

THE BIRCHWOOD NEWS



ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE



Today's Ice Bucket Challenge was a fantastic event, with seven brave teachers volunteering to take the plunge! With over 400 tickets sold, the atmosphere was brilliant as students gathered to watch the fun unfold.

A group of lucky students were selected through a raffle to do the honours and pour the ice-cold water – much to everyone's enjoyment!

It was a great way to end the week, raising a brilliant amount of money for charity. Thank you to everyone who took part, bought tickets, and supported the event!



YEAR 11 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY



Our Year 11 Leavers Celebration was a fantastic way to mark the end of an important chapter for our students. Filled with laughter, memories, and a touch of glitter, the event brought the year group together for one final celebration before exam season begins.

We loved seeing the decorated uniforms and signed shirts – a Birchwood tradition that always adds a personal touch to the day.

Thank you to our Year 11s for all their hard work, resilience, and contributions to school life. We wish you the very best of luck in your upcoming exams and in whatever path you choose next. You'll always be part of the Birchwood community.



BRONZE DofE 2025



A huge congratulations to all our Year 10 students who completed their Bronze DofE expedition last weekend. We were blessed with excellent weather!

A special thanks to all the staff who gave up their weekend to make this possible for our students... especially Mr Jankovskis who makes a mean bacon sandwich!

Miss C LaLonge and Mr R Loveday, DofE Co-ordinators.



YEAR 10 EXPLORE NORFOLK



As part of their Geography GCSE, Year 10 students carried out two days of fieldwork along the north Norfolk coast, visiting Cromer, Happisburgh and Sheringham. Data was collected using a number of methods, relating to both the physical and human elements of the course.

For the physical side, we visited beaches at Happisburgh and Sheringham looking for evidence of geomorphic processes, such as erosion and longshore drift. Evidence of erosion was obtained by measuring pebble sizes from the front to the back of the beach to look for change, and by wave counts to see what type of waves were present. For longshore drift, sediment height was measured either side of the groynes, and by using the famous 'orange' method, which involves throwing an orange into sea and seeing how far it travels over a certain amount of time and in what direction. Students also mapped the beach by recording beach profiles, and assessed the condition of the coastal management (seawalls, groynes etc.) to see how well it was being maintained. All this data allowed students to see if geomorphic processes were occurring, and why they might differ in different locations.

For human geography, students were collecting data to determine how important Sheringham is as an economic hub on the north Norfolk coast. Methods used included environmental quality surveys to see how well the area was maintained and land use surveys to see what types of premises are there, such as shops, banks, homes etc. Students also collected the views of local residents using questionnaires. This was also repeated in Cromer, which allowed students to make comparisons and to see which is the most important place for the local economy. Apart from all the hard work, we also had time to enjoy the fantastic weather with lunch on the beach, and traditional seaside activities such as visiting the amusements, fish & chips and ice cream! There was also time for some impromptu karaoke one night, back at the hostel.

The year 10s were exemplary on the trip, both around Cromer and Sheringham, and at the hostel. While out and about we received favourable feedback from the local residents, commenting on how well behaved and polite the students were, representing Birchwood in a positive light.

Mr Hildrew, Geography



HOUSE



MEET THE NEW TEAM - 2025/2026

Head of the House System
Olivia Powles

Deputy Head of the House System
Alfie Hobday

Deputy Head of Rewards
Anna Baros

DANE:
Lola Williamson
Rachel Dadd
Theo Trigg
Melanie Wedgbrow
Callum Dargue
Sophie Smith
Ruby Mozden
George Culley

HADHAM:
Olivia Powles
Wilfred Richardson
George Port
Gabriella Gooding- Charles
Alexandar Todorov
Joshua Glanville

STORT:
Charlotte Smith
Mary Kay
Isla Carey

WAYTEMORE
Darcie Cross
Sophie- Grace Lennon
Lola Anderson



Please join us in congratulating the following students on their successful appointments to the Birchwood House Team:

Head of the House System – Olivia Powles
Deputy Head of the House System – Alfie Hobday
Deputy Head of Rewards – Anna Baros

Each of them did a fantastic job during the interview process, and I'm confident they will be outstanding in their new roles. A special thank you also goes to the outgoing team who have done an amazing job this year. Good luck with your exams.

Mrs Collyer, Head of House

PE TEAMS

Well done to all students who have been involved in PE this half term – it's been fantastic to see such high attendance at clubs and so much enthusiasm in lessons. As we move into the summer term, we're shifting our focus from football and rugby to cricket, rounders, and tennis. It's a great time to try something new, and there's always room for more students to get involved in our clubs and activities – everyone is welcome!

