

January/February 2021



# NEWS

[newsletter@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)



## HEADLINES

I hope that you and your family are well and are coping with a pandemic which has gone on far too long. I'm not sure how I'll cope when the day comes that I do not have to wear a face mask! I hope you enjoy this uplifting Spring Edition of Birchwood News, full of students who have excelled with online work. Some of the artwork and photography is amazing and reminds us of the importance of The Arts in challenging times. Nietzsche once said that Art saves us from the Truth and I often think about this when the reality of our day-to-day existence at the moment is trying. I must admit that the Geography, Science and Technology home learning reminded me of the importance of providing a broad and balanced curriculum, which I think we do well at Birchwood even if it is currently online.

A snowy landscape greeted me this week. We continue to open for around 40 key worker and vulnerable students but otherwise the school is eerily quiet. I know that our students are doing a great job studying online from all the positive feedback I have received from their teachers. But this is no substitute for coming to school and learning alongside peers.

With a week to go before we all have a well-deserved half term break, there is a growing case for schools to return on 8 March, as Covid infection rates abate and the Vaccination Programme rolls out. I can certainly see a situation where Primary Schools and Year 11 and 13 return before Easter – it is likely that there will be an announcement over half-term so at least we will know where we stand when we return.

Despite the uncertainty, Year 11 and 13 have been brilliant in terms of working with their teachers and ensuring that their next steps – Post-16 or Higher Education – are being formalised. I really hope that students entering Year 12 or those moving on to University will see a return to 'normal' in the Autumn Term as their lives have been greatly affected by the timing of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Practically speaking, if we see the next three school weeks (excluding half term) as a continuation of current provision and practice, we just need to continue to 'stick to the knitting' with the vast majority of our students working from home, following their timetable and trying to make sure they stay healthy and safe.

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for guidance from Ofqual with regards to the assessment of GCSE and Post-16 qualifications and I will share these with you as soon as we know. Year 11 and 13 students certainly seem to understand that it will be their teacher and the school that decides their grade. The unknown element is to what extent external exam papers or sampling moderation will affect these judgements.



On a sad note, I attended the funeral of Mark Stocker, ex-Chair of Governors, last week. Mark was taken ill in November and passed away last month. Mark worked tirelessly on behalf of the school over the last decade and it was a great privilege to have worked with him. His three sons all came to Birchwood and successfully moved on to new chapters in their lives. We will work with his family to organise a way to remember Mark and all that he did for the school.

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

*Yours sincerely  
Dr Ingate, Principal*

# Hertfordshire young people's coronavirus webinar

Following the success of the young people's Covid-19 webinar last year, Hertfordshire County Council and Public Health Hertfordshire have arranged another follow-up session. Hertfordshire's 11-19 year olds are encouraged to take part in this free event on:

**Wednesday 17 February, 11:30am-12:30pm.**

This is an ideal opportunity for young people to listen to reliable information from the panel members below, who will be talking about some of the anxieties many people are experiencing and answering questions and concerns raised by young people living in Hertfordshire:

**Councillor Terry Douris:**

Cabinet Member for Education, Libraries and Localism

**Dr Alison Frater:**

Public Health Consultant

**Liz Shapland:**

Deputy Education Services Director (Secondary), Herts for Learning

**Tania Rawle:**

Head of School Standards and Accountability, Education, Children's Services

There will be a chat function during the webinar, so questions can be submitted and answered live. You can find more information and also register for the event:

[Hertfordshire Young People's Coronavirus webinar/Herts for Learning \(livesform.co\)](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/young-people/coronavirus-webinar/)

Or, if you have any queries, please contact [JustTalk@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:JustTalk@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Remember, there is a range of free resources (available on the [Just Talk website](https://www.justtalkherts.co.uk/)) for professionals who work with young people. There is also a host of free wellbeing and mental health information and support for primary and secondary aged children, young people and their parents/carers including the Five Ways to Wellbeing [e-learning sessions](#)

*This is a communication on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council.*



## FINANCE

I am Mrs Young, the parental and student contact in relation to all income to the school.

We use an online payment system, ParentPay for administration of the school income, especially in these. We would like to keep the students and ourselves as safe as possible so encourage everyone to use this method for paying for school meals and any equipment needed. If you require ParentPay log in details or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email: [jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)

## Year 11 Leavers Book

Calling all Year 11's - don't forget to order your Leavers Books via ParentPay before the deadline of Thursday 18 March. Please contact Mrs Young if you require your ParentPay log in details.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 January - Friday 26 March

### Half Term 2021

Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February

### Easter 2021

Monday 29 March - Friday 9 April

### Summer Term 2021

Monday 12 April - Thursday 22 July

### Half Term 2021

Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June

### CPD Days

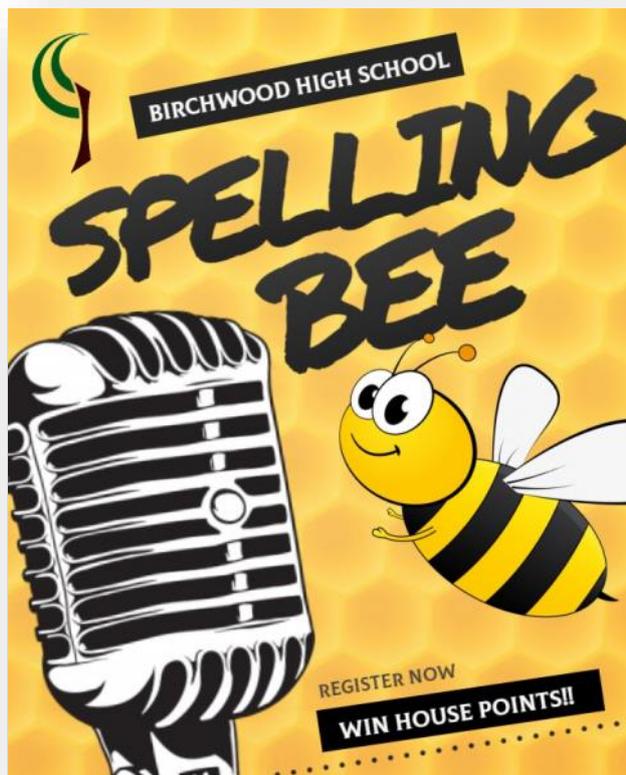
Wednesday 21 July 2021

Thursday 22 July 2021

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

## House

Upcoming House competitions...



# House

## Birchwood Virtual Bake Off January 2021

This year we launched the first virtual bake off. We were flooded with entries, with so many different varieties and styles of cakes such as drip cakes, animal cakes, tiered cakes, chocolate cakes, ice cream cakes and cupcakes!

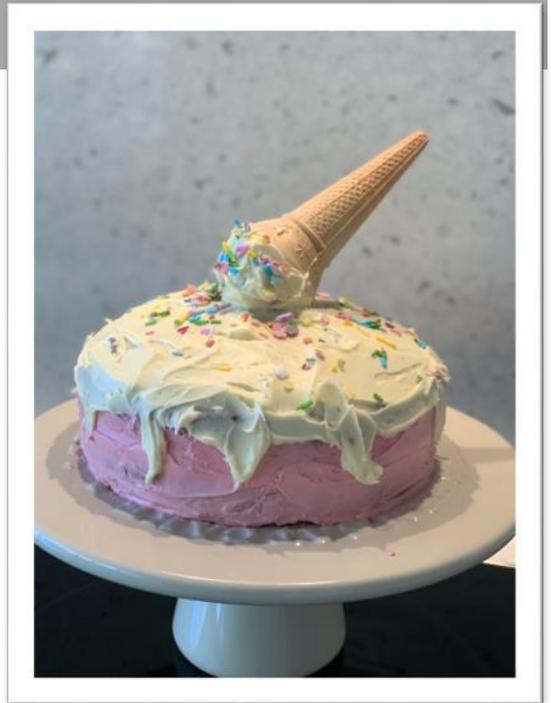
Well done to everybody who took part in creating an item for the bake off. We hope that you had a lot of fun making your creation.

