

# BIRCHWOOD NEWS

## STORT WINS SPORTS DAY!



## THE ROTARY YOUNG CHEF COMPETITION

Last month, Birchwood proudly hosted the annual Young Chef Rotary Competition with teams from schools across Bishops Stortford competing in both the junior and intermediate categories.

All our entrants performed brilliantly!

Ali Bennett was runner up in the Young Chef of The Year category and the Birchwood Junior Team of Elsa Gormley, Sophia Coxall and Ali Bennett were crowned champions. Their winning menu included a chicken and chorizo jambalaya with homemade tortilla chips and key lime cheesecake with a shortbread biscuit base.

*Mrs McEwen-Smith and Mr Kadlec*



# MESSAGE FROM MR GRIFFIN

Dear all,

It's a pleasure to be writing to you all at the end of a really successful year here at Birchwood. The summer term is always an exceptionally busy one and you will see from this edition of Birchwood News how much we have packed in.

The GCSE and A level exams went really well and the students were all really impressive in how they approached both the exams and the support that was available to them. As teachers we felt that the exams this summer were fair and gave students the opportunity to do well. Huge thanks goes to the exams team led by Mrs Bothwell and we look forward to sharing results with students in August.

You will see in the following pages the huge number of enrichment activities that have taken place over the last half term. In particular, I would draw your attention to the recent Enrichment Week. A staggering range of activities were available to students, both in and out of school. It was a huge delight to see students and staff engaged in so many different events. It is worth noting that not all schools are able to run events like this and that I don't take the provision here for granted. There was a great deal of planning and organisation that went into the week. I would like to thank Mr Briscoe and Mrs Reid in particular for their work in coordinating the week. Plus, every member of staff who organised, led or supported activities. I hope your children enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

The weather did not stop our annual Sports Day - do you remember when we used to have good weather in July? It was fantastic to see so many students taking part in events and supporting each other. The level of support students were giving each other speaks volumes about the caring community that we have here. Records were broken throughout the day and some of these had been held for over 20 years. My thanks go to the PE team and especially Miss Peet for organising the whole day.

The end of the school year sees us say farewell to the following colleagues:

Teaching: Mrs Van Baalan and Miss Defay (MFL), Mr William-Powlett (Physics), Mr Ainge and Ms Parkyn (Maths), Mr Ockendon (English), Mrs Chapman (PE), Miss Payne (Art), Miss Diver, Ms Durant and Mrs Armari (Geography), Mr Morton (History) and Mrs Hassani (Drama).

Support Staff: Mrs Atherton (HR), Mrs Gadsby (Reception), Mrs Franklin (Cover) and Mrs Bothwell (Exams).

I would like to thank all of these colleagues for the contribution they have made to Birchwood over the years and wish them all every success and happiness in their retirement or next move.

I am approaching the end of my first year as Principal at Birchwood. I have to say how much I have enjoyed getting to know the school and its community this year. There is plenty to do to help the school improve even further but we are starting from a very strong position. Staff here are all committed to providing the young people who attend here with the best opportunities and the best outcomes. I would like to thank all of them for everything they have done this year. I would also like to thank all of our parents and carers for their continued support this year. Mostly I would like to thank our students who make Birchwood such an exciting, diverse and enjoyable place to be every day.

*Sam Griffin, Principal*



## RESULTS DAY'S SUMMER 2024

15 August 2024: GCE, LIBF and BTEC Level 3. Results can be collected from the Library at 8:30am

22 August 2024 – GCSE, BTEC Level 2 and Entry Level

8:30 am – Year 11 students can collect results from the Library

9:00 am – Year 10 students can collect results from the Library

On both days any results that are not collected by 11:00 am, will be sent, by First Class post, to the home address our database, unless you have given us an alternative address.

Results will be given to the student only. If another person is collecting the results, the student must provide them with a signed letter giving permission and naming the person that will be collecting.

The nominated person that is collecting must present his or her own ID on the day.

Further information for procedures after results can be found on the website or please email the Exams Officer [lbothwell@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:lbothwell@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) if you require any specific information.



