

EM WL 10.6.22

Dear Parents

The first week back after half term has been another busy few days for our staff and students.

It has been a particularly eventful week for our year 11 students who have been continuing their GCSE exams. We have been so impressed with their attendance and engagement with the booster sessions, as well as their overall conduct during the examinations. We know that this can be a challenging time for everybody involved so we want to take this opportunity to commend our students on their maturity and focus and to thank you again, as parents and carers, for your continued support during this demanding period.

We have also enjoyed hosting some of our local primary schools, towards the end of this week. A range of year 5 students have come to Birchwood to use our science equipment and conduct some thought-provoking experiments. It has been brilliant to see their enthusiasm and excitement and a great opportunity for some of our year 7 students to welcome and guide them.

Finally, just a reminder that year 7, 8 and 9 students will have knowledge and skills tests over a two-week period, starting next week. This is nothing to worry about- rather, this is a chance for students to show what they have learnt over the course of the year and for us to identify any areas of support that we can put in place.

Most of these tests will take place in classrooms. The only exception to this, will be:

English (year 7)

English and Maths (year 8)

English and Maths and Science (year 9)

These assessments will take place in the hall. We have arranged this to ensure that students are familiar with this environment and to help them to prepare for examination conditions. The aim of this is to also build their confidence, over the course of Key Stage 3. If you follow the link below, you will find revision material for each subject- these can be accessed by both you and your child: <https://www.birchwoodhigh.org/ks3-summer-assessments-22/>

If your child is unsure about any aspect of their revision, they should speak to their subject teacher in the first instance- they will be able to explain and clarify.

If you have any further questions about this, please contact Ms Jones: njones@birchwoodhigh.org

We are aware there are threats of train strikes and disruption planned for later this month. This will be considered when daily attendance is being monitored.

Best wishes and take care.



Emma Mills
Headteacher