

Welcome to Birchwood Community High School



Birchwood
Community High School



**Aspiration
Knowledge
Kindness**

How should I get ready for my first day?

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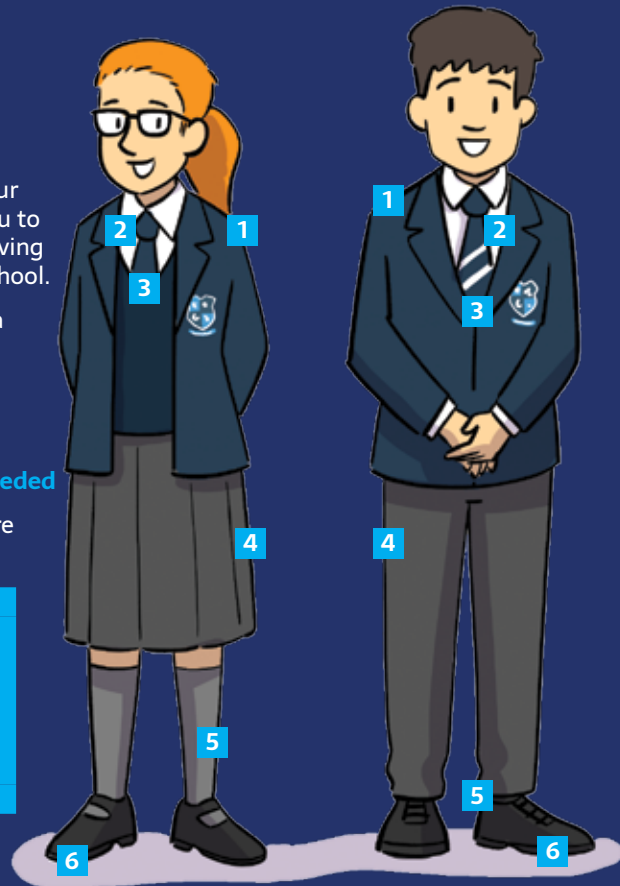
We are very proud of our school; our uniform creates our school identity amongst all the students. We expect you to come to school every day in full, neat, clean uniform, giving the message that you take pride in belonging to our school.

You will need to bring the following items with you in a strong school bag:

- Pencil case
- Black pens
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Pencil sharpener
- Rubber
- Highlighters
- Calculator
- PE kit when needed

It's a good idea to pack your school bag the night before so you don't forget anything.

Remember that if you bring a mobile phone, headphones or smartwatch into school, they must be kept in your bag or zipped in your blazer pocket, out of view at all times.



- 1 Navy blazer with school badge
- 2 White shirt with top button closed, tucked in with sleeves unrolled
- 3 Navy blue tie knotted to top button with both sets of grey stripes visible
- 4 Grey traditional cut trousers or grey knee-length skirt or pinafore
- 5 Dark socks – navy, grey or black – or opaque black tights
- 6 Black shoes – leather or leather look

You can also choose to wear a plain, navy blue V-neck jumper or school hoodie with logo.

What happens on my first day at Birchwood Community High School?



We hope that you are feeling excited about coming to Birchwood Community High, but it is also completely normal to feel nervous about starting at secondary school. We want you to settle in and make new friends quickly and we work hard to ensure you have a smooth transition to us from primary school.

You will already have visited the school and got to know some of the friendly teachers and seen the brilliant facilities on your induction day visits. You might also have taken part in some of the clubs and activities we offer from Year 5 onwards. Our teachers work closely with the staff at your primary school to make sure your transition to our school is as easy as possible.

There is a staggered start to the school year, so, on your first day at Birchwood, not all year groups will be in. This will give you a chance to settle in and start to feel at home before the school gets busier. You might be in a class with other students from your primary school, but don't worry if you don't know anyone in your class. There will be lots of other students in the same position as you and you will soon make new friends.

Everyone at the school knows what the first day in secondary school feels like, so we will do as much as possible to make you feel welcome and help you settle in.