*Year 13 Prom photos are now available on Teams.*

### **YEAR 11 PARENT PAY:**

If you have any outstanding payments on ParentPay, please ensure these are paid in full before your child leaves the school. Alternatively, if you have a credit remaining, please withdraw this from your Parent Pay account. This should be completed by 5 September, otherwise the school will donate any funds remaining to the PSFA for school initiatives.

### **BOOK AND EQUIPMENT RETURNS:**

Could we please ask that all printed textbooks and Library books are returned to the school after exams are completed. Books/Equipment (Goggles for example) can be left with Reception or placed in the Library Book return box.

### **OLD UNIFORM PE KIT**

If you have any old/outgrown UNIFORM or PE kit that you wouldn't mind donating to the PSFA or the PE department please drop donations into reception. The PE Department are in particular need of leggings, rugby tops and white PE tops.



### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

I am Mrs Young, the parental and student contact in relation to all income for the school. We use an online payment system, ParentPay, for administration of the school income. If you require ParentPay login details or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email: [jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)

### **TERM DATES**

#### **SUMMER TERM 2024**

Monday 15 April – Friday 19 July  
(School finishes 12.30pm)

#### **CPD Days**

Monday 22 July  
Tuesday 23 July (Occasional Day)

#### **AUTUMN TERM 2024**

Monday 2 September 2024 –  
Friday 20 December 2024  
Half Term

W/B Monday 28 October -  
Friday 1 November

#### **SPRING TERM 2025**

Tuesday 7 January - Friday 4 April  
Half Term

Monday 17 - Friday 21 February  
Easter

Monday 7 April - Monday 21 April

#### **Summer Term 2025**

Tuesday 22 April - Tuesday 22 July  
Half Term

Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May

#### **Please Note**

Monday 2 September:  
CPD Day - no students

Tuesday 3 September:  
Years 7 & 12 only

Wednesday 4 September:  
Whole School to attend

#### **CPD (Non Student Day)**

Friday 4 October

Monday 6 January

Friday 14 February

Monday 21 July

Occasional Day

Tuesday 22 July

Please note that the school is closed to students on all CPD days, unless a member of staff has asked students to attend.

### **THE RED BOX**

Any student who requires period products at short notice, can go to Reception and ask for the Red Box.

*Mrs Cook, Receptionist*



# Enrichment Week 2024



Army - team building within year groups.





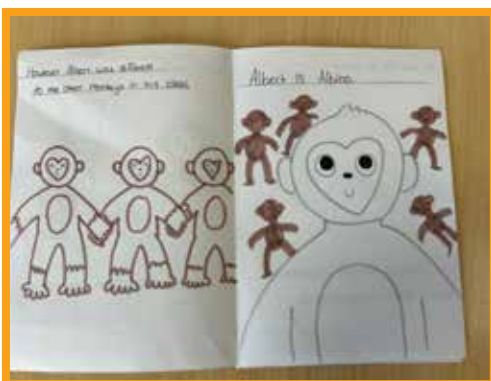
In Art, students learnt lino cutting and print making.



Building DofE skills.



In Drama students visited Pizza Town, an immersive Italian restaurant where students sat down to dine but ended up involved in a murder mystery. Students were given character prompt cards in order to crack the case and report their findings to the police officer.



Students in Year 9 and Year 10 were tasked with planning, writing, illustrating and pitching a new children's book for children aged 3-7 (in 2.5 hours) during English. They began by thinking back to their own childhoods and sharing their favourite stories before exploring some classics for inspiration: *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney and *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson.





First Aid training.



Food Technology offered classes in how to make a cream tea. Yum!



Students made earthquake proof buildings in Humanities out of spaghetti and marshmallows, replicating those found in earthquake zones..



Maths set the challenge of building the tallest free standing tower out of 30 sheets of A4 paper and Sellotape.





In Modern Foreign Languages, students learnt about the Japanese language and culture. They had fun making origami and having origami frog races!



In Music students learnt how to play new instruments.



The PE Department offered students the opportunity to try new sports including UV dodge-ball, bench ball, pickle ball and foot-golf.





