



BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

23/06/25

YEAR 7	YEAR 10
YEAR 8	SIXTH FORM
YEAR 9	CAREERS

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

1. **Enrichment Week**

Finalised Trip Arrangements

All trips for Enrichment Week have now been finalised. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate any further additions or changes to trip allocations at this stage.

You should have already received an email confirming your child's place on their assigned trips for the week.

If your child is not attending a trip, they are still expected to attend school as normal.

Dress Code

During Enrichment Week, students should wear non-uniform, except on days when they are scheduled to take part in physical activities. On these days, they should attend school in full PE kit.

PE Kit Requirements:

- Year 7: Monday & Friday
- Year 8:
 - Monday (X side only)
 - Tuesday (Y side only)
 - Wednesday (whole year)
- Year 9: Monday
- Year 10: Tuesday

While students have the opportunity to dress more casually, we kindly ask that all clothing is appropriate for a school setting.

2. **Parent Trustee Vacancy – Deadline Tonight**

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Trustee on the Birchwood High School Board. This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the strategic leadership of the school and support our students and staff.

No specific qualifications are required, just a commitment to helping the school thrive. To learn more about the role and how to apply, [please read this letter](#).

The deadline for nominations is **TONIGHT** Monday 23rd June.

3. Important Update on Parental Communication – Using the Admin Email

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve communication and support our staff, we have updated how parents and carers should get in touch with the school.

As you will have noticed, we have now removed all individual staff email addresses from our website. Instead, we ask that all contact from parents be directed through our central email address:

admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk

This inbox is secure and password-protected, accessible only by designated members of our Reception Team. Incoming messages are monitored throughout the school day and are promptly forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

Please continue to use this address even if you are contacting your child's form tutor, subject teacher, or Head of Year. The Reception Team ensure that messages are directed accurately and efficiently to the appropriate person.

We understand that some communications may include sensitive or confidential information. In these cases, we ask that you include the following phrase in your subject line or message:

Confidential Information Included – FAO [Staff Member's Name]

This helps us ensure the message is handled with extra care and passed on appropriately.

This change to communications enables us to:

- Monitor email volumes and communication patterns
- Ensure prompt and consistent responses
- Safeguard staff time and wellbeing
- Maintain a professional tone in all parent-school interactions

We aim to respond to parental communication in a timely and professional manner. The following guidelines apply:

- Non-urgent enquiries: You can expect a reply within two working days (48 hours).
- Urgent matters (e.g. safeguarding or student welfare concerns): These are prioritised, and we aim to respond on the same day or by the next working day.
- More complex issues (e.g. SEND queries, behavioural incidents): You will receive an acknowledgement within two working days, with a more detailed response typically provided within 5–10 working days, depending on the nature of the concern.

4. End of Term – Early Closure Notice

Please note that on the final day of term, **Friday 18 July**, the school will close early. Students will finish the day at **12:30pm**, at the end of Period 3.

We will share an update regarding school bus arrangements closer to the time.

5. Coming Soon: Birchwood's First Ever Murder Mystery Escape Room!

Do you have what it takes to solve the clues and escape in time? We're excited to announce the launch of Birchwood's first ever murder mystery-style escape room – a thrilling new challenge for our students!

The event will take place on Thursday 3 July.

To take part, sign up with Miss Shackleton in the Library as soon as possible to secure your spot.

Get ready to put your problem-solving skills to the test – it's going to be a killer experience!

[See the poster here.](#)

6. Sports Teams Photographs – Deadline for payment Friday 27 June

If your child was part of one of our sports teams this year, their team photograph is now available to view.

A preview of the photograph can be accessed via the link on ParentPay before making a payment. The deadline for payment is Friday 27 June

We're proud of all our student athletes and hope you enjoy these lasting memories of their sporting achievements this year.

7. Co-Curriculum

As we enjoy the exciting activities of Enrichment Week, it's also a great time to remind students to explore the wide range of opportunities available through our Co-Curriculum programme.

We've had a fantastic number of students complete the Co-Curriculum form this term, earning entries into our prize draw – and there's still time to get involved!

Visit the [Co-Curriculum page on our website](#) to see what's on offer and start planning for an active, well-rounded year ahead.

8. Chemistry Week Competition

We're excited to launch our Chemistry Week Competition open to all KS3, KS4, and KS5 students!

