

BIRCHWOOD *News*

newsletter@birchwoodhigh.org.uk



Birchwood wins at the Young Chef Rotary competition!

In June, Birchwood saw the return of the young chef competition. It has been four years since this has been able to run and students from Birchwood, Hockerill, Herts & Essex and St Nicholas were very keen to show off their skill and talent. The students competed against each other to produce a three course meal for two with a tight budget of £20. They only had two hours to prepare, cook and present their tables which were judged by local experts. These included a college lecturer, the head chef at Novotel Stansted and the owner of Host.

Mr Kadlec worked extremely hard with our team of Year 9's, Rebecca Bedwell, Amber Owen and Kiaya Payne, practicing at lunchtimes and after school to prepare for the event. They prepared an outstanding meal of duck dumplings, chicken and butternut squash curry with accompaniments and finished off with espresso cream filled profiteroles and they took the top spot, winning the senior category. Congratulations too to St Nicholas for winning the junior competition and the overall young chef.

It was a great afternoon for all and the judges highly commended all the students for their calmness under pressure and the skills they have shown. We can't wait to defend the title next year!

Mr Kadlec and Mrs McEwen

Year 6 Summercroft Technology workshop

On Tuesday 12 July the Technology department welcomed 56 Year 6 students from Summercroft Primary School to undertake a session on mechanisms. We spent the morning carrying out experiments on friction and learning how gears work. Despite most of the students having gears on their bikes, they were not all aware of what they actually did until they tried riding up the ramp between the hardcourts in different gears.

We then went on to put this into practice, making buggies that would climb up a slope. The students all got a chance to use the workshop tools and equipment and despite the heat it was a hive of activity. They have all gone back with completed buggies to experiment with back at their school and we are looking forward to hearing their results.

Mr Stephens, Head of Technology

Inside this month's edition:

PSFA page 4, Summer Reading Challenge Pages 7 and 8, District Athletics Champions Pages 10 - 11

Would you like to advertise in Birchwood News?

A one off advert (5cm x 5cm) £25.00, or to advertise for a whole year (8 editions) £100.00

please contact newsletter@birchwoodhigh.org.uk for further information.

HEADLINES



As we reach the end of a long and successful year, the least we can say is that it has been relatively 'normal' which is far better than the abnormality we have all been linking with since March 2020. That said, extremely hot weather of the last two days has certainly not been normal and has tested everyone - but our students have been brilliant and have gone about their school day sensibly and with purpose.

There was a time when education experts told us that competition was bad for children – something that I was never really convinced by. It is good to see those days are behind us and to also see how well Birchwood Students have competed against other schools with us winning the recent Rotary Young Chef competition and getting more first places in Athletics than any other local school in the Districts. Our 'Student of the Month' award has also become a well-established part of our school culture and recognises one student per subject per month for outstanding achievement.

Whilst competition is a key part of school life, collaboration is also important – and this edition is full of stories of our students working together to support each other, common interests and to help those less fortunate than ourselves. On this note, it was amazing to donate (£7305.00) to our agreed international charity, Sparkle Malawi. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the World and have been having a particularly tough time of late. They are reliant on Ukrainian wheat and, of course, this has not been available, causing widespread food hunger. Cornelius PLC, a Bishop's Stortford chemical manufacturing company, have been working with Birchwood over the last 5 years on this initiative. Their Chairman, Dr Neville Prior, who is also Chairman of the board of trustees for Sparkle Malawi, told Sixth Form students that their collection would be enough to support over 1000 individuals where household income is only around 75p per day! Quite sobering when you consider the economic issues in the UK.

Over the summer, we have a lot of work underway to help improve our school facilities including classroom upgrades, PC replacements, new energy efficient lighting, CCTV and new student toilets. If you recall, last summer the school also held a consultation on plans for our detached playing field along Dunmow Road. Following this consultation process, Governors have started work to fully evaluate the options available to best utilise this space for the school and our community. It was originally hoped that we could conclude this work by the end of the school year. It became apparent that we would need to extend this time-scale - time and efforts needed to be prioritised instead on our current and incoming students as the process of recovery from school closures continues and we face the wider economic and political uncertainties that currently concern us all.

