

March 2021



NEWS

newsletter@birchwoodhigh.org.uk

HEADLINES



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am writing this 'Headlines' edition on the day that marks exactly a year since the first lockdown was announced. As a school, we respected the one minute silence at 12pm and you could have heard a pin drop. When you look back, what a bizarre and disturbing last 12 months we have all had. It is worth reflecting on the fact that, globally, there have been 125 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, sadly leading to 2,700,000 deaths – and 126,000 deaths in the UK – one of the highest in the developed world.

There are reasons to be more optimistic about the next 12 months, however. There have been 400 million people vaccinated across the planet with 30 million people having had their first vaccination in the UK – the highest number for any country – thanks to scientists at Oxford University and the infrastructure of the NHS and its dedicated doctors and nurses.

At Birchwood, we completed over 3500 lateral flow tests for students and there was not a single positive case – but this does not mean we can afford to be complacent. Our students have been brilliant at following the rules and putting up with face masks indoors. Attendance, since we returned, is averaging at 96.2% compared to 89% across Hertfordshire for the same period. Staff are self-testing twice a week and I hope you are coping with home testing too – you only need to let us know if the lateral flow test comes up with a positive result.

Speaking personally, it is great to be back, seeing our students and staff quickly settle back into the familiar routine of a learning in classrooms and times to socialise with friends. Having just met with the School Council, they felt that the online learning on Teams was – as one student put it – the best of a bad job! They talked about how good it was to learn alongside friends and peers, with their teacher checking on their progress.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Birchwood News. Our students are amazingly talented young people full of creativity and ingenuity. They are also far more resilient than the media make out and I am sure we will be able to catch-up with lost learning providing we have no further lockdowns. I enjoyed reading about some of our alumni and what they have pursued in terms of further education and careers. If you have an older brother or sister who has left Birchwood, we would love to hear from them. Please contact Mrs Barnard in our Resources & Marketing Department (ibarnard@birchwoodhigh.org.uk).

With the Easter holidays just round the corner, I hope you and your family enjoy the break. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 12 April. Year 13 will have school based assessments and Year 11 have classroom based assessments until Friday 23 April. Practically, we will expect students to be in full school uniform and they will get changed for PE. Students will also be asked to remove coats indoors aided by the summer weather and ventilated classrooms. These revised measures are in line with every other Bishop's Stortford Secondary School. We are aware that there are supply issues with some items of school uniform. If this still affects your child when they return, could you write a note to their form tutor and we will issue them with a temporary uniform card.

One quick reminder – we are still unable to loan out pens / pencils and other equipment due to Covid restrictions so can you please make sure that your child's pencil case has all the necessities for the summer term.

Thank you for your continued support – it makes a big difference.

Yours sincerely

Chris Ingate

Dr Chris Ingate, Principal

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 times. We would like to keep the students and ourselves as safe as possible so encourage everyone to use this payment method.

If you require ParentPay log in details or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email:

jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 January -
Friday 26 March

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

Half term

Monday 14 February -
Friday 18 February

Summer 2022

Tuesday 19 April -
Friday 22 July

Half term

Monday 30 May -
Friday 3 June

CPD Days

Wednesday 21 July 2021
Thursday 22 July 2021
Wednesday 1 September –
CPD (staff training)
Thursday 2 September –
CPD (staff training)
Friday 1 October 2021
Wednesday 5 January 2022
Thursday 21 July 2022
Friday 22 July 2022

2021/2022

Term Dates 2021/22

Autumn 2021

1 September - 21 December 21
Friday 3 September – Years 7/12
only

Monday 6 September
– whole school starts

Half term

Monday 25 October -
Friday 29 October

Spring 2022

Wednesday 5 January -
Friday 1 April

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



Student Photography Competition



Human Impacts on the Environment

You may be aware that for a week in March we celebrated **British Science week**. This year it ran from 5 to 14 March, and the theme was 'innovating for the future'. As such we would like to announce a photography competition which aims to explore the impacts of humans on the environment. Starting with your local community, how are humans impacting on the environment? This could be in a positive or negative way. The photography competition will be running over the Easter break.



Picture must be of a science or nature theme.

Entries to be emailed by 12 April

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Email Mrs Pressland in the Science Department

cpressland@birchwoodhigh.org.uk (subject – photo competition)



House

Scenic Snow Photography Competition

We ran a Scenic Snow Photography Competition, as all the photography competitions that we have run since September have always been super popular. Again the Scenic Snow Competition, was another very popular competition.

Thank you to everybody who took part.

Below are a list of names of the **Top 10 photographs** (in no particular order!). Each of these students will receive 250 House Points.

Isaac Horwood, 7RAE, Dane House
Olivia Tuliszka, 7JLE, Hadham House
India Purton, 9MCN, Waytemore House
Gositha Ranadewa, 7RAE, Dane House
Lily Booker, 8JBD, Dane House
Anya Seifert, 9ARD, Dane House
Hartley-Anne, 8DLA, Hadham House
Frances Mackinlay, 11ZBR, Dane House
Alexia Popa, 10AFN, Hadham House
Tilly Humphreys, 8CCO, Stort House



Olivia Tuliszka



Isaac Horwood



Tilly Humphreys



Lily Booker



Anya Seifert



Gositha Ranadewa



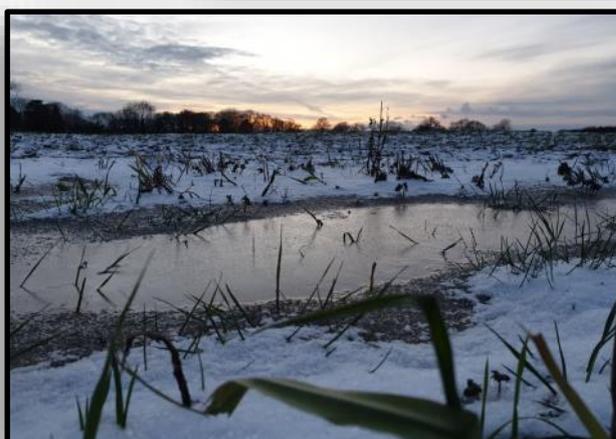
Alexia Popa



India Purton



Frances Mackinlay



Hartley-Anne



Alexia Popa



Carmen Murariu



Tilly Humphreys



India Purton



Sharmila Begum

House

Valentine's Day!