**The winner was  
Megan Allin, Year 7 (cake pictured on the right).**

**The cake that she created was named  
'Dreaming of a summer holiday'.**

**The presentation of the cake was incredible, the colours  
used and the creativity were also superb.**

*Mrs Collyer – Head of the House System*



*Zoe Lloyd-Rossi*



*Lorelei Robson*



*Hayden Turner*



*Jodie Southwell*



*India Purton*



*Keira Martin*



*Saskia Hawkes*



*Harry Gilbank*



*Louie Elliott*

# House

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Winter House photographic competition, we had some superb entries. We are very lucky to live in this area and it can make such a difference to our wellbeing to get outside and see what is all around us.

The winners are as follows:

1st place, Brian Hormbrey, Year 12  
Hadham House (500 House points)

2nd place, Cameron Neary, Year 7  
Dane House (250 House points)

3rd place, Samantha Utley, Year 8  
Waytemore house (150 House points)



*1st place, Brian Hormbrey*



*2nd place, Cameron Neary*



*3rd place, Samantha Utley*



*A selection of all the other wonderful entries.*

# English and Media Studies

**Commendations to the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:**

Miss Cuddington would like to praise the following students:

**Year 8**

- Isaac Devereux
- Harry M
- Daniel Merritt
- Archie Smith
- Aaron Walter
- Lily Haylock
- Ryan Ellis
- Tia Holte-Smith

**Year 9**

- William Beaumont
- Benjamin Davey
- Dominik Franczk
- Grace Ramsden
- Joshua Perrin
- Ben Nightingale
- Samuel Freeman
- Rosie May

**Year 10**

- William Blair
- Jack Cherwinski
- Harrison Crowther
- Jessica Travella
- Ruby Waller
- Darcy Loveday

Mrs Goddard would like to praise the following students:

Excellent work and participation from:

**Year 7**

- Mateus Bezerra Tiosso
- Max Golds
- Saskia Hawkes
- Stanley Mather
- Jack McArthur

**Year 8**

- Daisy Blackery
- William Byers
- Mehmet Turner

**Media Studies**

Mr Budd would like to nominate Finlay Gregory for his outstanding work in Media Studies.

Mrs de Graaf would like to praise the following students:

**Year 7**

Congratulations to 7RLY and 7SAS who have both had 100% attendance in both classes online.

**Year 8**

- Sienna Clifton
- Eduard Costin
- Amelia Davies
- Gabriella Charles
- Paige Grant
- Lewis Randall
- Gracie Salmon
- Luca Silva
- George Culley
- Beatriz Ferrari
- Diego Freitas
- Gana Elsharkawy
- Alex Bond
- Callum Dargue
- Mehmet Turner

**Year 9**

- Liv Donaldson
- Jessica Rogers
- Thomas W King
- Aidan Hancock
- Will Beaumont

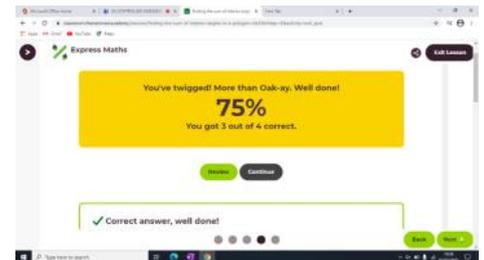
**Year 13 EPQ**

- Mateuz Zawadski
- Daniel Fielding
- Adam Pearce
- Oscar Russell

# Maths

Miss White would like to nominate the following students for working really hard in her lessons.

- Hannah Cook
- Lewis French
- Amelia Haynes
- Tain Richards-Farr
- Tegan Smith
- Millie Wooderson

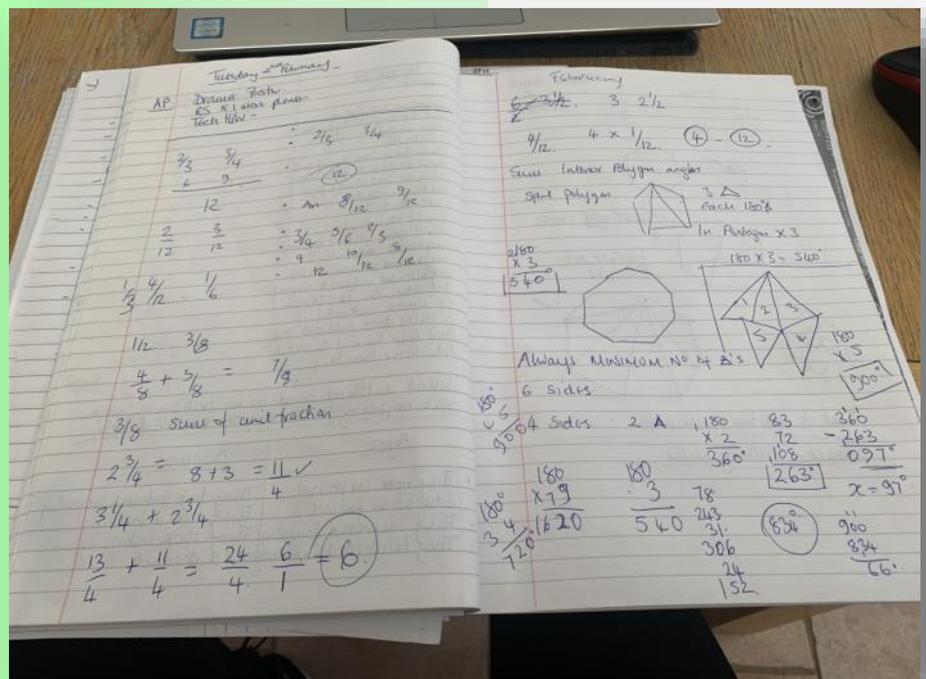


Mr Gilkes would like to congratulate the following students:

Alex Bond for working very hard on this CA. He has been determined enough to check his work, has taken a lot of care of the presentation and also passed the exit quiz (pictured above and below) Well done.

Jessica Warwick for her excellent maths score in a recent test.

Chloe Lucas for submitting an excellent piece of self assessed work.



# Drama

Mrs Goddard would like to praise the following students for their hard work:

Excellent Year 7 'Letters from Jo' written by:

Dylan Barber  
Max Cowler  
Evangelene Doyle  
Cameron Neary  
Alfie Hanks  
Sophie Robinson  
Kira Beazley  
Amelia Coulson  
Daniel Gair  
Cooper Goodyear

Mrs Hassani would like to commend the following GCSE students who have gone above and beyond with preparing their monologues for assessment:

Amelia Darke  
Petra Kolarikova  
Ruby-Willow Sudbury  
Charlie Marsh  
Lois Harper  
Joshua Ballisat

Also the following Year 10 students for being so engaged in online learning and producing some excellent work:

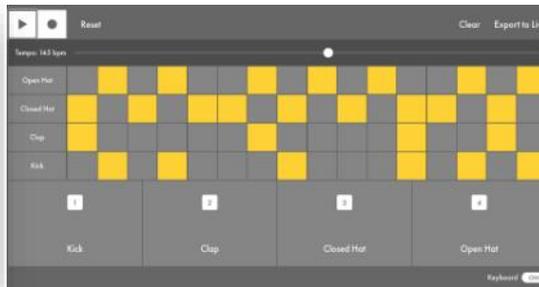
Eve Bailey  
Poppy Braulik  
Phoebe Corner  
Aime Smith  
Ethan Kirkpatrick

# Music

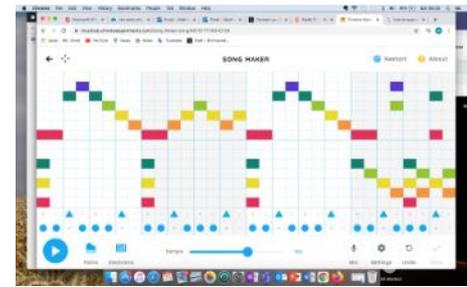
Mr Grogan would like to commend the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:



*William Horton, using BandLab Education.*



*Stanley Long, drum beat using Ableton online.*



*Daniel Gair, Chrome Music Lab.*



*Logan Reid, for his drum playing.*

Mr Stock would like to commend the following students for their written work on their listening and description assignment for Kung Fu Panda.