Given the extended time-scale, Trustees took the decision to accelerate consideration of developing facilities for hire to Bishop's Stortford Football Club for use as their home ground. It has been decided that such a collaboration will not be one of the potential options included in the next stage of our evaluation. The plans in last summer's consultation were not dependent on a collaboration with Bishop's Stortford Football Club and the school remains committed to ensuring the best use of the site for Birchwood students now and in the future.

As we all look forward to a well-earned summer break, we had a very successful New Year 7 Induction Day on 14 July and an equally busy New Year 12 Induction Day the week before. We are fully staffed and well-resourced and hopefully ready for whatever the next academic year has to offer.

Thank you for all your support this year.

Key dates are listed below:

Key dates

o End of Term	20 July (1:30pm student finish)
o A-Level Exam Results	18 August
o New Year 7 Summer School	22-24 August
o GCSE Results and Sixth Form Enrolment	25 August
o Start of Autumn Term (Year 7 & 12 only)	5 September
o Start of Term (All Year Groups)	6 September

FINANCE

I am Mrs Young, the parental and student contact in relation to all income for the school.
We use an online payment system, ParentPay, for administration of the school income. If you require ParentPay login details or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email:
jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk



News in Brief.....



Thank you to Mr Kadlec and his Cafe team for serving some Friday Favourites including a BBQ this half term.



**BEST GAMES
FOR ALL KIDS
AGES 3-10**

Wanted...

Board Games for PLC.

If you are having a cupboard clear out over the Summer PLC would love any old boards games you no longer require, especially any of the ones above.

Mrs L Jackson, Head of PLC

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term Dates 2022

Summer 2022

Wednesday 20 July

2022/2023

Autumn Term 2022

Monday 5 September

(Year 7 and Year 12 only) -

Tuesday 6 September

(Whole School)

Tuesday 20 December

Half Term 2022

Monday 24 October -

Friday 28 October

Spring Term 2023

Thursday 5 January -

Friday 31 March

Half Term 2023

Monday 13 February -

Friday 17 February

Summer Term 2023

Monday 17 April -

Wednesday 19 July

Half Term

29 May – 2 June

CPD

Thursday 1 September 2022

Friday 2 September 2022

Friday 30 September 2022

Thursday 5 January 2023



Birchwood Staff won against Saffron Walden County High Staff in a recent friendly cricket match. With some outstanding batting performances from Mr Gilbank, Mr Edwards, Mr Sykes and Mr Hill and wonderful bowling from Mr Noblett, Mr Bowman and Mr Hill.



Why not follow us onFacebook

We have a Facebook page where you can keep up to date with events and meetings. Please follow us at Birchwood Parents Staff and Friends Association (PSFA) Birchwood PSFA (birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com)

DON'T FORGET you can help us raise funds via TheGivingMachine

If you are a regular online shopper you can generate free donations to our school at no extra cost to you every time you shop via TheGivingMachine.

Please have a look online www.thegivingmachine.co.uk and search for Birchwood High School.

The PSFA would like to thank you all for your support during this academic year. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20 September and it would be great to see some new faces. We currently run with a core group of 5 parents and to help in the smooth running of events we are looking at creating a 'bank of volunteers'. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact us at birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com

PTA Big Summer Raffle – Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket. Good luck! All proceeds raised will be going towards the purchase of new saucepans for the food tech rooms.

Car Boot Sale Sadly, we had to postpone the Car Boot Sale due to the forecast of extreme hot weather. We hope to run this during the autumn term so please keep an eye out for the new date

Birchwood Bonus Ball

Congratulations to Kate Byers who was the winner of the June draw! Ball 54 was drawn by Mr Bull.

The Bonus Ball is a great way to support the school, and at the same time be in with a chance of winning some cash every month! It is £3 per month per ball, payable either in one lump sum or monthly as a standing order. A draw takes place at the end of each month and the winner receives half of the money collected, the other half going towards PSFA funds, for our children. Our bank details are:

Barclays Bank, Account Name: Birchwood PSFA, Account Number: 23298728, Sort Code: 20-25-19
Email treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com to let us know you've paid and how many balls you would like.

