



Birchwood Politics Students take part in the BBC Victoria Derbyshire Programme.

Birchwood A Level Politics students have again participated in a political discussion on television. At a time when it is often heard that the youth feel disengaged with politics and that little effort is made to listen to them, it is rewarding to see young people not only actively engaged, but also challenging those at the heart of decision making.

On the 12 December 2018, I emailed the Victoria Derbyshire programme while watching the updates on the vote of no confidence against Theresa May - "I am currently in Year 13 and my politics class are watching your news broadcast. We believe that for our future we should remain in the EU. May is paying too much attention to the back-stop and not enough to the generation that will succeed her." I received an email back from the production team saying that they were keen to get in touch.

Fast forward to 16 January 2019, I received a text from one of the production team saying that they were very eager for me and my politics class to come into the studio to be on the show the following morning. Josh Bains, Matthew Gleeson and Ricardo Olender De Mata agreed to come with me. Each of us was called by a member of the production team in the evening and asked about our thoughts on the current political climate and about any questions we would like to ask the MPs that would be present. The next morning we headed into London, into the studio and met Victoria Derbyshire to have a chat with her and go over our questions before going live. 'Brexit: what happens next?' allowed us to question MPs and share our opinions. We were all very pleased with our questions addressed to MPs Anneliese Dodds, Rachel Maclean and Ian Murray and felt that we got the responses we desired. I feel very honoured that I was given the chance to represent our generation during a time when it seems we don't get much of a voice. Do watch our appearance on the Victoria Derbyshire programme!

www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0by9gfk/victoria-derbyshire-17012019.

We have also been interviewed by ITV Anglia News reporter Matthew Hudson regarding the Brexit debate in the House of Commons. We discussed our views on voting and the difference between the young voters and more mature voters in the population. This appeared on TV on Tuesday 15 January.

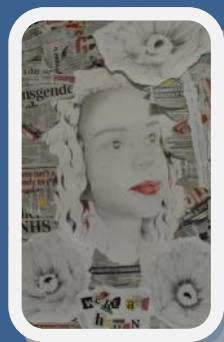
Keeva Wilson, Year 13

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We are always interested in hearing from you. If you have any Alumni news or any news of a student from our school achieving outside of school.

*If you have an article you would like included in the next edition please contact us:
newsletter
@birchwoodhigh.org.uk*

BIRCHWOOD BROADCASTING CORRESPONDENTS



Do you enjoy meeting new people?

Do you like working as a team?

Can you work to a deadline?

Are you interested in what goes on
in your school community?

Can you work independently?

Have your articles published?

Earn House Points?

If you answered yes to any of these
questions, BBC reporters are
looking for new members.

We meet every lunchtime
on

Friday in C16.

To find out more, please come and
speak to Mrs de Graaf (C16) or Mrs
Barnard (Resources office by the
Library) and we will be able to give
you more information. Students
from all years are welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Mrs de Graaf

In the event of bad weather

*If snow and ice are anticipated we will assess the
situation in the morning and Information will be
posted on the school website as near to 7.00am as
possible letting staff, parents and students know if
the school is to remain open or is to close.*