Evie May Thornewill  
Zoe Lloyd-Rossi  
Millie Evans

# Art

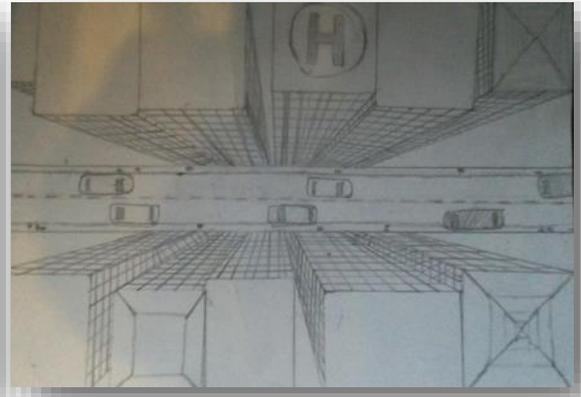
Miss Morrison would like to congratulate the following students on their outstanding artwork:



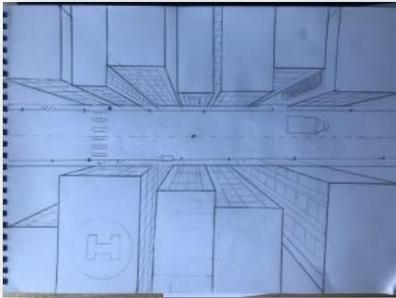
Grace Allmark



Lottie Kempster-Bell



Alexander Lofthouse



Chloe Allmark



Harry Gowlett



Dylan Barber

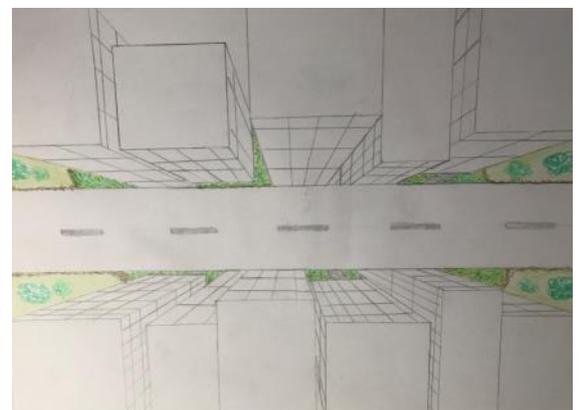
Miss Payne would like to congratulate the following students on their outstanding artwork:



Daniel Gair



Reub Obeney



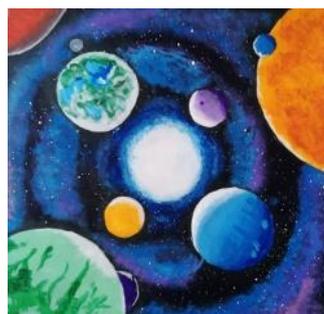
Zoe Lloyd-Rossi



Jessica Smith



Rosie Pressland



Zara Borg



Frances MacKinlay



Megan Gabriel

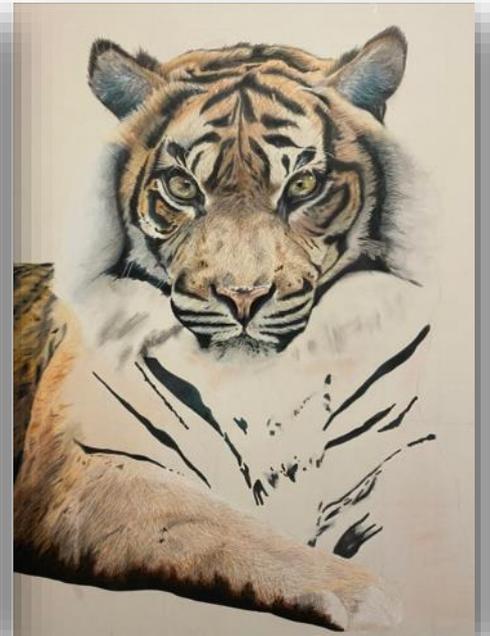
Miss Payne would like to congratulate the following Sixth Form students on their outstanding artwork:



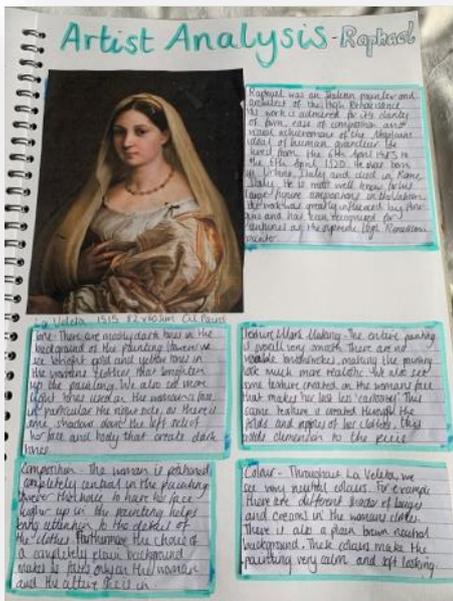
Vicki Bowden



Rebecca Smith



Jodie Beverley



Arwen Audritt



Lani Whatling



Eloise Churchman



Alice Peacock



Ellie Poole

# Dance



## We keep Dancing!

The GCSE Dance students amongst all year groups have been producing some excellent work.

The Year 9 Dancers are creating their own musical showcases using breakout rooms on Teams;

Eva Hall, Keira Picton, Ruby Clarke and Molly Anderson  
have been creating a piece based on High School Musical.  
Medina Krasniqi, Rishel Pereira, Aimee Wood and Anya Seifert  
have been creating a piece based on Mary Poppins!

Well done to all Year 9 Dance students!

The Year 10 Dancers are looking at a professional work called 'Shadows' by Christopher Bruce which explores the pressures of different family members in WW2. They have been comparing the pressures on different family members in Covid-19 times and have been creating solos based on some of the pressures of home schooling/exams being cancelled/juggling work and home life. The outcomes have been stunning!

Miss Adams would also like to congratulate all Year 11 dancers for their fantastic focus on their choreography work in tough circumstances! Well done everyone.

*Miss Adams, Dance*





Miss Defay would like to congratulate the following students for excelling at “Top Quizzers” and “Top Unmuters” ....