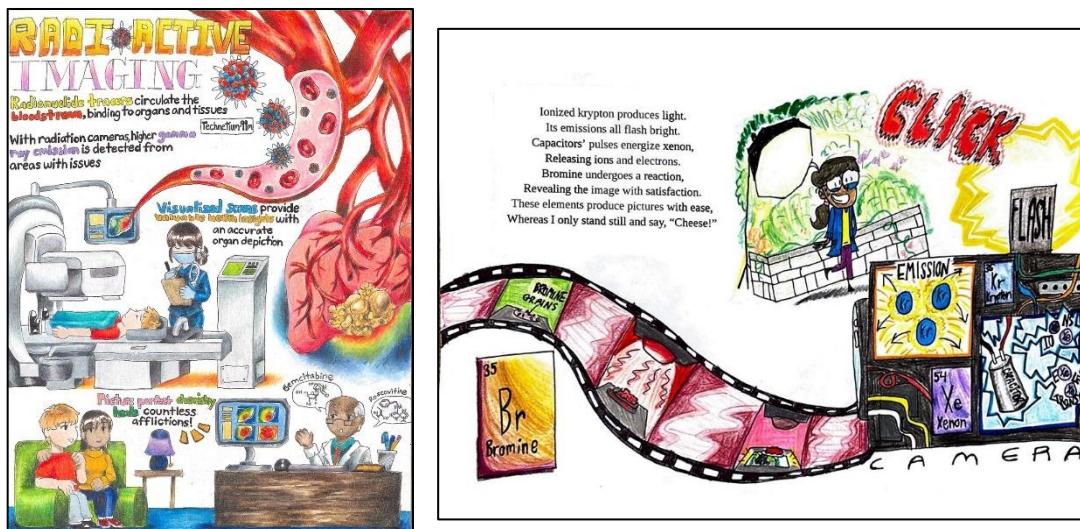
This year's theme is "Picture Perfect Chemistry", and we're inviting students to submit an illustrated poem that creatively explores the world of chemistry. Entries should be presented as an A4 or A3 poster, combining artwork and poetry to celebrate the subject.

The winning poster will be displayed in the school corridors during National Chemistry Week, beginning 20 October 2025, and the winner will also receive an Amazon voucher to spend on anything they like!

Deadline for entries: Thursday 3 July

Posters can be submitted to the Science Office any time before the deadline.

We look forward to seeing your creative ideas come to life! Here are some examples to spark inspiration:



9. Charity Bike Ride:

This June, two of our staff members, Mr Gilbank and Mr Reilly, are swapping the classroom for the cycle path as they take on a charity bike ride in support of Maggie's, a cancer charity in Cambridge.

Maggie's provides free support to people living with cancer, as well as their families and friends. Their centres offer practical advice, emotional support, and a warm, welcoming environment for anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis. It's a cause close to many hearts, and we're incredibly proud to see members of our school community stepping up to support such important work.

Mr Gilbank and Mr Reilly are riding as part of the TLC Highway Challenge, helping to raise funds and awareness for Maggie's vital services.

If you'd like to show your support, you can visit their fundraising page and make a donation here:

<https://maggies.enthuse.com/pf/tlc-highway-f13d4>

YEAR 7

PGL Trip – Photos on Facebook

We hope all our Year 7s on the PGL trip to the Isle of Wight have a fantastic time. We'll be posting photos of the group on Facebook while they're away so make sure to follow us.

YEAR 8

Message from Mr Loney

Three weeks have now elapsed with Year 8 having their new Head of Year, and I wanted to share some observations and messages which I consider to be important. Last week, Year 8 had a second mock fire drill following poor behaviour in a whole school drill during the week prior, at this time I had the opportunity to speak with the year group and share my hopes and vision for the year group. I stated that the purpose of education is about far more than just academic success, that it is ensuring that the future generation are well equipped to go into the world as good citizens who are respectful and kind to all. I am looking forward to working with some members of our year group in this regard.

I have had the opportunity of seeing a number of lessons over these last weeks, and I have been quietly impressed by some of what I have seen. There is a large swathe of students who are making startling progress in their subjects and taking an active role in their own education, which will put us in a good position as we head into Year 9 and the options subjects that the students have chosen. This represents a large maturity point and the students will have to substantially 'up their game' in terms of work and revision outside of lessons. Students will need a quiet space at home to revise, ideally this would not be in the vicinity of any games consoles.

Uniform has largely been very good, even whilst relaxed in recent days due to the hot weather. Please ensure that your child is not arriving to school in PE kit of any kind, the only concessions are regarding school ties and blazers. Any students arriving to school in the incorrect uniform will be sanctioned and potentially sent home.

I would like to thank those of you I have met with or had phone calls with so far, I am pleased to know how supportive you all are, both of your child but also our values. Please keep an open dialogue with your child's form tutor and myself, and we will do all we can to support and provide a caring environment. We are, and always have been, a fully comprehensive school where all students can excel, and any students who are taking that opportunity away from other students will be challenged and held to account.