The Birchwood Futures Foundation

The alert for the Birchwood Futures Fund is on Parentpay. Please consider contributing a small amount each month. In the words of a well known supermarket 'every little helps!' Donations of any value are voluntary. 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. The purpose of the Birchwood Futures Foundation (BFF) fund is to help raise additional financial resources to enhance students' educational experience whilst at Birchwood High School. We are hoping to expand assistance to support resources the School does not currently receive dedicated government funding for such as mental health provision and the school minibus.

PSFA Facebook Page

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

PSFA Preloved Uniform

If you are replacing items of school uniform and the old items are still in 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. Please note this email address will be checked once a week and uniform requests available for collection from student reception, upon receipt of payment.

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.

Year 8 at the Henry Moore Foundation

Year 8 Art students visited the Henry Moore Foundation studios and garden at Perry Green. The trip was a great opportunity to interact with some artwork in real life and view how Henry Moore translated his 2D drawings into 3D monumental works of art.

The day started with a guided tour in which the students found out about Henry Moore's inspiration and working practices as well as viewing many of his iconic pieces in situ in the beautiful gardens.

After a much enjoyed picnic lunch the students were able to visit the internal exhibition spaces and all important gift shop too! The work seen included further sculptures, some inspiring drawings by Henry Moore and several skilled tapestries produced by weavers from West Dean College working from Henry Moore's drawings.

The group then had time to draw in the gardens, exploring the detail and form of the sculptures as well as the surroundings. We were very lucky to have such lovely weather for the day.

The students produced some excellent drawings, capturing the beauty of the work and gardens.

The Art department would like to take this opportunity to say a big well done to all the participants for a really fantastic trip and for the excellent work!



On Thursday 23 June Year 10 art students enjoyed an amazing new sculpture experience. The artist and inventor Darcy Turner delivered a whole day workshop using his Stixx machine sculpture techniques. The students explored ideas for their current coursework theme of layers and produce a 3D sculpture. The Stixx technique uses a hand cranked machine invented by Darcy Turner to roll recycled newspaper into rods. Depending on the number of sheets of paper used the rods can be strong enough to support a huge sculpture, or even a person on a Stixx chair. Less layers will provide a flexible form, great for sculpting. The stixx are then joined together using cable ties. A very simple but effective technique.

The students were amazing in their creativity, they were fully engaged and really enthusiastic to try a new technique. We had every kind of sculpture from tree trunks, to rib cages to moths, vases, and even a golden snitch!

Miss Morrison Head of Art and the Expressive and Performing Arts faculty said 'I am so proud of our year 10 art students. The day went by in a flash, with the students working so hard up to the last minute to get their amazing sculptures completed. A huge well done to them all!'

Darcy Turner was equally impressed with the work the students completed, commenting 'the range of objects created with a challenging brief such as layers is fantastic!'

Miss Morrison, Head of EPA

Roy Lichtenstein inspired sculpture workshop

On Friday 1 July, Year 9 art students enjoyed a new sculpture experience as part of Enrichment week.

Miss Morrison had organised a professional practicing artist to visit the students and run a workshop, but as so often is the case now this had to be postponed at the last minute due to Covid. This did not stop the art teachers or students from getting creative and learning new techniques!

The brief was to create a still life sculpture inspired by the construction techniques of Picasso and the visual techniques of Roy Lichtenstein. The students had a huge range of possible materials and techniques to explore and they did not hold back! They created Cubist still-life, working from their own photographs. They used a hot glue guns to create glass texture, wire to create flower stems, acetate to create shiny surfaces, and cotton buds and PUNCHINELLA (the waste from sequin production) to create Lichtenstein's well known use of dots. The students developed innovative ways of ensuring the

sculpture's stood up and were able to be flat packed too.

Miss Morrison said of the day 'we are so proud of our Year 9 art students. The completion of this first piece of 3D coursework is a great spring board to developing individual ideas for their still life project. They are a credit to their year group'.

