



# NEWS

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



## HEADLINES

I hope you enjoy reading all the great things our students have been achieving this month as we slowly and surely return to normal. We have now successfully completed a school term in terms of uninterrupted education since the students returned in March, with low student absence rates and excellent attitudes to learning across the school. Our students have only really lost January and February in terms of not being able to come to school this academic year. Even during this period, engagement with on-line lessons was very good. Therefore, I find the talk in the media about how lockdown has negatively affected children's education really frustrating. It would be naive of me to suggest that it has not, but I would argue that

young people are remarkably resilient and I am sure we will be able to catch up over the next few academic years. A good example of this resilience is with this year's GCSE and A Level cohorts. Covid has interrupted Year 11 and 13 with their preparations, but these two cohorts have coped extremely well. Their formal assessments are currently being marked and assessed and we will then submit our grades to the exam boards for moderation and scrutiny. Year 13 will receive their A Level and Level 3 BTEC grades on **Tuesday 10 August** and Year 11 will receive their GCSE levels on **Thursday 12 August**. This will also be our Sixth Form enrolment day and we have offered 150 places to our students. This is the biggest number in the school's history, such is our confidence that they will be able to cope with the rigours of an academic Sixth Form.



We have all learnt new on-line skills, parents included, and we should not forget some of the positives to come from a very challenging last 18 months. Online parents' evenings and parent workshops might be something you would prefer? We will be sending round a quick Survey Monkey questionnaire in June to gauge your views on this and other aspects of school life. With regards to other post-pandemic positives, I am working with the School Council to look at what things we may wish to retain or amend as we work towards a new academic year in September. Student voice is a really big part of life at Birchwood and I would like to thank all School Council and Year Council representatives for their contribution to our planning over the last year.

As the pandemic recedes, it is true that some students will need more help than others, so we are now initiating a raft of catch-up strategies including a summer school for our incoming 270 Year 7 students. The current Year 10 and 12 students will also be prioritised to make sure they are ready for next year's GCSE and A Level exams.

**Basic expectations:** Getting students settled back to school routines has been our main priority – with 96% attendance rates compared to the national 91%, I would say that this has been achieved. We adopted a more relaxed approach about uniform and punctuality to begin with, but we have been gradually tightening these aspects of school life to get us back to our pre-pandemic high expectations. After half-term, we will expect students to be in smart school uniform which does not include the wearing of trainers or coats in any indoor setting. We will be conducting uniform checks first week back – please can you let your child's form tutor know this week if there are any medical reasons for them being unable to wear shoes. There are also good stocks of uniform at Fosters and we have replenished our supply of clean second-hand school uniform. Please note also that **PE Kit will only be worn in PE lessons** for all students after half-term with the exception of some Year 7 and 9 classes.

**Behaviour:** We are also tightening up on behaviour. The vast majority of our students do not receive a single detention – in fact 86% of students have received not a single sanction since September. However, the minority of students who receive a C2 lunchtime detention sometimes forget to attend and end up with a much longer after school detention. To correct this, poor behaviour will lead to a ‘same-day’ after school detention from 3:15-4pm from **Monday 7 June**. We believe that the most effective sanctions are those that are certain and those that are immediate. The parent of any student who is to be detained will be notified via the School Gateway app but, as this is a same day detention, 24 hours’ notice will not be given. We will endeavour to ensure that any student who is detained in a same day detention uses their time productively, either on schoolwork, reading or restorative work to help them make better behaviour choices in the future.

**Equality:** Birchwood has a strong reputation with regards to Equal Opportunities and Equality. During Lockdown, we promoted and supported the Black Lives Matter agenda ensuring that our policies and practices showed zero tolerance of any form of racism or cultural prejudice. We have also re-started Fusion, a student-led steering group supporting LGBTQ+ students and raising awareness across the school. Fusion also discuss issues around racism and gender equality. On the last issue, we are currently working with students to look at ways to address sexual harassment through PSHCE and amending our sanctions to encompass misogynistic behaviours. It is really important that all our students feel safe and are able to be themselves without feeling any sense of prejudice or bullying. This extends to eSafety and being careful about what young people access and share on their mobile devices. We will be prioritising this next term through assemblies and parent workshops.