As Thursday 11 February would have been our House Charity Day themed for Valentine's Day, we decided to run a competition.

The competition was to create and design a card, gift or cake with the Valentines Day theme. We had so many lovely entries which included snow sculptures with roses, homemade heart cakes with gooey middles and we also had heart shaped pancakes. A special thanks should go to Quin Seifert who submitted a wonderful score of music.

Thank you to everybody for getting involved! The winning video was posted onto the Birchwood House Team Channel, but pictured here are a selection of the entries. The winners were:

1st place -

Sharmila Begum - she designed a beautiful hand painted Valentines Day card.

2nd place - Carmen Murariu, for the snow sculpture and the rose! A very creative idea.

3rd place - Tilly Humphreys, for her beautiful Valentine's Day heart cake! It looked delicious!

Birchwood's Wildlife Week

During Birchwood's Wildlife Week we held a number of competitions.

Chloe Allmark won the Wildlife Photography Competition with a stunning photo of a fritillary butterfly.



Sharmila Begum won the "save the animals drawing competition" with the poster below.



Year 7 Spelling Bee Kahoot

Thank you to everybody who entered the Spelling Bee Kahoot!

We had over 50 entries from Year 7.

The winners were:

1st place - Saskia Hawkes 7DPN Waytemore House

2nd place - Edward Wilcock 7RAE Dane House

3rd place - Alfie Elliott 7RLY Waytemore House



Birchwood Quizzes

Before Christmas the Leadership Team decided to create a Strava challenge for the Birchwood students and teachers to get involved in. We appreciated that this challenge was not suited to everyone and wanted to come up with another solution to bringing the Birchwood community together. As a result, Hope Wright and Freya Keen decided to run whole school quizzes for students to participate in. So far, they have run two quizzes and have a growing turnout. Hopefully, there will be more in the future!

House

Haiku poem

About mental health



~ We are all in this
together ~

Let's discuss something,
It's about our mental health,
Because it's urgent.

We might ignore it
We might put it on the shelf
But it is urgent

We might hide our pain
But we should talk to someone
Like our lovely friends

Let go of sorrow
And just go and have some fun
Because life is short

We might feel ignored -
Like they don't pay attention,
But they love us lots.

We sometimes feel lost
We sometimes feel neglected
But there's someone there

That will help us out
They will be there for us all
With love and their heart.

By Hartley-Anne

Lockdown Poem Competition

The House team ran a competition in January for students to get involved in. The students had to design a poem which was themed around lockdown life. We had some super entries to the competition, all of which had a different stance.

Here are a selection of the poems that were submitted.

Well done to Hartley-Anne (left) for the winning Haiku poem.

Trapped

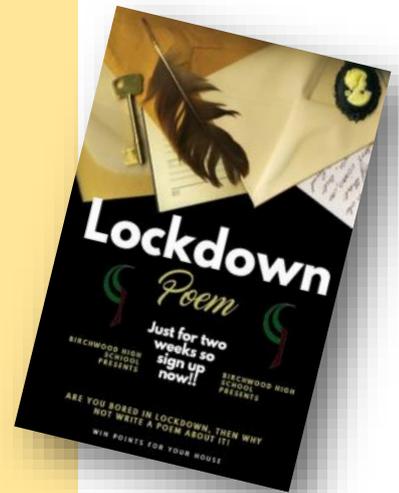
Trapped. That's how it feels
In this infernal whirl of speculation,
A rampage of escaped convicts,
Fighting for a way to come out.

Trapped. That's what you are
In your own keep of consciousness,
Overrun with insignificance,
Fighting for a way to get out.

Trapped. That's what it is
To be ambushed by ancient instincts,
Forced to fear by humanity,
Fighting for a way to be free

Fighting for a way to escape
From this monotonous sentence.

By Lucy Robinson



Satanic

Eyes red emotionally damaged
Blade on the ground
Red blood so satanic
Short on breath
I start to panic then I see your face and I start to manage.

You're up there how angelic
and I am underground burning in feelings.
I'll rot away always so lonely
but not truly of you I will be thinking.
Fire pain this is punishment.
For thinking I am deserving of breathing.

What could come of all this agony?
The position of the devil I'm meant to be
Gone for good the person I want to be
you robbed me of all my sanity.
Goodbye to love no longer I feel it
Eyes are red how satanic.

By Ben Nunn

House Masterchef Competition



Ruby Du Toit



Thomas Farrow-Tomson



Logan Reid

Thank you to all the entries that we had for this competition. We had a real array of creations, and they all looked really tasty.