.....



Congratulations to our Year 7 cricket team who played their very first match this month! The team showed great teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship throughout, making a strong start to their cricket journey at Birchwood.

A special mention goes to Max Lane, who was named Man of the Match after an impressive performance, top-scoring with 40 runs. Well done to Max and the whole team – we're looking forward to seeing more great cricket from Year 7 this summer

Our Year 9 girls had a strong start to their Rounders campaign with a match against Freeman College. They won an impressive 17 - 10. Our player of the match was Ali Bennett - well done Ali.

.....

As our Year 11 students prepare to move on, we would be very grateful for any donations of spare or no longer-needed PE kit. All items will be put to good use by the PE department for future students. If you have anything to donate, please hand it in to Miss Perrett

.....

STUDENT NEWS

At Birchwood, we love celebrating the successes of our students, both in and outside of school.

Congratulations to Olivia and the team from Architects Dance Company, who competed in the Allstar World Dance Championships 2025 held in Florida during the Easter holidays.

In the Hip Hop category, they placed 1st, bringing home World Champion titles, gold medals, and champion rings. Their routine was the third highest-scoring Hip Hop performance of the entire event, only outscored by senior adult teams. They also won their junior division.

In the Lyrical category, they also placed 1st, again earning more World Champion titles, gold medals, and champion rings. Impressively, they were the top-scoring Lyrical team of the whole competition – even outscoring all senior dancers – as well as winning their junior division.



YEAR 7 CARPENTRY



Year 7 students recently took on an exciting and hands-on project in Technology, where they worked in teams to design and construct their own siege weapons. The task not only challenged their creativity and teamwork but also tested their carpentry skills and deepened their understanding of basic forces and mechanical principles.

From planning and measuring to cutting and assembling, students demonstrated great focus and enthusiasm throughout the project. It was fantastic to see their ideas come to life and to witness their problem-solving skills in action.

Mrs Montgomery, Technology

YEAR 9 VISIT ELSTREE STUDIOS

Last week, Year 9 students visited the Sky Studios in Elstree to learn more about the Film and TV industry. They were taught about the process of bringing a movie to life - everything from pre-production to the actual filming. Students were lucky to receive an exclusive behind the scenes tour visiting the sound stages where recent blockbuster movies such as *Wicked*, *Jurassic Park* and *Paddington Bear* were all filmed. They also had a go at planning, shooting and editing their own movie pitch ideas in the Sky Extended Reality Studio.

It was a fantastic afternoon for the students and has hopefully inspired a new generation of talent in the Film and TV industry!



BIRCHWOOD BROADCASTING CORRESPONDENTS

What have our budding Birchwood journalists been researching this term?

CHARITY BAKE SALE

BBC Reporters continue to support Mahinga Primary School in rural Kenya. The funds raised will help to make sure that the Kenyan students have at least one meal during the long school day. This year we raised an amazing £212.60.

A special thanks goes to Alex, Amelie and Niamh who made some very impressive (and delicious) cupcakes!



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners of our Art Faculty's recent Year 7 Landscape Photography competition! Well done to everyone who took part – we were so impressed by the creativity on display!

- 1st Place – Emilia Berridge, who takes home a £10 Amazon voucher
- 2nd Place – Fraser Ansell, awarded a box of sweets
- 3rd Place – Maja Tuliszka, also awarded a box of sweets



TALES FROM THE LIBRARY

From exciting quizzes and creative competitions to the latest updates and recommendations from our librarian, Miss Shackleton, there's always something happening between the shelves. Keep an eye out for ways to get involved!



SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the short story competition. There were some wonderfully creative and imaginative stories, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading all of them. I am pleased to announce the winner:

1st Place - Kara Kearley

2025/26 TERM DATES

Birchwood High School Calendar

2025 - 2026

Sep 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Oct 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Nov 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Dec 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Jan 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Feb 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Mar 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Apr 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jun 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Jul 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

CPD Days – school closed to students
Student holidays & occasional days
Bank & public holidays
School Open to Yr 7 & 12 only
Open Evening
Year 6 Transition Day

