



|                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <a href="#">YEAR 7</a>  | <a href="#">YEAR 11</a>    |
| <a href="#">YEAR 8</a>  | <a href="#">SIXTH FORM</a> |
| <a href="#">YEAR 9</a>  | <a href="#">VACANCIES</a>  |
| <a href="#">YEAR 10</a> |                            |

## WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

### **1. Charity Day Reminder – Thursday 13 February**

Our next Charity Day will take place on Thursday 13 February 2025. This will raise money for the Animal Rescue Centre in Bishop's Stortford, which is our chosen school charity for this year.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A NON-UNIFORM DAY

#### **Option 1 – Valentines day themed sweet cones £2.00.**

Deadline for pre-order is **Friday 31st January 2025.**

#### **Option 2 – Chocolate Raffle - £1.00 for 5 tickets.**

The deadline for pre-order is **Friday 31st January 2025.**

### **2. Photography Competition**

Enter our Winter Scenic Photography competition. All entries should be sent to Mrs Collyer by Friday 7 February. [Full details can be found here.](#)

### **3. Reminder: Return Borrowed Library Books**

We kindly request all students to return any books borrowed from the school library. Borrowed books can be identified by the Birchwood barcode on the first page.

There will be no repercussions for overdue returns. In fact, to encourage the return of all books, a sweet will be given for each book returned.

Your cooperation ensures that our library remains well-stocked and accessible for all.

#### **4. Attendance Tips**

Thank you to everyone who has been using the **Arbor app** to report absences. We appreciate your support in adopting this new process.

[Here are some top tips to help support your child's attendance.](#)

#### **5. Careers Notices**

##### **Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair**

Sign-Up for The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair and Find out About T Levels, Courses and Apprenticeships from Colleges, Training Providers and Employers.

Taking place on Wednesday 29th January from 17.30 - 19.00, this free of charge event is specifically for parents, carers and students who would like to explore apprenticeship and T Level options available.

The HOP into Apprenticeships and T Levels Virtual Careers Fair is in its third year and has been a successful way for employers and training providers to showcase apprenticeship and T Level opportunities to hundreds of parents, carers and students across Hertfordshire.

The event is a collaboration between Hertfordshire Careers Hub, Amazing Apprenticeships, Hertfordshire Employers and the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Provider Network.

Last year's event had 600 parents sign up and over 30 employers and providers.

[Register here.](#)

##### **Warner Brothers Apprenticeship Webinar**

Join this webinar to learn more about Apprenticeships in the entertainment industry and the benefits of choosing this pathway as an alternative to university.

You will also hear from some of our incredible apprentices on their decision to go down the apprenticeship route, what they do in their day to day and how they have found entering the world of work.

When: Feb 11, 2025 06:00 PM

[Sign Up Here.](#)

#### **6. Co-Curriculum Reminder**

Our Co-Curriculum (linked below) is filled with activities and ideas chosen by each of our subject departments to help you get inspired. These activities will give you lots of different ways to explore topics and learn more about the things you enjoy. You'll find suggestions for things to Watch, Listen,

Read, Go, and Do—and they're designed to be interesting and challenging, so you'll always have something new to try!

[Discover more.](#)

## **7. Weekly Safeguarding Tip:**

Online Safety

1. Talk regularly with your child about their online activity, including social media, games, and apps. Remind them not to share personal information with strangers online.
2. Enable parental controls and monitor your child's use of devices to ensure they are accessing age-appropriate content.
3. Be aware of the latest apps and online trends your child may be using and teach them to report anything that makes them uncomfortable.

## **8. Fitness Club**

Fitness club has started again on Mondays after school until 4pm. A sign-up sheet will be up on the PE office window every Thursday ready for the following Monday, so please encourage students to sign up each week as it is first come, first served with a max of 20 students each week.

## **9. Young Musicians Of The Year**

We are very excited to announce that the first round of Birchwood's Young Musician competition is coming up. The categories students can enter are Pop, Musical Theatre, Classical and Junior Piano (years 7,8 and 9) - with the overall winners being decided by judges in the live final.