In Science, Year 7 took part in an escape room, having to complete several experiments to crack the codes and make their escape. Year 9 students made anemometers which were then used to monitor wind speed around the school site.



In the Main School Hall, we had the pleasure of Mario from Immersive Theatres and his planetarium. Students in Year 9 watched the history of the universe unfold before their eyes.





Students were encouraged to develop their strategic thinking skills in Social Science by formulating moves based on their own and their opponents' objectives and potential tactics.



In Technology, students were challenged to build a weight powered car in the workshop, highlighting the power of green energy.

## Exploring Walton-On-The-Naze

Last month, A Level geography students visited to Walton-on-the-Naze to collect data for their geography coursework. Students visited three different sites along the coastline and were able to compare the impact of physical processes and human activity on these areas. They used a range of methods to investigate geographical questions including 'Which geomorphic processes are significant in Walton-on-the-Naze?' and 'How successful has coastal management been in Walton-on-the-Naze?'

A week later students once again undertook fieldwork, this time at five different sites across Cambridge for their human geography fieldwork. They investigated topics such as the extent to which there is social inequality between different areas, and the extent to which globalisation has affected Cambridge city centre.

Despite a packed schedule of data collection the students managed to find some time to play football on the beach and Parker's Piece in their free time!





# Ardèche







Year 9s and 10s got the chance to take part in this year's Ardèche trip including water sports, camping and enjoying several days in the South of France. Overall, the journey to the campsite took a whopping 21 hours including a ferry ride across to Calais. Activities included a high ropes obstacle course, complete with ziplines and a guided tour of a cave where the students went 150 metres underground. There was also a light show with music that bounced off the cave's rockfaces highlighting their intricate rock formations. The most notable activity of the trip was the kayaking tour. The kayaking was a two-day long activity with students bivouacking overnight. Unfortunately, the second group of kayakers did not get to camp overnight as they experienced heavy rain that resulted in many not having dry clothes to change into. So, they went back to the main campsite instead to make sure that everyone had dry clothes and could be warm overnight.

After another day of kayaking and some students and teachers capsizing, everyone arrived back to the camp for a fun night of karaoke and football chants.

A BBC (Birchwood Broadcasting Correspondent) reporter sent back their report from the trip.



# Cuffley Camp with Year 7









# Day Trips During Enrichment Week



Year 10 visited Silverstone.



Year 7 visited Stansted Mountfitchet Castle.



Year 8 visited the Globe Theatre.





Year 9 visited Kew Gardens.



Year 9 Dance Students went to Pineapple Dance Studios in London.



Year 10 students went to the Nuclear Wild Forest Assault Course.



Year 8 went to the Henry Moore Studio and Gardens.





During enrichment week, Year 8 got the chance to visit the Natural History Museum in London. Unfortunately, there was a large amount of traffic in London, so we did not get the amount of time we were hoping for in the museum. However, we managed to squeeze as many exhibits as possible into the time we had. We saw the enormous blue whale, the dinosaur skeletons, stuffed animals and all sorts of other artefacts. I enjoyed seeing all of these and thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

A BBC Reporter



Theatre trips included Year 8 at Back to the Future and Wicked for Year 9.

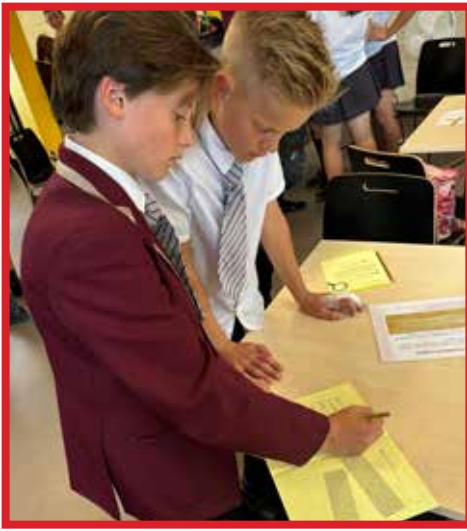


Year 9 students visited Colchester Zoo... Mr Budd made a new friend!



