



Students at Thorn Grove are getting muddy thanks to the construction students

Students at Thorn Grove Primary School were delighted to receive their new mud kitchen made by Birchwood High School's talented construction course students. The Birchwood High school students have recently been working closely with Thorn Grove Primary School to devise a community project that the construction students could design and build for the Year 1 and 2 students.

Ellie Brett is a Year 2 teacher at Thorn Grove, responsible for improving outdoor learning, and a former alumni student of Birchwood. When she wanted a mud kitchen to develop the students outdoor learning experience, she contacted Mr John Stephens, as her former Product Design teacher.

A design including a "hob", cupboards and washing up area, was created by the Year 9 construction students, led by Mr Roger Newman, their Construction teacher. Following several 'site visits' to Thorn Grove and a period of busy workshop lessons, the two mud kitchen units were delivered to Thorn Grove on Monday 17 April. The Year 1 and 2 students were extremely delighted with them and set about playing with it all straight away. Birchwood Technology Department has been developing strong links with a number of Primary schools to support them in the teaching and promotion of Design and Technology skills, so that the curriculum has a stronger flow from Primary through to Secondary level. We hope the Thorn Grove students have many happy hours of fun with their mud kitchen for years to come.

Mr Newman, Construction

HEADLINES

The commonly used phrase, 'time waits for no man' is actually attributed to Geoffrey Chaucer, the poet and author, who actually wrote 'time and tide wait for no man.' With next half term being my last at Birchwood, this is something I am acutely aware of. From a scientific perspective, time is a universal constant dictated by the speed of light (known as space-time). The tide is determined by our relationship with the Moon. We have two high tides and two low tides each day due to gravitational pull. I'm not sure Chaucer was aware of these factors - but his words ring true today as they did back in the fourteenth century.

I use this saying in the light of this edition of Birchwood News. As we say some goodbyes and good luck to Year 11 and 13 as they sit their public exams, we are mindful of every year group 'moving up'. We are also about to welcome a new cohort of Year 7's in July and the story about our Year 9 construction students helping to build an outdoor kitchen for Thorn Grove School demonstrates how well older students can help support younger children. Moreover, Birchwood plays an active role in working and supporting local primary schools. We are the Sports lead for Bishop's Stortford and have also led on Maths master classes for Year 5 and 6. We also helped students at Windhill21 who had experienced some difficulties during lockdown by sending Sixth Form students to help mentor and support on a 1:1 basis.

As the nice weather of June and July beckons, I continue to work alongside my successor, Mr Griffin, to ensure that there is a smooth transition in terms of school leadership. Birchwood is a very stable and secure school with a key sense of its own DNA – an inclusive, welcoming and supportive Academy that aims to provide every child with a well-rounded education that they can look back on with fond memories and a sense of achievement. These are my recollections too as I consider my next steps as time marches on!

Dr Ingate, Principal



Inside this month's edition:

PSFA page 4 and 5, PE page 6 and 7.

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.

News in Brief.....

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. Any leavers with a balance on their meal account please contact me requesting a refund. Any books need to be returned to faculties or the Library. If you require ParentPay login details or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email: jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk



Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Summer Term 2023

Term finishes -Tuesday 18 July

Autumn Term 2023

Friday 1 September – Wednesday 20 December

Half Term

W/B Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October

Friday 1 September – CPD

Monday 4 September – Years 7 and 12 only

Tuesday 5 September – Whole school

Friday 6 October – CPD

Spring Term 2024

Thursday 4 January – Thursday 28 March

Half Term

W/B Monday 19 February – Friday 23 February

Thursday 4 January and Friday 5 January CPD

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15 April – Friday 19 July

Half Term

W/B Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

CPD Days

(no students in school unless requested)

Friday 1 September

Friday 6 October

Thursday 4 January

Friday 5 January

Monday 22 July

Tuesday 23 July (occasional day)

Other Important Dates...

Year 12 Induction Day - Thursday 6 July

Year 6 Induction day - Thursday 13 July

Sports Day - Monday 17 July

A Level results Day - Thursday 17 August

GCSE results Day - Thursday 24 August

Open Evening - Thursday 5 October 2023

Sixth Open Evening -

Thursday 16 November 2023

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

Cafe news

Next half term, we will be having a baguette bar instead of jacket potatoes. This will be 3 pre-filled baguettes served with taco chips £2.65, It will also be part of the meal deal £2.75

Week 1 - Chicken, Bacon and Mayo, Prawn in Marie Rose sauce or Egg Mayo.