Miss Morrison, Head of EPA

Summer Reading Challenge



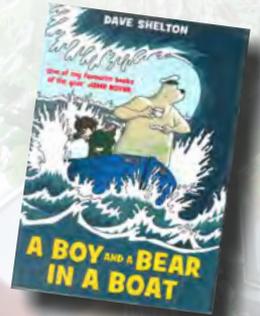
Over the summer holiday we will be asking students (and staff) to send in photographs of themselves reading books in weird and wonderful places. The more obscure the better.

If you find yourself reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory on a visit to Cadbury World, Messi at the Charity Shield match or Billie Eilish – From E-Girl to Icon at a music gig simply take a selfie and send it to Mrs Gibson in the Library jgibson@birchwoodhigh.org.uk.

The best photo as chosen by a panel of independent judges will win a bag of goodies including a £10 Waterstones voucher.

BB is pictured reading his favourite book 'A Boy and a Bear in a Boat' by Dave Shelton whilst on holiday at Birchwood High School.

Mrs Gibson



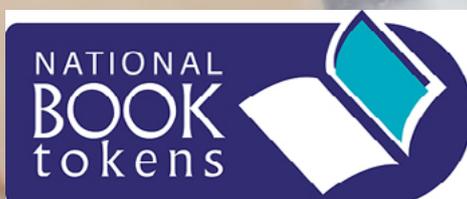
Congratulations to Molly-Sue Wedgbrow from Year 10 who was the lucky winner of last half term's 'Read, Review, Reward' competition. Molly read and reviewed a selection of books from the reading list – one of her favourites was 'Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me' by Mariko Tamaki which she rated 4 out of 5.

Mrs Gibson

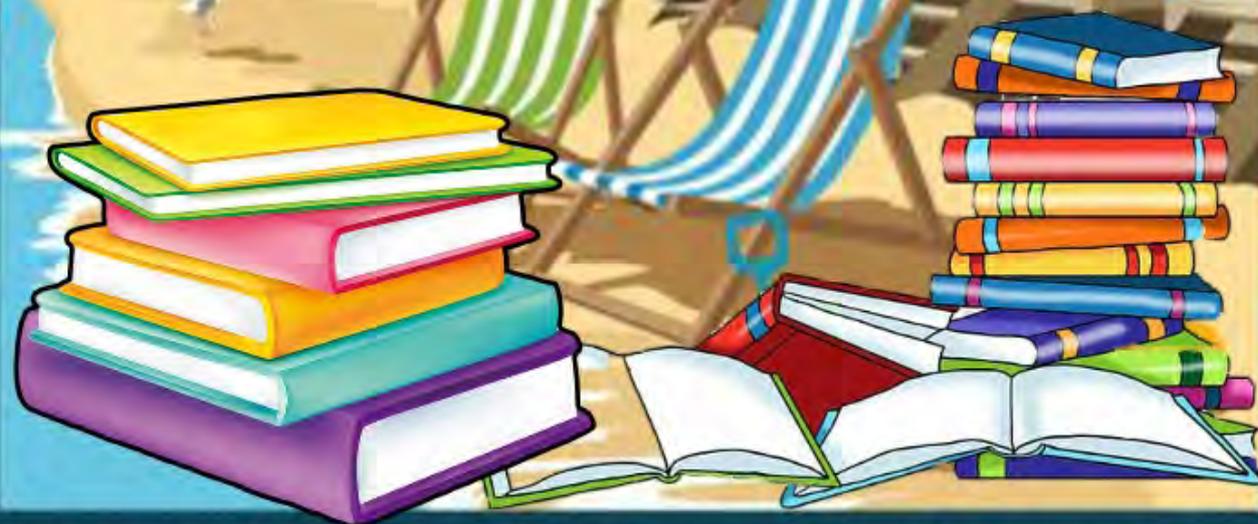
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Help us win £1,000 of
National Book Tokens
and a
membership to the
School Library
Association to help
enhance our library and
encourage reading for
pleasure for all abilities
and years - plus you
could win £100 for
yourself!**

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[//www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools](http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools)



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAY WE WILL BE ASKING STUDENTS (AND STAFF) TO SEND IN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEMSELVES READING BOOKS IN WEIRD AND WONDERFUL PLACES.

