

THE BIRCHWOOD NEWS

APRIL 2025



INTRODUCING THE BIRCHWOOD FACULTY AWARDS

This special event sees parents join us to celebrate a small number of students in each year for their exceptional attitude, contributions, and achievements. This term, the awards were subject-focused, with faculties nominating students who have excelled academically or demonstrated significant improvement in their studies.





HOUSE



This year our nominated house charity is the ARC, a local animal rescue charity. So far this year, we have raised: £3509.45

HOUSE POINT TOTALS

Keep working hard to earn points for your house!

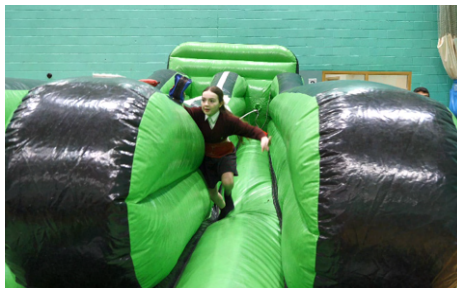
1st Place - Waytemore 28,837

3rd Place - Hadham 27,966

2nd Place - Dane 28,173

4th Place - Stort 25,420

HOUSE REWARD EVENT



This week, we held a special event to recognise and celebrate students who have achieved a place in the top 20% of their year group for net house points this term.

To celebrate their success, students enjoyed a reward event filled with a variety of inflatable fun activities, giving them a chance to relax and have fun with friends in recognition of their efforts.

House points at Birchwood are awarded for a wide range of achievements across academic, extracurricular, and pastoral areas. These points reflect our core Birchwood student values: effort, progress, mastery, contribution, and kindness.

PE TEAMS

Congratulations to all those students who have represented Birchwood High School this term! We've had some incredible results, including runners up at the District competition and a 10-0 victory over Hockerill.

FOOTBALL FOCUS



Year 7 Girls District Football Team



Year 10 District Football Team



Year 8 District Football Team



Year 7 Boys Football Team

NETBALL NEWS



Year 9 Netball Team



Year 8 Netball Team



Year 7 Netball Team

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

A huge well done to everyone who took part in our Young Musician of the Year competition – the standard of performances was truly outstanding! A special thank you to Mr Grogan and Mr Stock for organising such a fantastic event, and to our guest judge, Samuel Smith, for his time and expertise.

Our winners:

Junior Piano – Amelia Bush (*Sunsets in Savannah* – Randall Harsell)

Pop & Rock – Kvita Vorobei (*Mama Knows Best* – Jessie J)

Classical – Kieren Mok (*Nocturne in E-flat* – Chopin)

Musical Theatre – Max Wildman-King (*Mr Cellophane* – Chicago)



SCIENCE WEEK: BIG BANG COMPETITION



During Science Week, students from the Birchwood Science Club took the fantastic practical projects they had worked so hard on to the annual Big Bang Fair at the Herts and Essex Sports Centre.

Competition was tough this year, but Catastrophic Catapults won the award for Most Interactive Display. Science Club members are very proud of their achievement and are already planning their projects for next year's Big Bang Fair.

Miss Lalonge, Science



YEAR 10 BUSINESS PRESENTATIONS

Well done to our Year 10 Business students for the excellent effort they put into their recent business presentations. Each group demonstrated creativity, clear planning, and confident delivery, showcasing the skills they've developed throughout the course.

A special mention goes to Evie Rushton for her outstanding pitch, which included an impressive selection of beautifully presented baked goods.

Mrs Dervish, Business



EDGE TREE PLANTING

During recent meetings our environmental group, EDGE, have been discussing how to improve our school environment. It became clear that students were keen to develop more green areas. We have made this a priority this year and placed an order from the Woodland Trust for 60 trees, which arrived last week. This pack was made up of a mixture of trees to generate a copse and a hedgerow for our school, including silver birch (of course).

The group held a workshop to transfer these tiny sapling trees into pots until they are ready to be planted next to the Year 8 hard court. Once this group of trees are established, we are hoping to expand and plant more on our school site in the years to come!



'MOVE IT'



A group of Year 9, 10 and 12 Dance Students attended 'Move It', a Dance exhibition at the Excel Centre in London. The students had a thoroughly enjoyable day watching performances from Dance Colleges and Universities, celebrity spotting, looking around stalls and attending a variety of dance workshops. They all got a brilliant goody bag at the end too!

BIRCHWOOD BROADCASTING CORRESPONDENTS

What have our budding Birchwood journalists been researching this term?

