



# Birch Wood Newsletter

## February Edition



February 2017

ISSUE 3

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2017 has got off to a fantastic start at Birch Wood! Many of the exciting new developments we have planned for Birch Wood and Birch Wood Vale are now underway. One of the most powerful initiatives has been our newly formed Student Improvement Teams (SIT's), which aim to ensure 'student voice' takes a prominent place in school improvement. SIT's are the next step on from a student council and meet fortnightly to discuss ideas. SIT's are made up of 4 teams, Behaviour and Safety, Teaching and Learning, School ethos and surroundings and Community. Birch Wood Student Improvement Team members Site 1 are: Michael Isaac, Corwin Meynell, Leon Thompson, Laura Palmer, Marcus Hardingham, Ryan Emerson, Lucas Guest and Molly Batty. Birch Wood Vale site 2 are: Connor Green, Byron Bennett, Thomas Corden, Fraser Annis, Emma May Mason, Jade Walsh, Toby Howe and Mac Morrow.

Key Stage 3 students at Birch Wood Vale have begun their new curriculum which includes Year 9 students having Food for Life lessons. It was brilliant to see the students making a healthy fresh fruit salad this January. Students were able to tell me that they were using lemon to stop the banana going brown— great tip! Staff have also been learning about Growth Mindset ideas to support our learning community. Growth mindset promotes the idea that "talents and abilities can be developed through effort, good teaching and persistence." To support this teachers praise effort over ability to support the idea that it's okay to find work difficult and encourage resilient learners. Watch out for more about how you can support your child develop a growth mindset on our webpage.

Post 16 students from Birch Wood attended an E-safety conference as part of E-Safety day on February 7th, whilst Birch Wood Vale student's had a special assembly to highlight the importance of staying safe online. These messages are something we will continue to promote across Birch Wood.

I would also like to thank everybody that sent in so many fabulous musical instruments. Students are already benefitting from the increased range and opportunity to try different sounds. We will continue to develop opportunities for music over the next term and academic year

It is with great pleasure that I would like to welcome some new students to Birch Wood. This term we have been joined by Connor Laszcz in 2D, Fields Taylor 2H, Lucy O'Connell 3H, Joshua Coultas in Year 7 and Cameron McGurk Year 9 at Birch Wood Vale. All students have made a great start and we look forward to seeing them progress and develop new skills at Birch Wood.

Watch out for some additional parent information evenings coming up over the next term. **Have a lovely half term break everyone!**

Rosalind Hopkins— Headteacher

### Birch Wood's Special Olympian

Ellie has been selected to represent the North East Midlands at the Special Olympic Games in Sheffield this year. We are so proud! Birch Wood will be supporting Ellie to raise funds to help get the team there. If you would like to support this fabulous cause please follow the link which will be appearing on our website this half term.



Birch Wood says farewell this half term to Emma Cornell our fabulous school nurse. Emma will begin a new role working with CAMHS after half term. She will be greatly missed. In Emma's absence we will be getting extra nursing support from school nurse Shayleigh and the school nursing service.

### Health and Wellbeing Officers

We are very excited to announce the creation of two new roles at Birch Wood. Our new **Health and Wellbeing Officers, Laura Nicholls and Alison Kowal** will be on hand to provide a support service for students dealing with *medical needs, illness, injury and emotional wellbeing*. The most important thing for our children is their safety. We foster a culture of vigilance amongst staff, students and parents. We always listen to children and take their concerns seriously. Our new Health and Wellbeing officers will be on-hand to provide extra support in these key areas across both Birch Wood and Birch Wood Vale. You will hearing more from both Alison and Laura soon.

### Working with Families

A subject review parents evening for Key Stage 4 students at **Birch Wood Vale** will take place on **Monday 20th February from 4pm**. We will also be doing a presentation to parents about our future plans for **Post 16** learners next academic year. This is a great opportunity for parents/carers to put their ideas forward; I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

### Parent Pay

Some parents have also requested that we provide a facility to allow them to pay for dinner money and trips online. We have now signed up to the 'Parent Pay' which you will have received a letter about. Please feel free to contact the office.

### Birch Wood Vale New Uniform

**New uniform will be available at**

[www.yourschooluniform.com.schools/find?name=birch+wood](http://www.yourschooluniform.com.schools/find?name=birch+wood)

**There is no need to get all the uniform straight away, but do try to get some pieces to help your child adjust.**

**We have the next 2 terms to transition to the new uniform in order to help parents and students manage the change. Any problems please let Ros know.**

### Healthy Start Breakfast Club

**Don't forget we run free breakfast club from 8.15; at our Birch Wood Vale site, for more details or to book on contact Lou.**

**Goodbye**

### Welcome

We would like to warmly welcome the following new staff to Birch Wood. Megan Roberts- Apprentice Receptionist, Megan Bedder, Jamie Smith, Charlotte Denton- Apprentice Learning Support Assistants. Lee Burrows, Michelle Eudall, Georgia Ignatiou, Helen Humphreys and Katie Bedder- Learning Support Assistants. Tom Smith- Deputy Head