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF READING CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY ON A VISIT TO CADBURY WORLD, MESSI AT THE CHARITY SHIELD MATCH OR BILLIE EILISH — FROM E-GIRL TO ICON AT A MUSIC GIG SIMPLY TAKE A SELFIE AND SEND IT TO MRS GIBSON IN THE LIBRARY JGIBSON@BIRCHWOODHIGH.ORG.UK.

THE BEST PHOTO AS CHOSEN BY A PANEL OF INDEPENDENT JUDGES WILL WIN A BAG OF GOODIES INCLUDING A £10 WATERSTONES VOUCHER.



Bletchley Park Trip 2022

For the first time in three years, the Birchwood Maths Faculty organised our trip to Bletchley Park, the home of the World War 2 codebreakers. This year, we also teamed up with Technology to incorporate a visit to the National Museum of Computing next door. Over 130 Students took part in a ciphers workshop where they deciphered challenging codes to learn the identity of a Russian spy who worked at Bletchley during the war. They were also given a tour around the site by one of the park's knowledgeable guides, and had time to explore the huts where Alan Turing and his team would have worked.

At the National Museum of Computing, students saw a collection of computing equipment from the 1940's up to the early 21st century. They were able to see first hand the world's oldest working computer in action, and they were able to try out some "vintage" computer games that will be familiar to many of their parents and teachers such as Lemmings, Pacman and early Simpson's game. It was a very enjoyable day for the students, and we are looking forward to taking the current Year 8 to Bletchley next year!

Mr Summers, Maths



Sawbridgeworth Gardens and Allotments
Show present...

The Tallest Sunflower Competition

Plant a sunflower seed watch it grow.

Take a full length photo of you next to your fully grown sunflower and send it to

Mrs Barnard (ibarnard@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) or
Mrs Homer (khomer@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)

We will then enter the tallest and healthiest sunflower pictures to the show.

Entries must be emailed to us by

Thursday 1 September.

Do not forget to include your name and form when you send your email.



Who will grow the tallest Sunflower?

Thank you to Together TV for their donation of a large number of packets of sunflower seeds. Students can collect the seeds from Science.

They can then enter a picture into the sunflower competition at the Sawbridgeworth Gardens and Allotments Show which takes place in September.



Hot House Dance

Today two practitioners, Kate and 'Damo', came in from Hot House Dance and taught a workshop to year 8, 9, and 10 dance students as part of enrichment week. The students took part in a difficult cardio warmup and various technique-based exercises focused on training and strengthening them in order to benefit their movement skills and performance. This included performing tendu, swings, and contractions to benefit them in later classes. As well as this, the young dancers also learnt a challenging contemporary routine to 'Louder Than Words' from 'tick, tick... BOOM!' in which they performed to their peers at the end of the session. All students were focused and produced an amazing performance, proving how talented the dancers at Birchwood are.

The two teachers from the organisation Hot House, Kate and Damon, focus on the positive powers of dance and the creative processes to improve every individual. They both expressed how much they enjoy teaching classes at Birchwood and specified how great and engaged the dance students were.

Amelia Darke, Year 12



Local to Global Project with Clarion Futures and Bishop's Stortford Mayor, Dave Anderson

On Tuesday 5 July our Year 10 students took part in the Local to Global Project with Dr Rob Powers and our Enterprise Advisors, Clarion Futures.

The project brief was to set up a community centred charity which campaigns for a social cause. The students worked in small teams to research local statistics and information which they used to decide on a charity idea for their local community. Once the teams had formulated their charity idea they took on a job role of Project Manager, Social Media Manager, PR Executive or Event Manager. The students were guided by industry professionals to come up with a two-minute pitch for their charity, social media advertisement/campaign and plan for a launch event for their charity. The students came up with some fantastic charities tackling issues such as mental health, drugs and the cost of school uniforms. In the afternoon we all gathered in the school hall to hear the teams pitch their charity ideas. There were plenty of nerves at the prospect of speaking in front of an audience but the students rose to the challenge and did a brilliant job. The competition was fierce but at the end of the day the prize of a £25 Amazon voucher for each team member was awarded to the 'Community Ballers' for their excellent team pitch. The winning team, along with the runners up now have the opportunity to pitch their ideas to Clarion Futures in London.