To enter the competition students should send a video recording of themselves performing their favourite piece to Mr Grogan – [mgrogan@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:mgrogan@birchwoodhigh.org.uk). All styles and genres of music are welcome but please state which category you'd like to enter. Videos can be uploaded to the student's school Office 365 OneDrive and a link sent via email or Teams. Please note that recordings should be made in a communal space e.g. living room.

Please send entries to Mr Grogan, by email or Teams, by 5pm Tuesday 11 February. The finalists will be announced on Thursday 13 February for the live final taking place at 7pm in the School Hall on Thursday 27 February. There will be prizes up for grabs, and a guest judge to award the winners, we look forward to getting your entries.

## 10. Parent Feedback: Primary to Birchwood Transition

We are seeking parent feedback on the transition process your child experienced when moving from primary school to Birchwood. Your insights are invaluable as we continually review and improve our transition process.

We understand this transition may have taken place a few years ago for some families, but we would still greatly appreciate your reflections.

Please take a few moments to complete the feedback form here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/bNM4EZ20Rr>

Thank you for your time and support in helping us make this process even better for future students.

### YEAR 7

N/A

### YEAR 8

#### **Update from Mrs Hinski**

Year 8 have returned much calmer, and we look forward to moving forward together. It has been great to welcome some new members of staff to our community, but unfortunately there are still some instances where your child is being taught by a supply teacher. This is not solely a Year 8 issue, but please may you talk to your child about respecting these professionals.

It is a shame the football fixture was cancelled due to the extreme weather, but I look forward to supporting our Year 8 teams in the forthcoming weeks.

#### **Year 8 Parents Evening**

Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 4 February from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. These meetings will be booked online and held in-person at the school.

The online booking system will open at 7.00pm on Tuesday 28 January and close at 10:00am on Tuesday 4 February. A link to the booking system and a reminder of how to log in will be emailed to you ahead of the booking system going live.

## YEAR 9

### **Vaccinations – 26 February 2025**

In line with the National Immunisation Programme, the Community School Aged Immunisation Service offers Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and Meningococcal ACWY vaccinations to all pupils in Year 9.

The immunisation session is due to take place on **Wednesday 26 February 2025**. Every child in Year 9 will have the opportunity for immunisation on the day and all students will see the nurse who will confirm consent, students without consent will be sent back to lessons.

**[Please read this letter for further details and ensure you complete the Immunisation Form linked within, as requested.](#)**

The electronic link to accept or decline this vaccination is open until **12pm on Wednesday 26 February 2025**. If any parents have difficulty accessing the online consent form, please contact the Immunisation Team on **01727 732062**. If you do not wish for your child to have the immunisation you need to sign in the **'No consent'** box.

**Please note 'No response' is not 'No consent'.**

## YEAR 10

### **English Speaking Exam**

Reminder for all Year 10 students that their English Spoken Language Assessments are taking place this week. During this time, they will need to leave their lessons for a maximum of 15 minutes to deliver their speeches.

## YEAR 11

### **Parents' Evening – Tuesday 21 January**

Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 21 January from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. These meetings will be booked online and held in-person at the school.

Thank you to everyone who has booked appointments so far. If you have any questions, please contact [ekimberley@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:ekimberley@birchwoodhigh.org.uk).

This is your final chance to meet with your child's teachers before their GCSE exams. It is an important evening for you to attend and discuss how your child can meet their full potential.

We are expecting a high volume of cars on the evening so if you are unable to find a space in the main car park at the front of the school, the overflow car park will be available. You can access this by turning right out of the main car park and then taking the first right by the Caretaker's Lodge. Please then follow the signs directing you to park on the hardcourts. On arrival, please head to the library where you can sign in and view the list of classrooms detailing where teachers will be based for the evening.

### **Year 11 School Photographs – Monday 27 January**

Year 11 students will have their updated school photographs taken on **Monday, 27 January** to ensure our records are up to date. These photographs will also be available for parents to purchase. Each student will have an individual photograph taken, along with a form group photograph.