Week 2 - Coronation Chicken, Cheese and Pickle or Tuna and Sweetcorn.

Week 3 - Ham and Cheese, Prawn in Marie Rose Sauce or Cheese and Tomato.

Also Roast lunch on Thursday will be replaced with the famous Birchwood BBQ. Pasta King and Sandwich Hut will be open as normal. BBQ tickets will be bought on the day at lunch time from the Café as normal.



Do you have any old PE Kit you no longer need? The PE department are looking for donations. We appreciate that good quality kit can be given to the PSFA for their preloved sales or sold. However if your kit has had a harder life but still usable the PE department would like it for their spare kit, this includes black leggings.

Student News...

Jayden Bahra wins at the Karate Great Britain Championships in Birmingham

Wilson Bushnell, from the 8 April has been cycling a minimum of 5 miles a day, and will commit to doing this for 75 days, and is raising funds for Parkinson's Research. Last year Wilson camped for 6 months, raising over £2k for Cancer Research, so has the determination to succeed and enjoys raising money for charity. If you would like to donate...

<https://www.justgiving.com/user-account/fundraising>

Jack Lodge is also cycling this month to raise money for Diabetes UK.

If you would like to donate to Jack...<https://gofund.me/b2aaa0b4>



We were delighted to welcome James Veness from the company Energy Sparks to deliver engaging assemblies on the important issues of climate change and reducing energy usage. Later in the day he led a workshop with our environmental group, EDGE, and held a meeting with our finance director and site manager to help us use less energy in school. We are hoping this visit will kick start some really positive changes to the attitudes of our students and to our school site!



It is almost three years since Birchwood was graded as 'making good progress' towards meeting the Quality in Careers Standard and we are now working towards a re-assessment in October 2023. On Wednesday 3 May the Governors, Dr Ingate and Mr Griffin all confirmed their commitment to achieving the full award so it is all systems go!

The assessment process gives an external validation for the careers work we do at Birchwood and as such is an important way for us to continually improve what we offer our students.

We hope to update you with positive news in October.

Mrs Crimes, Careers

UK Mathematical Trust Junior Challenge

Congratulations to our five gold certificate winners from the UK Mathematical Trust Junior Challenge.

Jacob Basey and James Allen (Year 7) and Macius Pejka, Reuben Kullar and Flynn Skinner (Year 8) finished with the top scores.

Additionally, Macius achieved one of the best results in the country to qualify for the next round for the second year running.

Well done to everyone who took part in the challenge, and good luck to Macius for the next round!

Mr Summers, Maths





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.



Canopy Project

During the Easter holidays, a new canopy was installed outside the Café. The PSFA were pleased to donate £12,500.00 which funded 75% of this project. The Canopy will keep students dry when it rains, and also protect them from the sunshine.

Birchwood Bonus Ball

Congratulations to Keste James who was the winner of the February draw! Ball 23 was drawn by Mr Deryk Bull and Keste won a massive £163.50!

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 will be available for collection from Reception, upon receipt of payment.

Other ways to support the PSFA

You can support the PSFA by generating 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.

Upcoming dates:

Musical Bingo with the talented Snow White Trash – Friday 14 July 2023. Details to follow!

Dan Fielding collects his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award!



I thought I'd share this picture from Dan Fielding who left Birchwood a couple of years ago and recently attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party to collect his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award! Reflecting on his achievements which included hiking the Welsh mountains in a heat wave, teaching Year 9s navigation, huge amounts of athletics achievements, as well as gaining a host of other skills Dan said:
"I thought I'd let you know that I finally attended the DofE Gold Award Ceremony at the palace!! Looking back it was one of the best things I've ever done and means that from now on I rarely turn down opportunities."

Mr Morton

Geography Fieldwork



'Year 7 Geography students have been carrying out fieldwork around the school site. They have been investigating whether there are micro-climates around the school by carrying out different methods. These include measuring wind speed and direction using bubbles, using cloud wheels to measure cloud cover and measuring temperature'.

Miss Crossley, Humanities



PE news....



Reigning champions of the U13 Girls' District Football!



In this year's district football our Year 8 team, all participated in another very successful tournament. In our first game we played against Herts and Essex and won 2-0 with Lily and Erin both scoring. The second game went well too as we beat SWCHS B 1-0 with a great goal from Maci. The third game was a win 3-1 with goals from Mia who scored 2 and Jess who scored one. Our last group game was a 1-0 victory with an epic goal from Erin. Our semi final game saw us facing Hockerill and winning 2-0 with goals from Mia and Lily. We then proceeded to an incredible final against SWCHS A winning 4-2 with a hat-trick from Mia and a top goal from Erin. This has made us champions for the second year running!