Year 10 students went to the Sainsbury's Arts Centre.





Year 9 students went to Bletchley Park. A BBC Correspondent reported back:

Year 9 went to Bletchley Park, a location used during WW2 by Alan Turing and other great minds to break German codes. We learnt that the codes were first translated by an Enigma machine into a set of random letters only readable by the machine, and sent by radio in morse code. This was a quick and secure method to send messages to others during the war. The Enigma machine looked like a typewriter and was able to encrypt and decrypt messages with different settings (it's more secure by having different settings).

We also found out that Bletchley Park was located where it was because of the easy access to phone lines that ran nearby and it's positioning between Cambridge, Oxford and London.

We were privileged to have a tour, take part in a codebreaking workshop and have a chance to explore in our small groups. We learnt so much by visiting Bletchley and I think we all enjoyed this fascinating place!



Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in our annual Colour Run raising funds for our House Charity Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.





## Primary School Science

Last month, Birchwood welcomed Year 5 students from Summercroft Primary School and All Saints for the first of our primary school science visits. Students took part in two science-based activities.

The first was Physics focused, with students investigating how to make a roller coaster go faster. Followed by a Chemistry session which featured several exciting chemical reactions. The children really enjoyed these sessions.

Thank you to Mrs Birand, Dr Rodionova and our amazing science technician Mr Morley for making the session possible!

*Miss LaLonge, Science*



## Oil Painting Workshop

Here's a taster of some of the wonderful art that has been created in Miss Paynes Oil Painting Workshop this term. Well done to our Birchwood artists!





## Summer Music Prom

Mr Grogan and Mr Stock would like to congratulate all of the students who took part in our recent Summer Prom Concert. The evening event showcased the immense talent of our school's musicians including our various vocal choirs, strings group, orchestra and more.

Not only did the concert showcase the talent of our school's musicians, but it was also an opportunity to bid farewell to some of our Year 11s and Year 13s who have been performing with us for many years and who have made a massive contribution to Birchwood's Music Department. We wish them the best of luck for the future.

Overall, the summer concert was a resounding success and highlighted the incredible musical talent within our school community.



*Mr Grogan, Head of Music*

## Primary School Music Workshop

The Music Department would also like to congratulate all the students who took part in our Primary Music Workshop. We were delighted to welcome over 50 musicians to Birchwood from local primary schools: Summercroft, Hillmead, St Josephs, and All Saints. Together with the Birchwood Orchestra, students created a mighty band of over 70, performing 'Funk.com' and 'Star Wars Theme', in the Hall. We'd like to thank all the primary school's students and staff, particularly Mr Foster and Mr Fone from the Herts Music Service, for helping organize the event and rehearsing on the day.

*Mr Grogan, Head of Music*





# STORT WINS SPORTS DAY!



The House Cup for Year 8 was won by CLE and RGD (DANE)



The House Cup for Year 10 was won by MAS (DANE)



The House Cup for Year 7 was won by MCN (WAYTEMORE)



The House Cup for Year 9 was won by CHT (STORT)



Whole School Top Performer - Sylvia Dolphin Tsang & Andikan Inyany



DANE won the staff relay.







Year 7 Top Performers: Luca Groom and Kvita Vorobei.

Luca broke the school record for the 1500m with a time of 5.24. Kvita broke the school record for the Long Jump, jumping 3.96. Well Done!



Year 7 Relay - Gold Medallists



Year 7 Relay - Gold Medallists



Year 8 Top Performers Harry Francis and Scarlett Campbell



Year 8 Relay - Gold Medallists



Year 8 Relay - Gold Medallists



Year 9 Relay - Gold Medallists



Year 9 Relay - Gold Medallists



Year 9 Top Performers Alex Hummel and Mia Beer



Year 10 Relay - Gold Medallists



Year 10 Relay - Gold Medallists



Year 10 Top Performers Zico Manchee and Amy Thorpe









# PE news....



## DISTRICT SCHOOLS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Birchwood PE Department took 70 students to the District Schools Athletics Championships at Wodson Park. Whilst the weather wasn't particularly on our side, the performances soon lifted spirits. Birchwood took home 26 individual medals and the Girls Year 10 Team came 2nd. Once points were totalled at the end of the day, Birchwood finished 4th overall.

