



BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIRCHWOOD BULLETIN

20/10/25

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WHOLE SCHOOL

End of Term Reminders

As we approach the half-term break, please take note of the following:

- Students will return on Monday 3 November
- The first week back will follow the Week B timetable.

A huge thank you to all our students and staff for their hard work this half term! We hope everyone has a well-deserved break and returns refreshed and ready for the next half of the term.

Home School Agreement – Reminder

[The Birchwood High School – Home School Agreement](#) was sent out on Thursday 18 September. This is a reminder that all parents/carers need to read this with their child and complete the form included in the agreement.

Design Technology Department – Donations Wanted!

We are looking for donations of old or broken technology to support practical learning in Design Technology. If you have any of the following items gathering dust at home, we would love to have them: Old or broken devices from brands such as Apple, Dyson, or similar 1990s and early 2000s music technology – e.g. Walkman's, MP3 players, CD players Old push-button mobile phones, remote controls, or game controllers These items will be used by students to explore design, engineering, and product development. Please drop donations off at reception, or students can hand them directly to Ms Munro, Head of Design Technology. Thank you for supporting creativity and innovation in our school!

Halloween Bake Off

Halloween Bake Off – Wednesday 22 October

Our Halloween Bake Off is taking place on Wednesday 22 October. Students are invited to showcase their baking skills by bringing in their homemade creations.

Key Information:

- Drop off: All entries must be brought to the library before form time and clearly labelled with the student's name.
- No nuts: Please ensure that all bakes are nut-free.
- Containers: All Tupperware and containers must be collected by the end of the day.

Birchwood Bonus Ball

Who is feeling lucky?! Subscriptions for our Birchwood Bonus Ball Club are now open for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The Bonus Ball is a monthly raffle-style fundraiser. You can purchase up to 5 numbers per month at £3 each. This year, the monthly prize has been £178.50!

To take part, email us with your name and contact number:

Treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com

Kind regards

Your PSFA Committee

YEAR 7

Head of Year Update

What a fantastic week it's been for Year 7! With the spotlight on Biology Week, students have embraced a variety of engaging activities both in their subject lessons and during form time. Below you can see a small sample of their brilliant home learning projects — labelled cell models. A huge well done to all those who went the extra mile to create impressive 3D versions; I was genuinely amazed by the creativity and attention to detail on display.

Our sports teams have also been busy. The boys continue to show great teamwork and determination in their rugby fixtures, and I wish the girls the very best of luck as they take part in their first hockey fixture on Monday — I'll be there to cheer them on and lend a hand with coaching!

This week, all tutors spent time in the ICT suites during registration to ensure every student can confidently log onto all school platforms. This should mean no more issues accessing online learning at home — thank you for your support in helping reinforce this at home too.

Looking ahead, our focus for the coming week will be “Breathe. Think. Act Right.” — a simple but powerful reminder to pause, reflect, and make thoughtful choices in all aspects of school life.

As we approach the half term break, I’d like to thank you all for your continued support. I hope you and your families enjoy a restful and safe half term, and please do remind your child to stay safe over Halloween. I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the next (and slightly darker!) half term ahead.

Warm regards,

Mrs Hinski
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8

Head of Year Update

We made it!

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a very positive and productive start to the year for our Year 8 students. It has been a pleasure to see so many of them embracing the opportunities available and demonstrating the values that lie at the heart of our school community — **Respect, Inclusivity, and Kindness**.

Many of our students have already achieved great things this term. Whether representing the school in sports, music, or other events; taking part in clubs and enrichment activities; or simply contributing positively to the life of our school each day, they have set a fantastic example for others to follow. Academically, socially, and personally, it is wonderful to see so many young people making progress, supporting one another, and taking pride in their efforts.

I would like to particularly commend those students who consistently make the right choices — who work hard, treat others with respect, and show kindness both in and out of the classroom. Their attitude helps to build the positive, inclusive environment that makes Birchwood such a great place to be.

For some students, this half term may have brought a few challenges. I encourage those who have found things more difficult to take the upcoming break as a fresh opportunity to reflect and reset. With the continued support of home and school together, I am confident that every student can succeed by following our expectations, taking responsibility, and showing our shared values in their daily actions.

Thank you for your ongoing support — it really does make a difference. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another successful half term.

Mr Edwards
Head of Year 8

YEAR 9

A Poetic Response to *Jane Eyre*

One of our brilliant Year 9 students has penned a powerful and thought-provoking poem inspired by Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Moved by the novel's themes, language, and emotional intensity, she chose to explore the idea of childhood suppression. Her poem is not only a creative response to the text but also a testament to the impact of passionate teaching. Thanks to the encouragement and guidance of Miss Braybrooke, this student has rediscovered her love for English, and it shines through in every line of her work. We're incredibly proud to celebrate her creativity and the inspiring learning environment that helped it flourish.