Dates for your Diary 2018

Half Term 2019

Monday 18 February - Friday 22 February

Easter 2019

Monday 8 April - Monday 22 April

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23 April - Tuesday 23 July

Half Term 2019

Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May

2019/2020

Autumn Term 2019

Monday 2 September - Friday 20 December

Wednesday 4 September, Years 7 and 12 only

Thursday 5 September whole school starts

Half Term

Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6 January - Friday 3 April

Half Term

Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February

Summer Term

Monday 20 - Tuesday 21 July

Half Term

Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May

CPD Days

Monday 25 February 2019

Monday 2 September 2019

Tuesday 3 September 2019

Friday 4 October 2019

Monday 6 January 2020

Monday 20 July 2020

Tuesday 21 July 2020

TRIPS & NOTABLE DATES

Sunday 3 February

Dance Festival Rehearsal, Year 11

Monday 4 February

An Inspector Calls - Theatre company coming into school

Fusion Film - Imitation Game

Thursday 7 February

Maths Challenge Years 9, 10, 11 Set 1 only

Year 9 school photos

Fusion Film - Imitation Game

Friday 8 February

Fusion Film - Imitation Game

Thursday 12 February

Maths Back to School Evening

Wednesday 13 February

'Tango Fire' Year 12 Spanish

Thursday 14 February

Brilliant Club graduation, Year 10

Vire Zone IT/Business, Year 10

Apprenticeship Event Year 11/13

Friday 15 February

Power of Silence, Parent Workshop

Monday 18 February - Sunday 24 February

Ski & City Break, Year 13

Wednesday 27 February

Science in Action, Year 10

Woman in Black, Year 11 Drama

Thursday 28 February

Woman in Black, Year 8 English

*Please note that the school is closed to
students on all CPD days, unless a
member of staff has asked students to attend.*

Achieve, Believe and Conquer (Birchwood's ABC)

Student of the Month Awards



English Student of the Month

Becky Perry

for being organised with her workload.



Mathematician of the Month

Harrison Brown

for excellent progress and improved ATL in lessons.



Scientist of the Month

Joel Mutter

for excellent contributions in class, always extending his knowledge and for submitting excellent home learning.



Geography Student of the Month

Louis Altham

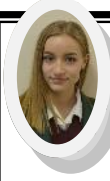
for outstanding work and effort through mocks.



Historian of the Month

Reece Askey

for an excellent performance in mock examinations.



RS Student of the Month

Kayleigh Wheaver

for consistently reaching her target GCSE levels in RS.

Linguist of the Month

Emily Port

for being an outstanding student in Spanish and her impressive efforts towards her learning and her proactive approach to the subject.



PLC Student of the Month

Dylan Otchere

for brilliant progress and hard study this year in PLC.

PE Student of the Month

Amelia Arkans-Oliver

for outstanding results in a recent test.



Social Science Student of the Month

Keeva Wilson

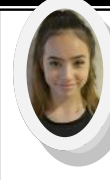
for political engagement and enthusiasm for Politics.



Technologist of the Month

Grace Sapsford

for being very focussed and creative in Technology.



Dancer of the Month

Ellie Waskett

for commitment and effort to the Dance department.



Business Student of the Month

Ellie Vine

for consistent effort in component one and excellent commitment in the subject.



IT Student of the Month

Archie Rees

for outstanding class contribution in Computer Science.



Musician of the Month

Lucy Sherwood

for an outstanding solo at the Christmas Concert and commitment and enthusiasm to Music.



Chef of the Month

Alex Harper

for outstanding effort in Food Technology practical lessons.



Performer of the Month

Lily Martin

for outstanding commitment to Drama.

Headlines



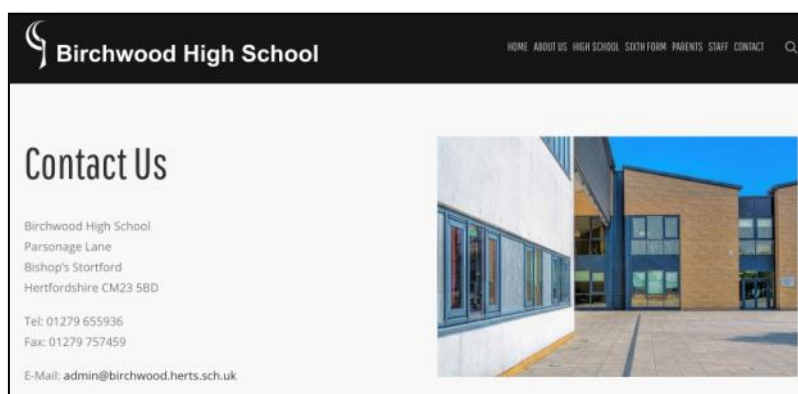
Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable and well-deserved Christmas Break. The Spring Term is really the business end of school life for Year 11 and 13 students with only 15 weeks to go before the public exams begin. I have been very impressed with the way that the vast majority of our students have settled back to school life, working hard in lessons and getting involved in clubs and other extra-curricular activities – a real credit to themselves and their families.