Our thanks go to Dr Rob Powers from Powerful Histories and the team from Clarion Futures who devised, facilitated and sponsored the event. We must also say a big thank you to Dave Anderson, the Mayor of Bishop's Stortford, who came and encouraged the students throughout the day.

Mrs Crimes, Careers



PE news....



DISTRICT WINNERS 2022



Mia Beer
Gold 200m and
Gold Year 7 Relay



Ethan Pillinger
Bronze Yr 7 100m



Awuradjoa Anane-Adjei
Gold Yr 7 girls relay,
Bronze Long jump



Maisie Greene
Bronze Yr 7 Javelin



Ellie Picton
Silver Yr 7 100m,
Gold Relay



Anya Trevitt, Awuradjoa Anane-Adjei,
Ellie Picton and Mia Beer
Gold Yr 7 girls relay



Finley Campell, Jacob Sear,
Jayden Bahra and Max Cowler
Silver Yr 8 relay



Joel Palma
Gold Yr 8 Long jump



Zico Manchee
Gold Yr 8 Shot putt



Sylvia Dolphin-Tsang
Gold Yr 8 Javelin and
shot putt



Jayden Bahra
Gold Yr 8 200m
Silver relay



Sienna Clifton
Bronze Yr 9 Long jump



Madison Mardell
Gold Yr 9 Javelin



Oliver Stock
Gold Yr 9 Long
jump



Mason Frost
Gold Yr9 100m



Cameron Morley
Gold Yr 9 Javelin



Rebecca Bedwell
Gold
Yr 9 Shot putt



Daisy Philp
Bronze
Yr 9 High jump



Reuel Appleby
Gold
Yr 10 Long jump
Silver 100m



Keira Picton
Bronze
Yr 10 1500m



Gabriella
Crowland
Gold
Yr 10 800m



Harrison Pickard
Bronze
Yr 10 800m

Also congratulations to:

Archie Smith Silver Yr9 200m, Yr 9 boys relay Silver Archie Smith, Emanuil Gaydarov, Oliver Stock, Mason Frost



Yr 7, 8 and 9 Nicky Morris Athletics Competition

Gold medalists from Nicky Morris
Athletics Competition
Left to Right
Amy Thorpe U15 100m
Ellie Picton U13 100m
Mia Beer U13 200m
Madison Mardell U15 Javelin



SENIOR TOUCH RUGBY

A huge thank you to all those who played, watched, refereed and were involved in organising the senior touch rugby tournament. It was a really enjoyable afternoon and the boys were excellent in really hot conditions. We look forward to your continued support next season.

Mr Ruggins, PE

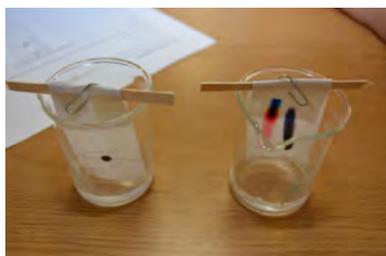
Science Taster for Year 5

Year 5 pupils from Summercroft Primary School were invited for a Science Taster Morning at Birchwood High which provided an excellent opportunity for them to experience the learning environment of a thriving secondary school, whilst engaging in practical science activities in our laboratory sessions.

Pupils learnt how to be safe in a lab, and to carry out techniques such as; chromatography and separating oil from water. With Mrs Pressland, links were made to food chains and ecology as pupils discussed and experimented with ways to clear up a simulated oil spill from the water's surface, from containing it to a smaller area, to using cotton wool, dish soap, pipettes, cardboard and syringes. They dipped feathers in oil to simulate sea birds caught in a spill and discussed the effects on the birds, including investigating how the mass of the oil-drenched feather increased and caused it to sink below the water surface.

