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## WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

### 1. **Welcome Back**

Welcome back to the summer term! We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

It's been lovely to start the new term with some sunshine, and we're looking forward to a busy and exciting few months ahead. Wishing all our students and families a successful and positive term.

### 2. **New Online System for Clubs & Activities**

We're excited to launch SOCS, our new online system for managing co-curricular clubs and activities. Students will be able to view and sign up for clubs online, and parents can access details of sports fixtures, team sheets, and the live sports calendar. All students are expected to have logged in and either sign up for clubs or opt out.

Please follow this link for full details and instructions on how to log in for parents and students:

<https://www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=196&type=pdf>

### 3. **New House Team**

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new House Team for the coming year. Congratulations to our sixth form students who successfully interviewed and secured a role. A special well done to the following students:

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

We look forward to seeing them lead and inspire the school community through the House System in the months ahead.

#### 4. **Summer Term Sports Club**

Please see the below information regarding the sports clubs our PE faculty will be running during the Summer Term.

The poster features a stylized logo at the top center, a title 'PE CLUBS: SUMMER TERM 2025' in large bold letters, and a table with five rows corresponding to the days of the week. The background is a light grey with orange curved patterns on the right side.

MONDAY	Athletics Club: All year groups
TUESDAY	Cheerleading : Years 7 & 8 (External) Netball : Pink Ladies (LPT)
WEDNESDAY	Rounders: All year groups (ARE & LPT) Cricket: Year 7 (CGK), Year 9 (RNT)
THURSDAY	Netball: All year groups Cricket: Year 8 (DJS), Year 10 (SHL) Cycling: Years 7-10 (ABT)
FRIDAY	BEFORE SCHOOL (8am): Girls Cricket (HGK, LPT)

All afterschool clubs run approximately 3.15 - 4.15pm.

#### 5. **Short Story Competition – An Unexpected Gift**

There's still time to enter our latest Library competition... write a short story about a small red velvet box that is mysteriously left on your doorstep by a stranger and has your name on it...

- What could be inside this curious box?
- Does it lead you on an incredible, wild adventure?
- Let the box capture your imagination and be as wonderful and as creative as you want!

There will be a prize for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Hand all entries in to Miss Shackleton in the Library.

[Poster found here.](#)

## YEAR 7

### **Year 7 Parents' Evening**

Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday, 13 May, from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. These meetings will be booked online and held in person at the school.

More information will be shared this week via email on how to log in and use the system.

## YEAR 8

### **Update from Mrs Hinski**

We welcomed Year 8 back into the summer term with a sunny start on Tuesday.

Please be aware that the Year 9 Options Evening this week is for the current Year 9 cohort choosing their Year 10 options; it is not relevant for our year group.

Mr Herbert delivered an excellent assembly on the theme of kindness. Please do take the opportunity to speak with your child about the examples he shared and whether they have taken on the challenge he set for the year group.

The school had hoped that the two-week holiday would have provided time to sort out any uniform and equipment issues. However, tutor checks this week have unfortunately shown that too many students are still wearing trainers, and some were not equipped with the necessary stationery to support their learning. Please check these items with your child so we can start our first full week back positively and with all issues addressed.

We have also welcomed several new members of staff this term. As a result, your child may have experienced some teacher changes, which we hope will help to further strengthen behaviour and learning following concerns raised earlier in the year.

## YEAR 9

### **Year 9 Options Evening:**

Our Options Evening will take place tomorrow, Tuesday 29 April, 4:30–7:00pm.

The event will provide key information and advice on GCSE option choices ahead of the final deadline on Friday 23 May. Subject teachers will be available in D Block for informal discussions.

Presentation times in the Main Hall:

- 5:00–5:30pm: Forms 9RGD, 9MCS, 9GES

- 5:35–6:05pm: Forms 9KAN, 9ALX, 9WSK
- 6:10–6:40pm: Forms 9DKE, 9FMN

Please attend the talk allocated to your child's form group and visit subject teachers beforehand if attending the final presentation.

More information on next steps will be sent out via email today.

### **Year 9 Options, PE Overview:**

With Options Evening tomorrow, here's a quick summary for PE & Sport options for Key Stage 4.

GCSE PE - If you play sports for clubs outside of school and attend school teams / represent school. Nearly all lessons are theory.

Examined via 3x Practical sports, 1x Coursework project & 2x Exam papers. (Totals 1xGCSE Grade)

Sports Science / Studies - If you have a keen interest in sport and enjoy learning in a more practical way.

Maybe you only play one sport, or only attend enrichment, don't play any sport for clubs but still enjoy sport, nutrition & Fitness & coaching.

Examined via 2x coursework projects & 1x Short exam paper. (Totals 1xGCSE Grade Equivalent)

Core PE - 100% Practical lessons for sports activities that you select and choose depending on your interests / preferences.

## YEAR 10

### **Year 10 Work Shadowing Day – Wednesday 25 June**

To help students gain insight into the world of work, we are running a Work Shadowing Day on Wednesday 25 June.

Students must log their placement details on Unifrog by Friday 23 May, which will trigger an employer approval process. Those without a placement will be expected in school on the day.

For more information, please refer to the FAQ sheet emailed on Friday, or contact [crimesj@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:crimesj@birchwoodhigh.org.uk).

## YEAR 11

### **Year 11 Exam Season – Message from the Head of Year**

As we move into the final preparations for the exam season, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the students (and teachers) who attended Easter revision sessions. We hope that all students made good use of the two-week break to revise, consolidate their learning, and focus on the months ahead.

Students are encouraged to continue speaking to their teachers about any final revision opportunities or if they are feeling anxious or have any concerns about the exams. Staff are here to support them and ensure they feel as confident and prepared as possible.

