



BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

30/06/25

[YEAR 7](#)

[YEAR 10](#)

[YEAR 8](#)

[SIXTH FORM](#)

[YEAR 9](#)

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

1. **Summer Uniform Expectations**

Following a review of the weather forecast, we would like to confirm that summer uniform will continue until the end of term. This means that students are not expected to wear blazers or ties during this period.

However, please note the following important reminders:

- **PE kits are not permitted.** Any student who arrives at school wearing their PE kit will be sent home and asked to return in the correct school uniform.
- Our usual rules regarding footwear apply: trainers are not allowed as part of school uniform.

2. **District Athletics Competition Cancellation**

Please be aware if your child was due to take part in tomorrow's District Athletics Competition that the Bishops Stortford Schools PE consortium have made the very difficult and regrettable decision to cancel tomorrow's event (Tuesday 1st July).

With temperatures in excess of 30 degrees and very little shade available at Wodson, there is significant concern about the health and safety of both athletes and staff/officials. They had looked at reducing the programme but even with a shorter day, the temperatures remain very high. In terms of rearranging, the availability of the track is extremely limited so for this year, sadly the competition won't take place.

Many thanks to all the students who were prepared to represent Birchwood.

3. **Enrichment Week Thank You**

Last week's Enrichment Week was a fantastic success, offering our students a wide range of opportunities to learn, explore, and have fun beyond the classroom.

From the unforgettable residential trips to the Ardèche and the Isle of Wight, to the huge number of day trips and engaging in-school activities, it was brilliant to see so many students making the most of the experiences on offer.

We want to say a huge thank you to all the staff for their incredible effort, creativity, and care in planning and running activities—whether in school or on trips. The buzz around the school spoke for itself, and it's clear just how much students gained from these memorable experiences.

Thank you as well to our students, who approached the week with enthusiasm, curiosity, and positivity. You've all helped make it such a special week!

We'll continue to post photos and videos on our Facebook page with highlights from the week.

4. Mobile Phone Usage – Parent Communication

Unfortunately, we have noticed an increasing number of instances where students are receiving phone calls or messages directly from parents during lessons, break times, and other school activities. These interruptions not only disrupt the educational environment but also create conflict when staff enforce our policy.

To clarify:

- Parents and carers should not contact students directly via phone calls or messages during the school day.
- If you need to communicate with your child urgently, please contact the school office. Our staff will ensure that your message is passed on promptly and appropriately.
- Similarly, students are not permitted to use their mobile phones to message or call parents during school hours without express permission from a staff member.

5. Overdue Library Books

Reminders have been emailed out regarding overdue library books. Please ensure these are returned to Miss Shackleton in the Library by the end of term.

6. Arriva Bus – 2025/26 Ticket Information

Arriva [have shared the following poster](#) with us with information on student discounted bus tickets for the 25/26 school year.

Parents and carers can contact their student mailbox talktous@arriva.co.uk with any questions they may have.

7. Parent Trustee Vacancy

The deadline for parent trustee nominees has now passed. More information on next steps will be emailed out later this week.

8. 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.

9. HAPpy Programme bookings are now live.

FREE HAPpy Camps will be returning during the summer school holiday, with opportunities for your children and teens to take part in camps and experiences from a host of trusted providers at over 160 locations around the county.

Children and teens living in Hertfordshire who get free school meals can attend HAPpy Camps for FREE. Camps offer physical activity, fun, and a free hot meal all in safe surroundings, with SEND provision also available.

Your child's unique booking code is: 9ZZ!DV

[Click here to book.](#)

10. NHS Hertfordshire School Nursing Poster

[Please follow this link to the Summer Term newsletter from the school nursing team.](#)

11. 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.](#)

12. 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.

13. 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.

YEAR 7

PGL Trip – Message from Mr Edwards

Last week, we took over 150 Year 7 students to the Isle of Wight for an incredible week filled with adventure, team building, and fun. From canoeing and problem-solving challenges to the ever-popular silent disco, the students threw themselves into every opportunity.

A massive thank you to all the staff who gave up their time to support the trip and help create such brilliant memories for our students.

Parents can head over to our Facebook page to see lots of photos capturing the highlights of what was a fantastic week away.

Future Skills Questionnaire

This Thursday, during Form Time, learners in Year 7 will be completing the Future Skills Questionnaire.

The Future Skills Questionnaire (FSQ) is a set of questions that have been specifically designed for young people in schools and colleges to help them to think about their skills, strengths and what they might like to do in the future.

FSQ is a key feature of our school's careers programme. We will analyse learner responses to help evaluate our careers provision, plan future careers activities and also identify learners who may need additional support.

The questionnaire takes approximately 15 minutes to complete, there are up to three sections of the questionnaire that cover the following areas:

- Careers knowledge and skills
- Essential skills for life and work
- Career Planning

Completing FSQ should be an engaging and insightful activity for learners that will encourage them to continue thinking about their future choices and next steps after school or college.

The Future Skills Questionnaire is completed online, through a digital product called Compass+.

All learner data is processed in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). More information about how Compass+ collects, uses and stores personal data can be found here > CEC Privacy notice.

If you want to know more about our careers programme, and/or would like to get involved, please contact Judith Crimes (careers@birchwoodhigh.org.uk).

YEAR 8

N/A

YEAR 9

Ardeche – Message from Mr Noblett

I hope that you have had the opportunity to start hearing about the many stories from our unforgettable week in the Ardèche.

I wanted to take a moment to express just how proud I am of the Year 9 students. Their conduct and energy throughout the trip was exemplary. They overcame some intense heat to tackle rapids in the river, zip-wire through the treetops, camp out in the open, explore underground caves, visit French towns and spend hours playing in the outdoor swimming pool. It was a joy to see students laughing, communicating and enjoying life without screens for large parts of the week. We received glowing praise from our coach drivers as well as the staff at the centre, who commented on how polite, positive and engaged our students were.

As Head of Year, it was a privilege to experience the trip alongside them. Their positive attitude and willingness to give everything a go made the week not just successful, but genuinely special. I have no doubt they've created memories that will last a lifetime.

A big thank you also goes to Mr Hill, whose tireless work and brilliant organisation made the entire trip possible. Thank you as well to the dedicated staff who gave up their time to support the students throughout the week. It wouldn't have been the same without them.

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.

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

Sixth Form Induction Day is Tuesday 8 July

For any prospective students, please ensure that you have sent confirmation if you are attending Sixth Form Induction Day via Applicaa.