THANK YOU!

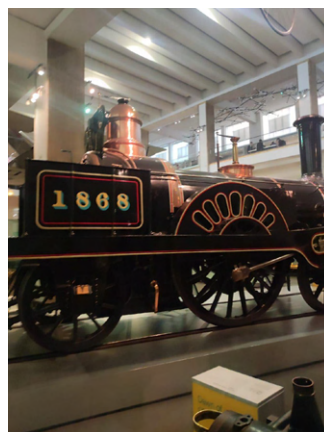
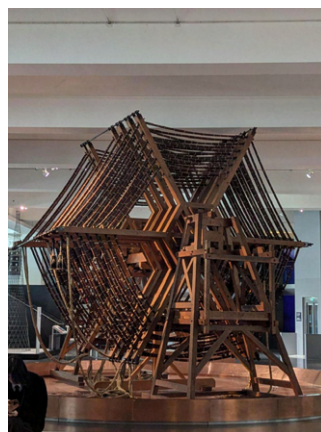
A massive thank you to all the parents who donated trainers in response to our BBC Reporter's charity initiative! We've had an amazing response, and thanks to your generosity, we've sent a fantastic number of shoes to Kenya, where they'll be put to great use.



SCIENCE MUSEUM TRIP FOR SCIENCE WEEK

On Wednesday 25 March as part of Science week, half of year 9 went to the Science Museum in London – the other half went on Tuesday. It was a chance to experience science outside of the classroom. We left at 9am and got there 2 hours later. We spent some time in groups of our choice, exploring the museum. We saw an impressive display of war planes and got to interact with some screens. They showed us what it would be like, the skills required and the responsibilities of being a technician in many areas of science. After that, it was time to go to the shop and, eventually, back to the coaches.

Daniel Anderson



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SHROVE TUESDAY?

We traditionally celebrate Shrove Tuesday by eating pancakes/ crêpes but Christians traditionally visit their church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and clean their soul, thus being shriven (absolved) before the start of lent.

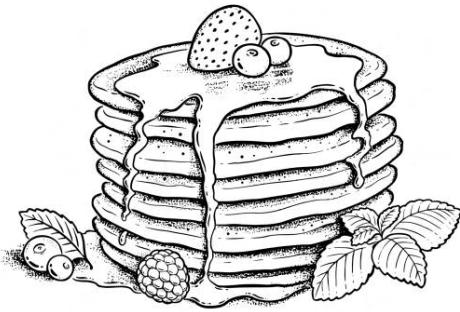
Here's a crêpe recipe if you want to try it out! (Makes 12-14)

- 4 oz plain flour (110g)
- A pinch of salt
- 2 large eggs
- 7 fl oz milk (200 ml) mixed with 3 fl oz water (75 ml)
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- A little extra butter for melting the crêpes/ pancakes

First, sift the flour and salt into a large mixing bowl, holding the sieve up high to give the flour an airing. Then make a well in the centre of the flour and break the eggs into it. Now, start to whisk the eggs (with an electric or any sort of whisk, or even a fork), beginning to incorporate bits of flour from around the edges as you do so. Then, start to add small quantities of the milk-and-water mixture gradually - and ignore any lumps because they'll eventually disappear as the whisk gets to them.

When all the milk and water has been added, slide a rubber spatula around the edge of the bowl to bring any elusive bits of flour into the centre of things. Then whisk once more till the batter is smooth and the consistency of thin cream.

When you're ready to cook the pancakes, add the 2 tablespoons of melted butter to the batter and stir it in. Then melt about a teaspoon of butter in the pan and swirl it all round to get the whole of the pan thoroughly lubricated. Now tip the excess butter onto a saucer (remember that the pan needs to be coated with butter but the pancakes should not be cooked in fat).



Next get the pan really hot, then turn the heat down to medium, and to start with do a test pancake to determine whether or not you're using the correct amount of batter. I find 2 tablespoons about right.

As soon as the batter hits the hot pan, tip it around from side to side to get the base evenly coated with batter. It should take only half a minute or so to cook: you can lift the edge with a palette knife to see if it's tinged gold as it should be. Flip over and cook the other side briefly the serve.