**Covid update:** Hopefully your child is enjoying coming to school not having to wear their face mask, (unless they want to). We are still maintaining all other health and safety measures as instructed by the DfE. We have given out fresh supplies of lateral flow tests – again if you could keep this up until 21 June when we will see what the details are around the final lifting lockdown restrictions.

**Parent Council and Governing Body Vacancies:** We have vacancies for Parents to join our Parent Council – one place in Year 7 and 9 and two in Year 10 and 12. If you have a child in one of these year groups and could commit to one meeting per term, please let me know and I will pass on to the Chair, Katie Horwood. Parent Council are an invaluable group who provide really useful feedback to the school (the minutes are published on the school website). We will also be writing to you after half-term as we have two vacancies on the Governing Body for Parent-Governor. The role of Governance is more time-consuming, but we have a really strong group who help with the school’s strategic direction as well as review policy and practice.

Looking ahead, the start of the Autumn Term is **Friday 3 September for Year 7 and 12** with all year groups back on **Monday 6 September**. We are also fully staffed and ready to go for September, hoping that the next academic year will be in a more certain world with an uninterrupted school experience.

*Dr Ingate, Principal*



## Meet the new Leadership Team

I am pleased to announce the new Leadership Team.

Head Boy - Oscar Folwell (bottom right)

Head Girl - Claudia Barrington (bottom left)

Deputy Head Boy - George Murphy (middle)

Deputy Head Girl - Molly Green (top right)

Head Prefect - Lauren Jones (top left)

*Many thanks to our 2020-2021 team for everything you have managed to achieve in this challenging year.*

# 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

**Summer Term 2021**  
Monday 12 April - Thursday 22 July  
**Half Term 2021**  
Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June

**Summer 2022**  
Tuesday 19 April -  
Friday 22 July  
**Half term**  
Monday 30 May -  
Friday 3 June

**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  
**Half term**  
Monday 14 February -  
Friday 18 February

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

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

**'RED BOX' for any Sanitary Products from Reception**  
**We have sanitary items and now also stock underwear and tights.**

### Maths Challenge Success!

Well done to Lauren Gore (Year 10) and Molly Range (Year 10), who both qualified for the second round of the Maths Challenge due to their excellent results in the first round. Both did extremely well in this opportunity, where they faced some challenging problems. Lauren achieved a certificate of merit and Molly achieved a certificate of participation, well done girls!

Miss Bull, Maths



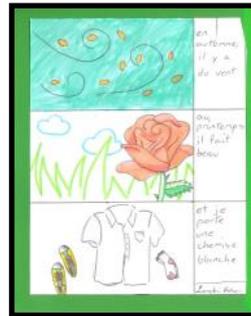
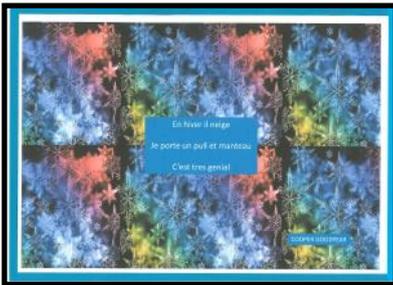
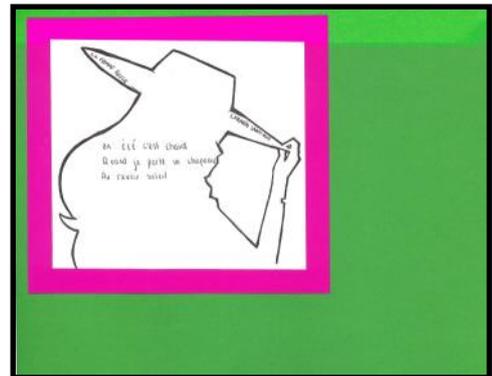
### The gardening club gets of to a flying start after lots of wonderful donations!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our gardening club. The students are very excited and look forward to showing you their produce later in the season.