Miss Rolfe and I are extremely proud of this squad (this includes the four girls who travelled with us and had played in earlier rounds) and cannot wait for next year's competition. A huge thank you to Mr Torrance for driving the minibus again for us and to Mr Edwards for coming over to support the team.

The team are wearing the new women's fit kit which was purchased after a donation from an anonymous donor and from the PE department. We are extremely grateful to both of them.

Team : Mia Beer ©, Erin O' Hear, Jess Dittrich, Lilly Fach, Elle Paramo, Mia Lucas (GK), Millie Cooke, Bia Camara, Maci Whitnall, Deanna MacCabe, Mia Lucas, Macy-Mae Hastings and Edie Pittuck.

Travelling squad members: Anya Trevitt, Rosie Tyler, Ali Bennett and Holly Austin.

Thank you to all of the girls and their parents for their efforts and support.

Miss Rolfe and Mrs Chapman

PE news....



Thursday 23 March saw the first of hopefully many Hertfordshire Girl's Rugby Festivals. This was held at the Hertford Rugby club with many schools invited from the Hertfordshire area.

Birchwood High School brought 14 Year 7 girls on the mini bus for the afternoon. The event allowed these lovely ladies to play 3 games against other schools who are in the same development stage as us. The opportunity gave the girls a chance to see what real game play was like and why so many people love the sport around the world.



The girls did absolutely amazing and progressed with their confidence of the game and their tackling skills and won medals at the end of the day. I am very proud of all the hard work that was put in leading up to the event and hope that there will be many, many more opportunities for matches in the future.

Year 7 Girls Rugby Coach, Miss LaLonge



First rounders matches of the year
Birchwood against Leventhorpe

Yr 7 won 8 – 7½

Yr 8 lost 11 – 8

Yr 9/10 won 10½ to 5½



Birchwood Fitness Suite Gym Membership

Fifteen station fitness suite with Technogym cardio and strength equipment, free weights and power rack.

Changing rooms and free car parking available to members.

No contract or one-off joining fee.

Pricing:

Weekly membership £3.60 inc. VAT

Rolling weekly membership available.

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 18:00 – 21:30

Saturday 08:00 – 17:00

Sunday 09:00 – 13:00

For joining details visit birchwoodfs.schoolhire.co.uk



Ramadan 2023

What is Ramadan and why do we Celebrate it?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims as a month of fasting, prayer and reflection. Annual observance of Ramadan is seen as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next. Ramadan is a particularly important time for Muslims, as it allows them to reflect and come together as a community in their self-improvement and devotion to Allah.

The Timeline of Ramadan

Ramadan takes place over a month, and there are a few important dates. They are:

- The Beginning, when the crescent moon shows often signifying the start of Ramadan.
- Night of Destiny, known otherwise as Qadr Night, is considered the holiest night of the year, and people generally think it occurred on an odd-numbered night during the last 10 days of Ramadan.
- Eid, short for Eid al-Fitr, marks the end of Ramadan and the beginning of Shawwal, the next lunar month, and is shown by the reappearance of the crescent moon or after 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks) of fasting.

What Does Ramadan mean to Muslims?

To Muslims, Ramadan is a time to practice taqwa (closeness to Allah), and to commemorate the moment the First Revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammed. During Ramadan, Muslims are also encouraged to give charity, read the entire Qur'an, study at the place of worship, and participate in nightly prayers. When breaking fasts and giving charity, it helps Muslims come together in their families and communities. When they seek knowledge, it helps them develop a stronger understanding of Allah. All of this is to remind Muslims that their purpose on this Earth is to worship Allah.

Lucas Rugiero, BBC Reporter

LGBT+ Pride Month - June 2023

LGBT+ Pride month is a month long celebration and commemoration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender experience. Pride month began after the Stonewall riots which were a series of protests in response to a violent police raid at a gay club in 1969. The protests were widely considered a significant moment in promoting the rights and equality of LGBT+ people. At Birchwood, Fusion is a group which meets every Tuesday lunch time and offers support to students who are LGBT+ or who simply want to promote equality and acceptance within the school community.

What does LGBT+ mean?

LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender. There are many variations of the LGBT acronym and thus the + sign is to ensure inclusivity for all sexualities and gender identities. In the 1970's the rainbow pride flag, created by Gilbert Baker, became a symbol for the LGBT+ community. The original rainbow flag made its public debut at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day parade celebrated on 25 June 1978.

