

Welcome back to a brand-new year at Birchwood. It has been lovely to see all the students return to us this week looking extremely smart and ready to learn. I hope you have all had a lovely summer break. A special welcome to our Year 7 students and parents who have joined our Birchwood family.

Ms Mills is currently on adoption leave and I am sure you will join me in congratulating her, welcoming their lovely daughter to the family. In Ms Mills' absence, please feel free to contact myself.

It is obviously important that I share our sadness at the upsetting news we all received yesterday evening, regarding the death of Queen Elizabeth II. We have shared a remembrance assembly in form time this morning and the students are aware that if they upset at all, we are here to talk to. We have received guidance from the Department for Education which we have followed, and we will continue to update you with any information as we receive it.

Parents of Year 7 Students

Year 7 Form Tutor Evening- Thursday 22 September

We hope that your child has enjoyed their first full week at Birchwood.

To help with the transition process, we would like to invite you to meet your child's form tutor on Thursday 22nd September. This will be a chance for you to get to know our school better and ask any questions that may have arisen. There will also be a short talk from senior staff to update you as to how the year group have been getting on so far and some whole school updates.

If your child is in Dedicatio or Fides house, you are welcome to attend our first talk from senior staff at 4: 40 (you are invited to arrive from 4: 30 onwards).

Form tutor talks will all happen at 5pm (you are, of course, very welcome to just come for this part).

If your child is in Libertas or Veneratio house, you are welcome to attend our second talk from senior staff at 5: 30 (after the form tutor talks have finished).

If you could complete the short form below to let us know if you are able to attend, that would be much appreciated:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wAaJMHYGo02enKbojRmFAki8ltjCF0RMomEbOaeRz-5UNDNWTUIETVdMVE5GUDRZVVE4N01FSjU5Ri4u>

Baseline Tests

On Monday, all year 7 students will sit a short test on the computer. This is nothing to worry about - it just helps us to understand how we can best support each of our students. If you have any concerns or questions about this, please contact njones@birchwoodhigh.org.

For all year groups, I am pleased to provide you with an updated calendar of extra-curricular events. We always encourage students to be fully involved in the fabulous, varied activities on offer so please encourage your children to come along.

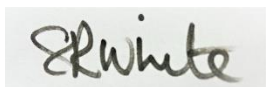
In order to have the most successful year possible, can I please remind you all about the importance of school attendance. To achieve their potential, students must be in school to learn. The national attendance picture, last year, was much lower due to the challenges of the pandemic but now we have completed a full year back, we will strive to ensure all children are in school every day so we can impact positively on their education.

It is lovely to see so many parents collecting their children at the end of the school day but can I ask you, as we return, to ensure you are parking safely. We have several cars parking on double yellow lines and blocking traffic which can be very dangerous as students leave the site. Remember, you can park free on the shopping centre over the road when collecting. Can I also again remind you not to stop in the disabled bays, even if you are only briefly pulling up, unless you have a blue badge allowing you to do so. We have issues with parents using the bays when they have been required by either disabled students or parents.

Finally, can I remind you that it is the school open evening on 29 September. This is an opportunity for year 5 or 6 children and parents to come and look around our school before choosing their high school. There is a banner at the front of school advertising this and we hope you will support us in welcoming prospective new students to visit our school. On that day, the school will close early at 2pm so we can prepare for the evening which will begin at 4pm.

Many thanks for your support in what has been a great first week back with our students. Have a lovely, restful weekend.

Best wishes,



Samantha Rigby-White
Deputy Head Teacher