**7x2:**

**Top Unmuters:**

1. Megan Allin
2. Amber Lindborg
3. Jerzy Swiatek

**Top Quizzers:**

1. James Rose
2. Dylan Barber
3. Jasper Drewery

**7y1:**

**Top Unmuters:**

1. Saskia Hawkes
2. Isabelle Hyams
3. Kervin Sunassee

**Top Quizzers:**

1. Mariana Rojas Alves
2. Charles Crane
3. Marlie Wells

**8x2:**

**Top Unmuters:**

1. Ryan Gilbert
2. Amelia Austin
3. Amber Tubb

**Top Quizzers:**

1. Daniel Wilson
2. Lily Booker,
3. Nathaniel Robinson, Harry Rolfe

**8y2:**

**Top Unmuters:**

1. Freya Spittal
2. Louis Browning
3. Catalina Olteanu

**Top Quizzers:**

1. Lily Shillito
2. Olivia Powles
3. Catalina Olteanu

**9D:**

**Top Unmuters:**

1. India Purton
2. Samuel Chandler
3. Aidan Lucas

**Top Quizzers:**

1. Aidan Lucas
2. Jessica Smith
3. Molly-Sue Wedgbrow

**10B:**

**Top Unmuters:**

1. Erin Hinken
2. Frankie Gilder
3. Madeleine Gilbank

**Top Quizzers:**

1. Daisy Evans
2. Megan Palman
3. Bonnie Wright/ William Blair

**11D:**

**Top Unmuters:**

1. Ben Mapp
2. Aishah Alim
3. Nyah Warner

**Top Quizzers:**

1. Paige Gunner
2. Stephen Ficken
3. Joshua Ballisat

*Mrs Van Baalen would like to congratulate Tegan Smith for being an absolute star in French this lockdown!*

Mr Bowman would like to congratulate the following students:

**Year 7 French - for great effort and the best contributions in lessons!**

- Georgi Blagov  
Tori Buten  
David Wallis  
Lacey Bishop  
Jack Weatherley

**Year 8 French - for great effort and best contributions in lessons.**

- Mehmet Turner  
Luke Attifield  
Evan Lee  
William Clarke  
Justin Bonini

**Year 8 German - for great effort and best contributions in lessons!**

- Ella Bryant  
Amy Lenihan  
Jessica Taylor  
Emily Hyams  
Anna Baros

**Year 9 German - for great effort and best contributions in lessons!**

- William Beaumont  
Ben Nightingale  
Grace Ramsden  
Molly Range  
Eliza Sedgbeer  
Anya Seifert  
Rosie Thorpe  
Thomas Wildman-King  
Matthew Wilson

**Year 10 - for great effort and best contributions in lessons!**

- Annabelle Baker  
George Berry  
Joao Da Silva  
Cameron Donohoe  
Jessica Newton  
Emma Robinson  
Lucy Robinson  
Willow Robson

**Year 11 French - for great effort and best contributions in lessons!**

- John Cornwall  
Harry Freeguard  
Olivia Nineberg  
Ellie Henderson  
Rubie Goodvin  
Molly Gordon

**Year 11 German - for great effort and contributions in lessons!**

- Amelia Barton  
Samuel Cooper  
Frances Mackinlay  
Ben Mellors  
Olivier Shellard

**Year 12 and 13 German - for faultless work ethic, 100% attendance and great scores in their tests!**

- William Jackson  
Joshua Foxall  
Daisy Allman  
Abi Kinch

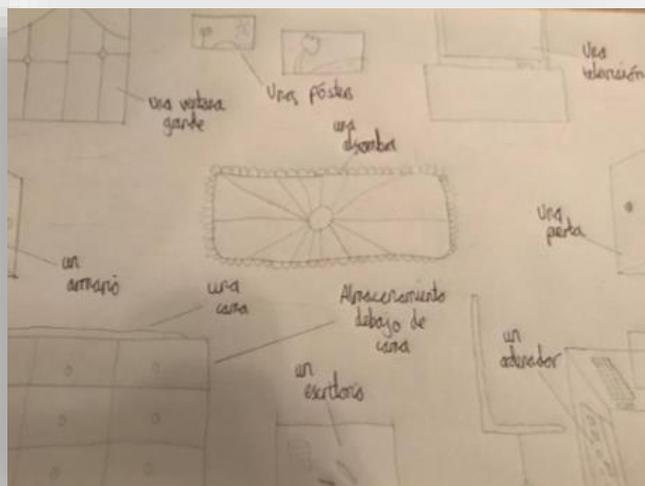
# MFL

En mi dormitorio habría una cama blanca y negra entre dos mesitas. Habría un escritorio con un ordenador porque va a ser útil. En mi dormitorio habría una aljofra grande delante de la puerta. El armario sería grande y moderno y tendría un espejo entre. El cuarto de baño sería azul claro, azul oscuro y gris. También sería muy bonito. Mi casa sería en América Los Estados Unidos y la costa.



Zoe Lloyd-Rossi

En mi dormitorio ideal habría una ventana grande con unos posters en la pared justo a ellos. A la derecha de ellos en un estante habría una televisión. Delante de el televisor sería una alfombra. A la izquierda una moqueta sería un armario. A la izquierda un armario sería una cama grande con almacenamiento debajo de. Al lado de una cama sería un escritorio, y al lado de escritorio sería un ordenador. A la izquierda un ordenador sería una pata.



William Byers

## 13C Spanish

### Top 5 Scorers:

- 1st - Megan Leith
- 2nd - Calla Thomson
- 3rd - Emily Port
- 4th - Lukas Ruediger
- 5th - Myrian Román Mejido

## 12F Spanish

### Top 5 Scorers:

- 1st - Alice Peacock
- 2nd - Bora Yavuz
- 3rd - Rebecca Smith
- 4th - Arwen Audritt
- Joint 5th - Lucy Robinson, Janvier Mizuma, Noah Hummerston

*A big well done to all Year 12 and 13 Spanish students for their consistently excellent punctuality, contributions and engagement as well as superb work produced. They also were totally committed during the two week sixth form lockdown in the Autumn Term too.*

## 11C Spanish

### Top 5 Scorers:

- 1st - Ben Mapp
- 2nd - Miles Ovenden
- 3rd - Lydia Bretherton
- 4th - Quin Seifert
- 5th - Ellie Gibson

### Top Unmuters

- Adam Tyler
- Keira Durham
- Quin Seifert
- Ben Mapp

## Ruby-Willow Sudbury

- Scarlett Ibbotson
- Matthew Morris-Prieto

*I continue to be very impressed with this group, whose members are working so hard! Very well done!*

## 10D Spanish

### Top 5 Scorers:

- 1st - Evie-Mae Evans
- 2nd - Alexia Popa
- Joint 3rd - Hugo Butler, Cecilia Davey and Holly Thompson

### Top Unmuters

- Ruby Roberts
  - Alexia Popa
  - Jessica Hobday
  - Abigail Read
- Well done to 10D Spanish too, great commitment!*

## 9B Spanish

### Top 5 Scorers:

- 1st - Aidan Lucas
- 2nd - Daniel Howe
- 3rd - Naeema Khan
- Joint 4th - Daniel Baines, Thierry Earle, Kieren Mok and Louieza Pike

### Top Unmuters

- Matthew Reader
  - Harrison Pickard
  - Daniel Baines
  - Jack Farley
  - Mikey Stables
  - Lexie Taylor
- This is the most competitive class, and they are so speedy with their responses; just working so brilliantly, very well done!*

## 8y Spanish

### Top 5 Scorers:

- 1st - Gracie Rowley
- Joint 2nd - Sophia Coles, George Culley, Amelia Davies, George Jackson, Katie Leslie, Sophie Smith

### Top Unmuters

- Alfie Hobday
  - Luca Silva
  - George Culley
  - George Jackson
- Another hard-working class! Well done!*

¡Mi habitación o casa ideal!

