13th September 2024

Dear Birchwood Families,

We are delighted to share some exciting updates with you this week.

First, we are pleased to announce that our new phone pouches have arrived! Each student will receive one by the end of the week. These pouches are designed to help maintain a distraction-free environment during school hours. We are committed to ensuring that students are fully focused on their learning, and staff will also be limiting phone use. Phones will only be used by staff if they are On Call and need access to Class Charts or if they are issuing a reward or sanction on Class Charts outside of a classroom or office.

On the topic of attendance, we’re pleased to report that our overall attendance rate this year currently stands at 93%, a marked improvement from last year. Year 7 is leading the way with a fantastic 96%, followed by Year 8 at 95%, Year 9 at 91%, Year 10 at 89%, and Year 11 at 92%. We would love to see an increase in attendance for Years 9 and 10 next week, and we thank you for your ongoing support in making sure your child attends school regularly.

This week also marked the start of our *Enrichment Programme*, which will continue to run every Monday and Tuesday for the rest of the year. Students are currently participating in a wide variety of exciting clubs such as Minecraft Club, Dungeons and Dragons, Craft Club, Debating Society, Golf Club, and Pop Choir, to name just a few! These sessions are part of your child’s timetable and are compulsory, as we want to ensure every student has access to these enriching experiences. Students will stay in their chosen clubs until Christmas, after which they will have the opportunity to select new activities from our Enrichment Brochure.

Next week, we’re launching our *House Competitions*, which will take place every Wednesday at lunchtime. These fun activities, led by our House Captains, are a great way for students to get involved, showcase their skills, and earn points for their house.

*Polite reminders: -*

* As part of ‘high 5’ which happens every morning during form time, students are expected to bring reading material to school. This can be a book, comic or anything that they can read for pleasure.
* Our annual Open Evening is on Thursday 3rd October, and we hope to see lots of current and new families on the evening. If you have younger children, they are also more than welcome to join us. More information will follow nearer the time.
* Esther Ghey’s Peace and Mind Festival is on Sunday at Birchwood Park which will focus on mindfulness and well-being. It would be lovely to see our Birchwood families there.
* Due to restricted space in the office, please can you refrain from dropping forgotten items for your child, unless the school office has called you directly. This will also prevent lessons from being interrupted when the items are taken to your child.

Lastly, we are incredibly proud of our Year 7 students. They have settled in so well, and it’s wonderful to see their smiling faces around school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes and take care,



Emma Mills

Headteacher