Amelie Watson

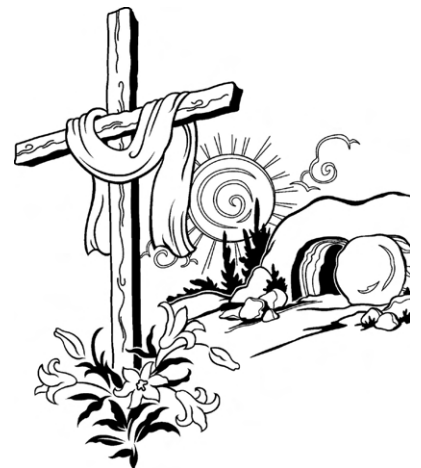
WHY DO WE CELEBRATE EASTER?

Easter is a worldwide celebration but why is it so important to Christians? Easter commemorates Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection: when he died on the cross on Good Friday, was buried on Saturday and came back to life on Easter Sunday!

The reason we eat chocolate eggs at Easter is because long ago people would exchange eggs as signs of rebirth, just like how Jesus came back to life after dying on the cross.

Hot cross buns are traditionally eaten at Easter, specifically on Good Friday, to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus, with the cross on the bun representing the cross on which he died and the spices symbolising those used to embalm him.

Fletcher Fegan



TALES FROM THE LIBRARY

From exciting quizzes and creative competitions to the latest updates and recommendations from our librarian, Miss Shackleton, there's always something happening between the shelves. Keep an eye out for ways to get involved!

POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS



The theme for our first poetry competition was “Journeys” – anything from a trip to school, an adventure to space, or even a personal journey of growth.

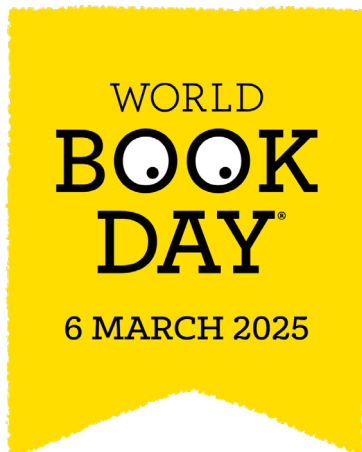
The standard of entries was incredibly high, with every poem showing real effort, creativity, and thought. A huge well done to everyone who took part!

1st Place: Emilie Klumpler (Year 8)

2nd Place: Kiki Fadero (Year 9)

3rd Place: Freddy Key (Year 7)

WORLD BOOK DAY QUIZ



To celebrate World Book Day, Miss Shackleton hosted a book-themed quiz. Congratulations to the Sixth form team who came first. Closely followed by the Year 7 teams who took second and third place.

LIBRARY REWARDS CARDS

Library Reward Cards are now available to collect from the Library. Each time you finish a book, return it to the Library, get your card stamped and receive 5 House Points per book. When you have completed your reward card (six books), you will receive a prize.

Congratulations to Scarlett Gotham for being the first student in the school to complete her Reading Reward card.



SHORT STORY COMPETITION



This Easter holiday, let their imagination run wild! We want students to write a short story inspired by a small red velvet box mysteriously left on the doorstep... with their name on it.

What's inside?

Where could it lead them?

Let the box spark an unforgettable adventure!

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Entries should be handed in to Miss Shackleton in the Library. We can't wait to read your stories!

READING CLOUD IS AVAILABLE HERE!

Reading Cloud is the system we use to keep track of our library books and resources and make them available for you to borrow, reserve and review.

Each of you has your own individual login details.

To login go to:

<https://u006973.mircolibrarian.net> and enter your unique barcode

(this will be supplied by

Miss Shackleton, Librarian the first time you need to login in).



You can also login via the library page on the school website or via one of the dedicated iPads in the Library.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

SIXTH FORM ANNUAL SKI TRIP

The Sixth Form recently enjoyed a fun-filled week of skiing in the stunning Austrian Alps. From snowy slopes and ski lessons to evening activities and time spent with friends, the trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to challenge themselves, build confidence, and make lasting memories.

A huge thank you to the staff who supported the trip and helped ensure everything ran smoothly, and to our students for their enthusiasm, excellent behaviour, and for making it such a positive and memorable experience for everyone involved.