1st place - Ruby Du Toit (Year 9)

2nd Place - Thomas Farrow-Tomson (Year 12)

3rd place - Logan Reid (Year 7)



Amber Owen



Georgia Sams



William Gilbank



Harry M



Isabelle Ramsay



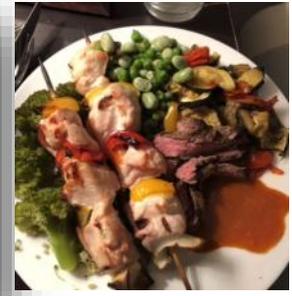
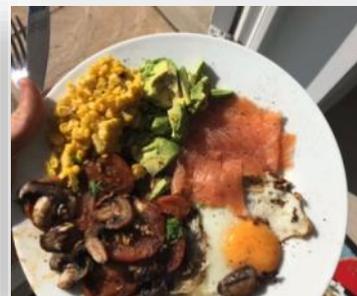
Zara Borg



India Purton



Jodie Field



Thomas Farrow-Tomson



Jodie Field



Harry M



Amelia Austin

House

To celebrate the life of Captain Sir Tom, Miss Peet and the House team launched the 100 Challenge.

During the first lockdown phase, the UK found themselves with an unassuming hero.

When Captain Tom was 99, he was catapulted into the global spotlight with his attempt to raise an initial £1,000 for charity. Early in April 2020, with the aid of his walking frame and a steely determination, he vowed to complete 100 laps of his patio before his 100th birthday at the end of that month. The war veteran was inspired to help the NHS after receiving treatment for skin cancer of the head, and a broken hip after a fall in 2018. By the time he completed his 100 laps - Captain Tom far exceeded his £1000 target and went on to raise almost £40 million. Inspired by the efforts of Captain Sir Tom, he was subsequently knighted due to his efforts, Birchwood decided to launch their own House 100 challenge. Birchwood staff and students were asked to complete 100 of 'anything'. It could be 100 press-ups, 100 keepy-ups etc. As a reward, those who took part would earn 100 House Points.

Notable performances came from Lily Booker, Year 8, who walked for 100 minutes, Alfie Elliott, Year 7, who cycled for 100 minutes, Sophie Rudge, Year 11 who walked for 100 minutes and William Gilbank, Year 10, who cycled 100km (in one go!).

Well done to all staff and students who got involved and in Captain Sir Tom's own words, "To all those people who are finding it difficult at the moment, the sun will shine on you again, and the clouds will go away....Tomorrow will be a good day".

Miss Peet, House

Congratulations to our Alumni student, Farrah has been offered a place at Italia Conti. This is one of the leading Performing Arts Institutions in the country and includes graduates such as; Kelly Brook, Russell Brand and Pixie Lott. The Dance department wish her all the luck in the world.
Well done Farrah!



FANTASTIC Jazz Workshop During Lockdown.

The Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Dancers took part in a fantastic jazz workshop led by professional dancer Mel Stimpson. Mel taught the students, via teams, a Fosse based routine that was upbeat and left everyone feeling extremely positive! This was such a great experience for our students and really kept them going during remote learning!

Well done to all the lovely dancers who joined the Jazz workshop. What a brilliant time they had!

Jess Hobday (10CLE) commented;
Miss thank you so much for the workshop! It made me smile so much and made me realise how much I miss dance and how great it can make you feel! Can't wait to be back in the studio.

Miss Adams, Head of Dance

Mrs Jackson, Head of PLC, would like to nominate Lewis Beard 7CPD for working exceptionally well at home during the lockdown period.

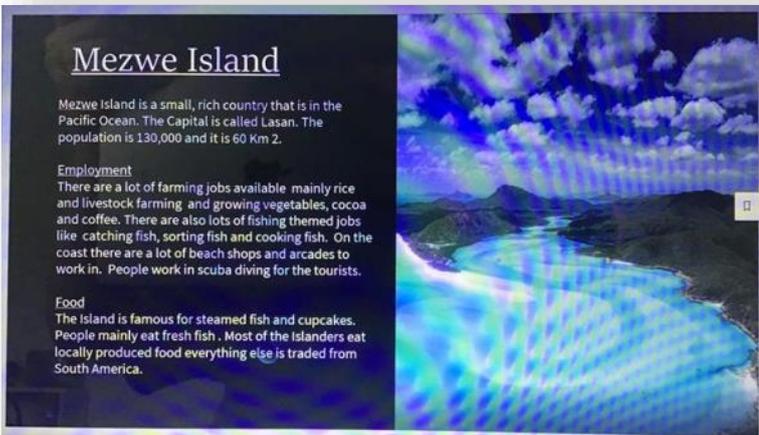
Design Your Own Country

Mrs Franklin would like to congratulate the following Year 7's in the newsletter for their Design Your Own Country geography projects during lock down. They were outstanding:

Kian Seifert
Hayden Turner
Lorelei Robson
David Wallis
Lewis Beard
Kira Beazley
Luke Cutmore
Jasper Drewery
Daniel Gair
Ella Gosden
Isabel Hayter
Mac Kempster-Bell
Archie Richards
Jerzy Swiatek
Charlie Thornewill
Megan Allin
Jacob Bird
Ruby Cornell
Alfie Elliott
Georgia Sams
James Seabrook



James Seabrook



Megan Allin

Facts about my country of Alberi

My country is called Alberi which means tree in Italian.

Alberian's eat lots of different types of food but their main traditional dish is the Mallow Fish. We grow many different crops on our farmlands. We also have a plentiful fishing ground around Mallow Island which is our biggest trade export.

We don't have volcanoes but we have the Graymist Peak Mountain range which is very popular with locals and tourists that visit Alberi. We have many ski resorts for when the colder weather sets in and the snow arrives. In the summer we have a lot of cycling and hiking in the mountains. As well as that we have Pine Lake where there is a lot of water sport opportunities. The mountains and lake support the local villages and Grayhill Town with plenty of business and employment.