Notable performances came from Harry Francis who achieved an 8 second PB for the 300m; Luca Groom who won both the 1500m and Discus (an unusual combination), and Amy Thorpe who came 2nd in the 100m and won the 200m.

There were gutsy performances from Kim Guthrie who had a heavy fall in the relay but bounced back brilliantly to come 2nd in the 200m final, and Ellie Picton, who also took a nasty fall at the end of her 100m heat and came back in the final to win.

Students were brilliantly behaved and were a credit to Birchwood. A huge thank you to Mr Hill and Mrs Tooze who were timekeepers for the day, and Mr Jones and Mr Clift who also accompanied the team. Thank you also to the remainder of the PE Department who didn't attend but did a sterling job of supporting back at school.

Lola Neale: Year 7 Discus Silver / Shotput Bronze

Elouise Denyer: Year 7 200 Bronze

Matilda Bryan: Year 9 Javelin Silver

Nina Dumbura: Year 10 300m Gold

Luca Groom: Year 7 Discus Gold / 1500m Gold

Kim Guthrie: Year 8 200m Bronze

Harry Pittuck: Year 10 1500m Bronze

Alex Hummel: Year 9 200m Bronze

Jack Lodge: Year 8 Shotput Silver

Amy Thorpe: Year 10 200m Gold

Louisa Keniger: Year 10 High jump Silver

Blake Brown: Year 8 800m Bronze

Amelia Bush: Year 8 Discus Silver

Ethan Pillinger: Year 9 Long jump Silver

Ellie Picton: Year 9 100m Gold

Amelia Higgs: Year 8 Javelin Gold

Amy Thorpe: Year 10 100m Gold

Scarlett Campbell: Year 8 800m Bronze

Jacob Basey: Year 8 Long Jump Bronze

Kvita Vorobei: Year 7 Long jump Silver

Mia Beer: Year 9 300m Bronze

Sylvia Dolphin-Tsang: Year 10 800m Bronze

Zico Manchec: Year 10 Discus Bronze / Shotput Gold



Last month, nine determined young ladies set out to represent Birchwood at rounders. Our Year 9 players were Edie Allen, Mia Lucas, Matilda Bryan, Violet Law, Jess Lane and Evie Rushton. Plus, a huge thank you to our three Year 8s, Willow Hyatt, Amelia Higgs and Kimberley Guthrie, who stepped up on the day to replace team members.

We had three tough games in the pool stage and struggled to score in the first two, losing 4 - 1 to SWCHS and 5 - 1 JFAN. We then found our rhythm and beat St Mary's 7.5 - 7.

We played some really good rounders at times and really showed our strengths in that final game.



Congratulations to our Year 8 Boy's Cricket Team who beat Joyce Frankland by 125 runs to 57. Well done boys!





# House

Dane Hadham Stort Waytemore



We celebrated student achievements at the annual Summer Reward Event on the field last week. This year's activity was an inflatable slip and slide. Head to our Facebook page to watch the video.



The House Captains presented Essex and Herts Air Ambulance with a cheque for £7807. The representative for the Air Ambulance was thrilled and said it was the biggest cheque they had ever received from a school.

## Our new team:

Head House Captains:  
Alex Curtis & Layla Ellis  
Deputy Head House Captains:  
Abigail Sear & Tabitha Hermit

### Hadham

Lola Linsell  
LayLa Ellis  
Joshua French  
Michael Stables  
Naomi Fuller-Lewis  
Jayda Lloyd Warren

### Dane

Ava Johns  
Jack King  
Tabitha Hermit  
Aaron Shaw

### Stort

Tessa Day  
Eva Hall  
Abigail Sear

### Waytemore

Oscar Fulk  
Luke Silvester  
Jamie Paramo  
Charlie Jones  
Mia Naughton  
Keira Picton  
Rosie May  
Leighton Bishop  
Alex Curtis  
Imogen Thorpe  
Rosie Pressland





# Student News...



Abigail Sear won Gold representing England at the World Dance Cup in Prague. What a fantastic achievement and honour to be asked to represent your country.



