

EM.WL 6.10.23

Dear parent/carers,

We have been focusing on attendance to school this year more than ever. We know nationally that since the pandemic, attendance levels in schools has dropped significantly for a whole range of reasons. We have experienced that drop here at Birchwood, but pleasingly we have not dropped below the national average. That said, the national average is not where we want to be – we want to make sure that our students are in school learning – it is where they should be. Our attendance so far this year is 92% (national average is 91%) but unfortunately for this week our attendance is 89% so we have taken a bit of a fall – it would be great to get that back up into the 90s next week. **Please ensure you report all absence on class charts as early as possible.**

On 7 November we will be holding a Wear Pink for Peace Day in school with students making a £1 contribution to wear their own clothes. The money raised will be donated to the Peace in Mind campaign that Esther Ghey, Brianna's mum, is running to raise money to train staff in schools nationwide in practices to help with mental health. Lots of schools in Warrington are taking part, and schools nationally are also being encouraged to take part too. The 7th has been chosen as it is Brianna's birthday so it will become an annual event for schools going forward.

Year 11 start their mock exams next week for two weeks – they have all been really focussed in preparing for them and we wish them all the very best of luck with them.

Year 10 parents will be receiving a separate letter to invite you to a Welcome to KS4 evening on Thursday 9 November – we look forward to seeing you there.

We have lost or lost property if your child has lost a coat, jumper, trainers etc please ask them to check with school office at the end of any school day. Please ensure your child's property is clearly labelled with their name and form.

Best wishes and take care,



Emma Mills

Dates for your diary

PSV Eindhoven Trip returns on Monday 9 October.

Year 11 Mock examination - Monday 9 October - Friday 20 October

School Closes for half term Friday 20 October and reopens Monday 6 November

Year 10 Welcome to KS4 evening Thursday 9 November.

House challenges for October include

Black History Month

World Mental Health Day Tuesday 10 October

Inktober – Art Competition