

EMWL 21.1.22

21 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have all had a good week and will get the chance to rest and relax this weekend. Students and staff have been hard at work, and it has been another productive week in school.

Unfortunately, our Headteacher Ms Mills has been off with covid this week, so I am writing this letter on her behalf. We look forward to having her back in school next week.

On Thursday 20 January, we informed students they no longer required face coverings to be worn in lessons. This was based on guidance received from the Department for Education late on Wednesday evening. The same guidance also says that from Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended for anyone in school. We are delighted to be able to take this important step back to normality.

It has come to the time in the year when we will be opening up our nominations process for the Staff Awards here at Birchwood once again. It is an opportunity for you to thank any member of staff in the school for support and kindness (or anything at all!) that they have shown to you or your child. Please email [staffnominations@birchwoodhigh.org](mailto:staffnominations@birchwoodhigh.org) with the member of staff's name and the reason for your nomination. All staff who receive a nomination will be presented with a Staff Award certificate detailing the reason for your thanks. We will be running the Staff Awards for the next four weeks.

At Birchwood we really value the three-way partnership we have between students, parents/carers and staff at school. To further develop this, we would like to establish our own Parent-Teacher association (PTA) that would strengthen this partnership and allow us to explore additional ways of enriching the learning experiences of our students. Parents/carers who volunteer would be required to attend termly meetings with myself and work together to plan and coordinate events and activities that would allow students even more opportunities at school. If you are interested in being involved in the PTA, or would like some more information, please email me – [cburrows@birchwoodhigh.org](mailto:cburrows@birchwoodhigh.org).

Thursday 27 January is our Year 10 performance review evening. Parents/carers of year 10 students need to refer to the class charts announcement with instructions of how to register for your online appointments.

It has been great to see so many students getting involved in activities outside of the classroom this week. Our extra-curricular programme is in full swing and Year 11 are enthusiastically attending the intervention sessions. Student engagement is currently very impressive. This week our rugby players have performed remarkably in two separate inter-school tournaments, and next week our Year 7 and 8 football teams will strive to follow in the Year 10 team's footsteps in becoming Warrington Schools champions in their final fixtures. If your child does not currently engage in our extra-curricular programme, please encourage them to do so, there are lots of great clubs and activities on offer.

Before Christmas we conducted our very own Santa Dash and Christmas markets to raise money for Macmillan Cancer in memory of our much-loved colleague Miss McAlinden. The total is in, and our students managed to raise almost £1300 which is brilliant.

As always, if there is anything we can help with at school, please get in touch.

Best wishes



Mr Chris Burrows