What is the house system?

There are four houses:

Veneratio, Dedicatio, Fides, Libertas

The house names are the Latin words for our core values: **belief, independence, respect** and **commitment**. Each house is made up of forms from across all five year groups and has a Head of House and an Assistant Head of House, who oversee the progress and pastoral care of every student. You will have weekly assemblies together and compete in the regular house competitions to strive towards being given the coveted title of 'House of the Year' in the summer term and winning the House Cup.

At Birchwood Community High, we like to celebrate success and reward you. We do this through the house points system and hope it will motivate you to achieve your very best. You can earn house points by demonstrating our school values around school and by trying your best in lessons.

Your aim is to collect as many house points as you can to be in with a chance of winning some of our fantastic prizes. In the past, these have included Krispy Kreme doughnuts for the whole form, Amazon vouchers and a laptop, plus regular reward trips.



What happens in a school day?

The school is open from 8.00am every day for breakfast club, where you can enjoy a nutritious breakfast and meet friends to play games, such as table tennis and pool. The school day starts at 8.50am and you should be in school before the bell rings at 8.45am.

Every day, there are five periods, a break and lunch.

08.50–09.15	Form time
09.15–10.15	Period 1
10.15–10.30	Break
10.30–11.25	Period 2
11.25–12.25	Period 3
12.25–13.05	Lunch
13.05–14.00	Period 4
14.00–15.00	Period 5

You will be in different classrooms for lessons but will soon get used to finding your way around. Everyone will be happy to help, so just ask an older student or a teacher if you get lost.

Your lessons will include **English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Music, Drama, Food, Art, Engineering, PE, EPR, Languages, Computing** and **Personal Development**. Some of these will be new subjects that you haven't studied before and in other subjects you will build on what you have learnt before at primary school.

We have some fantastic facilities, including a large sports hall, dance studio, performing arts centre, music rooms, recording studio and two state-of-the-art food technology rooms.

At lunchtime, you can choose to bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner. There is a huge choice available, including hot main meals, jacket potatoes, salads and sandwiches. You will use a special pre-paid system for school dinners and authorise the payments using the badge on your lanyard.



What is expected of me?

At Birchwood, we have a happy and caring school community. We want you to be the best you can be and fulfil your potential. Our school values are really important and focus on the way we choose to conduct ourselves, the way we behave towards other people and the way we behave in our lessons.

Belief
Independence
Respect
Commitment
Happy

Our excellent teachers deliver engaging lessons that ensure you can acquire knowledge and develop skills. For this to happen, behaviour must enable every teacher to teach and every child to learn. We expect you to come ready each day to challenge yourself and be the very best you can be. To help ensure this happens, in addition to your academic grades, you will be given 'Attitude to Learning' grades. These are graded from 1 to 4, with 1 being outstanding and 4 being unacceptable.

We have high expectations for our students. You will be expected to take on more personal responsibility and we will all work with you to help you reach your full potential and achieve your goals.



What extra-curricular activities can I take part in?

At Birchwood, we have a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to help you develop your skills and talents. Our enrichment hubs include:

Performing arts – the chance to take part in the school show or the pop choir

Eco hub – raising environmental awareness and improving the school environment

Sports hub – basketball, football, rugby, netball, dance and trampolining

Language hub – learn Portuguese, Spanish, German and British Sign Language

STEM hub – engineering branch, F1 in schools, science club

Strategy and problem-solving hub – get involved in playing lots of different board games, including chess and battleships

We also run an RAF cadets group.

There really is something for everyone and the clubs are a great way of making new friends, finding a new interest and learning new skills.

We also organise a number of trips each year to support your learning and develop other skills. In Year 7, there is a 3-day residential trip to Kingswood, which focuses on developing team building and communication skills. There will also be visits to local universities and theatre trips and reward trips every half term, including ice skating, bowling and shopping!



Discover your potential at Birchwood Community High School



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