



Birchwood Community High School

Birchwood Community High School
Brock Road, Birchwood,
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www.birchwoodhigh.org



EM WL 24.5.24

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all of your support over the last half term. It is always a very busy time with the external exams starting, but our Year 11 and Year 13 students have done us all proud with their dedication and hard work.

We are also very proud of our Year 8 and 9 gifted mathematicians who attended a competition at Bolton Independent School and achieved an impressive 7th place out of all the schools that entered. A fantastic achievement!

We are pleased to announce our new senior leadership team in school. Thurisana Nimalleswaran and Ryan Pennington are our new Head Students, with Olivia Cieslak, Alyssia Savvides, and Faith Collier serving as Deputy Head Students. They will be supported by a leadership team consisting of: Muse Lam, Ava Fitzpatrick, Abigail Bennett, Harrison Chalmers-Norris, Tom Warburton, Wilson Chiu, Cameron Wakenshaw, Rose Crompton, Jordan Buckley-Mellor, Ashton Weber, and Pak Yin Tuen.

It has been a lovely end to the half term, celebrating all our staff with the 91 nominations from you, and recognising all the achievements of our students.

After the half-term break, we will be conducting Knowledge and Skills Tests (KaSTs) for year 7-10 students. The KaSTs are designed to assess the key knowledge and skills that students have acquired over the course of the school year. These assessments play a crucial role in helping us understand each student's academic progress and identify any areas where additional support may be needed. By evaluating their performance, we can tailor our curriculum offer and teaching strategies to better support each student's learning journey.

Ms Jones has been to all assemblies this week and reminded students of the three key habits that underpin successful revision.

1. Be specific about what you revise- pick one section to focus on, rather than an entire subject in one sitting.
2. Test yourself- we know that the most effective way to revise is to answer questions on the topic that you are trying to learn. Using the look, cover, write, repeat method (you will have used this to learn spellings, in primary school) is very effective. Using one the school



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homework apps that provides test questions (i.e. Sparx, Educake), is also a good use of revision time.

3. Set a timer- we know that we are more likely to focus if we have a time and limit and if we reduce any distractions around us. 25 minutes is the optimum amount of time to revise for. Ideally, this should be done with your phone put to one side.

The KaST revision materials, have all been made available on the school's website. We encourage you to review this information with your child to help them prepare effectively for these assessments.

<https://www.birchwoodhigh.org/kast-revision/>

We understand that assessments can be a source of anxiety for some students, and we are committed to providing a supportive environment to help them succeed. If you have any questions or concerns about the KaSTs, or if you need further guidance on how to help your child prepare, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We hope you enjoy the long weekend and the half term break. We look forward to seeing everyone back on the 3rd of June.

Best wishes and take care,

Emma Mills

Monday 3 June School reopens after the half term break.