People live all over Alberi. There are four towns, six villages and Hollyoak City. In the South of the country the weather is much warmer than in the North. Coastbourne Town and the other nearby towns and villages enjoy the beaches of Coastbourne and Fay Beach. These also bring in a tourist trade to the country.

There are many opportunities for employment in Alberi. We have lots of farmland where we grow our crops and people can become farmers. We also have Mallow Island which is our biggest trade, so we have fishermen fishing for Mallow Fish. There are also plenty of jobs that the ski resorts, lakes and beaches create. There is also the railway lines and the airport, that have vital roles in the countries running. We have very good trade links with our neighbouring countries. Our Mallow Fish gives us a very good trade opportunity because Mallow Fish only live in Alberian waters.

We have very little pollution because all the countries cars, vans, buses and trains run on electric. We also have lots of trees and vegetation that keeps our air clean.

Our country doesn't have a religion but it does have a motto of "BE KIND".

Megan Allin

National Career Week 2021

To celebrate National Careers Week at the beginning of March we called on some of our Birchwood Alumni to tell us what they are up to now; if you missed these posts in Teams you can read their inspirational stories below and on page 11. We always love to hear what our Alumni students are up to and I know that our current students really appreciate learning what the possibilities are beyond the school gates.

The other focus for the week was on key skills. These are skills or competencies that employers have identified as being important in the workplace but are skills that our students also use at school and in their wider activities. It is important that young people can recognise when they are using these skills and learn how to talk about them in a way that employers relate to. Qualifications are important but being able to demonstrate key skills is also essential to a successful career.



All our students can record examples of when they have demonstrated using key skills through the Unifrog 'Competency Tool'; building a bank of examples will help them when they come to write applications at 16 or 18.

Callum Jolley

Hey, I'm Callum. I left Birchwood back in 2014 after completing my A Levels. I decided not to go down the route of university after seeing an opportunity to join Tesco on their commercial Buying School Leavers Scheme, it's a career I wanted to pursue so decided on this path. I started in the General Merchandise Buying team, looking after Girls Toys, such as Barbies and Bratz. This was an amazing opportunity for me to learn how Tesco procure products from suppliers and how we set store ranges, processes and promotions.

After doing this role for a couple of years I wanted to explore other opportunities within the business, ones which would allow me to manage projects. I was lucky to find a role in the Online Team where I was responsible for leading key developments of Tesco's onsite and App media portfolio. Leading the work to both identify new commercialisation opportunities and new processes to improve our portfolio. In order to deliver new media solutions, I had to work closely with our Technology team and was exposed to the world of Product Management.

I wanted to continue learning and developing new skills, and so I decided that Product Management would allow me to do just that. After a number of discussions with my manager and other teams I was able to transition into a new role and I've now been a Product Manager for two and a half years, currently working on the Grocery Home Shopping Website and Mobile Application. Day to day I lead a team of iOS and Android developers, I work closely with designers and researchers in order to build new features for our customers. I've had some amazing opportunities including working with our teams in Thailand and Malaysia, where I developed a One Hour On-Demand Grocery proposition. This role has allowed me to grow my collaboration skills as I have to work with multiple teams across the Business, I also now have the chance to develop my leadership skills through managing a Graduate who's recently joined the team.

Looking back, it was the right decision for me to not go to University. There are lots of different opportunities following your A Levels and I would suggest looking into all of the different options to understand what would work best for your skills. There is no one size fits all and I tried a few different roles before I managed to find the best role for me, and I am really enjoying what I do now.

Millie Boom

I started working at Tees in September 2019 when I enrolled onto a Business Administration Apprenticeship. When I left Birchwood after completing my A Levels in 2019, I was very unsure whether I wanted to go to university or not. I had applied for universities, but still I wasn't 100% sure. I didn't want to commit so I decided that I would take a year out and defer my place at university and find an apprenticeship in order for me to earn some money whilst gaining another qualification and getting some experience in a work place. This would also give me time to decide if I wanted to commit to university the following year or not.

A year and a half on and I am still working at Tees and I'm absolutely loving it! I have decided that university is maybe not a path I want to take right now as I am gaining such valuable and varied experiences whilst gaining a qualification and earning money! Once I have completed my apprenticeship, I will hopefully have many options as to what my next step will be and which path I will take.

I'm now fast approaching my final month of my apprenticeship and I can honestly say it has been the most positive experience that I could of imagined and I am now keen to further my career path by entering onto another apprenticeship with Tees if possible.

My advice would be to take your time in making these big decisions and do what feels right for you. It was not how I thought my post sixth form path would end but I'm so thankful that I took my time and made this decision and grabbed the opportunity when it arose.

Afia Khan

My name is Afia Khan. I graduated from the University of East Anglia with a first class BA Double Honours in International Relations and French. Following graduation I completed an internship in Brussels with a Non-Governmental Organisation called the European Volunteer Centre which entailed helping to deliver policy on volunteering across European cities in response to the Covid 19 outbreak. I then started working full time for the UK Civil Service. I work on delivering Financial services on behalf of the government. I work from home right now.

University was a great experience for me. I was lucky to be involved with a great range of extra-curricular activities. My favourite role was definitely working as an elected student officer for the University's student Union and helping to represent the voices of BAME students on campus to the university.

One piece of advice I have for Sixth Formers is to really make the most of as many opportunities as you can at university and explore a variety of jobs and masters and other opportunities beyond university because there's no one set pathway for life beyond university. It's definitely more difficult currently given the situation regarding Covid but that's why it's even more important to be involved in university life outside of just lectures and seminars and really develop yourself well in preparation for life beyond university.