Year 8 Spanish were given the task of designing and describing either their ideal house or ideal room, using lots of description (a range of adjectives studied, but others discovered), the conditional tense as well as prepositions. Pictured above are the best examples of this task!

## 7yFr3

### Top 5 Scorers:

- 1st - Rejs Gjoni
- Joint 2nd - Alex Dredge, Ava Ferro, Jimi Richmond
- Joint 3rd - Scarlett Bazlinton, Jamie Durham, Tobey Rice, Jacob Sear, Charlie Warner

### Top Unmuters

- Reub Obeney
- Finlay Sandall
- Luca Gallop

Miss Roderick, Head of MFL

# Geography, History, Politics and Sociology

Mrs Feather Levey would like to commend the following students for their hard work and commitment to learning:

## Year 7 History

Lewis Beard -  
*Excellent effort and perseverance.*  
Luke Cutmore -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Sylvia Dolphin-Tsang -  
*Excellent work.*  
Jasper Drewery -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Ella Gosden -  
*Excellent work and contributions to live lessons.*  
Harrison McKinley -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Kian Seifert -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Jake Smith -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Lorelei Robson -  
*Excellent work and contributions to live lessons.*  
Jerzy Swiatek -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Daniel Gair -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
David Wallis -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*

## Year 8 History

Tyler Mansfield -  
*Not giving up and persevering even when it's tough.*  
Evie-May Thornewill -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Lily Shillito -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Gracie Salmon -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Lewis Randall -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*

Isabelle Sones -

*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
William Byers -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Franchesca Hartley -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Katie Leslie -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Freddie Garforth -  
*Excellent contributions to live lessons.*  
Alfie Deehan -  
*Improved participation in lessons and in work ethic.*

## Year 11 GCSE History

*Excellent attendance and contributions to live lessons.*  
Maja Adamczyk  
Daniel Alferi  
William Brister  
Ailannah Budd  
Samuel Cooper  
Oliver Crowley  
Finlay Gregory  
Stela Hristrova  
Devlin Hunt  
Todd Kitteridge  
Robert Loft  
Charlie Marsh  
Alice Nugent  
Anya Pike  
Damon Priest  
Archie Rees  
Ben Sampford  
Conor Sinnott  
Lydia Speller  
Ben Trueman  
Nyah Warner

## Year 12 A Level Sociology

*Excellent attendance and contributions to live lessons.*  
Matylda Babska  
Caitlin Best  
Rory Cameron  
Freddie Gardiner  
Kitty Hermit  
Maria Panait  
Logan Parker  
Claudia-Jane Savage  
Ellyn Seath  
Marley Thistlewaite  
Harvey Thorpe  
Olivia Wilson  
Grace Wright

## Year 12 A Politics

*Excellent attendance and contributions to live lessons.*  
Joshua Foxall  
Lauren Jones  
Ross King  
Oliver Mayer  
Killian Tebich

## Year 13 A Level Politics

Elwood Brown  
Harry Jarvis  
Kristina Kase  
Kate Laurens  
Megan Leith  
Paige Roberts  
Oscar Russell  
Calla Thompson  
Kayleigh Wheaver

Mrs Franklin would like to nominate the following students for outstanding work:

## **Year 8**

Chloe Allmark, Zoe Lloyd-Rossi, Chloe Gibson, Paige Grant, George Jackson, Patryk Maziarz Laranjo, Cameron Morley, Olivia Powles, Luca Silva, Olivia Smith, Freya Spittal, Masab Asim, Anna Baros, Joshua Brown, Daniel Clark, Abby Kruller-Robson, Kacey Lilley, Ruby Mathura, Mia-Rae Pekris, Olivier Rochester, Charlotte Smith, Jessica Taylor, Amber Tubbs, Daniel Wilson, Sharmila Begum, Luke Attfield, Charlie Booker, Teddy Dore, Amber Owen and Emily Thompson.

## **Year 9**

Ruby Clarke, Jack Farley, Dominik Franczyk, Aidan Lucas, Daniel Lunn, Angus Mackinlay, Isabelle Mair, Rosie May and Harrison Pickard.

## **Year 10**

Annabelle Baker, Maddie Jennings, Grace Limrick, Abigail Read and Ami Shad.

## **Year 11**

Amelia Barton, Paige Gunner, Ava Salisbury and Adam Tyler.

# Business, Economics and Financial Studies

**Level 3 BTEC Business - good engagement by many but special acknowledgement to:**

Elliott Rowell

Katie Hadley

Ellie McKinlay

Jairo Greenfield

Katie Belton

Millie Adams

Kelsie Addison

Archie Humphreys

Ryver Gardiner

Marni Burgess

Casey Camp

**Year 12 Economics:**

Janvier Mizuma

Killian Tebich

Mako Chimunye

James Hagland-Lord

Oscar Folwell

**Year 13 Economics:**

Georgia McCarthy

Tyler McFadyen

Finlay Clark

Harry Vessey

Mackenzie Evans

Brooklyn Gardiner

Matt Hyne

**Year 12 Financial Studies - good engagement by many but special acknowledgement to:**

Katie Belton

Ryver Gardiner

Marni Burgess

Tilly Hooper

Logan Parker

Dylan Kettridge

Luiz Ramos

**Year 13 Financial Studies - good engagement by many but special acknowledgement to:**

Sophie Cousins

Kayley Felstead

Brooklyn Gardiner

Kristina Kase

Georgia McCarthy

Rebecca O'Blath

Poppy Pressland

Samia Rashid

Paige Roberts

Laura Steele

**Year 12 Sociology - good engagement by many but special acknowledgement to:**

Evie Price

Ocean Smith

Ellie Waskett

## LGBT+ History month

February is LGBT+ History month in the UK - an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. In 2005, educators and activists Sue Sanders and Paul Patrick organised LGBT+ History Month as part of a Schools Out UK project, a programme that aims to educate young people about the issues members of the LGBT+ community face and to make schools feel inclusive for everyone, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. The event was first held in February to coincide with the abolition of Section 28, a hugely controversial piece of Conservative government legislation which banned local authorities and schools from "promoting" homosexuality. After widespread opposition and condemnation, Section 28 was abolished in 2003. Alas, due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not be able to celebrate the month in the usual way at school. However, we will hopefully be able to run various events later in the year to ensure that acceptance without exception remains a central part of our school community. Please also check out Fusion groups Twitter page - @fusion\_bwood - to read up on profiles of famous LGBT+ figures - past and present - as well as information, talks and resources on all things LGBT+.

*Mr Harlow*



Dear Birchwood Parents,

Club Excel are extremely excited to announce that we will be operating activity camps during the Easter and Summer holidays at Birchwood School for 2021. This will be with the view to operate during all school holidays going forward.

Club Excel have been running activity day camps for children aged 3-14 in Hertfordshire for 22 years and our experience goes a long way to providing peace of mind to parents. We introduce children to a range of activities that will not only challenge them, but more importantly, ensure they have the maximum amount of enjoyment whilst being cared for in a secure, happy & fun filled environment.

Club Excel is Ofsted registered and have built their reputation by delivering high standards of childcare. The camps are operated by a team of experienced and qualified childcare professionals, many of whom are qualified teachers & sports coaches. All staff obtain an enhanced DBS check and receive regular training.

We feel very privileged to have the opportunity to run camps at Birchwood School and would like to offer you an introductory **50% discount on all 2021 camp bookings** made before 01/03/2021. To redeem, use the discount code BIRCHWOOD50. The activity options offered at Birchwood School for 2021 will be:

#### **Mini Camp (Preschool)**

Designed specifically for children aged 3 to 4 years old, our Mini Camps are perfect for those attending a day camp for the first time or who are not yet in Reception. Children are guided by our qualified members of staff, who ensure they are both supported and have the space to explore, learn and let their imaginations run wild.

