

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic first week back after the October break! The students have returned with great energy and enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see everyone settling back into school life so positively.

This week, Mrs Butler has led assemblies each day to introduce all the exciting activities planned for Anti-Bullying Week next week. We're looking forward to seeing our students engage thoughtfully and creatively with this important theme.

Reports for year 7 to 10 are now on the Arbor App for you to access. If you haven't already, it would really help if you could download this app.

Today we also celebrated Wear It Pink Day, which has been a great success! Thank you to everyone who supported this event — it's been lovely to see so much pink around school and to raise money for such a worthwhile cause.

We are continuing our fundraising efforts for a new school play area, and we'd really appreciate your support. If you work for a company that offers match funding (for example, Barclays, NatWest, Halifax, Asda, Tesco, Morrisons, O2, Vodafone, Sky, etc.), and you'd be willing to look into this for us, it could make a huge difference in helping us reach our goal. You can contact my PA edean@birchwoodhigh.org if you think you could support with this.

We also received some fantastic news this week — our school has been recognised as one of the most improved schools in the entire country for GCSE results this summer! This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and families.

This morning, Mr Burrows and I had the privilege of speaking at an event focused on making Cheshire the first phone-free education county. We were proud to share our journey as trailblazers in this area, including some incredible data since becoming a phone-free school:

- An 81% reduction in safeguarding incidents related to phones, the internet, and social media.
- A 94% reduction in behaviour incidents linked to phone or online use.

These results are something we can all be proud of, and they highlight the positive impact of our community's commitment to being phone-free.





Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes and take care,

Emma Mills