My assemblies at the start of this term focused on the year ahead – Scientists claim that 2019 is the year that we human beings need to change our ways and begin to look after the planet properly. There is certainly some strong evidence to support these claims – rising global temperatures and the mass extinction of large mammals are but two concerns. It is easy for a young person to think what difference will I make but the '*Think Global, Act Local*' campaign is one that offers really good practical changes that will make a difference if everyone subscribes. For example, walking to school instead of getting a lift, being more energy conscious, and looking to recycle as much as possible is something that would help at home and at school.

We are really fortunate at Birchwood that we have invested in good facilities but it is important that we look after them. You will be aware that Government funding is affecting all schools – cuts to Sixth Form funding and increasing employer costs means that all schools are finding it hard to make 'ends-meet.' We are fortunate that Birchwood is a large school with a stable roll but we are having to be careful. As we look to the future, this will not necessarily mean that class sizes will increase, or that resources and investment will be cut - but achieving better value for money is a priority. This topic was brought up on the BBC Victoria Derbyshire show on 12 January when four of our A Level Government & Politics students were quizzed on Brexit and education. I thought Keeva Wilson, Ricardo Olender, Josh Baines and Matt Gleeson did incredibly well on a live and unscripted programme.

I would like to thank you as parents for the tremendous support that you give us on a day-to-day basis making sure that your son or daughter is ready for school each day. If you have any concerns or need additional support, please do not hesitate in to contact by phone or via the dedicated email system on our new website.



We also have a strong and supportive the Parent Council and Governing Body – we still have one vacancy on Parent Council for a Year 7 representative to attend three meetings a year – the minutes of previous meetings can be found on our website if you would like to find out more.

We also have two vacancies on the Governing Body for Community Governors. Being a school governor at Birchwood is a rewarding and fulfilling responsibility and gives you an opportunity to contribute strategically to the lives and opportunities of 1400 students. The Governing Body is made up of six Parent Governors, ten Community Governors and four Staff Governors. In terms of background experience, we have a wide range of expertise including governors from educational, commercial, personnel and finance backgrounds so we would welcome anyone with complementary skills and aptitudes. We are particularly keen to diversify membership to be more reflective of our student body so we would like to hear from anyone from a BME background or someone who is in receipt of income support or has received financial support in the past.

In terms of time commitment, governors attend twelve evening meetings per year. All paperwork is sent out in advance and we provide full induction and training as required. Most Governors also give up some time each year to visit the school during its working day to help support School Leaders. If you are interested in either joining the Governing Body or the Parent Council please email me directly on cingate@birchwoodhigh.org.uk.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading all the stories in this edition of Birchwood News – full of accounts of our exceptional students going above and beyond just coming to school. I would also like to promote the 'Maths Back to School' evening for parents on 12 February – better than any pub quiz giving you the chance to see if you can do your child's maths better than them!

Dr Ingate, Principal



Are you confused by your child's Maths Homework?
If so, why not come along to
Birchwood's 'Maths Back to School Evening'
for Year 7 and 8 parents

Tuesday 12 February

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Come along and brush up your Maths skills by
taking part in some mini-lessons
(and get a feel for some of the Maths methods used here at Birchwood).

Refreshments are provided.

Don't be afraid, we're a very friendly bunch of teachers
(and if you came last year then please come again,
we have different lessons this time!)

Miss White, Maths Department



In honour of LGBT History Month,
Fusion will be showing 'The Imitation Game'
on Monday 4, Thursday 7 &
Friday 8 February 2019
1:30pm - 2:25pm in the BDC
Tickets cost £2.00.