Mrs Homer

Technology and Art are starting a jewellery making club for Year 9 after half term (letters to students, going out soon) and we would appreciate any donations of any jewellery making equipment or materials that parent/community may have unused at home. In addition, if any parents work with metals, we would very much appreciate any donations of 1mm copper sheet please.

Miss Morrison, Head of Art



## Year 7 Haikus

Mrs Van Baalen's Year 7 french classes were asked to write a Haiku poem, which is a Japanese poem of three lines with a set numbers of syllables for each line, for their home learning. They did a fantastic job describing the seasons and the weather in French, along with some great illustrations. Here are some of the great entries above.

Well Done.

### Year 9 take Drama outside...

Year 9 Drama students have spent 10 lessons working with Miss Adams and Mrs Goddard on 'Extract one' from the play 'Blackout' by Davey Anderson. It is based on a true story told in a monologue by a fifteen year old boy who finds himself in a secure care unit on an attempted murder charge.

The students were given their own sections of the script to perform in an abstract way, taking inspiration from Drama practitioner Bertolt Brecht. They were also taught two whole class sections with movement performed in unison.

Thankfully the sun was shining and once completed we took the finished performance out onto the Piazza to give the students the opportunity to perform in a site-specific location.

The Year 9's performed exceptionally well, were focused and worked together as a team. This is reflected in the assessment grades they were given. Well done Year 9!

*Mrs Goddard, Drama*



# Virtual Summer Exhibition 2021



Have you been getting creative during the last year? Why not share your work with the Birchwood Community. Open entry to students, parents, friends, staff and Birchwood's wider community. In July, visitors to the website will be able to vote for their favourite piece - but remember this is just for fun, so get involved!

**What you need to do:**

1. Photograph your work in good lighting.
2. Title your work.
3. Send the photograph of your work along with:
  - \* The Title
  - \* Artist name
  - \* Media/technique used to create it.



Remember any creative media can be exhibited i.e. textiles, printing, photography, painting, drawing and sculpture.



Send to: [dmorrison@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:dmorrison@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)

**Closing date is Wednesday 30 June 2021**

**Condition of entry**

You must be happy for your name to be displayed on the school website. If you are a student under the age of 18 we will need parental consent.

**Last year's vote winners were:**

**1st place**

**Rebecca Smith (Year 12), Omo Valley Boy.**

**2nd place**

**Tracey Pinnington (Parent), Hope.**

**3rd place**

**Hannah Nicholls (Year 9), Rain Dance.**

# HOUSE

Congratulations to the new House team

## Head House Captain

Ashley Flelo

## Deputy House Captains

Ellie Waskett and Ellie Woollard



### Stort

Ashley Flelo  
Connor Woods

### Dane

Jorja O'Grady  
Sophie Dewhurst  
Tom Wilkins  
Katie Morris  
Marley Thistlewaite

### Waytemore

Ellie Woollard

### Hadham

Ellie Waskett  
Ellyn Seath  
Casey Camp  
Tilly Hooper  
Caitlin Best

*Many thanks to our 2020-2021 team for everything they have managed to achieve in this challenging year.*

## Dates for your Diary

### Next non-uniform day Wednesday 7 July

## Year 12 Performing Arts students become teachers!

Well done to the Year 12 students who have been planning and delivering workshops to their peers based on their individual Dance styles. All students presented on their chosen style and then taught the rest of the group a piece of rep they were passionate about! We had movement from every genre; Musical Theatre, Tap, Street, Contemporary and even Latin American! Every student put so much effort into their workshop and conducted the rest of the group with such professionalism. Well done to our Year 12 budding teachers!

Maddie Horne then taught her exceptional street workshop to the Year 10 Dance students with such passion and natural teaching flare - a fab experience and enjoyed by the whole group!

*Miss Adams - Head of Dance*



## Football Academy play a match for the first time in sixth months.

Well done to the Football Academy on their first game in six months which ended in a 2-2 draw at Chelmsford. After goals from Kavan Hurling and Joe Franzini, the Blues conceded a late equaliser. The result in November against the same opponents was a 5-0 defeat, well done boys!



