

EMWL 4.11.22

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you are well and have had a good week. We have had a great start to the new half term – students have been really settled and focused coming back.

We have had some fantastic news about our new cadet unit not only have they attended a residential team building course but for the first time our cadets had taken part in an organised competition, Birchwood CCF (RAF) won the CCF Cadet Team competition and was automatically through to the National First Aid Cadet Competition. All the above took part in the National First Aid Cadet Competition on Saturday 21 October 2022 at Holcombe Moor Training Camp. Birchwood CCF faced tough competition from experienced teams, but again they all performed well under pressure and within strict competition rules in both the individual and team scenarios. Nationally, we came 4 in the CCF competition, a huge congratulations and well done to all team members! If your child is in year 8 and 9 and wishes to join our in-school cadet unit please ask them to see Ms Horne, Mr Cowdell or Mr Jones.

This week, each year group (apart from year 11 who will have their assembly next week) have had an assembly dedicated to understanding how to complete homework in a high quality way. The vast majority of homework that we set at Birchwood is revision homework. We do this because we know that revising regularly not only helps students to thrive in their subjects, it also helps to instil learning habits that are invaluable beyond their time at school. As part of this, students will generally be asked to show some proof that they have revised and then have a follow-up homework quiz in class. From Monday onwards, to support students with completing homework, if students do not submit a homework they will be required to attend a lunchtime homework support session. If students miss more than one homework, they will be required to attend an after school homework support session. This will be communicated in the usual way to you, via ClassCharts. We thank you in advance for your support with this. If you have any questions, please contact Ms Jones (njones@birchwoodhigh.org).

Please can I remind parents how important it is for students to be in school every day – once attendance starts to drop below 95% (2 days so far this year and 10 days in total across a whole academic year), then academic progress is affected. Students with 97% attendance or above, are the students who perform the best when it comes to examinations and success in school life in general. If your child has a cold, a headache or is feeling a bit unwell, then please do still send them into school. It is fine to leave paracetamol/cold medication at reception for them to be able to use if you think that is necessary, and if they do become more unwell as the day goes on, then we will send them home. Currently, the school attendance is at 92% which is a cause for concern, and a lot of absences are for minor illnesses that students could possibly attend school with. After the pandemic, we know now more than ever how important it is to have students in school, in lessons and learning with their teachers. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Please remind students to have fun but stay safe this bonfire night

Best wishes and take care,



Emma Mills

Dates for your diary

House challenges this term include: - Care Home Buddy, Antarctica Flag Competition, Dodgeball, Interform Football and Christmas Kindness Day.

Year 10 Parents Evening 1 December 2022

Show Week: This year's show is Annie which takes place on 6,7 8, December. And tickets will be on sale w/c 21 November.

Rewards Trip 14 December 2022

School Closed from Monday 19 December 2022 and re opens Tuesday 3 January 2023