Ellie Picton became Herts County Champion and qualified for English Schools Championship.



Well Done to Fraser Wilke who rescued this little blackcap bird at the end of school. We think it was dazed from flying into a window.



Congratulations to Madeleine Gilbank who recently gave blood for the first time. 10 - 14 June celebrated National Blood Donors Week. The blood banks are in need of new donors so please consider taking part. Each donation could save up to 3 lives!

Plus you always get a biscuit once you're done...  
Anyone over 18 can give blood.



Chloe Jacobs represented Birchwood at this year's D Day commemoration.



Celebrating LGBT+ Pride month is an essential event within our school community at Birchwood.

The origins of Pride Month date back to a series of protests in 1969 and is a response to a violent police raid at the Stonewall gay club in New York City. The protests were widely considered a significant moment in promoting the rights and equality of LGBT+ people.

At Birchwood, alongside the usual educational Power Points shared with form groups, we marked Pride month this year by hosting guest speaker Ian Adams through the organisation Speakers for Schools. Ian is an internationally recognised LGBT+ role model and regular public speaker.

In his talk Ian spoke about the importance of diversity and inclusion within schools and wider society. Hearing about his work with the NHS and in Westminster, the challenges both professional and personal he has overcome as a gay man, was particularly inspiring.

The Fusion film event, 'Oriented' - a documentary following three Palestinian friends exploring their sexuality and national identity as they form a non-violent group to promote equality. All proceeds from the film event will go to The Albert Kennedy Trust - a charity founded to support LGBT+ young people who are homeless or living in a hostile environment.

Mr Harlow







### Why not follow us on Facebook?

We have a Facebook page where you can keep up to date with events and meetings. Please follow us at Birchwood Parents Staff and Friends Association (PSFA)

### Don't forget you can help us raise funds via TheGivingMachine

If you are a regular online shopper you can generate free donations to our school at no extra cost to you every time you shop via TheGivingMachine.

Please have a look online [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) and search for Birchwood High School.

## VOLUNTEERS

We would love to have some extra helpers if anyone would like to volunteer. This would involve two or three events each year and meetings once or twice per term. It is not a big commitment, we promise! Plus, we can confirm there will be cake...

We also have a vacancy for a Chairperson, if you'd like more information on this role please email us at: [birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com](mailto:birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com)



## BIRCHWOOD BONUS BALL

Congratulations to Vicky W our lucky winner of the June Bonus Ball. Vicky won £184.50!

The Bonus Ball is a great way to support the school, and at the same time be in with a chance of winning some cash every month! It is £3 per month per ball, payable either in one lump sum or monthly as a standing order. A draw takes place at the end of each month and the winner receives half of the money collected, the other half going towards PSFA funds.

Our bank details are:

Barclays Bank

Account Name: Birchwood PSFA

Account Number: 23298728

Sort Code: 20-25-19

Email [treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerbwpsfa@gmail.com) to let us know you've paid and how many balls you would like.

## SAVE THE DATES

Musical Bingo with Snow White Trash – Friday 18 October 2024, 7pm for a 7.30pm start in the Main Hall.

More details on events will be posted on our Facebook page nearer the time.

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PSFA

You can generate free donations to our school at no extra cost to you every time you online shop.

1. TheGivingMachine.

Please have a look online [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) and search for Birchwood High School.

2. We have registered with Stikins Name Labels. The school can earn up to 30% commission on all sales. Please visit [www.stikins.co.uk](http://www.stikins.co.uk) and quote our fundraising number 1955.

3. Birchwood High School are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! You can find our easyfundraising page at [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/birchwoodhigh/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_content=gs-email](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/birchwoodhigh/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email)

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us.



# ALUMNI NEWS



Two of our Alumni students, William Cole and William Davenport Jones, recently went to Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold DofE Awards. These were presented to them by the Duke of Edinburgh. Rory Cameron also received his award but was unable to attend the event. Congratulations to you all.