Only 70 tickets available!



Tickets are available from
the Finance Office.

All proceeds raised will be
donated to Stonewall and
Birchwood's Fusion group.



DSPL3 Outreach Team

in partnership with

Birchwood High School

'Power of Silence' Parent Workshop

Friday 15th February. 9.15—11.15 a.m.

If I've told you once
I've told you a
thousand times!

Are you fed up with
the sound of your
own voice?

Do you find it hard
to shut-up?!

Why won't you
just listen?

Listen to me when
I am talking to
you!

This free workshop is designed to help parents and carers understand the impact of language and communication. The session will highlight the importance of communication between parents and children with additional needs and Sarah will model the strategies and skills that are required. The session will cover elements of Hertfordshire 'STEPS' with regards to limited language, positive phrasing and choice making, as well as ideas concerning processing time and how to extend communication exchanges with support.

Workshop delivered by Sarah McNeill from the DSPL3 Outreach Team.

Please contact Mrs S Waller at swaller@birchwoodhigh.org.uk
if you would like to book a place.



DSPL3

Delivering Special
Provision Locally
Achieving quality outcomes

Hertfordshire
Local Enterprise Partnership



THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

Apprenticeship Event

**Are you in Year 11 or Year 13
and planning to do an Apprenticeship?**

Come along to our Apprenticeship event on

Thursday 14 February

in the school hall

2:45 – 5:00pm

Parents/Carers are welcome.

**These companies have live vacancies,
so come prepared with a CV.**



Dance students feature in a new music video

Nine of our GCSE Birchwood Dance students were given the opportunity to feature in a new music video for ex Talk Talk band member Paul Webb.

The video was released to the public on 16 January and can be viewed on YouTube 'Judgement Train' by Rustin Man. You can see our students from 4.04 minutes and they are wearing white masks.

The girls that performed were just magical. They were very professional and gave the choreography (created by Miss Adams) so much energy and enthusiasm. The students worked on a professional set with a production team and were given an enriching experience of the performing arts industry.

We would like to thank Paul and Sam Webb for this amazing opportunity and wish Paul luck with his new album 'Drift Code' released 1 February 2019.

Miss Adams, Dance



The Dance department took 36 GCSE students to see Matthew Bourne's performance of the iconic Swan Lake. Students had a fantastic evening and were completely mesmerised by the all-male ensemble of swans.

It was lovely for our students to visit a professional theatre and see such excellent quality of dance.

Amelia Dean said (Year 9 GCSE dancer); 'It was so amazing to see all the male dancing swans, it certainly isn't something you see every day. I loved the modern twist on the ballet and I found it very entertaining and funny!'

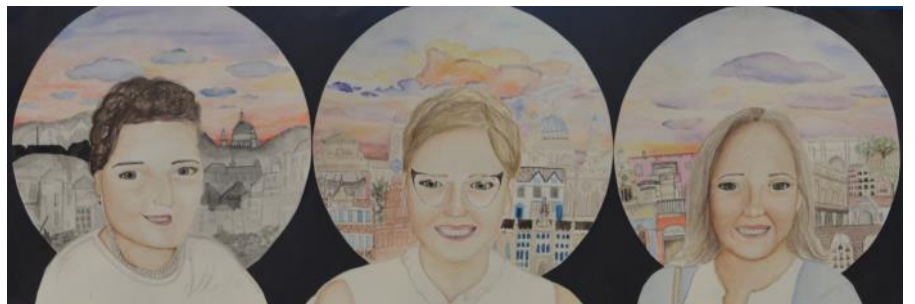
The Dance department look forward to our next trip to MOVEIT on the 8 March 2019 - Save the date in your diary!

Miss Adams, Dance

Year 11 Art Exhibition

An exhibition showcasing the talent of our Year 11 Art students was held in the Library during Year 11 Parents Evening.