Sinful Infancy

*Wicked child!
How she thrashes and storms,
Rages at the ones who shape her,
Tame her.
Put that child in her place,
God forbid she should repent!
Mere girl is but a monster!
Hateful, morbid beast as she is.
Shoot her down!
They charge with weapons.
Wicked child blazes on!
She is out of her mind,
Sanity rid of her resentful being.
Wild thing!
Dare she spit poison from her wretched tongue?
What a shame, that child,
Is but a child after all.*

YEAR 10

Art Trip to Zoology & Sedgwick Museums in Cambridge

Year 10 Art students are going to spend the day in the Zoology and Sedgwick Museum in Cambridge on Thursday 23 October 2025. This visit is designed to inspire creativity and support our ongoing work in art and design by giving students the opportunity to draw from real-life objects, exhibitions, and interactive installations.

Students will be encouraged to observe and sketch artefacts, designs, and exhibits which will support our art topic on layers. The museum offers a rich environment for artistic exploration and visual inspiration including animal and dinosaur skeletons, fossils, and maps.

Students will travel by coach to Cambridge leaving school at 9am and returning at approximately 3pm, subject to traffic. They will be allowed to contact parents on the journey home when we know what traffic conditions are like so that you are able to collect them from school. Students will wear school uniform and will need to bring a packed lunch and water bottle with them along with a sketchbook and dry drawing materials.

YEAR 11

Sixth Form Open Evening

Birchwood's Sixth Form Open Evening is taking place on Thursday 13 November, 5:30pm to 8:00pm. There will be 2 Keynote Presentations, 6:00pm and 7:00pm there is no need to book for these, tickets will be given out on the night on a first come first served basis.

Geography past papers

Please remind your child that these are ready to collect from resources (Office at the back of the library).

Maths Past Papers

These have now been ordered and are currently at the printers. We will inform you when they have arrived.

Mock timetables now available

These were sent to you on Friday 17 October, please check your inbox.

SIXTH FORM

Ski trip meeting – Year 13

Reminder – There is a meeting on Tuesday 21 October in the Main Hall 6:00pm – 7:00pm.

Sixth Form Open Evening

You would have received an email last week, about our upcoming Sixth Form Open Evening, that is taking place on Thursday 13 November, from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. All current Sixth Form students are expected to attend and support this important event.

To confirm your consent and provide essential details, please complete the form below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/aFEdRtBDy2>

Devil Wears Prada Trip

Dominion Theatre, London - Devil Wears Prada on Thursday 23 October 2025 at 7.30pm.

A reminder that students will need to pay for their rail fare on the night and usually this is at a group rate of approximately £16. The full adult fare is a maximum of £25.00. We hope to arrive in London in time to stop for food before we reach the venue so they will need money for food or will need to bring a packed lunch with them.

Students must meet at 5pm at Bishops Stortford railway station and will travel by train to London returning to Bishops Stortford at approximately 10pm, they will be accompanied by two members of staff. Students can contact parents/carers in the evening with final arrival times for the return so that they can be collected from the station.



Design The 2025 Birchwood Christmas Card

The card will be sent to the local schools, Governors and other local VIP's.

Prizes:

1st prize £15 Amazon vouchers + 30 house points + a set of printed cards of your design.

2nd prize £10 Amazon vouchers + 20 house points

3rd prize £5 Amazon vouchers + 15 house points

All entries will be awarded a House point.

How to submit your design:

Bring your card to Miss Morrison in C23 at lunch or break.

Or give to your art teacher in lesson.

Make sure your name and form is on the back!

Submit by Monday 17 November 2025.

If you want help and access to equipment come to Art Club in C22 on any Wednesday lunchtime.

Judging will take place during the following week with Mr Griffin making the final decision.