**2021/2022**

**ACADEMY TRIAL DATES**

**ANNOUNCED**

Allez  Les Blues

Birchwood High School  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
IMPROVE AND DEVELOP  
YOUR FOOTBALL AND  
FURTHER YOUR EDUCATION

**JACK THOMAS**  
BSFC ACADEMY GRADUATE  
AND FIRST TEAM PLAYER

BISHOP'S STORTFORD FOOTBALL CLUB ARE PLEASED  
TO CONFIRM THEIR TRIAL DATES FOR THEIR ACADEMY PROGRAMME

- OPTION OF EITHER BTEC OR A LEVEL EDUCATION
- HIGHLY QUALIFIED COACHING PROGRAMME
- PARTICIPATE IN FA YOUTH CUP
- PATHWAY TO FIRST TEAM FOOTBALL
- PLAY IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE

TRIAL DATES:

- MONDAY 24TH MAY 2021  
BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ASTRO | 4.30PM - 6PM
- MONDAY 28TH JUNE 2021  
BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ASTRO | 4.30PM - 6PM
- MONDAY 26TH JULY 2021  
BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ASTRO | 4.30PM - 6PM

**SIGN UP FOR A TRIAL**  
CONTACT OUR ACADEMY TEAM FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT THIS AMAZING OPPORTUNITY  
SHAN TOMS - GENERAL MANAGER  
07952 641 789 | [GENERALMANAGER@BSFC.CO.UK](mailto:GENERALMANAGER@BSFC.CO.UK)



### Sixth Form versus Staff netball match.

Well done to everyone who took part in the recent staff versus Sixth form netball match. The final score:- Staff 18 - Sixth Form 8. Well done to **Freya Keen, Jess Adams** and **Madeleine Gilbank** for **umpiring the match and taking no-nonsense** from players or spectators or even teachers!

Well done to everyone who took part.

*Miss Perrett, PE*



## Rounders

The rounders began with a very damp start but it did not dampen the sixth formers enthusiasm who turned out in vast numbers to take on the staff!

The sixth form **students** played exceptionally well and won the match 13 -10 with some superb tight fielding between the bowler, backstop, first post combination of Scott Ezra, Dan Fielding and Adam Pearce! The staff also had some standout performances in the field with an amazing one-handed catch by Mr Levey, awesome random hilarious moments from Miss Lalonge and a stunning fielding partnership between Miss Payne and Mrs Moorley.

The match was again expertly umpired and managed by Yr 10 student Madeleine Gilbank, who was fair, decisive, and firm with both students and staff alike!!

## Cricket

Following the rounders defeat the week previously, even less staff turned out for the cricket but what they lacked in numbers was made up for by the top-quality performances of the ones playing! The sixth form again had huge numbers keen and ready to play. This time the set up was pairs cricket with each pair taking a turn in bowling/wicket keeping an over and batting for 2 overs. With the rule of 'No Outs', if a pair were to find themselves 'out' then they would lose 5 runs which resulted in some pairs ending their innings in negative numbers!! Finlay Clark and George Moylette ended up with -10 runs! Team Sykes outshone Team Levey scoring 101 runs to 61 runs!

A special thanks goes to Freya Keen and Hope Wright who helped to organised this event.

*Miss Perrett, PE*



# Extending Learning Beyond the classroom walls

At Birchwood, we are proud of the fact that we are a community that thrives on inclusion and support for each other. We have a fantastic record of extending students' learning experiences beyond the classroom walls.

Sixth formers: Emily, Niamh and Eloise have proved this point time and time again as students here.

Since the launch of BBC Reporters club, these three students have not only shown remarkable commitment and dedication but above all resilience and a willingness to contribute to the wider school community.

For the last six years, they have contributed articles for the monthly Birchwood News as well as attended weekly meetings. They have led, inspired, and motivated younger students.

These qualities have not gone unnoticed and no doubt they will stand them in good stead long after they leave Birchwood. The school, in particular Mrs Barnard and Mrs de Graaf would like to say a massive 'Thank you' for all they have done.

We wish you a very bright future as you prepare to leave Birchwood this summer.

