



Birchwood Community High School

Birchwood Community High School

Brock Road, Birchwood,
Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 7PT

Tel: 01925 853500

Email: contactus@birchwoodhigh.org

www.birchwoodhigh.org



July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your child are enjoying the start of the summer break and that you've had the opportunity to celebrate the end of their Year 6 journey. We are looking forward to welcoming your child to Birchwood Community High School in September and hope they are feeling excited about starting this new chapter.

I wanted to share some important information with you about the start of the new school year.

First Day Arrangements

The first day of school for Year 7 will be **Tuesday 1 September 2026**. (Students in Years 8–11 will return on Wednesday 2 September 2026.)

Although Tuesday is a staff INSET day, we have always found it beneficial for our new Year 7 students to begin a day earlier. This gives them the opportunity to settle in, build their confidence and become familiar with the school before the rest of the students return.

On Tuesday, the school day will run from **10.00am until 2.00pm**. Students should arrive via the main entrance, where the gates will open from **9.45am**. They should arrive wearing their full school uniform.

During the day, students will:

- Meet key members of staff, including assemblies with myself and Mr Cowdell.
- Receive their school pencil case and Yondr phone pouch. (Students may bring their mobile phone with them on this day if they wish, as the pouches will be issued during the day.)
- Register their fingerprints for our cashless catering system.
- Receive their login details for Class Charts and the school's computer systems.
- Find out which House they have been allocated to and take part in their first House challenge to earn achievement points.

As our catering system is cashless, **all students should bring a packed lunch and a drink on their first day**.

Students should bring:

- Their school bag
- Their pencil case (if they have one)
- A packed lunch and drink

PE kit is not required on the first day.

Arbor Pay

As mentioned during our induction days, Birchwood uses Arbor Pay for all school meal payments and other school purchases, such as trips.

At this stage, there is nothing you need to do. In September, we will send you details explaining how to access Arbor Pay and add funds to your child's account.



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Apps to Download

During your child's time at Birchwood, we ask all parents and carers to download two free apps:

- Class Charts – to monitor your child's achievements, behaviour, homework and timetable.
- Arbor – to report absences, update information and access key school communications.

Your child will bring home their login details on their first day, along with simple instructions explaining how to set up both apps.

These systems will help you stay informed and engaged with your child's education throughout their time at Birchwood.

Further Questions

If you have any questions over the summer, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Although school is closed to students, members of our office team work throughout much of the summer break, and we regularly monitor our transition email inbox: transition@birchwoodhigh.org.

We will do our very best to answer your questions and support you in any way we can.

We know that starting secondary school is a big milestone for both students and their families, and we are looking forward to welcoming you all to Birchwood in September.

Kind regards,

Mrs J Richards

Assistant Head Teacher

Click here for our [Uniform Guide](#)