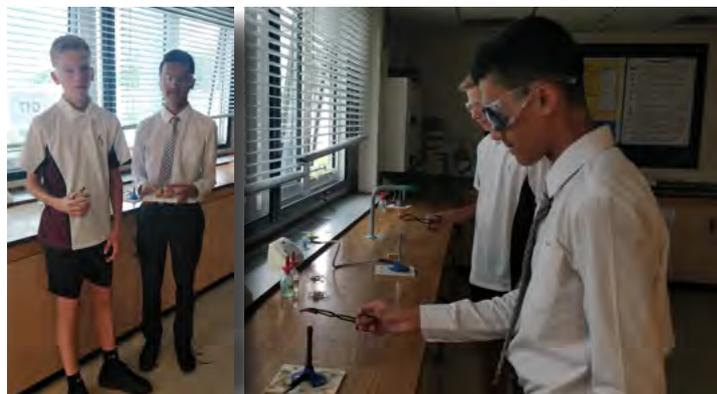
With Mr Hipwood, pupils investigated the technique of chromatography. Chromatography is a method of separating out materials from a mixture. Ink is a mixture of several dyes and therefore we can separate those colours from one another. In an exciting investigation to determine which science teacher stole his teddy bear, Mr Hipwood had pupils analysing ink samples to determine the pen used in a ransom note.

Summercroft pupils enjoyed these sessions and were a credit to their school. Their teachers were also on hand to help out and encourage each and every pupil. These taster events provide an excellent opportunity for the children to experience a day in a secondary school and engage in activities that complement their primary curriculum. Our KS3 Science Lead, Mr Edwards is keen to develop our strong links with feeder primary schools in the future. Science is all about discovery. It is about asking questions and understanding our world through observation and experiment. Research shows that when students see that scientists are real people like themselves, they are more likely to participate in science and consider science careers. A fantastic morning was had by all.



Mrs Pressland, Mr Hipwood and Mr Edwards

Have you ever wondered what makes mushrooms such a valuable part of our diet?



Year 9 had an opportunity to discover it for themselves. They carried out a number of exciting experiments to test mushrooms for nutrients and minerals, as an enrichment opportunity in Science.

We used a special chemical called Ninhydrin for the first time in our school, and it turned a slice of mushroom a deep purple colour! This indicated that mushrooms have a high protein content. The students also carried out the flame tests on dried porcinis and found out that mushrooms were rich in potassium ions and low in sodium ions. This combination is known to reduce the risk of high blood pressure.

DID YOU KNOW?

Despite mushrooms being very high in proteins, humans can't benefit from this, as we don't have a specific enzyme to digest the proteins from mushrooms. However, mushrooms are very rich in fibre, especially in beta glucans that support blood sugar and cholesterol regulation. All in all, mushrooms are good for us!

Dr Rodionova, Science



German Trip the Goethe-Institut

On Monday 4 July, a group of 24 German students from Years 9 and 10 travelled into London to visit the Goethe-Institut. Located in South Kensington and surrounded by a range of cultural sights, the institute is the central hub of German language and culture in the UK. During our visit, students took part in a German escape room (Fluchtraum), using tablets with augmented reality to scan for clues. Working in teams, they solved puzzles in German to find codes for various combination locks, with the aim of tracking down and catching a German hacker. Miss Roderick and I, as well as the staff working at the institute, were impressed with their understanding of German and their problem-solving skills. All students received some (vegan) Gummibärchen for their efforts and some German badges too. Despite train delays, our students remained positive and enthusiastic and we had a great day out!

Mr Bowman, MFL

Apprentice Challenge

Year 12 Level 3 Business Extended Certificate students went head to head to complete the Apprentice Challenge on Thursday 14 July.

One team was known as 'The BTECers' included: Louisa Coulson who was elected as Project Manager, Harry Freegard, Joe Bright, Charlotte Hummersone and Andra Stoica. Their idea was organising a sweet stall. The challenge was to make as much profit as possible. They made a whopping £150 profit. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to the students for taking part.

Mrs Dervish, Business





House

St Clare
Hospice



Our new team of House Captains are listed below:

Hadham
Joel Mutter
Paige Gunner
Lucy Morris

Dane
Mihaela Panturoiu

Waytemore
Louisa Coulson
Aishah Alim
Charlotte Hummersone
Sian Kearney
Ashleigh Murphy
Ruby Willow Sudbury
Ellie Gibson
Ranna Abidia
Bethany Hobbs
Harry Fregard

Stort
Kara Watson
Ailanagh Budd

Head House Captains - Joel Mutter and Charlotte Hummersone
Deputy Head House Captains - Harry Fregard and Louisa Coulson



Cheque Presentation

This year has been a huge success for the House System as we have managed to raise a total of £12254.89 which is over double our record highest in the previous 10 years!