Mrs de Graaf and Mrs Barnard



*Niamh Payne*



*Eloise Churchman*



*Emily Robson*

**BIRCHWOOD  
BROADCASTING  
CORRESPONDENTS**

**Do you wish to be a writer/reporter?**

**Do you enjoy English? If so...**

**WE NEED YOU!**

**Why not come along to Reporters Club which will take place with  
Mrs de Graaf in**

**C16**

**Week 1, 1.40-2.00pm**

**You can also submit your articles to  
[newsletter@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)**

# PSFA NEWS

Please follow us on our Facebook page 'Birchwood Parents Staff and Friends Association (PSFA)' and stay up to date with upcoming events and meetings.

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday 10 June and Friday 11 June – Colourful Containers Workshop

Wendy Gordon of Well Bean Gardening will be running a Colourful Containers Workshop. The evening will run from 7pm-8.30pm. Tickets are priced at £15 per person and you will leave with a 25cm coloured wooden container full of plants. Tickets are on sale now at [ticketspsfa@gmail.com](mailto:ticketspsfa@gmail.com). After a year of lockdown, take this opportunity of an evening out with friends, creating your floral masterpieces!

## SAVE THE DATES

**Thursday 8 July –  
Thursday 16 September  
Photography  
Competition.**

More details to follow in the next edition.

**Friday 24 September  
2021 – Race Night**

Following the success in March 2020, we are hosting another Race Night in association with East Anglia Race Nights. Tickets will be priced at £10 per person. More details to follow.

**Saturday 27 November  
2021 – Christmas Fayre**

More details to follow. We are planning this event at the moment and we are currently looking for stallholders. If you are interested in having a stall, please do get in touch and spread the word amongst your friends.

We are hoping to host Gin Tasting and Beer Tasting Events in the autumn term too!

**Birchwood High School  
PSFA  
Parents, Staff and Friends Association**

**Colourful Container  
Workshop 2021  
in partnership  
with Well Bean  
Gardening**

**Thursday 10 June  
Friday 11 June  
7:00pm-8:30pm  
Birchwood High School**

*These questions and more will be answered by Wendy Gordon of Well Bean Gardening.  
By the end of the evening you will take home a Well Bean Colourful Container with plants of your choice!*

**£15 per ticket**

**Email: [ticketspsfa@gmail.com](mailto:ticketspsfa@gmail.com)**

*Limited spaces, email now to avoid disappointment!*

*Do you know which plants compliment each other?*

*Are you aware which soil is best?*

# PSFA NEWS



## **PSFA Preloved 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 preloved uniform to the PSFA. Please drop off clean items of uniform to our reception. If you would like to make a purchase of preloved uniform, please email [psfapreloved@gmail.com](mailto:psfapreloved@gmail.com). Please note this email address will be checked on a Wednesday, and uniform requests will be available for collection from reception on a Friday, upon receipt of payment.

## **Birchwood Bonus Ball**

Congratulations to Keste James who was the winner of the April draw. Ball 23 was drawn by Mrs Coop, 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](mailto:treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com) confirming your name and contact telephone details. Full terms and conditions of the Birchwood Bonus Ball Club can be found on the PSFA page of the school's website.

## **Birchwood Future Foundation Fund**

A big thank you to everyone who has donated to the Fund so far. The purpose of the Birchwood Futures Foundation Fund is to help raise additional financial resources to enhance students' educational experience whilst at Birchwood High School. 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 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.

If you wish to contact us please do so via [birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com](mailto:birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com)

# Parentkind



*That  
summer  
feeling is on  
its way*

**WIN  
UP TO £5,000**



**12 CHANCES  
TO WIN**

**£3 ticket enters you in all 12 draws**

- Help boost PTA fundraising
- Tickets cost just £3
- 12 chances to win up to £5,000
- Tickets are limited so once they're gone... they're gone!



**HELP RAISE  
FUNDS**

**BUY TICKETS**

It is illegal for anyone under 16 years of age to purchase or sell raffle tickets. Anyone under 16 years of age who buys a ticket for The Big PTA Raffle 2021 will immediately forfeit the right to any prize. Closing date 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021. A raffle is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a problem gambling, please call GamCare on 0845 6000 133 or visit [www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk)



CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY AGED STUDENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Two hours of theatre training each week with industry experienced professional performers. Make new friends and build your confidence whilst exploring a range of theatre styles.

