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WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

1. **Notice of Early Closure – Friday 4 April**

Please be aware that the school will close early for students at 1:25pm on the last day of the Spring Term, Friday 4 April.

Please complete the following form regarding the early finish: <https://forms.office.com/e/NxvVUesxTa>

You will need to complete a separate form for each child attending the school.

If you do not complete the form by Monday 31 March, and have not informed us to the contrary, we will assume that you give permission for your child to leave the school site at 1:25pm.

Details for students that use Anita's, ACME coaches or other organised transport will be confirmed shortly.

2. **Charity Day: Non-Uniform Day**

We have designated **Friday 4 April 2025** as our third Charity Day of the school year and plan to raise funds for the school's chosen charity which for this year is the Animal Rescue Centre in Bishop's Stortford.

The Charity Day will be supported by a student 'non-uniform' day, whereby, they can attend school wearing more casual clothes. As this is a charity event, they are expected to donate £1 minimum.

This money will need to be paid via Parent Pay, as we will not be taking any cash payments. The payment section is live on Parent Pay. Please contact jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk if you require your Parent pay login details.

Normal lessons will still take place throughout the day and students are expected to bring all books and equipment as required. Parents and students should bear in mind that the students' choice of 'own clothes' must still be sensible and in keeping with what is acceptable at school. Rules regarding make up, jewellery etc. will remain and the wearing of shorts, short skirts or revealing tops would be regarded as inappropriate.

We will also be selling Easter themed treats which are listed below.

- Option 1 – Easter Sweet Cones £2.00
- Option 2- Easter Sweet Kebab £2.00
- Option 3- Raffle ticket £1.00 for 5 tickets for the Easter Egg Raffle

Deadline for pre-order is **Friday 21st March 2025**

3. **Enrichment Week Update**

Further details and timetables for Enrichment Week will be emailed out this week.

- All payments for trips and events are non-refundable unless a replacement can be found.
- Good behaviour is essential – continued poor behaviour in school may result in removal from the trip without a refund.
- For any enquiries, please contact us at trips@birchwoodhigh.org.uk.

Payment must be made via ParentPay and received in full by Monday 31st March 2025. If payment is not received, we will presume your child is no longer attending.

4. **HAPpy Easter Camps – Free School Meal Students Only**

The HAPpy programme, part of the government-funded Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF), offers fully funded holiday activities for children and teenagers from Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals. SEND provision is also available.

The Easter programme runs from Monday 7th to Thursday 17th April 2025, with a variety of exciting activities on offer. Full details of venues and activities will be available when bookings open on Thursday 13th March at midday (12 noon).

Please make a note of this booking code: **6G9@UU**

[Follow this link on Thursday 13th March to book your child's place.](#)

To find out more about what to expect at HAPpy Camps, you can watch a short video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lnj64auf3AU>

5. **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.](#)

6. **Weekly Safeguarding Tips: Understanding Abuse**

Explain to your child the importance of saying no if they are uncomfortable and that secrets about inappropriate touching should never be kept.

Teach them that no one has the right to make them feel scared or hurt, and they should tell someone if this happens.

7. Careers Notices:

Career Champion Scheme for students

In celebration of National Careers Week, we are launching a Career Champion Scheme for students throughout the school. The aim of the scheme is to give a stronger voice to our students in shaping our Careers Programme. Students will be told about the scheme in assemblies this week and if they are interested in getting involved, they are invited to come along to a meeting in the Sixth Form (upstairs) during Form Time on Friday.

Hertfordshire Parent/Carer Apprenticeships Survey

There is still time to complete the annual Hertfordshire Parent/Carer Apprenticeships and Technical Education Pathways Survey if you have not already done so.

In partnership with our local Careers Hub our school is participating in the annual Hertfordshire Parent/Carer Apprenticeships and Technical Education Pathways Survey. It doesn't matter whether you have strong views or have little knowledge of apprenticeships to be able to complete this survey. Some of you may have completed previous years surveys – some questions have been added or slightly amended since last year.