#### **Multi Activity (Juniors: Reception – Year 1 Seniors: School Years 2 – 4)**

Our Multi Activity Camps are the perfect opportunity for children to make new friends, learn new skills and grow in confidence. So, whether your child prefers climbing walls and go karting or dodgeball and obstacle courses, you can guarantee they will have plenty of fun-filled stories to tell you when you collect them at the end of the day.

#### **Performing Arts & Crafts (Reception – Year 1)**

Dancing, acting, arts and crafts are the order of the day at our Performing Arts and Crafts Camps. For children of this age, this is the place where every day is a chance to let creativity flow. Here, your child's imagination can run wild amongst kindred spirits, making new friends and developing their skills all at once.

#### **Theatre Workshop (School Years 2 – 7)**

If your child has a passion for the performing arts, they will gain confidence as well as new skills in dance and drama, guided by professional dance and performance artists. Developing creative techniques through fun and games, at our Theatre Workshops your child will have the chance to make like-minded friends and learn upbeat routines. Our team will encourage their imagination, innovation and ideas, giving them a rewarding platform for self-expression.

#### **X-treme (School Years 4 – 7)**

Our Xtreme programme offers a wide and varied range of activities and adventures like giant inflatables, archery, go karts, zorbs, and more. If you're child loves a bit of adventure and trying new things, they'll love Xtreme.

#### **Football (School Years Reception – 6)**

For the boys and girls who are passionate about football, our football programme offers a chance to learn new skills, play lots of games, and compete in competitions to win prizes. Coached by our team of qualified coaches, children will be led in a range of activities and games that are aimed at having fun while improving skills.

#### **Key Info:**

- 2021 Dates: Easter Camp: 29<sup>th</sup> March – 9<sup>th</sup> April, Summer Camp: 26<sup>th</sup> July – 27<sup>th</sup> August.
- The Camp day runs from 9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. with extended hours from 8.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.
- All Childcare vouchers are accepted.
- 50% discount with the code BIRCHWOOD50 if you book before 01/03/2021

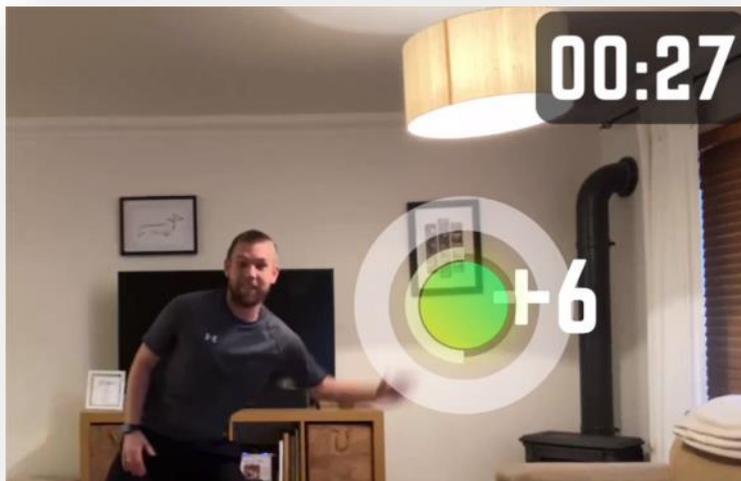
For more information and to book online please visit [www.clubexcel.co.uk](http://www.clubexcel.co.uk) or call our friendly team on 01923 469475. You can see our 2021 Brochure here! [Club Excel Brochure 2021](#)

We look forward to welcoming you during 2021!

Phone us on 01923 469475

Visit us at [www.clubexcel.co.uk](http://www.clubexcel.co.uk)

# PE



## PE Challenges

Each week, the PE department has been setting three different forms of exercises. They have been setting the challenges every Monday, Wednesday and Friday via Year Group Teams channel. So far various challenges have included Yoga, Alphabet Challenge, Heads or Tails, Boxing and much more.

Exercise is not only good for your heart and body, it really helps your mind as well!

So remember keeping active is good for your and good for your learning!

*Some of our PE staff demonstrating many of the challenges.*



## Head Boy and Girl cycle, run, walk challenge...

To keep the Birchwood community physically and mentally healthy during lockdown our Head Boy and Head Girl have launched two challenges, one for the walkers and runners, covering the distance of 1400km for Lands End to John O'Groats and for the cyclists, to cover the distance of the Transcontinental race a total of 4000km. Already a number of students, parents and staff have signed up and are using the challenge to beat the January blues and the lockdown lows. As a school, Birchwood is always looking at ways in which to engage the community in offering as much sport and physical activity as possible. So if you have an idea of how we could support a local club, group or individuals in meeting their New Year fitness goals or supporting their club to develop or enhance their offer please contact [community@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:community@birchwoodhigh.org.uk).



We would love to hear how we can support you.

## PE student nominations this term....

Mr Jones would like to commend the following students for their excellent contributions during online learning in GCSE PE:

Oakley White  
Layla Ellis  
Michael Stables

Also

Roni Woollard for receiving the highest mark in the recent online test, a very impressive 88%.

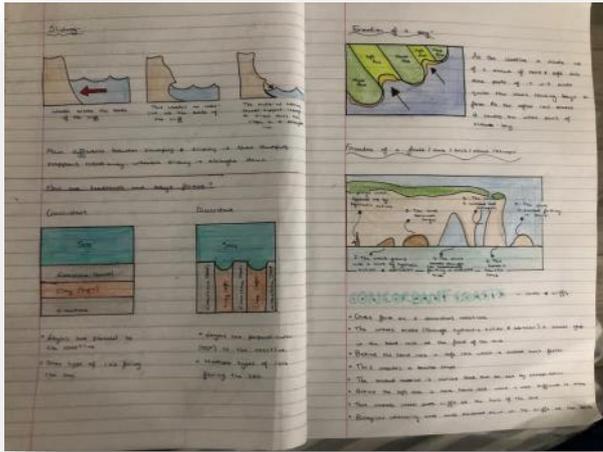
Mrs Siczko would like to nominate the following GCSE PE students for their hard work in attending all live lessons and submitted excellent quality work:

Grace Ramsden  
Ben Nightingale  
Keira Picton

Mr Barratt would like to nominate the following students for their hard work in GCSE PE:

Matthew Winder  
Scarlett Dillon

# Geography



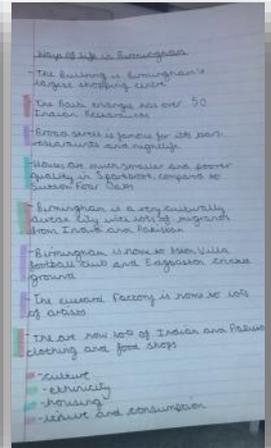
Daisy Evans



Lucy Monks



Molly Range



Miss Diver would like to commend the following students for their hard work and commitment to home learning...

Excellent work in Geography from:

## Year 8

Ella Bryant, Millie Evans, Harry Gowlett, Emily Hyams, Amy Lenihan, Daisy Philp, Poppy Barton and Gemma Beazley.

## Year 9

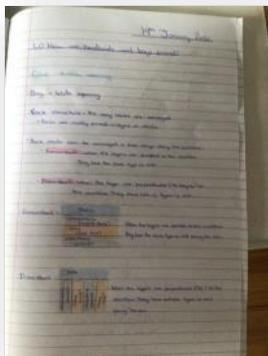
Molly Range, Jessica Rogers, Rosie Thorpe, Severin Fleet, Lucy Monks and Molly-Sue Wedgbrow.