Charlotte Benson

In August 2020 I graduated from ARU with a First Class in Paramedic Science BSc (Hons) and started working as paramedic with the London Ambulance Service. I wanted to be a paramedic because I wanted to make a difference to people. Most people think of paramedics as life savers and while we are trained to deal with the most extreme medical emergencies in reality this is a very small part of what we do. We can go from a paramedic to a mental health worker, support worker, social worker, midwife, or just a friendly face to have a chat to, all in one shift. Everyday and every call is different and that's one of the things I love about the job, you never know what you are going to get. It's exciting. My first months as a qualified paramedic have definitely been unique working through a global pandemic, it is not something that I will forget. It has presented new challenges to myself, my colleagues and the NHS as a whole. I love being a paramedic in our wonderful capital city, the challenges it poses, the variety it brings and the satisfaction it brings me in making a difference to people.

Kurt Field

I left Sixth Form within the first year after realising it was not for me. Instead I chose to find an apprenticeship in accounting which was my plan after university anyway, so I just saved myself five years and learnt on the job instead.

Through the apprenticeship I have progressed up the ranks quickly in an international chemical company starting as a Junior Accountant, which led to being head hunted by the head of global trading.

I am now pursuing a role in trading with the base knowledge I gained from my accounting apprenticeship with a head start on others in the industry from starting young.



We are delighted to announce that from Easter, Club Excel will be providing action-packed activity camps at Birchwood during the school holidays. Club Excel is a family run business that has been running activity day camps designed to offer safe, secure and fun childcare for more than 20 years.

Club Excel runs Ofsted registered holiday camps for children aged 3-13. With Multi-Activity, Extreme, Performing Arts and Crafts, Theatre Workshop, Football, Artist's Studio and even a Mini Camp, there is something for everyone! We strive to make camps fun, varied and safe for everyone and you can book with peace of mind knowing that if camp cannot go ahead due to COVID-19, parents will receive a full refund or credit. Visit www.clubexcel.co.uk for more information.

2021 Dates:

EASTER 29 March – 9 April, SUMMER 6 July – 27 August

The camp day runs from 9.30am – 3.30pm with extended hours available from 8.30am – 5.30pm

FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-13 YEARS

AT BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL (BISHOP'S STORTFORD)

Ofsted Approved by Ofsted

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LGBTQ+ History Month, observed every February, is a month that Birchwood High School is proud to recognise and celebrate. The aim of the month is to provide role models, build community, and represent a civil rights statement about the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community.

This year, however, the usual celebrations Birchwood holds have unfortunately been cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

LGBTQ+ History Month is an annual month-long observance of every LGBTQ+ identities' history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It was founded in 1994 by Missouri high school history teacher Rodney Wilson. As of 2020, LGBTQ+ History Month is a month-long celebration that is specific to the United Kingdom, Ireland, Hungary, the United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Greenland, and the city of Berlin. In the United States, Canada, and Australia, it is celebrated in October to coincide with National Coming Out Day on October 11th and to commemorate the first and second marches on Washington in 1979 and 1987 for LGBT rights. In Hungary and the United Kingdom, it is observed during February; in the UK this coincides with a major celebration of the 2003 abolition of Section 28. In Berlin, it is known as Queer History Month and is celebrated in June.

Section 28 was a British law that prohibited the "promotion of homosexuality" by local authorities and was in effect from 1988 to 2000 (in Scotland) and 1988 to 2003 (in England and Wales). The Civil Partnership Act 2004 granted civil partnerships to same-sex couples in the UK with rights and responsibilities identical to civil marriage.

Same sex marriage, however, only became legal in the UK in 2013 under the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013. The legislation allowed religious organisations to opt in to marry same sex couples should they wish to do so and protected religious organisations and their representatives from successful legal challenge if they did not wish to marry same-sex couples. The legislation also enabled civil partners to convert their civil partnership into marriage and transsexual people to change their legal gender without necessarily having to end their existing marriage. The first same-sex marriages in England and Wales took place in March 2014.

Legislation to allow same sex marriage in Scotland was passed by the Scottish Parliament in February 2014 and took effect on 16 December 2014. The first same-sex marriage ceremonies for same sex couples previously in civil partnerships occurred on 16 December. The first same sex marriage ceremonies for couples not in civil partnerships occurred on 31 December 2014.

Legislation to allow same sex marriage in Northern Ireland was passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom in July 2019 and took effect on 13 January 2020. The first same sex marriage ceremony took place on 11 February 2020.

Fusion is the LGBTQ+ equality group at Birchwood. If you wish to know more about LGBTQ+ History Month, Pride Month (celebrated in June) or the group itself, Mr Harlow is happy to answer any questions; jharlow@birchwoodhigh.org.uk.

Niamh Payne, Year 13, BBC reporter.

Intermediate Maths Challenge

A number of Year 9, 10 and 11 students volunteered to take part in the UKMT Maths Challenge at home during the lockdown. The Maths Challenge encourages **mathematical reasoning**, **precision of thought**, and **fluency** in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge are **designed to make students think**.

All the students performed extremely well, but I would like to mention in particular Roni Woollard, Layla Ellis and Alexia Popa who all managed to score high enough to get certificates. In addition to these, I would look to say huge congratulations to Lauren Gore and Molly Range who both got through to the next round. Well done to everyone that took part and good luck to Lauren and Molly in the next round.

Miss Bull, Maths



Molly Range



Alexia Popa



Layla Ellis



Roni Woollard

Virtual World Book Day - The Masked Reader!



