

EM WL 24.3.23

Dear parent/carers,

We have had a school improvement officer visit our school this week to look at our provision and we are delighted with the feedback we received. The behaviour of our students was described as 'exemplary', our pastoral and personal development provision was also highly praised, as was our curriculum and the school leadership. We are very proud of all our staff and students.

We are looking forward to our year 7 residential trip next week and our end of term trip which is taking place next Thursday. We have our 'Wear Pink with Pride for Brianna' next Friday too which we are busy getting ready for. We are raising money for MiSP, which is at the request of Brianna's family, to try and train a member of staff in mindfulness practices in as many schools as possible in Warrington. If you would like to donate to this separately in Brianna's memory, the link is here:

<https://briannaghey.muchloved.com/>

I would like to thank all of you who have emailed this week to offer your support following some inaccurate comments on social media last weekend. As a school we are going through the most painful time following Brianna's tragic death and staff here, like everyone in the community, have been left devastated by what has happened.

I would ask you all to please keep this in mind when commenting on social media or speaking to school staff who are just people doing their jobs to the best of their abilities. At Birchwood we are team of committed individuals who care about our students and any suggestion this is not the case is both hurtful and untrue.

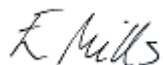
If you have any concerns, please do let us know and we will continue to address them in the thoughtful and compassionate way that we have always done. You can do this by emailing your child's Head of House, a member of the pastoral team or a member of the senior leadership team.

Following some of the comments made on social media recently, I spoke again to Brianna's mum who confirmed that Brianna was not bullied at Birchwood and always felt well supported by the school and she gave me permission to share this with you all. Until now we have tried not to respond to some of the inaccurate comments on social media out of respect for Brianna and her family. However, I believe they had to be addressed to offer reassurance and support for everyone who is part of our school, whether that be staff or current students and their parents.

We are all hurting together, and I hope we can also all support one another as we continue to deal with the sad loss we have experienced.

I thank you in advance for your understanding.

Best wishes and take care,



Emma Mills
Headteacher

Dates for your diary: -

Sunday 26 March 2023 British summer time begins- clocks go forward 1 hour at 1.00am

Monday 27 March 2023 year 7 residential trip leaves for Kingswood returning Wednesday
29 March 2023

Thursday 30 March End of term trip during school day

Friday 31 March 'Wear Pink with Pride Day'

Friday 31 March School closes at 2.00pm for the Easter holiday

Monday 17 April school reopens for summer term – Week B