We understand there is a rock-climbing trip scheduled for the same day. Students attending the trip will have their photos taken during form time before leaving.

### **IMPORTANT: Pre-Registration Required**

Parents must pre-register online to access photographs as soon as they are ready:

1. Visit [www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk](http://www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk).
2. Enter your unique code: **JRPJBKAXF5**.
3. Provide your child's full name as it appears on the school system.

Please complete pre-registration as soon as possible. If you have any questions, contact the school office.

### **Sixth Form Applications – Upcoming Guidance Meetings**

All internal students who have applied to Birchwood High School Sixth Form should now have received an invitation to their guidance meeting. These invitations have been sent to students' school email addresses.

Guidance meetings will take place during school hours, and students must respond to their invitations to confirm attendance.

### **Prom Payment and Information**

Each year, Prom is kindly organised by parents of current Year 11 students and this year Alice Kidd is organising the Birchwood Prom 2025 with Gemma Hughes.

It will be held on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025, from 7pm until 11:30pm** at Parklands, Quendon Hall, which has previously been used for Birchwood Proms.

Please note: Students will need to make their own way to and from the venue.

The date has been decided by considering the school & exam calendars; while we hope this date suits all, we know we may not be able to please everyone.

Tickets cost £60 per person and are **strictly for Birchwood students only**. The prom is an inclusive event so there are no other costs involved on the evening.

Included in the price of the ticket is:

- Food (burgers, hotdogs, chips etc)
- Soft drinks, candy floss, popcorn & sweets
- A Photo Booth, of course a DJ and a few other surprises

Please make payment as soon as possible – and no later than Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Account Name: Alice Kidd (use full name – do not shorten or use initials)

Sort Code: 20-36-98

Account number: 53423395

**Please use your child's name as reference**

We hope that all students feel comfortable in attending. Please let us know if we can do anything to help accommodate everyone. If you would like to contact me (Alice) please call on 07800 510232 or message directly for any questions. Alternatively, you can email Mrs Julie Gair at school [jgair@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:jgair@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) who will contact Alice and Gemma on your behalf.

Kind Regards,

Alice and Gemma

*On behalf of Birchwood High School*

### **Year 11 – Hoodie Purchase (DEADLINE Friday 31 January 2025)**

Thank you for all your responses regarding the design of the Leavers Hoodies. The company have made up the design and it has been checked against the information provided.

At this point I am afraid no further names can be added to the '25' on the reverse.

Please follow this link to purchase a hoodie for your child.

<https://www.leavershoodies.com/birchwood-high-school-2025-leavers>

NOTE: It is not compulsory for them to have one.

There are a range of colours to choose from and you have the option of including their name/nickname across the shoulders and their initials on the front. Please ensure you check spelling, sizes, and colours before completing your order.

**The shop closes on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January after which time you WILL NOT be able to purchase a hoodie.**

You will be ordering directly through the company – not via the school or Parent Pay so any queries will need to be directed to Annie [annie@leavershoodies.com](mailto:annie@leavershoodies.com) 01273 041871.

Hoodies will be delivered to the school on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February and handed out during the Year 11 Leavers morning in May.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Gair [jgair@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:jgair@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) and she will be happy to help.

## SIXTH FORM

### **Year 12 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 11 February**

Year 12 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 11 February from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. These meetings will be booked online and held in-person at the school.

The online booking system will open at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4 February and close at 10:00am on Tuesday 11 February. A link to the booking system and a reminder of how to log in will be emailed to you ahead of the booking system going live.

## VACANCIES

### **Caretaker**


We are seeking to appoint, for January 2025, an experienced Caretaker to join our site team and be responsible for ensuring the school grounds and buildings are clean and well maintained as a safe and healthy environment for all users of the school premises. You will make a significant contribution to the maintenance of the buildings, fixtures and fittings.

More details can be found on [My New Term](#).





# WINTER SCENIC PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Please send entries to   
[acollyer@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:acollyer@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)  
or on Teams.

Deadline to enter is Friday 7th  
February