How can I support someone?

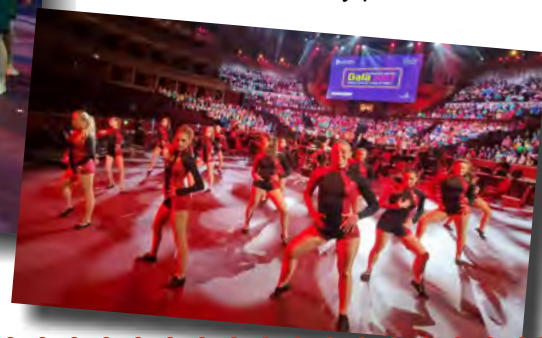
If someone you care about tells you that they are part of the LGBT+ community, it is important to not make any assumptions, to listen to their experience and feelings, and signpost them to further support and information if necessary. Stonewall, The Proud Trust, Young Minds, and FFLAG offer fantastic advice and guidance for both parents and young people.

Mr Harlow and Alex Burke, BBC Reporter

Birchwood students perform at the Royal Albert Hall



Mrs Goddard and Miss Parker took 19 student dancers from Years 9-13 to the Royal Albert Hall to perform in the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala. The students auditioned to be a part of this amazing opportunity back in September and have been rehearsing tirelessly since. They performed in two dances accompanied by a live orchestra and choir and thoroughly enjoyed this exciting experience. They were so professional, and everything flowed seamlessly on the day. Well done to all! We were very proud!



Teechers

On Wednesday 17 May Year 9 and 10 Drama students had the opportunity to watch 'Teechers Leavers '22' at Chelmsford Theatre.

This was an updated version of 'Teechers' by John Godber which we study in Year 8. It had us all laughing the whole way through, with three actors multi-rolling their way through playing the stereotypical teachers and students you would find in a secondary school.

The play was centred around Year 11 students and their Drama teacher overcoming obstacles such as being re-roomed out of the main hall, which was very funny and very relatable!

We all had a great time and can't wait for our next outing!

Mrs Goddard, Drama



BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

YOUNG CHOREOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2023

SUBMIT A VIDEO ENTRY OF DANCE 1-3 MINS LONG

SONG OF YOUR CHOICE AS A SOLO, DUET OR GROUP DANCE

VIDEO SHOULD BE RECORDED IN A COMMUNAL AREA (NOT BEDROOM)

EMAIL YOUR VIDEO TO JPARKER@BIRCHWOODHIGH.ORG.UK

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION 5TH JUNE

WINNER CHOSEN BY GUEST JUDGE

Made with PosterMyWays.com

£5000



House



Top 10 Forms....

7MCS	5,147
7VCN	5,012
7CLE	4,942
8RES	4,227
8NDE	3,222
7GSH	3,644
7LCY	3,644
8MLY	3,593
7HPN	3,540
8JMC	3,298

Thank you to all of the House Captains who have dedicated so much of their time to organise and run the fundraising events this year! You have all been absolutely incredible.

You have organised the live maze at Halloween, the Winter Ball, and all of our charity days!!

A special mention to Harry Freegard and Charlotte Hummersone for their commitment to their role as Head House Captains!

Well done all.

Congratulations to our new team:

Head House Captains – Daisy Dunn and Scarlet Dillon

Deputy House Captains – Ivy Felstead and Lydia Griffin

Overall House Points...

Dane- 30,264
Waytemore- 29,866
Hadham- 29,374
Stort- 26,169

Hadham	Stort	Waytemore	Dane
Ilinca Dionisie	Jack Pillinger	Paige Squires	Darcy Loveday
	Amber Mayer	Ruby Waller	Amelia Nicholson
	Matthew Winder		Harriet Nineberg
	Katrina Zune		Alfie Wood
	Cameron Scott		Sydney Godden
	Charles Spencer		

Key Dates for House

Date	Event	Theme / Comments
Wednesday 28 June	Colour Run	
Monday 3 July-		
Friday 7 July	Charity Enterprise week	Environment group green or blue
Friday 14 July	Rewards Activity (Year 7-10, Sixth Form)	
Monday 17 July	Sports Day	
Tuesday 18 July	Sports Day (reserve)	

House Awards

At the end of every term the House team organise an inflatable obstacle course, and an inflatable bungee run for the top 20% of students from every year group, based on their house points score.

There was music playing in the background, everyone who went could race with the sixth formers. A group photo was taken of everyone at the end of the event.