Thank you for your continued support during this important time.

### **Leavers Assembly:**

We are looking forward to celebrating with our Year 11 students at their Celebration Assembly on Wednesday 7 May.

Students should attend school as normal, wearing full school uniform. Periods 1 and 2 will be dedicated to the assembly, which will include a photo booth, music, treats, and a chance to celebrate their time at Birchwood. Hoodies and yearbooks will also be handed out to those who have pre-ordered them.

Please note that students must not write on or deface their school uniform, as they will still need to wear it for their upcoming exams. However, if they wish, they can bring a spare shirt for friends to sign.

Students will leave the school site at approximately 11:00am. We kindly ask that students leave promptly after the assembly to minimise disruption to other year groups.

### **GCSE Exams Begin This Week.**

This week's exam schedule includes:

- GCSE Music Recordings – Monday 28 April and Tuesday 29 April
- GCSE Art Exams – Thursday 1 May and Friday 2 May
- Language Speaking Exams – See below.

### **MFL – Upcoming Speaking Exams**

The Speaking exams for Y11 & Y13 students in French, German and Spanish will take place as detailed below. Specific times for students will be shared on TEAMs noticeboards as well as on our physical noticeboard outside the MFL Office, next to B18. They have also been shared with students in their classes.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Periods</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher-examiner</b>
Tuesday 29 April	1,2,3,4,5	French	GCSE	11C/Fr	Miss Defay
Tuesday 29 April	1,2,3	French	GCSE	11D/Fr	Mrs Holland
Wednesday 30 April	1,2,3	French	GCSE	11C/Fr	Miss Defay
Wednesday 30 April	1,2,3,4,5	French	GCSE	11D/Fr	Mrs Holland
Thursday 1 May	3,4,5	Spanish	GCSE	11 Sp(11B + 11C)	Miss Roderick
Thursday 1 May	2	Turkish	GCSE	Home language	Mrs Birand
Thursday 1 May	3	Polish	GCSE	Home language	Joanna Nestorovska
Thursday 1 May	4	Chinese	GCSE	Home language	Dorothy Lau
Friday 2 May	1,2,3,4,5	Spanish	GCSE	11 Sp (11B + 11C)	Miss Roderick
Friday 2 May	1,2,3	German	GCSE	11B/Gm	Mr Bowman
Friday 2 May	4	Russian	GCSE	Home language	Regina Clark
Tuesday 6 May	1,2,3,4,5	Spanish	GCSE	11 Sp (11B + 11C)	Miss Roderick
Tuesday 6 May	2	German	GCSE	11B/Gm (3 Art students)	Mr Bowman

## SIXTH FORM

### **Year 13 Leavers Assembly**

We are looking forward to celebrating our Year 13 students at their Leavers' Assembly on Friday 2nd May, from 12:25pm to 2:15pm.

This will be a special occasion to reflect on their time at Birchwood, share memories, and wish them well as they move on to the next exciting chapter. We look forward to giving them the send-off they deserve!

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Periods</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher-examiner</b>
Thursday 1 May	1, 2	French	A level	13B/Fr	Miss Mangin-Griffiths
Wednesday 7 May	3,4	German	A level	13F/Gm	Mr Bowman

## CAREERS

### **Harlow College Open Day**

Harlow College are holding an Open Evening on Wednesday 30 April 5-8pm showcasing our Vocational courses, A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships, HTQs, SEND and Adult & Part-time courses.

Tickets are available on Ticket Source: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlow-college/e-pvkaba>

### **Stansted Airport College Open Evening**

Stansted Airport College are holding an Open Evening on Wednesday 7 May 5-8pm showcasing our exciting range of professional and technical courses as well as our unique relationship with London Stansted Airport and their employers based at the Airport.

Tickets are available on Ticket Source: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlow-college/e-ykmpjr>

### **Opportunities for Aspiring Doctors and Dentists – Free Virtual Conferences**

We are pleased to share information about two upcoming FREE live virtual conferences aimed at students in Years 10–12 who are considering a future career in medicine or dentistry.

These events are hosted by Medic Mentor

Get Into Dentistry Conference. Saturday 17th May, 9:30am – 3:30pm

Register here: [Dentistry Conference Registration](#)

Get Into Medicine Conferences. Saturday 26th April, 9:30am – 3:30pm & Sunday 27th April, 9:30am – 3:30pm

Register here: [Medicine Conference Registration](#)

Led by expert mentors, these conferences cover a range of important topics including:

- Choosing the right university
- Personal statements
- UCAT preparation
- Interview skills
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Scholarships and CV building

Parental attendance is required for safeguarding purposes and to help parents support their child through the application process.

### **Long Road Sixth Form College Open Evenings – July 2025**

Long Road Sixth Form College is inviting Year 10 students and their families to attend their Open Evenings on **Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd July 2025**.

The event is also open to Year 11 students who would like another opportunity to visit the college before making their final post-16 decisions in August.

Booking is now live, and all attendees must book a ticket in advance to ensure the event remains safe and enjoyable. Tickets are limited to a maximum of four per booking.

For more information and to book your place, please visit:

[www.longroad.ac.uk/open-evenings](http://www.longroad.ac.uk/open-evenings)



LIBRARY SHORT STORY  
COMPETITION  
**AN**  
**UNEXPECTED GIFT**

Over the Easter holidays, write a short story about a small red velvet box that is mysteriously left on your doorstep by a stranger and has your name on it.

What could be inside this curious box?

Does it lead you on an incredible, wild adventure?

Let the box capture your imagination and be as wonderful and as creative as you want!!

There will be a prize for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Good luck and I can't wait to read all your amazing stories!!

Miss Shackleton, Librarian