



**Birchwood**  
Community High School

# Special Educational Needs

## The Ancora Centre

“Success for all”

Aspiration, Knowledge, Kindness.



## Welcome to The Ancora Centre

At Birchwood we strive to ensure the needs of all students are met and pride ourselves on the personalised approach we take to student learning and achievement.

Our aim is to ensure that all students make progress regardless of additional or SEND needs and achieve the potential we know they are all capable of.

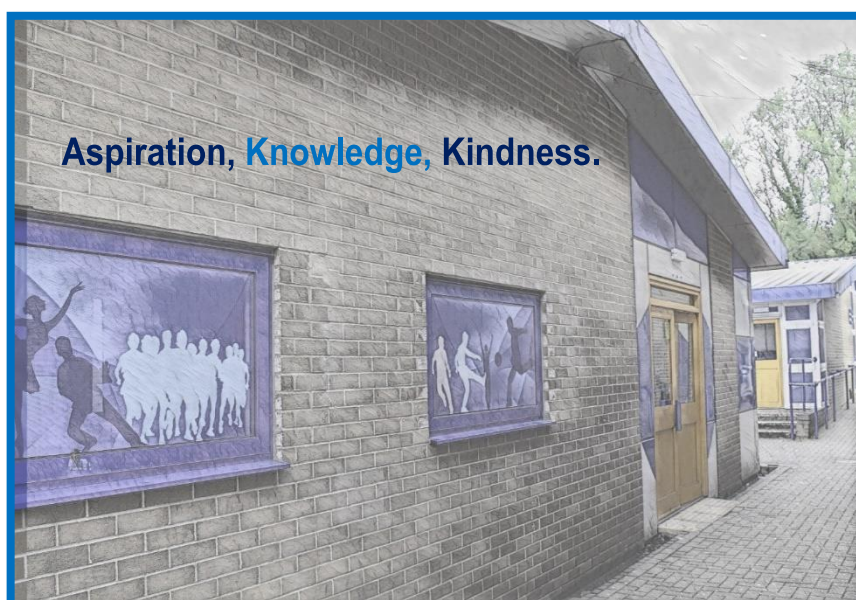
To meet the needs of all students, The Ancora Centre is an internal provision at the heart of the school. It is a resource base that consists of two classrooms and several intervention spaces, designed to enhance whole school achievement.

The rooms have been carefully designed to ensure a graduated response to student need. They consist of literacy and numeracy support classrooms, an inclusion base, two mentoring/intervention spaces and intervention rooms for mental health and wellbeing support and EAL provision.

Students who attend Ancora, will often have barriers to learning that need to be addressed. Through evidence informed practice and consultation with staff and students alike, we have created an environment in which students are encouraged to develop their literacy and numeracy skills as well as support social and emotional aspects of learning, including motivation, self-awareness and resilience.

The centre is staffed by a team who fully understand the needs of students attending and who provide a positive ethos in which all students are nurtured and developed to achieve the best they possibly can.

The SENDCo, Mrs J Roscow, is based in the Ancora Centre and is the first point of contact about support available. She can be contacted via email on [jroscow@birchwoodhigh.org](mailto:jroscow@birchwoodhigh.org)



## **Ancora Provisions**

### Literacy and Numeracy Support Sessions

These are timetabled lessons where identified students can further develop literacy and numeracy skills through specialist teaching. The aim is to ensure that students who either struggle to grasp basic concepts or who have difficulties linked to gaps in learning can receive appropriate support and intervention to help them progress.

### Inclusion Support

This room is used in a variety of ways. It is a base to either support students who have been removed from lessons due to medical or faith reasons (e.g. PE/EPR) or have been referred, as part of a graduated response to additional needs. This may be for reasons such as anxiety, SEMH needs, reintegration support after prolonged absence linked to ill health or emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), or poor mental health.

### Mentoring/Intervention Support

These sessions will focus on specific student need. Students will attend sessions if they have specific Speech and Language sessions identified by the Speech and Language Therapy Team (SALT), Emotional Literacy support delivered by our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) or social skills intervention such as social use of language (SULP) support. Sessions may be 1-1 or small group.

### Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support

If students have been referred for a specific mental health support programme that goes beyond pastoral mentoring, then they will work on a 1-1 with an external support worker from the mental health support team who spends 2 days per week at Birchwood. These packages will be coordinated by the SENDCo following consultation with the "Polaris" pastoral team.

### EAL Support

We have specific EAL support 4 days per week to support students who have English as an additional language. The support will sometimes be 1-1 sessions, small group sessions or in class support. There is a small EAL resource room in the Ancora centre where our EAL support workers are based.