*Gabby Gadzina,
BBC Reporter*

**BIRCHWOOD
BROADCASTING
CORRESPONDENTS**

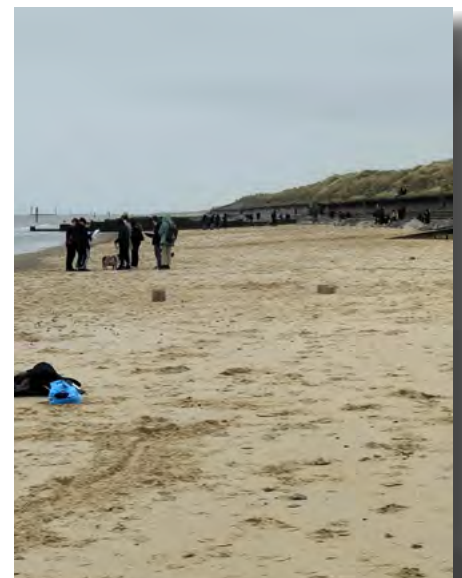


Happisburgh and beyond...

Just before the Easter break 120 Year 10 geographers spent two days in Norfolk investigating the physical processes acting on the coastline and how important settlements are as economic hubs. We visited Sheringham, Cromer and Happisburgh, to do Human and Physical field work. For example, counting how many waves crashed in a minute, or measuring how steep the beach is. Whereas, in our human booklets, we were speaking to members of the public about our surroundings. For example, one of the questions was, "How often do you visit Happisburgh, and do you live locally?" Another thing that we did while we were away was land-use surveys. For example, the number of cars/pedestrians passed within a certain amount of time.

The trip involved an overnight stay at Sheringham Youth Hostel and plenty of walking! We did get to enjoy ice cream once we'd finished all the fieldwork! We now have some useful data to analyse and complete the fieldwork aspect of the GCSE course.

Neala Goddard Bird (Edited by Edward Wilcock) BBC Reporters



Birchwood's Photographic Competition
to celebrate the King's Coronation



Take a photo with the Red, White and Blue Theme.

WINNERS



Alfie Pressland, 1st



Coronation



9SAS, 2nd

Alex Burke, 3rd



A celebration of the coronation
Wordsearch from the BBC Reporting Club.

O	P	T	J	E	W	E	L	S
M	O	N	A	R	C	H	Q	S
G	K	L	O	C	K	M	W	C
A	C	A	R	R	I	A	G	E
L	B	B	B	O	N	L	A	P
L	U	B	B	W	G	L	D	T
Q	U	E	E	N	C	V	K	R
O	L	Y	P	A	L	A	C	E
R	O	Y	A	L	M	A	W	Q
A	B	I	L	O	P	P	X	M

King
Sceptre
Crown
Carriage
Palace
Abbey
Queen
Mall
Monarch
Orb
Jewels
Royal

Student of the month

Sophie Smith
Art

Ben Mugford
PE

Lucas Sanders
Science

Amelie Higgins
Business

Harry Francis
Performer (Drama)

Eylul Hurman
Social Science

Emma Green
Chef

Charlie Clark
PLC

Joshua Livingstone
Statistician

Ella Bryant
Dancer

Roman Kovalskyi
Religious Studies

Ali Bennett
Technology

Peter Whitby
English

Lewis Randall
Film

Abigail Read
Geography

George Port
Historian

Evie May Thornewill
IT/Computer Science

Anna Baros
MFL Linguist

Claudia
Huertas-Wanceulen
French Linguist

Harry Gowlett
German Linguist

Samantha Utley
Spanish Linguist

Kris Karashtranov
Mathematics

Joshua Brown
Media

Logan Reid
Musician

A poster for the Summer Musical Prom Concert. The background is dark blue with several colorful fireworks exploding. Two large, stylized treble clefs are positioned on the left and right sides. The text 'Summer Musical Prom Concert' is written in a large, orange, serif font. Below this, 'Wednesday 21 June 2023' and 'School Hall, 7.00pm' are written in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a school building at night with its lights on. Below the photo, the text 'Tickets available via ParentPay £3.00 each' is written in a small, orange, italicized font.

**Summer
Musical
Prom
Concert**

Wednesday 21 June 2023
School Hall, 7.00pm

Tickets available via ParentPay £3.00 each



CAMPEXCEL



CLUBEXCELCAMP

FOR
CHILDREN
AGED 3-13
YEARS

Club EXCEL

Multi Activity Camps

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AND NORTH LONDON



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HERTFORDSHIRE'S ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMP!

WE HAVE LOTS OF EXCITING ACTIVITIES TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN
ENTERTAINED THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

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