



Birchwood High School

your dreams, your future, our challenge

10 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been great to welcome back students into Year 11 this week as they begin a very important time of their education. The vast majority of students have come back looking very smart and their punctuality to school and lessons has been excellent. For those that do not know me, I have taken over from Mr Heydinger as Head of Year 11. I have been at Birchwood for 9 years and have taught many of this year group since they started here. It is an exciting year for them and I am really looking forward to helping them through it.

This year myself and the tutor team will be supporting students to make informed choices about their Post 16 options and also helping them to prepare effectively for their final exams which are scheduled to commence in May 2022.

I would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to some upcoming key dates. On **Thursday 14 October** we will be running a Year 11 Parents' Information evening. This event is dedicated to you, to explain what options are available to your child at the end of this year. There will be different workshops that you can attend which will explain the differences between colleges, apprenticeships and Sixth forms. A letter outlining the details of this will be sent out to you shortly. Similarly, Birchwood Sixth form open evening is taking place on **Wednesday 17 November**. With the vast majority of our students wanting to stay at Birchwood, this will be a useful opportunity to speak to A-level and BTEC teachers. Finally, a note that all students will sit their Mock exams from **Monday 15- Friday 26 November**.

This term, during their fortnightly PSICHE lessons, student will be focusing on developing relevant skills, such as how to prepare and revise effectively. Furthermore, before October half term, every student will have received a careers guidance meeting with our external school counsellors.

Finally, although we all hope Year 11 will be a smooth and enjoyable journey, we know that in reality some students will face difficulties along the way. If, and when these challenges arise, please can I remind you that if it is a personal or pastoral issues, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. Alternatively, if the issue is arising in a specific subject, please contact their teacher or the Head of Faculty. Please feel free to copy me in to any emails so that I am aware, but contacting the form tutor or subject teacher directly in the first instance tends to allow issues to be resolved more quickly.

Once again, I am thrilled to be taking over such a fantastic year group. I would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards

R Noblett
Head of Year 11

Principal - Dr Chris Ingate

Registered office - Parsonage Lane • Bishop's Stortford • Hertfordshire • CM23 5BD

Telephone: 01279 655936

Email: admin@birchwood.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.birchwoodonline.co.uk

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