



YEAR 7	YEAR 11
YEAR 8	SIXTH FORM
YEAR 9	
YEAR 10	

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

1. End of Term Message

As we reach the end of term, it's been lovely to see the sunshine making an appearance this final week.

A reminder that Friday 4 April is the last day of term and will be an early finish. It is also a non-uniform day for students.

We wish all our students, families, and staff a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 22 April, ready for the summer term.

Finally, please take this opportunity over the break to ensure any uniform issues and missing pencil case equipment are sorted before the new term begins.

Thank you for your continued support.

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 log in and either sign up for clubs or opt out. The deadline for sign-ups is 25th April 2025.

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. Enrichment Week – Payment Deadline Is Today

The payment deadline for all Enrichment Week trips is today - Monday 31st March 2025 and payment must be received in full

- If payment is not received, we will presume your child is no longer attending. If you require an extension, you must contact the school.
- We will fund one trip for students eligible for free school meals; any additional trips must be paid for in full in order to participate. Please email Mrs Young at jyoung@birchwoodhigh.org.uk to confirm your child's place. If you have not emailed Mrs Young, your child will not have a confirmed place.
- You will receive an email confirmation before the end of term to confirm your child's place on the trip. If you do not receive this, your child's place is not confirmed. Please email the school if you believe you should have received a confirmation but have not.
- All payments for trips and events are non-refundable unless a replacement can be found.
- For trips to run successfully, the co-operation of students is essential. Continued poor behaviour in school may result in your child being removed from the trip. In this instance, no refund will be offered.
- If trips are under-subscribed by the payment deadline, they will be cancelled and you will receive a full refund.
- The bowling trip is still being agreed with the venue and will be confirmed next term.
- Any spare places on trips will be advertised after the payment deadline.
- Please contact the school with any queries using the trips email: trips@birchwoodhigh.org.uk

4. Attendance Survey

We are reaching out to kindly request your support in completing an important survey regarding your child's attendance at school.

We ask that you take a few moments to complete the survey with your child. Your feedback will help us better understand the challenges that may impact attendance and, in turn, enable us to tailor the support we provide, as well as the advice and guidance we publish for families.

Please find the link to the survey <https://forms.office.com/e/52mAcigSDy>, and kindly submit your responses by Friday 4th April.

5. Charity Day: Non-Uniform Day

We have designated **Friday 4 April 2025** as our third Charity Day of the school year.

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.

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.

[Please see this poster](#) for all the planned events happening on Friday 4 April to support our fundraising.

6. 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. Hand all entries into Miss Shackleton in the Library.

[Poster found here.](#)

7. Co-Curriculum Reminder – Perfect Easter Holiday Activities

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.](#)

8. Easter Sports Activities – East Herts Council

East Herts Council have received funding to run free to attend sports and fitness activities, during the Easter Holidays for 11- to 19-year-olds. Please see the below links for more details:

<https://www.birchwoodhighschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=195&type=pdf>

YEAR 7

N/A

YEAR 8

Update from Mrs Hinski

It has been a lovely way to start the final week of term by celebrating all the great things students have achieved. There were several form group celebrations for Net House Points, Fewest Behaviour Points, and collective Form Attendance, along with many tutor nominations and individual awards.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter holiday. My parting message to the year group was to reflect on the idea of new beginnings. I encourage your child to take a moment during the break to think about how they can

make a positive start to Year 9 — especially with options decisions being made — and return in two weeks with renewed energy and a thirst for learning.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful holiday. Please also ensure your child is fully equipped for the new term — stationery and school shoes, in particular, continue to be common issues.

YEAR 9

Year 9 Options Evening:

Our Options Evening will take place on 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.

GCSE Exams in Home Languages – Information for Parents

We are pleased to offer the opportunity for students to take GCSE exams in a range of home languages, in addition to the languages taught in school.

Languages available include:

Arabic, Chinese (Cantonese & Mandarin), Italian, Japanese, Polish, Turkish, Russian as well as French, German, and Spanish.

These exams can be taken from Year 9 onwards, alongside other GCSEs, and provide a fantastic opportunity for students to gain an additional qualification.