Miss Chapman



Mr Briscoe



Miss Roderick



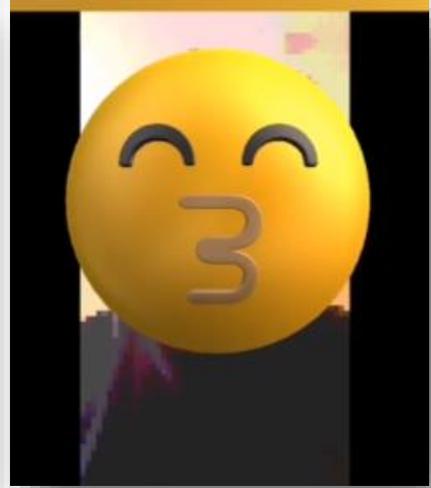
Dr Gilkes



Mrs Collyer



Mr Levey



Mr Riley

The 3 March 2021 marked World Book Day and with the planet in lockdown Birchwood High School tried to find a different way to reach out to its community in a fun engaging way, and share its love of literature.

Inspired by the popular TV competition, *The Masked Singer*, the school created its own version called *The Masked READER!* Teachers from every department read extracts from a variety of novels, poems and short stories and students were asked to guess who the masked readers were, which department they belonged to and which book, poem or story the extract was from. How could they achieve this without any clues? Easy, the clue is in the text! As Science delivered a rendition of Jekyll and Hyde referring to scientific experiments, History reading from Dulce Et Decorum Est depicting the woes of war, and Drama delivering Cordelia's soliloquy from King Lear with an Olivier worthy performance, the video was received with huge success from the school community.

We are lucky to have members of staff who are keen to engage students in many ways, and the competition brought lockdown to a close with a healthy and fun competition before the return to school.

Congratulations to 10HPN who swept the competition with 21/30 correct guesses.

The Masked Readers that were never discovered were Mrs Collyer from Business and Mr Riley from English, whose voice manipulation and disguises fooled everyone!

Miss Lava, English



Mr Morton



Miss Munro

Music

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

Year 7

Alex Dredge	Saskia Hawkes	William McArthur	Lucas M
Alfie Hanks	Sienna Townsend	William Chandler	Presiyana Zheliazkova
Amy Johnson	Sophie Robinson	Archie Sherwood	Reece Perrin
Ava Ferro	Stanley Mather	Caitlin Davidson	Harrison McKinley
Conrad Pickard	Bonnie Kirby	Keegan Macleod	Hayden Turner
Daisy Wilson	Dylan Mottram	Lacey Bishop	Isabel Hayter
Esau Ayubi	Ella Salisbury	Leah Hidalgo-Ibrahimo	Jake Smith
Jack McArthur	Ethan Mills	Logan Reid	Jasper Drewery
Jessica Warwick	Jacob Martin	Chloe Lucas	Jerzy Swiatek
Joshua Levin	Jamie Durham	Connor McArthur	Kian Seifert
Kanyinsola Alabi	Luke Durham	Cooper Goodyear	Kira Beazley
Leo Webkin	Riley Beckenham	Daniel Gair	Lorelei Robson
Lucas Emery	Rose Smith	David Wallis	Luke Cutmore
Mateus Tiosso-Bezerra	Sidney Sudbury	Ella Gosden	Megan Osbourne
Molly Waskett	Thomas Alston-Nogueira	Lucas Berry	Shauna Adie

Year 8

Abigail Jones	Evie McPherson	Sienna Clifton	Rebecca Bedwell
Alex Bond	Gemma Beazley	Thomase Howe	Amy Lenihan
Amelia Pain	Grace Harvey	Harry M	Anna Baros
Cameron Morley	Evan Lee	Isaac Devereux	Cate Feather Levey
Chloe Allmark	Harry Gilbank	Isabelle Sones	Daisy Philp
Chloe Gibson	Harry Rolfe	Lewis Hayes	Ryan Gilbert
Daniel Merritt	Harry Gowlett	Lewis Randall	Sarah Farhan
George Jackson	Lola Anderson	Sophia Coles	Toby Foy
George Port	Lola Meshner	Tallulah Hunt	Wilfred Richardson
Abby Kruller-Robson	Mary Kay	Thomas Noble	Catalina Olteanu
Amber Tubb	Poppy Barton	William Byers	Daisy Blackbery
Charlie Booker	Priya Sandhu	Henry McBride	Lily Haylock
Conrad Young	Poppy Rolfe	Leah Barry	Olivia Smith
Daniel Wilson	Ryan Ellis	Masab Asim	Patryk Maziarz Laranjo
Emily Hyams	Samantha Utley	Mehmet Turner	

Year 9

Aaron Shaw	Emily Edwards	Matthew Reader	Arthur Dewhurst
Angus Mackinlay	Evie James	Merkel Begg	Philip Lefterov
Benjamin Easter	Jamie Sibley	Samuel Chandler	Stanley Long
Dillon Browne	Kieren Mok	Sophie Springham	Tadd Webster

Year 10

Artur Carrondo	Evan Williams	Nathan Dack
Diogo Camara	Kyran Wyatt	

Year 11

Alistair Coomes	Chloe Noel	George Linsell	Stephen Ficken
Ben Sampford	Devlin Hunt	Joshua Ballisat	Toby Stanley
Bethany Randall	Eliseya Gaydarova	Keira Durham	William Brister
Chloe Harler	Eryk Fraczek	Quin Seifert	
	Florence Bird	Ruby Willow-Sudbury	



Why am I being given this flyer?

Because it's currently against the law to ride an e-scooter on a public road or pavement.



We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers.

However, the current law is clear

You can buy one but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements.

All details can be found on the following Government website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powerd-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

What happens if I've been stopped by Police?

The Police will advise you of the current law about how to use an e-scooter legally and ask you to take your e-scooter home. They may however still penalise you depending on the nature and gravity of the offence.

