

Newsletter

BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



JUNE 2021 - SUMMER 2 ISSUE

PSHE SUMMARY

This half term, our students have continued to build their knowledge around PSHE (personal, social, health and economic studies).

In form time, our year 7 students have been exploring how to nurture healthy family relationships. Through this topic, they have considered the importance of setting our own boundaries and respecting the boundaries set by other; managing conflict in a thoughtful way; the behaviours we should aim to show in order to be trusted by those around us and the necessity of being open and honest about our feelings.

Our year 8 students began the half term by learning about addictive substances and habits. These included: tobacco, alcohol, vaping and cannabis. Towards the end of this half term, students have been learning more about the nuances of addiction, as well as learning about the addictive nature of phones and how we can reduce our screen time.

Year 9 students have been watching a documentary about a school that challenged gender stereotypes. Alongside this, students have been reflecting on the concerning reality of allowing gender stereotypes to influence views about intelligence, career choices and the way in which we express emotion.

Our year 10 students have been learning about online safety. This has included building an understanding of the importance of having a positive 'digital footprint', developing an awareness of issues surrounding online fraud and investigating how gambling, particularly online, can become problematic.

During form time, we have also been exploring the theme of 'triumphing in the face of adversity'. To develop our understanding of this important topic, we have learnt more about the poetry of Maya Angelou and Mahmoud Darwish, as well as the artwork of Frida Kahlo and the music of Woody Guthrie.

All year groups have also had weekly current affairs assemblies. These have addressed a range of topical issues including LGBT rights, the environment and the debates concerning statues of controversial figures.

Finally, we have continued to learn more about the figures whom our forms have been named after. Over the past few weeks, we have learnt more about why each of the following figures are famous; their cultural significance and any controversies surrounding them:

Year 7- Mae Jemison
Year 8- Mary Cartwright
Year 9- Malala Yousafzai
Year 10- Simone De Beauvoir

Year 7- Nikola Tesla
Year 8- Pythagoras
Year 9- Nelson Mandela
Year 10- Socrates



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

What a brilliant day we had for our Class of 2021!

Students enjoyed breakfast in the M1 before signing shirts and saying final goodbyes to staff and fellow students. Mrs Jones and Mr Burrows led a fantastic assembly, which brought tears, cheers and embarrassing moments, especially when looking back at old photographs.

It has been a challenging year but we couldn't be prouder of our fantastic year 11 students. Their resilience and determination has shone through. We wish them all lots of luck in everything they do!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

A life-changing experience. A fun time with friends. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers.

The Award requires those taking part to complete 4 sections:

- Skill (learning a skill at least once a week)
- Physical (participating in physical activity at least once a week)
- Volunteering (being involved in an activity that benefits others once a week)
- Expedition (completing a training and assessed 2-day hike with an overnight camp)

All students in Year 9 and 10 have been invited to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award for this year. Students will take part in a training walk, and an assessed expedition in the summer of 2021. Training for this will take place next half term. During these sessions, they will look at map reading, route planning, cooking, basic first aid and camp craft. Completion of the award requires commitment from participants not only to the activities, but also to the ongoing training. Therefore, all students will be asked to attend the day walk and expedition to complete that section.

Our intention is to plan and complete the practice walk in the summer half term. This will take place in the Peak District and we will use the school minibuses as transport.

To confirm your child's place, please pay the registration fee of £23 on ParentPay and complete the consent form on the letter sent home last week. For further information, please contact Mr Neil dneil@birchwoodhigh.org

GIRLS' RUGBY

Birchwood Community High School has gone from strength to strength with the development of our first girls' rugby league team. School training sessions has seen the development of impressive young players that have gone on to be selected to play for Warrington Wolves. This would not have been possible without the dedication of the students themselves and the top-quality coaching provided by the Warrington Wolves Foundation coaches Ryan and Mark, and the fantastic support of Miss Johnson and Mrs Jenkinson.

Due to the immense success of the girls' team, Birchwood are now developing boys' teams of all age ranges. Training is every Tuesday from 3.15 until 4.15 with new and experienced players welcome.



RAF CADET UNIT APPROVAL

We are delighted to have been approved to open a Combined Cadet Force Unit (RAF) at our school. The Cadet unit will provide our new cadets with the opportunity to develop qualities such as self-discipline, loyalty, respect, strong leadership, teamwork, and resilience, which will help them achieve excellent and shape their own future.

Joining the Cadets will also provide our students with the opportunity to fly, take part in adventurous training and try their hand at military skills and drills including shooting.

Initially, our 35 Cadet places will be for current Year 8 students, with the plan to extend the unit numbers year on year. We will be hosting an assembly for all Year 8 this half term to launch the unit and offer students the opportunity to apply for the places.

We can't wait for our first parade to take place in November

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