

EM WL 1.4.2020

Dear parent/carer,

I wanted to start my final letter of the Spring term by saying thank you to all of you. Thank you for your ongoing support in what has been one of our busiest terms so far. So much has happened, and so much has been achieved. We are really looking forward to celebrating all of this in our whole school assembly today. I wanted to keep you updated with how things are progressing after our parent/carer survey, and once again thank you to everyone who offered us feedback.

We have started to make changes in the school canteens with a guarantee that the same food choice is available in both canteens, clear menus visible in the canteen and on the website, and an increase in production of the more popular food choices. We will continue to make improvements across this area and will conduct a further survey later in the year to see if the changes have made an impact. We have also been working on our school website and have started on our list of changes that are needed to make it more efficient and user-friendly for you all. The main changes are on the 'Parents' area and there are more changes to come. We are also doing a piece of work to improve the 'Curriculum' area of the site so that it is clear what your child is studying, and you have access to the resources that will aid them at home. This is still a work in progress, but the English section is a good example of where we are headed with this over the coming months.

We are very proud of our KS3 students who have been writing Easter cards to residents in the Birch Court care home during form time, really embracing our school value of Kindness and reaching out to our local community. These aspects of our school-life, and the character education that sits behind it, are just important to us here at Birchwood than any academic achievement, if not more so. We have had year 11 out this week completing the expedition aspect of their Duke of Edinburgh award, we have had a rewards trip that saw over 500 students go bowling or skating on Thursday, and Mr Yates ran a really successful girls' football trip last Sunday – so it has still been full steam ahead with our enrichment activities in this final week.

We have also given out 500 Easter eggs today for the top 100 students in each year group based on House points – and we even had the Easter bunny here to give them out! The students found this very egg-citing! We are really looking forward to coming back ready to start our summer term and to embrace everything that we have planned for that – including supporting our older students into their exam season. But for now, I hope you all have a peaceful Easter and that our students have a well-deserved rest.

The school office will not be staffed until 19 April 2022, but should you have any queries please email [contactus@birchwoodhigh.org](mailto:contactus@birchwoodhigh.org)

Best wishes and take care,



Emma Mills

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 19 April 2022 - School reopens

Tuesday 19 April Yr 9 Vaccinations **Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio (Td/IPV) and Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY)**

Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 April 2022 - Year 7 residential to Kingswood