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE

Wednesday 4 June to Saturday 7 June
Year 10 Madrid Trip

Thursday 19 June
Rotary Young Chef Competition
Music Department's Summer Prom

Friday 20 June to Friday 27 June
Year 9 Ardeche Trip

Monday 23 June to Friday 27 June
Enrichment Week
Year 7 Isle of Wright Trip

JULY

Thursday 10 July
Induction day and Evening

Monday 14 July
Rewards Day

Tuesday 15 July
Sports Day

Wednesday 16 July
Reserve Sports Day

SPEED CHESS TOURNAMENT

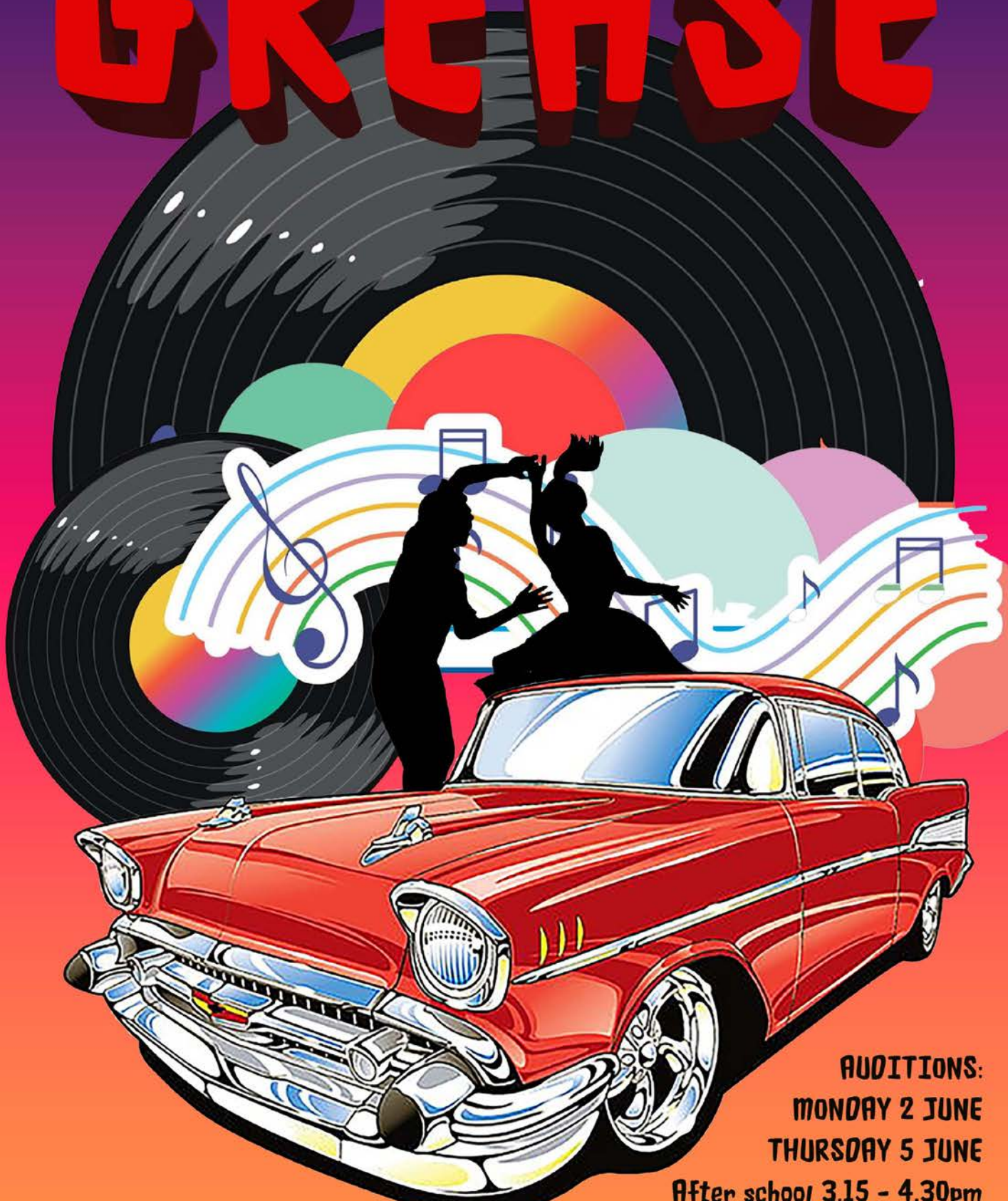
ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

SIGN UP IN THE LIBRARY

This will take place in the Library after
Half Term on a Monday and Thursday
Lunchtime.



GREASE



AUDITIONS:

MONDAY 2 JUNE

THURSDAY 5 JUNE

After school 3.15 - 4.30pm

Sign up on the sheets outside the Drama Studio

BIRCHWOOD'S MUSICAL DEPARTMENT PRESENTS...