## Year 10

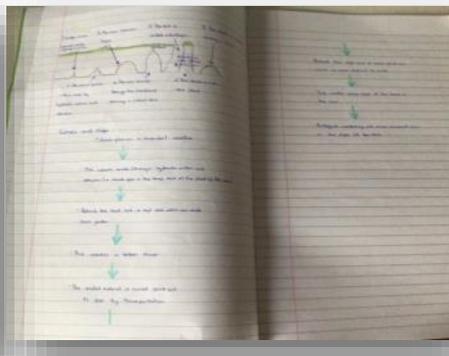
Daisy Evans and Megan Palman.

## Year 11

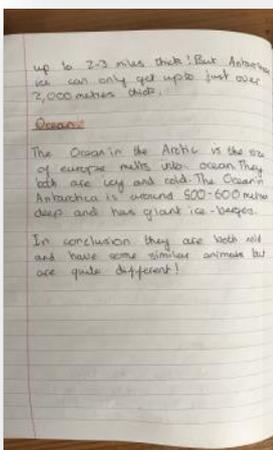
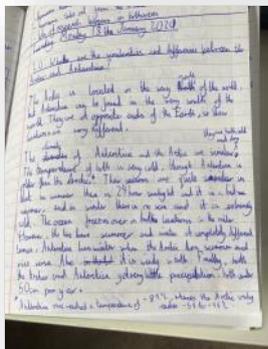
(for excellent contributions in live lessons) Quin Seifert, Matthew Morris-Prieto, Dylan Shine and William Drewry.



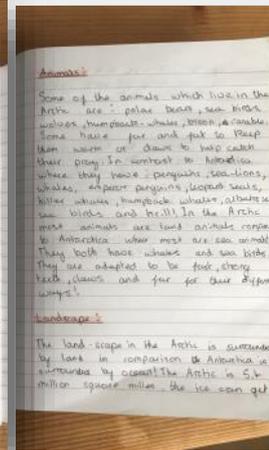
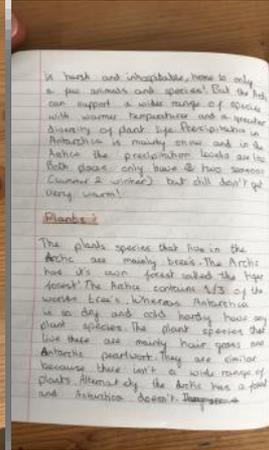
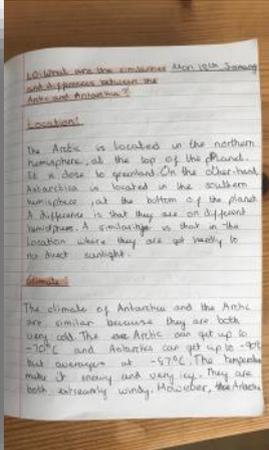
Megan Palman



Millie Evans



Poppy Barton



# Technology



Chelsea Buns - Hannah Cook



Chelsea Buns - Skye Roberts



Lemon Cheesecake - Miles Cousins



Step by step guide to making a stir fry by Miles Cousins



Cheesecakes - Tylor Black



Filled Roll - Grace Limrick



Croissants - Joe Bright



Lasagne, Stir Fry and Cheesecake - Harrison Brown



Bread Rolls - Amy Lenihan



Lasagne - Ruby Du Toit



Lasagne - Jack Cutmore



Bread Rolls - Harry Gowlett



Lasagne - Charlie Clark



Profiteroles - Sam Dean



Profiteroles - Bonnie Wright



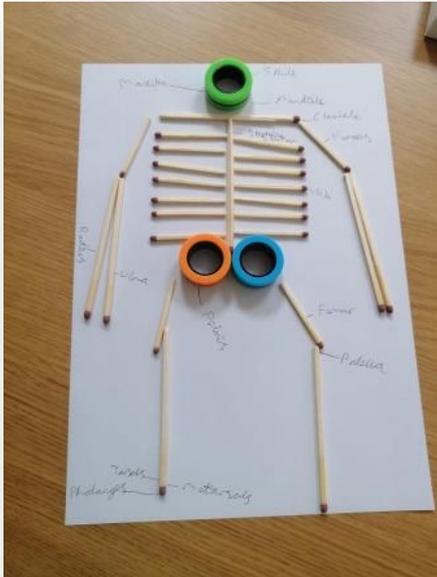
Croissants - Zara Borg

# Science

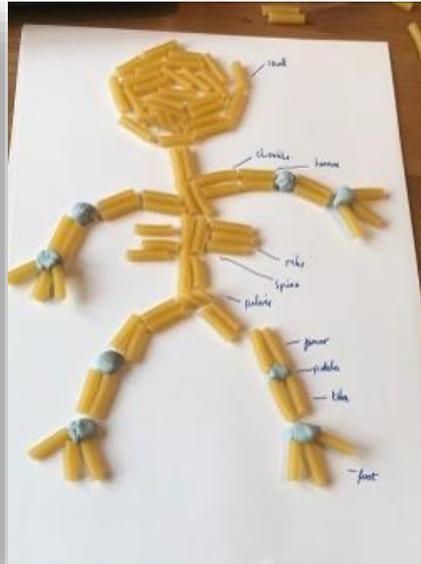
Year 7's have been studying the skeleton in Science and for a practical competition at home students had to then make a pasta skeleton and label it. Some students didn't have any pasta at home so had to be creative. How brilliant are some of these!

1st prize goes to Amy Thorpe  
2nd prize Mary-Jane Disbrey for outstanding creativity

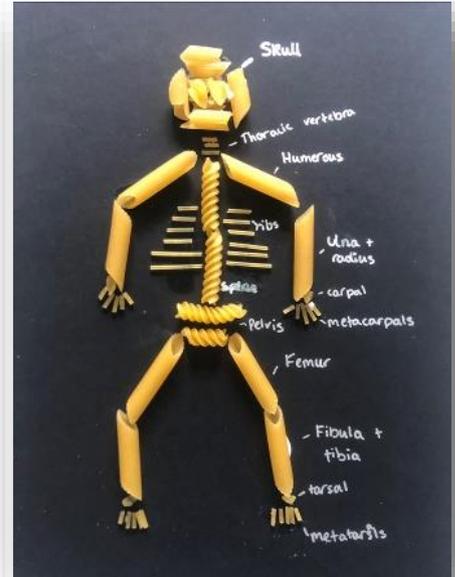
Brilliant engagement in online lesson from the whole class, well done!  
**Mr Loveday, Science**



Isaac Bretherton



Josh Mcgrady-Johnston



Amy Thorpe



Cameron Neary



Mary-Jane Disbrey



Michael Ofori

Prior to lockdown, Year 8 students had been enjoying practical lessons with Mr Loveday, looking at the amount of energy different crisps contained. The Year 8's had to predict out of a selection of four types of crisps, which ones would produce the most heat to a test tube of water and measure the temperature changes. Well done to all the groups!

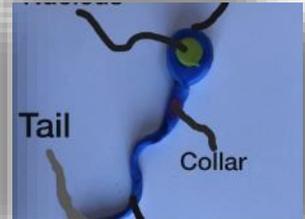


# Science

In Science, Year 7 have been covering B1 Cells in Year 7 (7x3/7RLY). The task was to choose a specialised cell (plant or animal) then make a 3D model with labels of the main parts. Here are some of the amazing pictures submitted. Mr William-Powlett was extremely impressed with all the entries. Well Done!

