKHSA dashboard and Met Office.

Protecting Vulnerable People:

- Follow hot weather safety advice.
- Plan ahead using the Adverse Weather and Health Plan.

8. 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!



9. 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.

10. Apprenticeship information for years 10, 11, 12 and 13

Y13

The latest issue of Options Guide is packed with inspiring stories, practical advice and essential information to help you explore what's next after school or college.

Whether you (or your child) are considering an apprenticeship, university or stepping straight into the world of work – this digital magazine is your go-to guide.

Highlights include an [A-Z directory](#) of universities & employers, top tips on the [application process](#) and essential guidance on [managing your money](#)!

[Read options here](#)

Y13 and Y11

Is your child actively looking for an apprenticeship?

The Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP) is currently listing a number of vacancies within a 15 mile radius of the Birchwood postcode – [Current listing](#) - if you expand the radius you will see a lot more opportunities.

Y10, Y11, Y12 & Y13

Is your child considering an apprenticeship as their next step? Choices magazine is the ultimate parent and carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education! It is completely free of charge – find this month's edition here: [amapps.uk/parent-magazine](#) and sign up to receive it each month, direct to your inbox: [amapps.uk/choices](#)

Amazing Apprenticeships' Parent and Carer zone is also a great place to explore apprenticeships and technical education: [amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/parent/](#)

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

Anita's coaches and Louis Transport have both confirmed that they are able to collect at 12:30pm. Unfortunately, we do not have confirmation regarding ACME buses. We would ask that you contact them directly if you have a query.

14. 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.

15. 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.](#)

SUMMER HOLIDAYS SPORT AND FITNESS

SPORT AND FITNESS FOR 11-19 YEAR OLDS

EVERY FRIDAY

1 August - 22 August

6:30pm - 8:30pm

SWORDERS FIELD,
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
CM23 2EL



Many thanks to the following organisations who have
contributed towards these activities: Bishop's Stortford Town
Council, Sporting Inspirations CIC and East Herts Council.
For information please contact
community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk

FREE, NO NEED TO BOOK!