If your child is interested in taking a GCSE in one of these languages, please contact: Miss Roderick (Head of MFL) or Miss Defay (EAL Co-ordinator) for more information.

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.

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.

Upcoming Sheringham Trip Reminder

The Year 10 Geography trip to Sheringham will take place between Tuesday 22 April –Friday 25 April. Group 1 will be away 22-23 April. Group 2 will be away 24-25 April. Please make sure you are aware of which group your child has been assigned to.

Timings:

- Students will register in form as usual.
- Meet on the piazza for a 9:00am prompt departure.
- Return on Day 2 at 3:10pm.

Accommodation:

Students will stay at Sheringham Youth Hostel.

Packed Lunch:

Students must bring a packed lunch for the outward journey. Please note:

- No fizzy drinks
- No nuts
- No chewing gum
- No energy drinks

Equipment & Bags:

Sheringham can be very cold and weather conditions may change quickly. Please ensure students are prepared with:

- Warm, waterproof clothing suitable for extended outdoor activity
- One small overnight bag
- One day bag (ideally a rucksack)

Please do not bring more than these two bags, as space on the coach is limited.

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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>

YEAR 11

Reminder: Year 11 Leavers Book Payment

The deadline for payment for this year's Year 11 Leavers Book is **midnight tonight**. Any payments made after this date will not be valid.

Easter Revision Sessions

A reminder that a programme of revision sessions for Year 11 students will be running over the Easter holidays. Students will be made aware of the schedule via Teams, and full details will also be shared with parents via email.

Please take note of the following important information:

1. Entry to the school site is via the gate next to B Block only. Please do not use the main car park entrance or the music room entrance, as a holiday club is running on site.
2. Entry and exit will only be permitted at the advertised session times. Late arrivals will not be allowed on site.
3. There are two session slots each day:
 - AM: 9:00am–12:00 midday
 - PM: 1:00pm–3:00pmIf attending both sessions in one day, students must go off site for lunch unless given

permission by a teacher to stay in a designated room. For safeguarding reasons, no other areas of the site may be used during lunchtime.

4. All usual school behaviour rules apply during revision sessions. Staff will follow the school's behaviour policy as normal.

PE Practical Exam Reminder

Please be aware that on Tuesday 22 April (the first day back), the Year 11 GCSE PE practical exam will be taking place.

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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.

Date	Periods	Subject	Level	Class	Teacher-examiner
Thursday 24 April	2,3,4	Portuguese	GCSE	Home language	Diana Lava
Thursday 24 April	1,2	Russian	GCSE	Home language	Dr Rodionova
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	1, 2	French	A level	13B/Fr	Miss Mangin-Griffiths
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
Wednesday 7 May	3,4	German	A level	13F/Gm	Mr Bowman

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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>

SIXTH FORM

Year 13 Prom – Final Reminder

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

Mercedes-Benz Apprenticeship Open Evening – Hertford

Group 1 Mercedes-Benz is offering exciting apprenticeship opportunities at their Hertford and Bishop's Stortford dealerships.

An open evening will take place at **Mercedes-Benz of Hertford on Wednesday 9th April, 6–8pm**. Students will be able to meet managers, tour the facilities, and take part in activities to learn more about careers in the motor industry.

To attend, email: earlycareers@group1auto.com with the event location you're interested in

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LIBRARY SHORT STORY
COMPETITION
AN
UNEXPECTED GIFT

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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



FRIDAY 4 APRIL

Easter Charity Day Events

FORM TIME

Kahoot Quiz
(see Tutor Notice board)

BREAKTIME

Easter Egg Treasure Hunt - Everywhere!
There are 100 to find. When you have found one bring it to the piazza for a sweet!

Cake & Sweets Stall - Piazza
£1.50 cupcake | £2.00 sweet cones

Prepaid Cake & Sweet Collection - B11
(for those who ordered via ParentPay)

Guess The Mini Eggs In The Jar – Piazza

Bake Off Competition- Library

Raffle being drawn
Prizes will be delivered to the winner during P4