It was wonderful to see so many fabulous pieces of GCSE work.



Upcoming House Events

World Book Day

7 March

Feel Good Week

Monday 25 to Friday 29 March

Inter House Sports

Tuesday 2 April Years 9 & 10

Wednesday 3 April Years 7 & 8

Here are the results for Penny Wars

1st	Stort	-524
2nd	Hadham	-1890
3rd	Dane	-2083
4th	Waytemore	-3307

Grand Total of money raised was **£184.16**.

Penny Wars

From the 17 - 20 of December students were able to participate in the Penny Wars competition. There were four buckets for each House which students could put 1p's and 2p's into and help their house gain points, or put coins over that amount into a rival houses bucket to decrease their houses points. It turned out very well and many students enjoyed it. A Year 7 student I spoke to said, "I really enjoyed Penny Wars as it was fun to compete against the different Houses while supporting charity. The helpers were also very good and cheerful." After four days of fierce competition, over £180 was raised. In first place was Stort (blue), second place was Hadham (red), third place was Dane (green) and lastly in fourth was Waytemore (yellow). We would like to thank Mrs Cox who organised the event and all the people who helped.

Archie Rees, BBC Reporter

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT



Beat Heartbreak Forever

Friday 15th March

Birchwood High School Gym

7.00 for 7.30 start

£5 a ticket

Max teams of 8

For sales and ticket information please contact:

bhfcharitynight@hotmail.com

Licensed bar, bring your own nibbles!

Raffle prizes needed.

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS
THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION.**

British Heart Foundation is a registered Charity No. 233171. Registered as a Company Limited by guarantee in England & Wales No. 040621. Registered office at Greater London House, 180 Tottenham Road, London N1C 4NE. Registered as a Charity in Scotland No. SC23464.



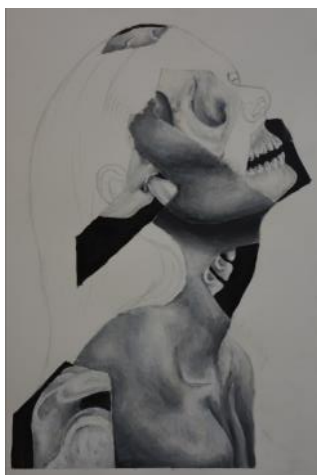
**Miss Payne is running the
London
Marathon this year in aid
of the**

British Heart foundation.

