



# Birch Wood Newsletter

## AUTUMN TERM

2016-2017

**AUTUMN TERM  
ISSUE 1**

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Have a great half term holiday everyone

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It gives me great pleasure to write to you once again as we approach a new half term. As you will be aware, I am determined to secure an outstanding future for the school. I have the very highest expectations of all the staff and students, and it is my intention to raise standards in every area, helping all students to achieve their full potential. There are number of areas we have been working on this term which are already making a positive impact!

Firstly our new **primary Autism provision** has got off to a great start; the nurturing and highly structured environment created by Amy and Rob has helped our first three students settle in beautifully. It was a joy to be told by Joel 'I really like this school', that's the type of feedback that really makes me smile!

We have also begun work on '**The Nook**' student support centre based at Site 2. This will create another nurturing base for students who require a low sensory, more personalised curriculum and is an extension of our Autism specific offer.

Site 2 will also benefit from a brand new **Design Technology** classroom as part of our expanding MLD curriculum offer. This is something that will benefit Years 7 through to P16 from January 2017.



I will be writing to parents over half term about further developments at our Site 2 MLD school including a name change from BW2 to **Birch Wood Vale School**.

As part of our ongoing commitment to work with parents we have appointed Ryan Lowe as a **Family School Link Worker**. We anticipate this role will provide further opportunities for us to support parents in many aspects of their children's lives.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new students to the Birch Wood family; Daniel P, William G, Liam G, Emma M, Kimberley T, Abbie W, Rhys S, Joseph R, Keiron P, George E, Joel T, Ashton H, Leon T, Zak W, Garrat G, Summer I, Evelyn K and Oliver R.

This has been an amazing term and I have really enjoyed meeting so many wonderful students and parents. I have been impressed by the commitment of the Birch Wood teaching and support staff, having seen some truly inspirational learning in action! Thank you to everyone for a great half term, have a wonderful break.

## Melton Primary Autism Provision

It has been a truly wonderful first half term for the new Autism provision at Birch Wood. September saw us open our doors to the new classroom and welcome in our very first pupil. Ashton has been with us from day one and the progress he has made in this short period of time is testament to what can be achieved when an appropriate environment, tailor made curriculum and skilled and committed staff are provided.

We have since welcomed both Leon and Joel to the class and there energy and enthusiasm have made it a pleasure to be at work each day! Hearing parents say things like; *'he has never been this happy in school ever, he can't wait to get here every morning'* and *'its just so good to have our positive happy boy back,'* makes the hard work feel more than worth it!



The next half term promises to provide some exciting new developments. We will begin working towards a National Autistic Society Accreditation, which will demand a whole school focus on good Autism practice and inevitably enable us to further provide an exceptional learning environment for all our students with Autism.

Amy Dunstan– Autism Lead Teacher

## Open Evening

We will be hosting an opening evening on Wednesday 26th October 2016 from 5-8 to showcase Site 2 of our fabulous school and **'The Nook'** student support centre to prospective new students and their parents/carers for the next and future academic years

## Birch Wood's Special Olympian

Ellie rides her horse Charlie for Wenlow RDA and the Special Olympics, Ellie won 2 firsts and class champion at the Hartpury National in July this year. Ellie has been selected to represent the North East Midlands at the Special Olympic Games in Sheffield next year. Birch Wood hopes to support Ellie to raise funds to help the team get to the Special Olympic Games, watch this space.....



## Goodbye

Birch Wood says farewell at the end of this half term to Sarah Waldron and Carolyn Gray and also to Jane Cooper who will be leaving us shortly, we wish them all well for the future

## Congratulations

Ryan Lowe, who was successfully appointed to the role of Family School Link Worker and Sharon Caldwell Jones promoted to the role of Senior Teaching Assistant.

## Sensory Garden

Birch Wood was very proud to be nominated and be highly commended for the prestigious Environmental Award at the Melton Times Annual Awards Ceremony recently well done to all who worked on the project.

## Big Write Day!

Students at Site 1 participated in a range of writing activities, as part of our 'Big Write Day!' Each classroom was transformed in to a different Roald Dahl story, with pupils visiting each classroom to learn about the different stories. A fantastic day was had by all!

## Bake Off!

The key stage four pupils at Birch Wood Site 1 organised the Macmillan Coffee Morning as they are learning about how to help others in Citizenship and as part of this have been learning about charities. They wanted to do something themselves to help others. They not only held the coffee morning but also did car washing to raise more than £260 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Have A Wonderful Safe Half Term Break