



Birch Wood Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2019



This half term has whizzed by with a lot of activity and development across the school. There has been a total of 37 new pupil's join the school this term, many of them joining Birch Wood in the EYFS/KS1 classes or over at Birch Wood Vale in Year7. Lots of work was done last academic year to help our new pupils make a good transition to Birch Wood and I'm pleased to say this has really enabled us to support our young people as we get to know more about their needs, personalities and talents!

There has been much to celebrate this term including our school gardens being awarded a 'Silver' by East Midlands in Bloom. The judge commented that *"It is clear that you have put in a huge amount of work to design and create the gardens and accessible pathways through them and credit must go to the premises team, staff, pupils and everyone who has helped make them such an asset to the school...You have used the opportunity of new land to create an amazing set of growing spaces for your pupils."*

Further more all our outdoor rebound trampolines and new gym equipment is in place across the school and it has been brilliant to see this in full use by the pupils this half term.

Building work plans have also now been signed off, with the extension at our Grange Drive site commencing work over half term. The extension which will provide a specialist Post 16 base for Charlotte Adu's group, is planned for completion by March 17th 2020. We will of course manage the change carefully with our pupils. The LA have also signed off plans for our new Food classroom at Birch Wood Vale, which will further support our brilliant 'Food for Life' curriculum.

We are of course immensely proud of our GCSE results this year, pupil's gained some outstanding results by any standards including Grade GCSE 5 & 6's in core subjects. The results prove what high aspirations and hard work can achieve. We truly believe in giving our pupils every opportunity to shine and public examinations is just one way we facilitate this.

Over the last week we have had 2 representatives from the National Autistic Society in school to assess our Autism provision across



the school in order for us to gain our NAS Autism Accreditation. This has been a 3 year process of developing best practice which has involved constant reflection and improvement. The initial feedback from the assessor has been immensely positive, we will get the full report next month. Thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff who have supported this process— we are so proud of you all!

WORLD
MENTAL
HEALTH
DAY



On Thursday 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health day and raised £236.25 for the 'Young Minds' Mental Health Charity by wearing yellow and selling cakes.

Thank you to Lucy Robson for organising and everyone who supported this fabulous cause at Birch Wood.

Lastly as part of commitment to supporting our families we are looking at more ways to make our facilities available to our pupil's and their parents outside of school hours. This half term we are trialling a small group with rebound therapy sessions over the half term break, this is something we want to evolve further this academic year.

Have a great half term everyone!
Rosalind Hopkins— Headteacher



Birch Wood School
Grange Drive
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 1HA
01664 483340
office@birchwood
school.co.uk

Melton In Bloom—4TP celebrated their winning gold entry with their 'Mellow Yellow' wheelbarrow into Melton in Bloom. Laura and Marcus went to the Council Offices to collect the award and featured in the Melton Times.

Post 16 are enjoying work experience opportunities in the Library, Cafe and Charity shop in Melton. This is a valuable resource that allows students to develop their life skills and preparation for adulthood. We are also planning to support the food bank in Melton and for students to give a donation from a list each day of advent to support families that are less fortunate than us - more details about how to donate to follow.

Autism Provision— we are incredibly proud of how our student in the BWV Autism Provision have adapted to the change of building alongside the commencement of their Options subjects.

Transition Evening—we have recently held our transition evening at Birch Wood Vale for students in Years 10-14, this evening is aimed at students and parents being able to come along to meet with our Post 16 tutors, Careers Advisor, Local Colleges and the Transitions Team from the Local Authority. Lots of parents and students came along and there was positive feedback about how the evening had gone. Transition is a huge event for any young person and we are taking positive steps towards increasing our links and providing parents with the right information to support them as they move through their education and beyond.



Students had a great day out at the MATP sports day recently. It is great that schools can come together and inclusively allow our students to participate in such a wide range of activities. We will continue to be involved in these days. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more pictures!



Peter La Marchant Trust

Some of our Grange Drive students were able to have a lovely day out on a canal boat thanks to a very generous donation from the Peter La Marchant Trust.



EYFS & KS1—We had a great time sharing our picnic theme with friends and families who visited for a Teddy Bears picnic. We enjoyed the outside space and were very pleased to see so many parents and families joining in with the activities.

EYFS and KS1 swimmers have made a great start, with some children visiting Waterfield Leisure Centre for the first time. All of our pupils have done very well to travel on the bus to the swimming pool, and have already shown good progress and increased confidence in the water.

Whole school attendance

91.5%-well done!

Good attendance is important because it can have a huge impact on students in both academic and social development. Good attendance helps students to fully engage in all that school life has to offer, such as making new friends, learning and enjoying new experiences, developing skills needed in later life, feeling safe and listened to. All evidence suggests that students who have low attendance won't progress as well as those who don't. *(pupils with very complex medical conditions are not included in this, as their circumstances are very different)*

Welcome to all our new students who have had a fantastic start to the year. Also to all of our new teachers and support staff. Congratulations to Emily (English Teacher) and her partner Andrew on the safe arrival of their son, Henry James .

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for regular news, stories and updates