**To start her fundraising
she held a cake sale**

**in association with the House team,
which raised an impressive £150.73.**

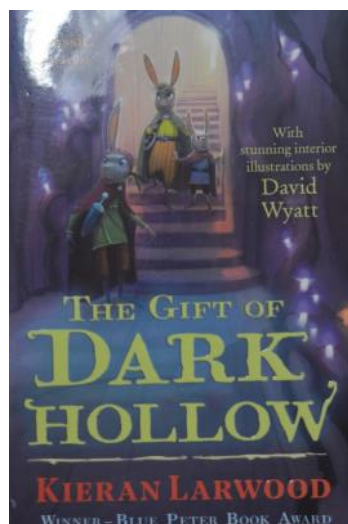
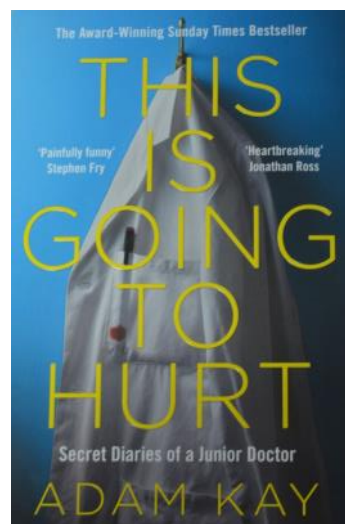
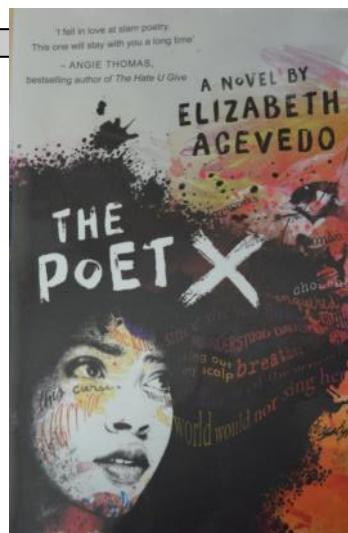
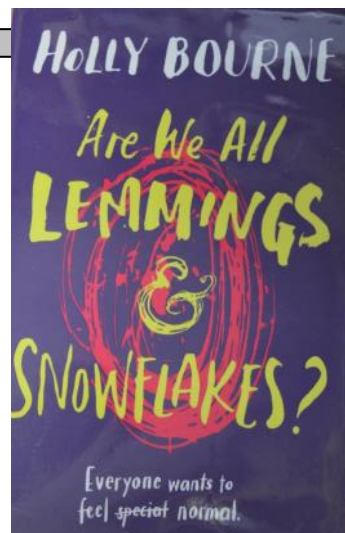
**Miss Payne is also holding a
Charity Quiz Night on Friday 15
March. If you would like to support
Miss Payne she has a just giving
page: <https://www.justgiving.com/>**



Artist of the Month

Rebecca Smith

*Some of Rebecca's art is
pictured on the left.*



Book Reviews of Month

The Gift of Dark Hollow by Kieran Larwood

The follow up to The Five Realms: The Legend of Podkin One-Ear. Podkin and his fellow rabbits have been sheltering in Dark Hollow after their battle with Scramashank. Podkin goes off and discovers a lost, secret treasure.

The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

X has always kept words to herself. But she has secrets. A notebook full of poems she keeps under her bed. A slam poetry competition gives her a voice that cannot be unheard.

The Colour of the Sun by David Almond

One hot summer morning, Davie steps boldly out of his front door. The world he enters is very familiar - the little Tyneside town that has always been his home - but as the day passes, it becomes ever more mysterious. The real and the imaginary start to merge, and Davie knows that neither he nor his world will ever be the same again.

Parents might like: This Is Going To Hurt by Adam Kay

By degrees hilarious and painfully honest, this is a no-holds barred account of one junior doctor's time on the frontline of the NHS.

Ms Hall, Librarian

Student News



Evie Whitfield helped War veteran Cyril Banks have a wonderful Christmas by inviting him to lunch on Christmas Day. Cyril said he was really touched to be invited and thoroughly enjoyed himself.

THE BIRCHWOOD PAIRED READING SCHEME

The paired reading programme at Birchwood has been running for about ten years now. It is a scheme that matches reading mentors from Year 10 with students in Year 7. Each week the Year 7 students come out of tutor time to read to their Year 10 mentors.

It's a great scheme that has consistently led to improvement in the reading ages of the students involved. It's also a great way for our Year 10's to contribute and develop their leadership and interpersonal skills. One great thing about running the scheme is that each year we get to welcome back some of our previous students as Year 10 mentors!

The scheme is designed to bring on the Year 7 readers to help them access the whole curriculum more effectively and to make the most of their Birchwood journey.

Mr Smith, English



*In association with Waples Wines
Birchwood PSFA presents*

An evening of WINE TASTING



*Friday 1st February 2019
7:30pm at Birchwood High School*

An opportunity to learn about and savour a selection of red and white wines with friends.

Tickets £15 per person
(includes wine tasting and cheese board platter)
TO BOOK YOUR SPACE CONTACT
birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com



Superpower your shopping...
and get free cash for our school

You'll raise a donation for us every time you shop online with TheGivingMachine and it won't cost you a penny.