## Going for GOLD

Last week, 10 amazing (and brave) Y12 students went to the Brecon Beacons in Wales with Mr Loveday and Miss LaLonge to carry out their DofE Gold practice expedition. The weather was kind as it wasn't too hot or too cold, or, more importantly too wet! Students received training and guidance from qualified staff to enable them to navigate across varying terrain and elevation in and around the Hay-on-Wye region, finishing last Saturday near Abergavenny.

Throughout the week students worked to carry out their group aim and become self sufficient, including: cooking, navigating, route planning, tent pitching and carrying all their equipment.

They all did brilliantly and are now looking forward to their DofE Gold Assessment which will take place this September in Snowdonia.

Well done and congratulations so far!

Mr Loveday & Miss LaLonge







## A Week Is A Long Time In Politics...

...it has to be to fit in everything our Year 12 A Level Politics students squeezed in over the space of 7 days.

Thursday 4 July: General Election polling day and Birchwood Mock Election polling day, following several weeks of campaigning (see Sienna Potter's report).

Friday 5 July: General Election review; impromptu trip to Buckingham Palace and Downing Street to see Rishi Sunak depart and Keir Starmer arrive. Sienna Potter applied to attend, and was chosen to participate in the BBC Question Time Election Special in London – you see her in the front row on BBC iPlayer.

Monday 8 July - Wednesday 10 July: participating in Model United Nations of Cambridge (representing North Korea and China), proposing and debating resolutions with other Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire schools. Ethan Gillson-Hill was awarded Best Delegate in the Security Council.

Thursday 11 July: Amèlie Humberstone applied to attend, and was chosen to participate in, the BBC Question Time in Colchester – see her in the third row on BBC iPlayer.

As you can see, life as a Politics student at Birchwood has been busy! The students worked very hard to build an engaging Mock Election campaign and took a leading role in the logistics of the polling day. Their engagement in politics outside the classroom has been exciting to witness. Mr and Mrs Feather Levey

## Mock Election

This month, the A-Level Politics class took part in a mock election for all students and members of staff to vote in, the candidates were as followed:

- Ethan Gibson Hill for Liberal Democrat's Democrats
- Sienna Potter for the Green Party
- Amèlie Humberstone for the Labour Party
- Leighton Bishop for The Reform UK party
- Charley Kennerley for the Conservative Party

Campaigning began in June, where the candidates prepared posters which were placed around school, and created campaign videos that were sent to all forms. Further campaigning took place on the piazza when candidates decorated tables with flyers, spoke to students about policies, and answered questions. Voting took place on Thursday 4 July, students and members of staff could come into the library, register, receive a ballot paper and then make their way to the voting booths. Voting booths were created by Mrs Barnard and Mrs Feather Levey and Mr Levey helped to count the final votes.

*Sienna Potter, Year 12.*



# Sixth Form News

## Celebration of Year 13 with Alumni Student Jade Law

On Friday 28 June we celebrated our Year 13 students during their Achievement Awards Afternoon. We were also really pleased to invite back Alumni student, Jade Law who graduated from Birchwood in the summer of 2019. She gave a very inspirational speech about her journey since her time in the Sixth Form and her words really captured the mood, thoughts and realisation of what is coming next for our Year 13's. It really was a lovely occasion, where we got to acknowledge a group of students that gave so much back to the Birchwood Community during their time in the sixth form and they will be really missed by both the staff and student body.

Mr I Torrance, *Head of Sixth Form*



## Year 12 Work Experience

It's not every day that a Year 12 student going into work experience finds themselves face to face with a mummified cat from the 16th century. However, when you apply for a placement at Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers in Stansted, that is only a taster of one of the many exciting opportunities you have ahead of you.

Myself and another pupil were given the luxury of experiencing a range of separate roles that entering the workforce could offer us, including marketing, photography, admin, and finance. This helped us to weigh up our likes and dislikes in certain areas so that we could make more informed decisions about our future careers.