**HEALTHY . CONFIDENT . SUCCESSFUL**

Y7 - Y9  
WEDNESDAYS  
5.30PM - 7.30PM

Y10 - Y13  
WEDNESDAYS  
7.30PM - 9.30PM



ALL CLASSES AT BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

OFFER FOR BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**2 WEEKS FREE** QUOTE "BHSFREE2"

BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL AT [WWW.PHOENIXTHEATREGROUP.COM](http://WWW.PHOENIXTHEATREGROUP.COM)

OR CALL 01279 354 354

# June is Pride Month

A police raid on the Stonewall Inn, Manhattan, New York City sparked a series of protests against the homophobic laws put in place by the American government. In the 1950s and 1960s, many countries, including the United Kingdom, had laws against homosexuality, with sentences ranging from chemical castration to imprisonment.

Early LGBT groups in the US sought to prove that LGBT people could be assimilated into society, and they favoured non-confrontational education for homosexual and heterosexual people alike. The later years of the 1960s, however, saw a surge in confrontations of social-political issues, with the Civil Rights Movement (aiming to end racial segregation towards black Americans), the Anti-nuclear movement (opposing various nuclear technologies), the Chicano movement (in response to racial acts against Mexican-Americans), the Free Speech movement (a student protest to lift the ban of on-campus political activities and acknowledge the students' right to free speech and academic freedom), and the Second Wave of Feminism (aiming to increase equality for women by gaining more than just enfranchisement).

The police raid on Stonewall Inn did not go as planned; people refused to give identification and the police decided to take everyone present to the police station. The police began to assault the patrons and a crowd started to gather by the doors. The crowd began to riot after a lesbian in handcuffs, being led to a police wagon called out "why don't you guys do something?" Fighting broke out, and violence from the police incited the crowd more. Accounts assert there was no pre-existing organisation for the rioting, instead being a spontaneous action. On the first night of rioting, thirteen people had been arrested, members of the crowd were hospitalised and four police officers were injured.

Newspapers covered the event the following morning, and the Stonewall Inn became a sight of interest. Graffiti appeared on the walls of the bar, declaring "Drag power", "They invaded our rights", "Support gay power" and "Legalise gay bars". A second night of rioting broke out, with the fighting lasting until 4am, and a riot on The Village Voice, which had included unflattering descriptions of the rioters, on Wednesday, July 2nd, also commenced.

There were many outcomes of the Stonewall Riots, one of them being the introduction of Pride Parades. These came about on Christopher Street Liberation Day - June 28, 1970; New York, Los Angeles and Chicago were the first cities to hold Pride Parades and by 1972 this had expanded to include Boston, Dallas, Milwaukee, Atlanta, Buffalo, Detroit, Washington, DC, Miami, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and San Francisco in the US, and London, Paris, West Berlin and Stockholm in Europe.

Within two years of the Stonewall riots there were gay rights groups in every major American city, as well as Canada, Australia, and Western Europe.

Pride Month, a month-long celebration, which takes place throughout June is recognised around the world, alongside the separate celebrations for every identity that falls under the LGBTQ+ banner. Most cities host parades, parties and concerts to celebrate the month. Whilst the month's main aim is for LGBTQ+ people to celebrate their identity, in whichever way they choose to, it also serves to educate and teach people about tolerance and equality, as well as Pride history and the importance of moving forward in terms of civil rights.

Fusion is the LGBTQ+ equality group at Birchwood. If you wish to know more about the LGBTQ+ community, Pride Month or Fusion itself, Mr Harlow is happy to answer any questions.

*Niamh Payne, Year 13 BBC Reporter*

## Mr Loveday's classes have been busy with experiments this half term.....



Year 8 making fruit and potato circuits experiments.



Year 7 neutralising acids experiments.



Year 9 have been trying to find the centre of mass of irregular shaped objects.