SUMMER MUSICAL PROM CONCERT

THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025
7.00pm in the Hall

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE VIA PARENTPAY £4.00

SIXTH FORM NEWS

MEET THE SIXTH FORM HEAD TEAM 2025-2026



Gracie Salmon
Principal Student (centre)

Zoe Lloyd-Rossi
Deputy Principal Student

Maddison Spence
Deputy Principal Student

Nico Beggs
Assistant Principal Student

Harry Gilbank
Assistant Principal Student

Olivia Peacock
Assistant Principal Student

Lily Shillito
Assistant Principal Student

We are pleased to announce the new team for 2025/26. They are an amazing group of students who are all incredibly proud to be part of the Birchwood community.

It goes without question to extend our thanks to the outgoing team, who have been brilliant this year.

Well done, Dillion, Severin, Sophie, Ethan, Harrison, Matthew, and Rosie.

YEAR 13 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY



We had a fantastic time celebrating our amazing Year 13s as they near the end of their journey at Birchwood. Their leaver's assembly featured well-deserved awards, plenty of shared memories and a few tears.

Thank you to Councillor Richard Townsend, Mayor of Bishops Stortford for joining us, and a huge good luck to all our students in their upcoming exams and whatever the future holds!

OUR 2024-2025 AWARD WINNERS



ENGLISH

The Eric Marshall Award for Senior English

Coulson Ryan

The Senior Writing Award

Chloe Porter

EXPRESSIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Excellence in Art

Rosie May

Excellence in Dance

Abigail Sear

Excellence in Music

Molly Range

The Pauline Mackenzie Award for Drama

Sophie Springham

HUMANITIES

Excellence in Geography

Daniel Baines

Excellence in History

Dillon Browne

Excellence in Philosophy and Ethics

Alex Curtis

MATHEMATICS

The Gauss Award for Further Mathematics

Kieren Mok

The Wilcock Award for A Level Mathematics

Cayden Leung

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Achievement in Modern Foreign Languages

Molly Range

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Eric Marshall Award for Sporting Endeavour

Layla Ellis

SCIENCE

The Darwin Award for Biology

Freddie Buttle

Achievement in Chemistry

Arham Malik

Achievement in Physics

Harrison Pickard

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Nortel Networks Cup for Achievement in Business

Raya Kostadinova

Excellence in Economics

Dillon Browne

Excellence in Financial Studies

Neal Shine

Excellence in Politics

Sienna Potter

Excellence in Psychology

Molly-Sue Wedgbrow

Excellence in Sociology

Naomi Fuller-Lewis

TECHNOLOGY

Excellence in ICT/Computing

Coulson Ryan

Excellence in Film Studies

Joe Berry

Technologist of the Year

Alex Nichols



CONTRIBUTIONS IN SCHOOL EVENTS

*Kieren Mok, Matthew Reader and Molly Range for Music
Joe Evans for Technical Support*

PERSEVERANCE & ENDEAVOUR

Molly Anderson, Ava Gosden, Chloe Porter, Alex Nichols, Dylan Otchere, James Pritchard, Rosie Pressland

FUSION

Sophie Cousins, Ethan Gillson-Hill and Scarlet Long

MENTORING

*Emily Edwards, Ethan Gillson-Hill, Kieren Mok, Harrison Pickard, Molly Range, Matthew Reader
and Tadd Webster*

POSITIVE PEOPLE AWARD

*Emily Edwards, Oscar Fulk, Ethan Gillson-Hill, Tabitha Hermit, Raya Kostadinova, Alex Nichols,
Harrison Pickard and Michael Stables*

THE BIRCHWOOD CUP

*(represents the ethos of the school)
Matthew Reader*

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

THE BERNARD ENGEL COMMUNITY SUPPORT AWARD

Leighton Bishop and Severin Fleet

THE SIXTH FORM LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dillon Browne

THE HOUSE AWARD

Layla Ellis and Alex Curtis

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM AWARD

Sophie Springham

YEAR 12 KICK START

Following the Year 12 visit to the UCAS Discovery event back in March we held our annual Kickstart Day at the start of this term.

Students were off timetable for the day so they could focus on preparing for their Post 18 decision making. We ran a carousel of sessions which included 'The UCAS Process', 'Personal Statements' and 'Applying for a Job/Apprenticeship'. We were very grateful for the support from Anglia Ruskin University and Dee Owusu-Ansah, an Employment Support Officer from Clarion Futures who both delivered sessions on the day.