John Lewis amazon
ebay Sainsbury's
Boden Snuggly

Join TheGivingMachine using our unique sign-up code and your donations will automatically go to Birchwood High School



www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk
A UK registered charity (1159320)



Second Hand Uniform

Please consider donating good condition items of second hand uniform including PE kit, maroon blazers, maroon jumpers and skirts as stock for our second hand stall. Please drop off clean items of second hand uniform to our Student Reception.



We now have a fair amount of stock available for sale.

To make a purchase please contact Kate Byers at
birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com
or
telephone 01279 756479.

Upcoming Events:

**Monday 18 March,
7.00pm in the BDC**

***Birchwood Parents Staff
and Friends Association
AGM***

All parents and staff are invited to attend.



Want to learn DANCE ROUTINES and get a GOOD WORKOUT whilst having FUN?

Well this is the class for you!

Come and try Adult Street Dance... Mondays 8-9pm at Birchwood High School Dance Studio Beginners/All Abilities welcome!

Book here- <https://bookwhen.com/straightupdancebishopsstortford> or feel free to contact Natalie for further details
07540311960 murdochnatalie@gmail.com
[@adultstreetdancebishopstortford](https://www.instagram.com/adultstreetdancebishopstortford)



Thank you from Mrs de Graaf

A massive thanks to everyone who contributed pens, pencils and other stationery items for a school in Kenya. I visited the school during the Christmas break and once again I was reminded about how fortunate our students are and also how well resourced our schools are.

I visited a small primary school of around 180 children. Their annual budget is around £80,000! The Head Teacher told me that there are students who can't afford to bring a packed lunch so they go all day without food. There's a massive difference in Kenya when it comes to the distribution of wealth and resources so not every school is like this.

This year, my challenge is to raise money to help to build a small kitchen where food can be prepared for the children.

Many thanks for your help.

Mrs de Graaf, English



At Birchwood we are proud of our excellent sports, music, drama and conference facilities. Our students make full use of these during the school day and as part of our commitment to the local community, our facilities are available to hire during evenings, weekends and school holidays. Every month we will be offering one of our regular hirers the opportunity to advertise in this section of the Birchwood News.

Spring Clubs

Afterschool

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Rugby Seniors	Rugby Seniors		
Fitness Year 9-11	Running Club All Years	Girls Rugby	
Netball Year 9 and Year 10	Football Year 7 and Year 10	Girls Football All Years	Netball Year 7 and Year 8
Football Year 8 and Year 9		Cycling Year 7 and Year 11	Rugby Year 7 and Year 8
		Netball Pink Ladies	



Rugby Girls

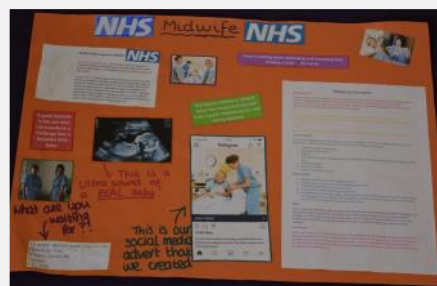
The girls made some lovely cakes and did an AMAZING job of selling them to raise money for the school's local charity, Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. Final total raised: **£109.55.**

Miss LaLonge

A reminder you can follow all the latest information on upcoming sporting fixtures and recent results by following the official Birchwood PE twitter account. Just search: @PEbwood

Several of our Year 8 students have entered the NHS Step into the schools Competition. Students had to research and select one of the 350 plus careers available within the NHS. Once selected, they created materials to promote it, starting with a job description to capture key responsibilities of the role along with any qualification, skills and experience needed. This learning is then used to create a fun and lively job advertisement to appeal to their peers.

Mrs Crimes



Maddie Jennings, Jodie Field and Courtney Sparkes researched "Midwife"



Eve Bailey, Phoebe Free, Jessica Newton "HR Professional"



Grace Attfield "Biomedical Scientist"



Holly Thompson and Grace Limrick "Nurse"