



Birchwood Community High School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Information for Parents

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had a restful and enjoyable summer break. As we approach the start of the new academic year, I would like to share some important information and updates regarding the return to school.

Return Dates and Arrangements:

- **Year 7** students will return on **Monday, 2nd September**. Please ensure your child arrives by **10:00 AM**. They should enter through the front of the school and proceed directly to the assembly. This will be an orientation day, ending at **2:00 PM**.
- **Years 8-11** students will return on **Tuesday, 3rd September**. This will be a standard school day in terms of timings for all students, but regular timetable lessons will commence on **Wednesday, 4th September**.

All students should arrive at the school between **08:15 AM and 08:30 AM**. The school gates will open at 08:15 AM and close promptly at 08:30 AM. Students should enter through the front of the school and go straight to their form rooms.

Important Reminders:

- **Medication Policy:** Please note that the school cannot store or distribute any medication to students unless it is prescription medication.
- **Early Departure:** For safeguarding reasons, students will not be permitted to leave the school early unless they are picked up by an adult. This policy remains in place even if a parent provides a note or calls the school.
- **School Meals:** The cost of school meals will increase to **£2.70** in line with Warrington Borough Council guidelines and rising food costs. We will introduce a new menu once our new catering manager is settled into the role.
- **New School Entrances:** We have made some changes to our entrances. The **reception/visitor entrance** is now located where the old Birchwood Library entrance was. The **student entrance** for all students will be through the old reception entrance.

- **Uniform and Equipment Checks:** Every morning, students will be checked for proper uniform, necessary equipment, and their phone pouches upon entering the school. Phone pouches and lanyards with identity cards will be distributed on the first day. The lanyards are crucial for a quicker meal payment process in the canteen and for enhanced safeguarding around the school, as students are required to wear them at all times.

New Developments:

- We are excited to announce the opening of our new ASD provision, the **Meloria Centre**, this September. The renovation of the old library for this purpose has been outstanding.
- Our **Auxilium Centre** (internal alternative provision) will now also be housed in the same building. Additionally, there is an extension to **Polaris** in this building, which will include Year 8 and Year 9 group offices starting in September.

Celebrating Success:

We are extremely proud of our Year 11 students' achievements this year. Despite facing significant challenges, including the tragic loss of a beloved classmate, their progress score shows a marked improvement from last year. However, there is a clear correlation between attendance and achievement – students who attend school regularly perform significantly better in their exams.

We are excited to welcome everyone back to school in September and look forward to another successful year. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes and take care,



Emma Mills
Headteacher