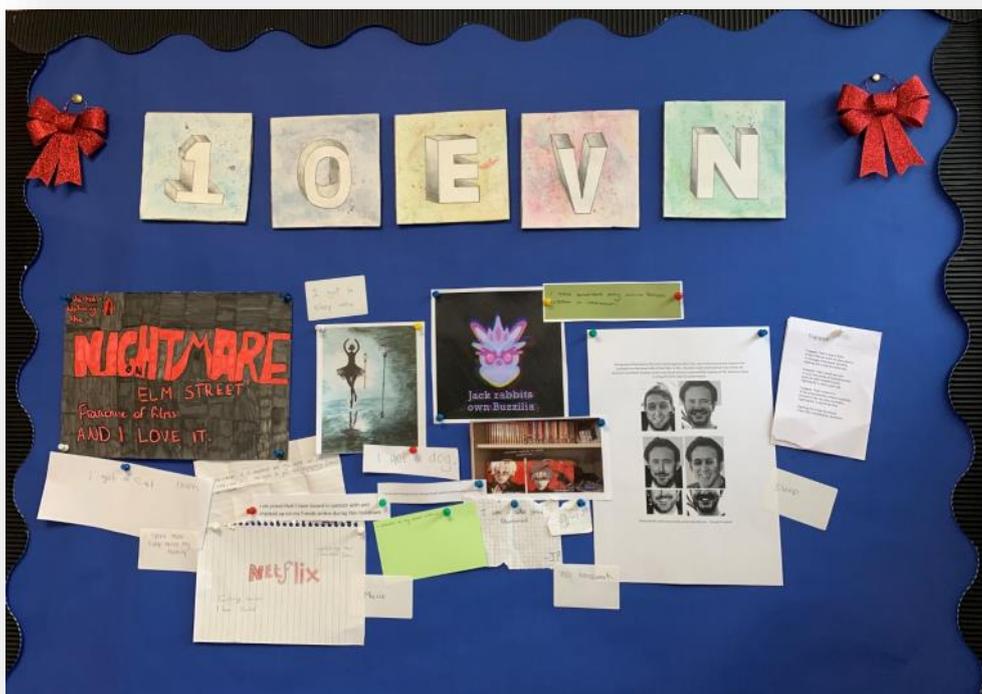
We understand the public's support for environmentally friendly modes of transport. We want to work with the public to make sure the roads are safe for everyone.

The UK Government is currently taking part in 'Future Transport Zone' trials for e-scooter hire, with a view to making them legal to use on the roads.

Check out the gov.uk website or enquire with your local authority for a trial closest to you.

Congratulations to 10EVN for completing their form board. They had to write, draw or paint something positive that happened during lockdown.

Mrs Van Baalen, MFL



Maths

Dr Gilkes would like to congratulate the following students for their hardwork during the recent lockdown.

Year 7
 Georgia Sams
 Michael Ofori

Year 8
 Daniel Clark
 Jackson Felts
 Dalton Oglesby
 Isaac Devereux
 Paige Grant

Dr Gilkes, Maths

Science

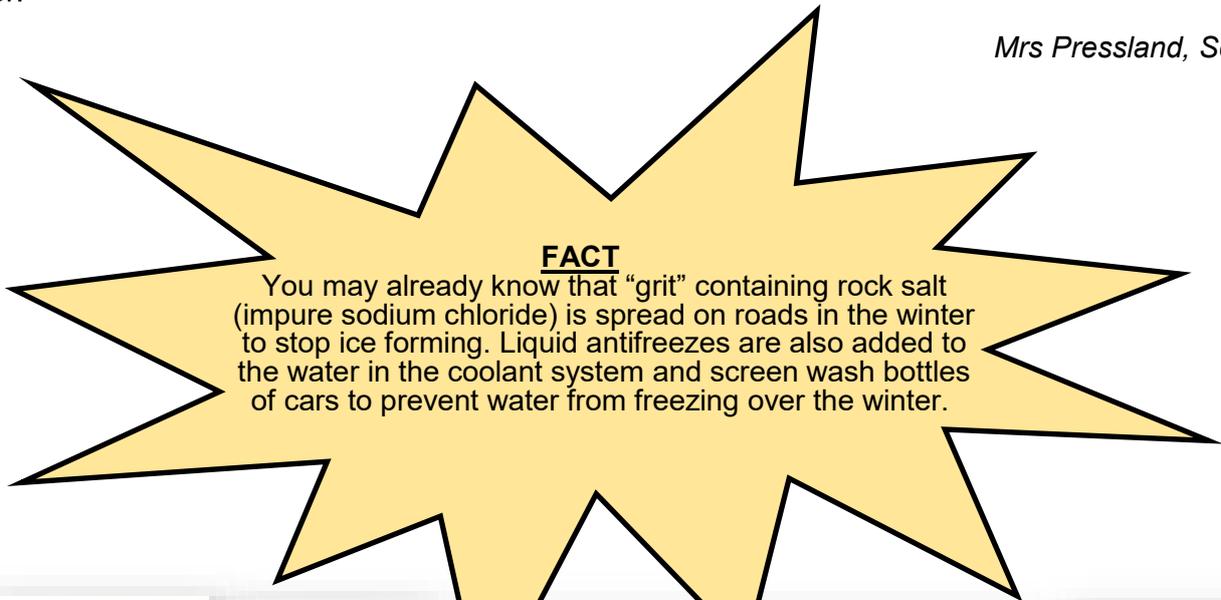
If there is life elsewhere in our solar system it's likely to live in a pretty cold environment.