The survey link is provided here - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/birchwood-high-school-parents-25>

All completed surveys are completely anonymous, and responses will be collated directly by Amazing Apprenticeships who have been commissioned to complete the survey across Hertfordshire. **If we receive more than 50 responses our school will receive its own individual report which will be incredibly helpful for us in planning future careers activity for both students and parent/carers.**

Thank you for your support

YEAR 7

N/A

YEAR 8

Update from Mrs Hinski

It was lovely to see the year group enjoying the fresh, sunny weather this week and making full use of the large hard-court area we have at breaks and lunch times. During my weekly walks of the learning time, I noticed some excellent work going on in PE both in a boys football class and a girls netball class. There was a real focus and calm atmosphere in several Humanities lessons, and I hope this continues as we enter the following weeks. Please speak to your child about being kind to others. Unfortunately, I have dealt with several incidents where this has not been the case. We need to celebrate everyone's unique characteristics and live inclusive of all. Have a wonderful week.

YEAR 9

Year 9 Parents Evening

Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 18 March 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, 11 March**.

The link to the booking system is as follows: <https://parents-booking.co.uk/birchwood>.

We would encourage you to practice logging into the system to check your log in details are all correct. You will need the following details, which must match our school records exactly (including hyphens, name shortenings, etc.):

- Your first name and surname
- Your child's first name, surname, and date of birth

Science Museum Trip

The Year 9 trip to the Science Museum will take place on the following dates:

- The X side will go on Tuesday 11th March
- The Y side will go on Wednesday 12th March

Students must:

- Meet on the school piazza at 8:30am on the day of their trip
- Wear full school uniform
- Bring a packed lunch

We expect to return to school between 4:30 and 5:00pm, depending on traffic.

YEAR 10

TV Programme Recommendation for Year 10 Students

We recommend that Year 10 students watch "The Nine to Five with Stacey Dooley", available on BBC iPlayer: [Watch here](#).

This series follows a group of young people as they experience different workplaces, highlighting the skills and attitudes needed in the world of work. It's a great opportunity for students to gain insight into the expectations of employers and the realities of various careers.

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.

Year 10 Provisional Mock Dates

Year 10 Mocks are set for the week beginning 16th June. Students will sit 1 exam per core subject. This is scheduled at the end of the public exam period. We will confirm which exam is on which day closer to the time.

Business Studies: Component 2 Business Ideas (Presentation Pitch).

Reminder that Year 10 Business Presentations will take place on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 March

YEAR 11

Year Group Photo

The Year 11 whole year photo will take place on the Piazza on Thursday 13 March during form time (weather dependent).

Free webinar for students & parents: The UCAS Personal Statement is Changing

UCAS have recently amended the personal statement format from one longer essay to three structured questions, affecting all students applying to a UK university from next year onward.

To support your child in navigating these changes, InvestIN is hosting a free, interactive webinar led by experts, covering everything they need to know to make their application stand out.

We strongly encourage parents of Year 11 and Year 12 students to attend alongside their child to gain valuable insights into the new format and understand what skills and experiences will help them craft strong responses.

Date & Time: 26th March, 6-7pm

Online - Register [here](#)

If you cannot attend live, please register to automatically receive the recording.

Virtual Work Experience Opportunity

The latest rotation of our Virtual Work Experience (WEX) programme is now available. This month, students can explore Obstetrics & Gynaecology or Paediatric & Dental Surgery. The medical programme runs for six months, while the dental programme lasts four months.

More details can be found here: [Virtual Work Experience Information](#)

To gain immediate access to the Virtual Work Experience, students must attend the Get Into Medicine or Get Into Dentistry conference. Students and parents can register for free using the links below:

- Medical: [Register Here](#). Sunday 23rd March, 9:30am - 3:30pm.
- Dental: [Register Here](#). Saturday 15th March, 9:30am - 3:30pm.

Students aged 14 - 18 are encouraged to attend with a parent or guardian and should have a working camera and microphone.

SIXTH FORM

GCSE Art Work Collection

There is still a large amount of artwork left from last year's GCSE students. If you took Art, please contact Miss Morrison on Teams to arrange collection or to confirm if you do not wish to keep your work.

Any uncollected work will be disposed of after school on Friday due to limited storage space. Please ensure you collect it before then if you wish to keep it.

Year 13 Prom

An email was sent out last week with further details about the Year 13 Prom, which will take place on Wednesday 2nd July 2025.

Payment should be made via ParentPay by Friday 4th April 2025. Please ensure payments are made on time to secure a place.

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