Students were also given time to reflect on what they had learnt during the day and to start exploring their Post 18 options.



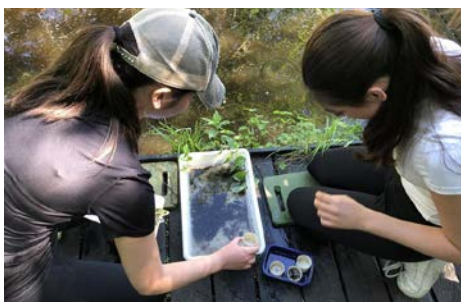
A LEVEL SCIENCE IN ACTION



Our A Level Environmental Science and Biology students recently took part in two fantastic trips designed to enrich their understanding of key topics and provide valuable hands-on learning experiences.

Biology students visited Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve in Cambridgeshire, where they enjoyed a sunny day of fieldwork. Activities included random sampling, transect sampling, and pond dipping for aquatic invertebrates – all delivered by reserve experts. These practical tasks not only brought learning to life but also contributed to the compulsory practical elements of both A Level courses.

Environmental Science students visited the Natural History Museum in Tring, where they explored six galleries featuring over 4,000 fascinating animal specimens, including taxidermy displays, skeletons, eggs, and nests. A highlight of the day was a workshop on Biodiversity and Conservation, which offered real-world context to classroom learning and deepened students' understanding of human impact on ecosystems.



ALUMNI NEWS

Welcome to our Alumni Spotlight – a space to celebrate and share the exciting journeys our former students have taken since leaving Birchwood. From university achievements to career milestones and creative pursuits, we're proud to highlight the many paths our alumni are following.



Congratulations to our Alumni students who recently completed the London Marathon:

Annabel Wilson (left) raised £2,528 for the Alzheimer's Society, in memory of my Grandad.

Megan Durrant (right) raised £1,185 for Sense Charity

PSFA

We have a Facebook page where you can keep up to date with events and meetings.

PRELOVED UNIFORM

If you are replacing items of branded 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 washed clean items of uniform to Reception.

HELP NEEDED!

Do you have an hour a week to help with our pre-loved uniform?

This could be during the day (DBS check needed) or after school, helping with sorting and hanging up donations and dealing with enquiries (e.g. finding sizes and bagging up orders)

Please contact birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com if you can help.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Birchwood with easy fundraising? There are over 8,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/birchwood-parents-staff-and-friends-association/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Birchwood at no extra cost to you whatsoever! There are no catches or hidden charges and Birchwood will be really grateful for your donations.





Want to Improve your football... Play Futsal!

Bishop's Stortford Futsal Club (BSFC) run sessions for boys & girls between the ages of u8 to u18 @ Birchwood School Sports Hall every Monday & Wednesday night. We play in the Essex Youth Futsal League and play many Futsal tournaments throughout the year.

We are always looking for new players, so if there are any boys or girls who want to play Futsal or just want to supplement their football development then contact us on the following to book in for a session -

Tel: 07899905117

E: bsfutsal@hotmail.com

X: @FutsalFor

Facebook: @futsalforfun7

FA Futsal & Football Qualified Coaches



SING, DANCE & ACT

EXPERTLY LED PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES FOR AGES 3-18



*Experience
the Joy of
Performance*


Make
Believe
BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Make Believe is where over 5,000 young people from 3 to 18 years old, come to make the most of their talent, learn new skills, reach new heights, make new friends and above all have fun through experiencing the joy of performance. So why not get involved? They'll soon be singing, dancing and acting on some of the biggest stages around.



Build *Unlock* *Spark*

THEIR CONFIDENCE

THEIR CREATIVITY

THEIR IMAGINATION

With over 50 schools across the UK there's a Make Believe school near you. So, just get in touch and we'll arrange for your child to try it out for free.

FREE TRIAL

SCAN HERE

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY
Or visit www.makebelievegroup.co.uk





CAMPEXCEL



CLUBEXCELCAMP

FOR
CHILDREN
AGED 3-13
YEARS

Club EXCEL

Multi Activity Camps
BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



THE ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMP
NEW CUSTOMERS GET 20% OFF
BOOKINGS AT BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL!

20% OFF CODE: NBIR20

Please Note: Offer only available to new customers & bookings at our Birchwood venue. Code valid till 31/12/25

Ofsted

Approved by Ofsted

01923 469475

WWW.CLUBEXCEL.CO.UK
INFO@CLUBEXCEL.CO.UK