Mr Torrance, Head of Sixth Form





BUSINESS UPDATES



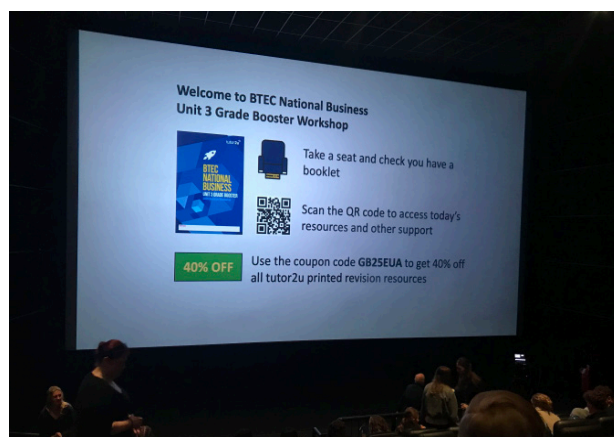
Year 12 Business students attended a workshop at Vue Cinema in Westfield Stratford. They focused on Unit 3, Personal and Business Finance. During the session, they engaged in a variety of revision activities, exam techniques and learning effective strategies for approaching exam questions. It was a very informative day.

Sit back, relax and revise!



DJ Digital Pocahontas recently visited Birchwood to deliver an engaging and inspiring presentation to our Year 12 and 13 Business students. She spoke about her journey in the music industry, her experiences as a professional DJ, and what it takes to build a successful brand and career in a competitive, creative field.

As a generous follow-up, DJ Digital Pocahontas is offering 50% off DJ lessons exclusively for Birchwood students.



CAR MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP



Mr Osborne took a group of Sixth Form students through some essential car maintenance skills, including checking the oil and changing a tyre.

A great opportunity for students to learn useful, hands-on skills that will come in handy for the future!

DAVID DEIN VISITS BIRCHWOOD



We were delighted to welcome David Dein MBE – former Vice Chairman of Arsenal and the FA – to speak with our Sixth Form students.

He shared fascinating stories from his career in football, alongside practical and inspiring advice on topics such as approaching job interviews and building a successful future.

A huge thank you to Mr Dein for giving up his time and for delivering such a valuable and memorable session.



NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM TRIP

Mrs Pressland took our Year 12 Environmental Science students to visit the Natural History Museum in Tring as part of their studies on conservation and biodiversity.

The trip provided a valuable opportunity for students to explore real-world examples of species diversity, conservation strategies, and the challenges facing ecosystems today. It was a fascinating and informative day that helped bring key areas of their course to life.



ALUMNI NEWS

Welcome to our Alumni Spotlight – a space to celebrate and share the exciting journeys our former students have taken since leaving Birchwood. From university achievements to career milestones and creative pursuits, we're proud to highlight the many paths our alumni are following.

NAVIGATING LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

After university, many people feel uncertain about their next steps I certainly did. I found myself trying to grab every opportunity I could, just in case the right one came along. That's when I heard about Advertising Unlocked from my Careers Leader, Mrs Crimes, at my old secondary school, Birchwood High School. Mrs Crimes knew this would be a valuable workshop for me to attend, so I went along with the Year 12 students at the time.

A life-changing opportunity

In November 2024, Bicycle London hosted the IPA Advertising Unlocked event at their agency. The event started with a deep dive into strategy, followed by an introduction to the different media types the agency works with. Later, they spoke about career opportunities, and this was my moment to take a chance. The agency immediately felt like the perfect place for me — the energy was vibrant, and everyone was so welcoming. I asked if there were any job opportunities available, and they provided me with the right contacts to reach out to.



From workshop to workplace

Fast forward to now, and I am now a Search Executive at Bicycle London! I can't thank Advertising Unlocked enough for the opportunity. I'm truly grateful to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to inspire young people like me. It was a chance to ask questions, seek advice, and learn in an environment that was both welcoming and motivating. I'm incredibly thankful for the opportunity to attend and can wholeheartedly say it set me on the path to my current role.

Looking back and moving forward

Looking back, I never would have imagined that a school event could open such doors for me. It's a reminder of how important it is to embrace every opportunity and take chances when they arise. This experience has not only deepened my passion for the industry but also fuelled my excitement for the future. I'm looking forward to continuing my journey in advertising, learning more, and growing within this amazing, dynamic world of opportunities.

Poppy Pressland, Search Executive, Bicycle

CYCLING SUCCESS FOR WILL GILBANK



Now studying Mathematics at Loughborough University, Birchwood alumni, William Gilbank backed up his recent National Scratch race bronze medal with a stunning Gold in the Team Pursuit at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Track Championships in Derby over the weekend of 1-2 March.

Will, representing Loughborough University, joined forces with teammates Kieran Riley, Bo Mayer, and Josh Knowles to deliver an outstanding performance. The quartet posted a time of 4:17 in qualifying, securing their place in the Gold medal final against rivals Nottingham. In the final, the Loughborough team ramped up the pace, setting a new BUCS record of 4:10.47, 57.49 km/h, over the 4km distance, securing the championship title in dominant fashion.

