

# Newsletter

BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



FEBRUARY 2021 - WINTER 2 ISSUE



## OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT BY OUR ECO STARS!

From a student led recycling programme to participating in litter picks with primary school children, our students have shown great commitment to improving their school and local environment and the Eco-Committee continues to go from strength to strength.

In September 2020, all their hard work and commitment came to fruition when they were selected and shortlisted by the Educate Awards North West for the 'Outstanding Commitment to the Environment' award.

Educate Award summary of why we were selected said:

"Birchwood Community High School's Eco-Committee is made up of students who care about the environment and want to make the school eco-friendly. Following a full environmental review, they set out an action plan to tackle the issues around litter, recycling and marine. The committee has since rolled out a recycling programme where they recycle plastics, cardboard and paper in classrooms, have taken part in The Great Big School Clean, visited Formby beach to pick up litter and ran Switch Off Fortnight across school – these are just a few of the initiatives they have worked on in order to become a Green Flag School."

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, the awards night was postponed and held virtually last Friday, 29 January and proved to be an exciting and glamorous night hosted by broadcaster Simon 'Rossie' Ross and streamed live to thousands of people on YouTube.

Much to our delight, Birchwood Community High School were awarded runner up in the 'Outstanding Commitment to the Environment' category. Our students were so thrilled to hear of their achievements and cannot wait to continue their environmental efforts.

Our Eco-Committee have remained committed to their pledge to improve the environment and before Christmas successfully sold charity calendars to raise money for both WWF and Chester Zoo, alongside adopting two endangered species: a red panda and a gorilla.

Looking to the future, our Eco-Committee will continue their environmental efforts by developing a nature reserve on the school site and creating the first ever Birchwood eco network by partnering with local primary schools to work together to improve our wider local environment.

We are so proud of the hard work that Miss Connor and the Eco-Committee do to promote a greener lifestyle and environment here in school and we know that their work in the wider community will encourage and enlighten a whole network of eco warriors across the Birchwood area.



## BIKEABILITY

**Do you want your child to build their cycling skills and confidence?**

During the week of March 22nd, we hope, COVID-19 permitting, to be able to welcome instructors from BikeRight! to deliver cycling training sessions for our year 7 students.

The training will give your child a real insight into traffic safety and embed good habits whilst providing you with the confidence that your child understands the principles of safe cycling.

By securing your child's place, you will also be able to take advantage of the 'Dr Bike' service. Your child can bring their bikes to school on Tuesday 9th March and get a full 'MOT' before the training to ensure they are in top working order.

For further information, please contact Mrs Dempsey: [edempsey@birchwoodhigh.org](mailto:edempsey@birchwoodhigh.org)

# THE BIRCHWOOD BUS TAKES A TOUR OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD TO SAY HELLO

On Friday 5th February, we launched our Birchwood Bus to support our students with their home learning and provide essential resources by visiting some key areas of our local community. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces.

If lock down looks set to continue, we will be back out again so keep checking our social media for the date of our next Birchwood Bus tour.

## ROAD TO TOKYO - PE OLYMPIC HOUSE CHALLENGE

From now until Friday 8th March 2021, our students have been presented with a House challenge to travel all the way to Tokyo (8250 miles - 13277 kilometres) by walking, running or cycling in the local area and posting their miles/kilometres to their House team.

Students can do this by simply tracking their activity using their phone or another device such as a Fitbit, Apple watch or smartwatch. Once they have completed an activity, they need to take a screenshot or photo of the distance covered and post it on Teams in their House area. The first house to reach Tokyo (or the closest by 8th March 2021) will be our champion!

The champion house will be announced on Monday 11th March.

On your marks, get set, GO!



## COLLEGE CORNER

Massive well done to all the college students who are managing their home learning brilliantly and keeping up with their BTEC assignments both at home and popping into college for extra support, both Mr Sutton and Mrs Garrett are extremely impressed.

We are delighted that nearly 60% of our year 13 college students have submitted university applications and many of these have already had offers of places for September. Our fantastic curriculum offer at Birchwood College has enabled students to apply for a wide range of courses from Forensic Science and Bioarchaeology through to Cybersecurity and Civil Engineering. Criminology has once again been a very popular choice as has Sports Coaching. Vocational careers are also high on the list this year and we are delighted to have three students entering the world of nursing, three applying to become teachers and two students who have offers to go onto Policing degrees. Special mention must also go to the students who have completed amazing virtual interviews for their offers.



Follow us and share on Twitter [@BCHSchool](#)  
Facebook [Birchwood Community HS &](#)  
Instagram [birchwoodcommunityhighschool](#)

## YEAR 9 VIRTUAL OPTIONS AND PARENTS' EVENING

Our virtual options evening is now live on our school website to help and support our year 9 students in picking their option subjects. You will find an introductory video, KS4 curriculum booklet, subject videos and an online options form to submit.

This half term, students will be able to learn more about our GCSE/BTEC courses during their online lessons. You will also have the opportunity to speak to subject teachers during the year 9 virtual parents' evening on Thursday 25th February.

We hope the videos, curriculum booklet and parents' evening provide you with all the information you need to support your child in selecting their key stage 4 courses.