Do

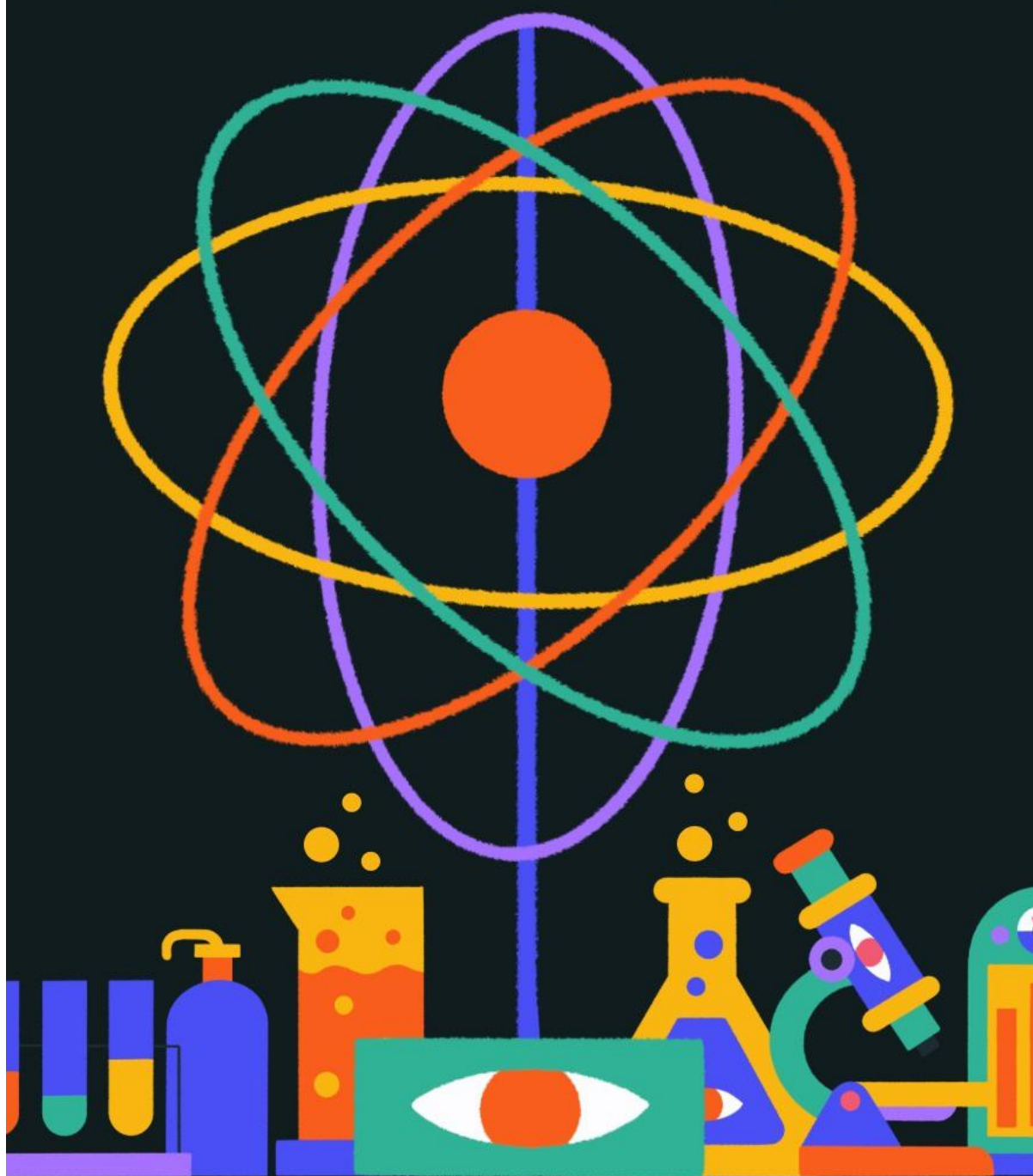
- Your design **MUST** include the Birchwood logo.
- Your card must be an original design.
- Your card can be of any festive scene.
- Your design can be made using any media.
(see the don't list) and any size or format as your card will be scanned and reproduced.
- Submit by Monday 17th November 2025.

Don't

- Make your card **too light**.
- **Include glitter.**
- **3D elements.**
- Include any writing or seasonal greeting as this will be added electronically.

Good luck and enjoy!

CHEMISTRY QUIZ



12.30pm Lunchtime in the Library

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

Sign up with Miss Shackleton in the Library.

CALLING ALL BAKERS... HAUNTED CAKE COMPETITION

Design and bake your own cake.

Bring it to the Library, Wednesday 22 October



There will be Prizes and House points for the winning entries. The House team will judge the cakes in the Library at Lunchtime. Students must collect their cakes at the end of the day to take home.



Your entry can be anything from drawings and sculptures to models and collages of any scale. The piece of art created can be entered by an individual or as a group, including classes, or any group of biology enthusiasts.

Anything and everything creative is eligible for submission, just send me photos of your masterpieces. Remember to recycle as much material as possible.

The deadline for entries is **12 November 2025**

Entries will be judged on:

- The title of your piece
- Equipment and material used
- What your piece depicts
- The science behind your piece



- the variety of materials used
- the variety of creative skills used
- the aesthetic quality of the piece
- the originality of the piece
- how well the piece captures the biological basis of the subject matter

For more information, ask Mrs Pressland in C10

A HAUNTED HOUSE



SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The Library is running a short story competition based on the theme "A Haunted House".

What eerie, haunting and mysteriously creepy stories can you conjure up from the depths of your imagination?

Perhaps you and your family have just moved to a new area and into an old worn-down house that your family has promised to rebuild. You hear rumours that the house you are living in is haunted. You laugh at how ridiculous this seems, until one night, you see something that makes your blood run cold...

Perhaps you're the ghost that haunts the house, determined to never share your home with anyone. What is your story?

Whatever way you choose to write your story, Prepare to Scare!!

Please hand all entries to Miss Shackleton in the Library no later than 20 October.