This money has been raised from events such as the Colour Run, non-uniform days, sponge a teacher activities and lots more!

Thank you to everybody who has helped to contribute towards this total. The charities that the money has gone towards were all very grateful!



Summer Rewards Activity

Over 300 students were invited to attend the Summer Rewards Activity which was an inflatable funfair! These activities are put on at the end of every term and are normally for students who achieve over 100 House Points during that particular term. However, this time in order to make the event more accessible for all year groups, we have allocated the top 20% of each Year group in terms of House Points and those students were invited to attend.

As you can see from the images the students thoroughly enjoyed the activity that was put on.

Well done to all students who managed to secure a place!



ALUMNI NEWS

During the early part of July, Birchwood High School hosted the 6th Form Induction Programme 1, where we invited both internal and external students into the school with a theme of 'Getting ready for Sixth Form'. Over the two days, they had the opportunity to engage in a variety of workshops that shared information on expectations, values and readiness activities so that they are prepared prior to starting in September.

As part of the programme, students got the opportunity to meet and listen to past and present students. These included - Phoebe Butler and Ted Dean .

Phoebe Butler, just graduated from University of Cambridge and shared her journey through sixth form and onto one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Phoebe is now moving onto work with the Brilliant Club, and specifically supporting links for schools offering the 'Scholars Programme' which she had her first experience of when she was in Year 12 at Birchwood.

Ted Dean, who graduated from Birchwood in 2017, is now working for the Essex Police and shared his journey with the audience on how the support he got from staff and the skills he developed whilst studying the sports programmes in Sixth Form, gave him the confidence and courage to join the police force.

Both ex-students stayed on after their session and networked with the Year 11 students whilst they had lunch in the sunshine!



Hi, my name is Jasmine and I am an ex Birchwood student and I recently did a week of work experience back at the school.

I was in the year of 2020 leavers, meaning I left Birchwood early with A Levels that I didn't complete and grades that were chosen for me. I had been studying Drama, Sociology and Media, and when results day came around mid COVID lockdown, it was even more of a worry that it normally is, but luckily I made the right grades to get into my first choice university, the University of Sussex.



I moved to the University of Sussex in September 2020 to study Criminology with Human Rights. My first year was spent entirely online and in and out of lockdowns - but I was still enjoying University life. I have just finished my second year and I am moving into my third year and I have had a really positive university experience.

My university tutors are encouraging me to think about life after university, which is what brings me back to Birchwood. I spent a week at Birchwood shadowing teachers, with classes from a range of year groups and subjects. I thoroughly enjoyed my week and got the opportunity to speak to lots of teachers about how they got into teaching, and had very valuable experience. I have hopes to become a secondary school teacher, and will be applying to the SCITT scheme alongside a PGCE. After always having a positive learning experience at Birchwood, I feel as if I would like to provide a similar experience to students in the future.

Jasmine Young, Alumni Student

Whole School Photography Competition

Theme: Red, White and Blue



Deadline for submissions: 9 September 2022

Maximum of 3 entries per person

Open to whole school: students and staff

Submissions to: artcompetitions@birchwoodhigh.org.uk

together with name of entrant, form group and title of composition

There will be an exhibition of entries in September

Top 12 entries will form our 2023 Calendar

plus

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

Student of the Month - June

Findlay Smith
Art

Alex Curtis
Mathematics

Dylan Shine
Business

Ruby Jones-Chapman
Media

Miles Cousins
Chef

William Chandler
Musician

Georgia Cope
Dancer

Reuel Appleby
PE

Mackenzie Roberts-Eldridge
English

Alfred Hildrew
Performer (Drama)

Sienna Potter
Film

Edward Chan
Science

Tyler Mansfield
Geography

Amelia Dean
Social Science

Daniel Alfieri
Historian

Sienna Clifton
Statistician

Riyaad Alim
IT/Computer Science

Lola Mesher
Technology

Findlay Smith
MFL

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