The cells of plants, animals and bacteria living in low temperature environments on Earth often contain antifreeze proteins to prevent their body fluids from freezing.

You can demonstrate the effect that freezing water has on cells by looking at strawberries (and other fruit and veg) after they have been in the freezer. The ice crystals that form have a larger volume than liquid water they're made from and the resulting expansion breaks open cell walls resulting in "soggy" strawberries.

In this investigation, our Year 7 students planned and carried out an experiment to find out the effect of salt (an antifreeze) on the melting point of water. Students all agreed that salt lowers the freezing temperature of water.

Mrs Pressland, Science



Lewis Beard



Amelia Coulson



Luke Cutmore



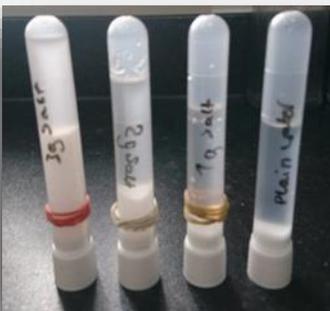
Cooper Goodyear



David Wallis



Jerzy Swiatek



Charlie Thornewill



Hayden Turner

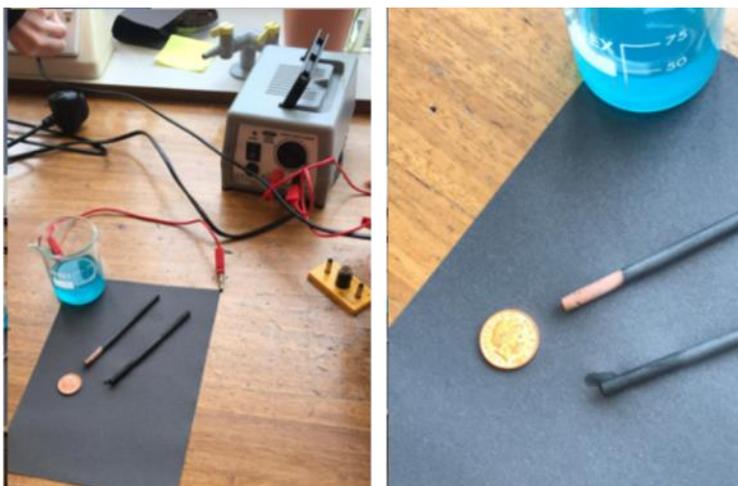
Back to school and science practicals are in full swing!

Year 9 students studying the chemistry topic of ions and ionic bonding have learnt how to carry out a technique called electrolysis.

Electrolysis is the process which uses the power of electricity to split compounds into simpler substances. The term 'electrolysis' is easy to remember if you break the word down into its parts. The first part of the word, *electro*, refers to electric. The second part of the word, *lysis*, is a scientist's way of saying that something is splitting. So, electrolysis is 'electric splitting.'

Students extracted copper from a solution of copper sulphate. The build up of copper metal extracted from the solution can be seen on the electrode below.

Mrs Pressland, Science



Electrolysis - The decomposition into constituent parts by an electric current.
Photographs by Darcie Ayres 9ARD

Chemical Reactions at Home

Year 7 science students were tasked with safely carrying out a simple chemical reaction at home.

Equipment:

Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda), vinegar (acetic acid), water, a glass

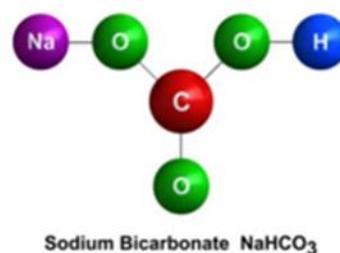
Experiment procedure:

Fill a glass 1/3 full of water.

Add a teaspoon of baking soda and a little vinegar.

Scientific explanation: A chemical reaction happens when atoms change the way that they are arranged and form in a different way to make a new product. **Sodium bicarbonate** is a **compound** of the following elements: sodium, hydrogen, carbon and oxygen. The reaction between sodium bicarbonate and vinegar (acetic acid) makes an unstable acid called carbonic acid which immediately **decomposes** (breaks down) to form water and carbon dioxide.

As you can see from **Cooper Goodyear's** results below, the mixture quickly foams up with carbon dioxide gas. If enough vinegar is used, all of the baking soda can be made to react and disappear into the vinegar solution.



PSFA News

Virtual Easter Balloon Race

Following the success of the Virtual Valentine's Race we hosted in February, we have decided to organise an Easter Race. But this time, the first three balloons win a cash prize; 1st prize £60, 2nd prize £25 and 3rd prize £15. 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. Please go to <https://www.balloonrace.com/BirchwoodPSFA> where you can choose your Easter balloon and even add your own personal message on the tag. On Good Friday, 2 April, 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 leader board. At the end of the race at midday on Friday 9 April the three balloons which have travelled the furthest win a 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

Congratulations to Claire Forsythe (ball 18), M Newton (ball 69) and Alison Cramphorn (ball 50). These were drawn by Mr Connor. The monthly prize is £102.

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 confirming your name and contact telephone details. Wednesday 28 April 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.

PSFA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is taking place on Tuesday 13 April 2021 via Teams. Please email birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com to register your interest for joining.

Birchwood Future 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 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.

Birchwood Parents Staff and Friends Association
invites you to take part in our

Virtual Easter Balloon Race

**Each balloon costs £3. The three balloons which
have travelled the furthest will win;**

1st Prize £60

2nd Prize £25

3rd Prize £15

**The Race starts at midday on Friday 2nd April 2021
and ends at midday on Friday 9th April 2021**

**To purchase your Easter balloon, please visit
www.balloonrace.com/BirchwoodPSFA**