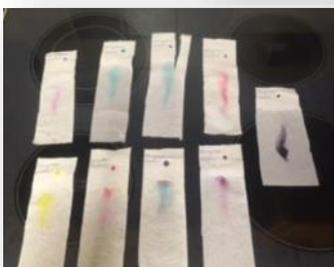
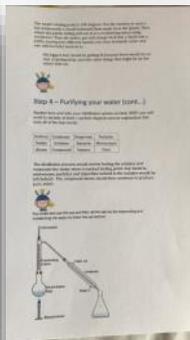
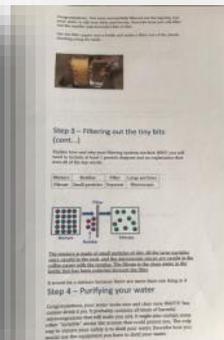


Evie Stockwell

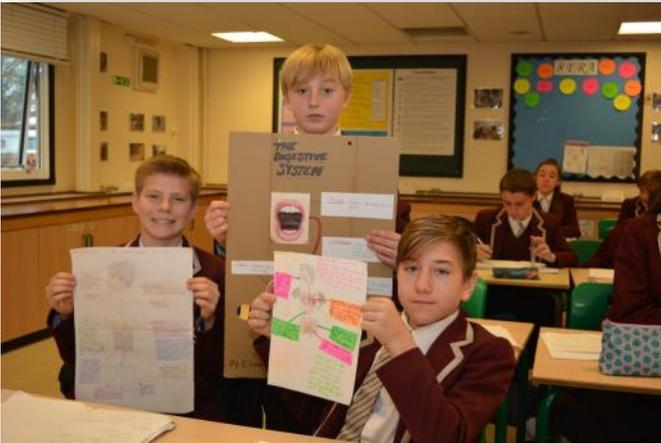
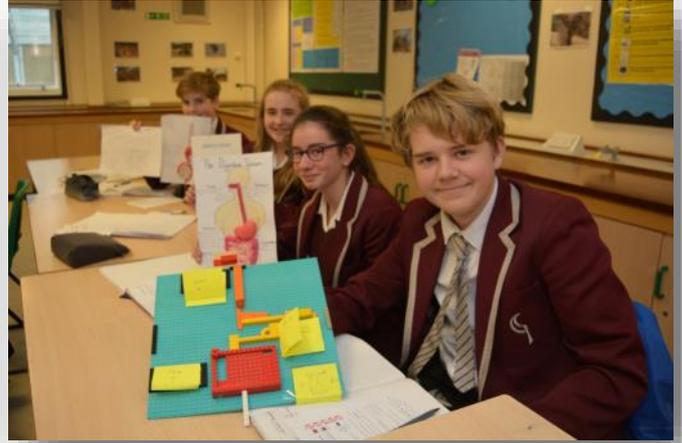


This half term in Science, 8Y1 have been studying how to separate mixtures using a variety of separation techniques, from filtration to distillation. This topic is very practical, and we decided to highlight it with a chromatography home project. The results have exceeded all expectations. The students were also offered a challenge to obtain drinking water on a sea island using limited equipment. Here are some of the examples of students' work.

I couldn't be prouder of their enthusiasm, imagination, and dedication.  
**Dr Rodionova, Science**



# Science



In Biology we have been studying the digestive system and I made a 3D model of it.

First, I found some blue foam that I thought would be suitable. I drew the digestive system on a piece of paper and then using a Stanley knife traced this onto the foam. My dad helped me to cut out the shape using his hot wire cutter and a craft knife. I marked out the individual organs using a Stanley knife. I then painted the organs in different colours and labelled them. Finally, I glued the model onto another piece of foam.

*Harry M, BBC Reporter*

## 70 Laptops donated to Birchwood from ITVET

Birchwood would like to say a massive thanks to ITVET and the community of Bishop's Stortford for the kind donations of 70 laptops. These laptops will be used for students who are struggling to access online learning during the current pandemic. Charles Gilbank (Deputy Principal) said, "without these donations the students would be getting significantly behind, however, these laptops will make a substantial difference and will ensure no one is digitally disadvantaged."

Birchwood's Parent Staff and Friends Association  
invites you to take part in our

# Virtual Valentine's Balloon Race

Each balloon costs £3 and the balloon that has travelled the furthest at the end of the Race wins a **£75 cash prize**

The Race starts at midday on Sunday 14th February 2021  
and ends at midday on Friday 19th February 2021

To purchase your heart shaped balloon, please visit  
[www.balloonrace.com/BirchwoodPSFA](http://www.balloonrace.com/BirchwoodPSFA)



# PSFA News

## Virtual Valentine's Balloon Race

Join our Virtual Valentine's Balloon Race and win £75! Surprise your Valentine with a heart shaped balloon and take part in our race. As we are unable to arrange fundraising events at the moment, the PSFA have arranged a Virtual Valentine's Balloon Race. For those unfamiliar with the concept, a virtual balloon race works in the same way as a helium balloon race but the balloons fly around their own virtual world rather than in the atmosphere, making it much more environmentally friendly. Each balloon costs £3 and the winner will receive £75!

Please go to <https://www.balloonrace.com/BirchwoodPSFA> where you can choose your heart shaped balloon, perhaps for your Valentine and even add your own personal message on the tag. On Sunday 14 February, at midday, the balloons will be released to float around their virtual world using a specially designed algorithm, which ensures a random pattern, with no clear leader emerging. Every hour each balloon travels between 1km and 20km. You can follow your balloon throughout the race and see where you are on the race leaderboard. At the end of the race at midday on Friday 19 February the balloon which has travelled the furthest wins a £75 cash prize. You can buy as many balloons as you like, for friends as well as family. Please share this as entry is open to everyone.

## Birchwood Bonus Ball

Due to the current lockdown and the School not being fully open, we have been unable to draw the December and January bonus ball. Therefore, we have decided to do a multiple draw once the School reopens to all 1400 students.

The Birchwood Bonus Ball is a raffle style club, with up to five numbers available to purchase per person, per subscription period. If you would like to take part by purchasing one or more numbers, please email [treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com) confirming your name and contact telephone details. Wednesday 24 February is the closing date for subscriptions to be included in the monthly draw. Full terms and conditions of the Birchwood Bonus Ball Club can be found on the PSFA page of the school's website.

## Birchwood Futures Foundation Fund

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far to the Fund, every penny goes a long way to helping raise additional financial resources to enhance students' educational experience whilst at Birchwood High School. With your support the PSFA is hoping to play a significant role in helping to keep Birchwood a well-resourced school with opportunities for all students. There are two ways to make a donation to the Birchwood Futures Foundation. Either by ParentPay or via Virgin Money Giving, details of which can be found on the Birchwood PSFA Page of the School website. As a registered charity, Virgin Money Giving is the easiest way for us claim Gift Aid, which means that if you are a UK tax payer you are able to boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you to donate. Donations of any value are voluntary and collectively will make a huge difference for the School.

## Other ways to support the PSFA

You can support the PSFA when shopping online with Amazon Smile. Find us on there under Birchwood Parents Staff & Friends Association or by searching our registered charity number 1184425. Alternatively, you can generate free donations to our school at no extra cost to you every time you online shop via TheGivingMachine. Please have a look online [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) and search for Birchwood High School.

## Second Hand Uniform

If you are replacing items of school uniform and the old items are still in fairly good condition, please consider donating good condition items of second hand uniform to the PSFA. Please drop off clean items of uniform to our reception.

If you would like to make a purchase of second hand uniform, please email [birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com](mailto:birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com).