Earlier in the day, he also showcased his versatility by taking Silver in the Elimination Race. Reflecting on his performance, Will commented, "The Elimination was a bit of fun, if not a bit dangerous at times! However, the Team Pursuit was the prize we had come for. To come away with Gold and the record is amazing."

Will receives support from Matt's Auto Repairs, TLC Live Online School, and Highway Cycles, helping him continue his progress at the elite level of British cycling.



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)



PRELOVED UNIFORM

If you are replacing items of branded school uniform and the old items are still in good condition, please consider donating good condition items of preloved uniform to the PSFA. Please drop off washed clean items of uniform to Reception.

HELP NEEDED!

Do you have an hour a week to help with our pre-loved uniform? This could be during the day (DBS check needed) or after school, helping with sorting and hanging up donations and dealing with enquiries (e.g. finding sizes and bagging up orders) Please contact birchwoodpsfa@gmail.com if you can help.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Birchwood with easy fundraising? There are over 8,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/birchwood-parents-staff-and-friends-association/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Birchwood at no extra cost to you whatsoever! There are no catches or hidden charges and Birchwood will be really grateful for your donations.



QUIZ NIGHT

Thanks to all who came to our quiz on Friday! We had a fab time and raised £971!

Thank you to Simon and Dave for hosting free of charge, with another great selection of questions and frivolity.

And thank you to our sponsors, Reyland Johnson, and other raffle prize donors The Hair Boutique, Beauty Focus, Nichola's Bakehouse, Cammas Hall, Archers Tearoom and many more.



2025/26 TERM DATES

Birdwood High School Calendar

2025 - 2026

Sep 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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29	30					

Oct 2025						
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Nov 2025						
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Dec 2025						
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29	30	31				

Jan 2026						
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Feb 2026						
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Mar 2026						
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30	31					

Apr 2026						
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May 2026						
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31						

Jun 2026						
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29	30					

Jul 2026						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

CPD Days – school closed to students
Student holidays & occasional days
Bank & public holidays
School Open to Yr 7 & 12 only
Open Evening
Year 6 Transition Day

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL

Tuesday 22 March: First Day of the Summer Term
 Tuesday 29 March: Year 9 Options Evening

MAY

Friday 2 May: Year 13 Leavers Assembly
 Wednesday 7 May: Year 11 Leavers Assembly
 Tuesday 13 May: Year 7 Parents Evening
 Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May: DofE Bronze Expedition
 Thursday 15 May: Year 8 River Rib trip
 Friday 16 May: PE Team Photos

 CAMPEXCEL

 CLUBEXCELCAMP

FOR
CHILDREN
AGED 3-13
YEARS

Club EXCEL

Multi Activity Camps
BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



THE ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMP
NEW CUSTOMERS GET 20% OFF
BOOKINGS AT BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL!

20% OFF CODE: NBIR20

Please Note: Offer only available to new customers & bookings at our Birchwood venue. Code valid till 31/12/25


Approved by Ofsted

01923 469475

WWW.CLUBEXCEL.CO.UK
INFO@CLUBEXCEL.CO.UK



Want to Improve your football... Play Futsal!

Bishop's Stortford Futsal Club (BSFC) run sessions for boys & girls between the ages of u8 to u18 @ Birchwood School Sports Hall every Monday & Wednesday night. We play in the Essex Youth Futsal League and play many Futsal tournaments throughout the year.

We are always looking for new players, so if there are any boys or girls who want to play Futsal or just want to supplement their football development then contact us on the following to book in for a session -

Tel: 07899905117

E: bsfutsal@hotmail.com

X: @FutsalFor

Facebook: @futsalforfun7

FA Futsal & Football Qualified Coaches



LEARN TO DANCE

WITH

OPENING NIGHT - THURSDAY 29TH MAY 2025

CEROC[®]

BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parsonage Lane,
Bishop's Stortford

THURSDAYS

Beginner Class 7:30pm
Dancing to 10:30pm

Is it easy to learn?

We promise its super easy to learn

Do I need to bring a partner?

No. We rotate dance partners in the class.

What shall I wear?

Comfortable, casual clothes, but avoid
rubber soled shoes.

Do I need to book?

No, just turn up, this is not a course.

How much does it cost?

£10 for the whole evening including two
classes and over an hour of dancing.

Is there a membership fee?

Yes but it's just £3 for lifetime membership!

WWW.CEROC.COM

07789 333227 KIERAN@CEROC.COM