YEAR 9

Year 9 - D of E - Thursday 26 June

Emails confirming your child's attendance for the DofE training day have been sent today but we still have limited places available - please email trips@birchwoodhigh.org.uk to add your child's name to the list. If oversubscribed, names will be drawn at random.

In the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), participants engage in four main sections: Volunteering, Skills, Physical Recreation, and Expeditions. The DofE aims to help individuals develop personal skills and confidence through these activities. The DofE is designed to be challenging and rewarding, helping young people develop valuable skills and build their confidence. Participants set goals, track their progress, and seek feedback from assessors throughout the program.

At the taster day during enrichment week, you will complete some of the activities that you will need for the expedition - tent building, cooking with Trangias, walking with equipment, map navigating.

YEAR 10

Year 10 MFL Speaking Exams

Please be advised that all students studying a GCSE in French, German & Spanish will complete a full speaking mock before they head into Year 11. It is worth 25% of the qualification.

Students will arrive (at the BDC) at the time stated on the timetables below to complete their 15 minutes of preparation, followed by the exam.

Day	Periods	Language	Teacher
Monday 30 June	p3,4	German	GBN
Monday 30 June	P5	French	BMJ
Monday 30 June	P3,4,5	Spanish	KRK
Tuesday 1 July	P1-5 (all day)	French	BMJ
Tuesday 1 July	P1-5 (all day)	Spanish	KRK
Wednesday 2 July	P1-5 (all day)	French	BMJ
Wednesday 2 July	P1-5 (all day)	Spanish	KRK
Thursday 3 July	P1-5 (all day)	Spanish	KRK
Thursday 3 July	p2	French	BMJ
Friday 4 July	P1-5 (all day)	German	GBN
Friday 4 July	P1-5 (all day)	Spanish	KRK

Details of individual times will be posted to Class Teams notices, on MFL Exams noticeboard outside MFL Office (next to B19) and in classrooms.

Maths Mock Exam Revision

Maths revision will be held each fortnight for the rest of this term. Monday, Week B at 3.15pm in the Maths corridor.

Early next term, you will have the opportunity to purchase a pack of past papers for students to be using at home. This is in addition to those we have already started working through in school. If you are purchasing any other revision materials for your child to use at home, please be advised that we are following the Edexcel 9-1 course. Set 1 and 2 are following the Higher course; sets 3, 4 and 5 are following the Foundation course.

Year 10 English Revision Sessions – Starting 11 June

We are pleased to offer after-school English revision sessions for Year 10 students as they begin preparing for next year's GCSE exams. These sessions will help build key skills in both Literature and Language, including essay writing, analysis, and interpretation.

Sessions run Wednesdays from 15:15 to 16:00, starting Wednesday 11 June, in D block classrooms. Students should attend their usual English teacher's room, or are welcome to join another group if their teacher is unavailable.

Revision Schedule – Wednesdays (15:15–16:00):

- Miss Braybrooke – D7
- Mr Smith – D4
- Mrs Osborne – D1
- Mrs Kee-Rose – C16
- Mrs Boittier – D6
- Mr Reilly – D2
- Miss Edwards – D3

Regular attendance is encouraged to support strong study habits and build confidence ahead of Year 11.

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 Mock Exams:

[Please see the link to the Year 12 summer exam timetable.](#) The vast majority of these exams are internal, designed to assess students on their knowledge and skills from across the first half of their courses and to prepare them for public exams next summer.

The bulk of the exams are in week beginning 23rd June – as this is enrichment week for the main school, this will be a period of study leave and students should therefore only be on site for their exams. Lessons start again as normal on Monday 30th June, but students will obviously be excused if they have an exam.

A small number of subjects do not have internal assessments due to those students sitting public exam modules this summer.

Students will receive individual timetables later this week - they should check these carefully and notify the exams officer if they spot any errors. A small number of students may have exam clashes - arrangements for these will be communicated to those impacted.

The results of these assessments, alongside other evidence from smaller assessments across Year 12, will allow teachers to formulate a UCAS predicted grade which will be communicated home in the end of year report. Students who are likely to apply for university should therefore take these predicted grades into account when researching their potential courses over the summer.

Please also note the following:

- All exams will be held in the Old Gym with the exception of Media on Monday 23rd June which will be in the BDC
- Students receiving supporting access arrangements will be based in the BDC or A2 – please check individual timetables
- Students should be at the exam venue 15 minutes before the start time
- Students are expected to follow the 6th Form dress code as these exams will be treated as if they were public exams