However, the part that my peer and I were most surprised by was the sheer excitement of the placement. We got to experience live auctions from bidders all around the world, which helped give us an insight into the

value of money and what it means for different people. My favourite part was organising the 'out of the ordinary' department in the auction house, through which I was faced with a range of peculiar objects such as taxidermized baboon heads and 20th century autopsy headrests.

Despite the astute organisation and formality of the company, it is worth noting that I have never entered a working environment that has been more welcoming and enthusiastic than Sworders. The staff can be described as nothing less than genuinely kind-hearted, going out of their way to include you in the fun side of their work and offer you hospitality throughout your brief time there. It has been a truly wonderful week.

Amelie Humberstone, *Year 12*





# Student of the Month

Congratulations to all the students who received their Student of the Month awards.  
Only 10 of these badges and certificates are awarded from each faculty in the whole year - well done!



Charlie Thornewill  
*Art*

Jakes Shimenga  
*IT/Computer Science*

Eliza Pope  
*PE*

Mason Lynch  
*Business*

Eva MacFie  
*French*

Rodrigo Bernardo  
*Performer*

Daisy Rae Kirkham  
*Chef*

Molly Range  
*German*

Evie Bateman  
*PLC*

Gracie Ellis  
*Dance*

Edgar Boyce  
*Spanish*

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*RS*

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*Film*

Max Cowler  
*Linguist*

Daniel Gair  
*Scientist*

Saskia Hawkes  
*Geography*

Aiden Lucas  
*Maths*

Charley Kennerley  
*Social Science*

Amelia Coulson  
*History*

Charlie Thornewill  
*Media*

Amy Thorpe  
*Statistician*

Stanley Curran-Willmott  
*Musician*

Ashton Wanjiku  
*Technology*



# William Gilbank takes centre stage in Ireland

After a month sitting A Level examinations, Birchwood High School Student, William Gilbank, found the perfect way to relax by winning Stage 1 of the prestigious Quanta Capital Junior Tour of Ireland. The 570 kilometres race was raced over six stages and took place between the 9-14 July in the stunning surrounds of Ennis, County Clare.

The race originated in 1978 and has been a platform for up and coming juniors from Ireland and Overseas for forty years, with previous winners including current World Tour Professionals, Luke Rowe, Sam Bennett and Eddie Dunbar.

The first stage of the 2024 tour was on relatively flat roads and Gilbank took the line with 113 riders. The Lee Valley Team of 5 riders managed the bunch expertly and with 3km to go of the 76km race, they were able to keep William out of the wind, creating a train of riders they moved him up the field leaving him with his trusted companion, Ethan Storti to lead him out and drop him off with 500 m to go, leaving William to power to victory and take the Green Jersey for the Points, Blue Jersey for the Stage win and Yellow Jersey of the Race Leader.

'The sense of elation was enormous' said William, 'I had been working so hard and not able to race because of exams, so have the chance to race with freedom and to take this win is such a release, it's just brilliant, the boys were amazing in protecting me so I just had to finish the job!'

The following five stages were much more mountainous so William only spent one day in the leader's jersey but was able to return to the front of the race for Stage 4 which saw another sprint stage and Gilbank return 7th after a big bunch finish. The team had a successful week with a final 3rd in the Team Classification. Gilbank now returns to the UK to defend his National Series win when he races the Bath Road Club race in Cottesloe.

William Gilbank is kindly supported by Matt's Auto Repair Services, Saffron Walden Round Table, TLC Live, Pedal Potential, Highway Cycles, Knight Frank, Dunmow Rotary Club. For more information on how to support William, visit <https://gilbankracing.com/> or email [gilbankracing@gmail.com](mailto:gilbankracing@gmail.com).

Further Details: Charles Gilbank

Mobile: 07505 852810

William is riding at the Olympic Velodrome 25, 26 and 27 October in the London 3 Day If anyone would like to go and support him see below:

When booking tickets for any evening sessions at the London 3 Day, use the code WGJAP for 5% off. As well as supporting Will you will be able to see James Ambrose-Parish racing against Yuri Havik, Jan Willem Van Schip, and Mark Cavendish.





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