



Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year! - To all my students, parents/ carers and extended Birch Wood school family. Along with a warm welcome back to school from all the staff team in Post 16. I would like to warmly welcome Courtney Glover back into class, following her maternity leave. Courtney will be supporting the class as a Senior Teaching Assistant alongside Janice Bull on a part-time basis. I hope you all have been able to do some of the things you love over the holidays and feel duly rested, ready for the new spring term ahead.

I have put this curriculum newsletter together, to share with you the topics and units of work that are being covered by Post 16 (Class 5CA) this term. This will give you the additional information needed to talk to your young person about their lessons. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy term and we hope that the students will enjoy it.

Our topics and themes this term will be:

Spring Term 1	Celebrating Cultures in the UK. We will understand what a Poem is and exploring different types of Poetry in the UK. We will have a go at writing and sharing our own poems.
Spring Term 2	Celebrating our differences. This half term we will be looking at traditional tales that we know well and start to change different elements of the story. We will have a go at acting out our stories. In RHSE we will be thinking about our personal choices that we have in our lives and what shapes and influences the choices that we make.

Your young person is following the Independence curriculum. The Independence Curriculum offers a level of personalisation but includes more discrete subject teaching in areas such as Literacy, Maths and AIM awards. Your young person is baselined using the Mastery

Reading and Literacy
Our young people this term will continue to come into school and start their reading and practise writing their home address, or do some handwriting practice as a beginning morning transition activity. The students are really good at getting out their own things and some are needing less prompts in the morning. We will have a focus book this term and that will be 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman. This book will begin our exploration and discussions surrounding Racism and how equal society is for all its members.
Maths
-Compare, add/subtract and measure mass using apparatus (kg/g) -Compare, add/subtract and measure volume/capacity using apparatus (Litres/ml) -interpret and present data using information from Pictograms. -interpret and present data using information from bar charts. -Use ICT to make graphs. -Addition up to 3 digits -Subtraction up to 3 digits -use +, - and = signs -Compare number quantity up to 100 - Match numeral to quantity up to 100 -Multiplication – doubling, x2, x5, x10 -Division – halving, sharing equally, /2, /10 -Copy and give movements and directions -Prepositional language in, on, inside, under, behind, -Giving instructions and taking turns. -Movements forwards, backwards, turn left, turn right, whole turn.
PE

Fundamental movement patterns - (jumping, climbing, balance)

These focuses aim to develop student's kinaesthetic awareness, challenge their physical abilities and develop communication with others.

Net Games (sitting down volley ball. Table Cricket, Tchouck ball)

These focuses aim to develop students' knowledge and implementation of good sportsmanship, communication and teamwork as well as gaining an understanding of game rules/ tactics.

PSHE/ RHSE

This half term we will be focussing on My Choices Now. We will be having weekly sessions surrounding titles such as; What choices do I have?, exploring and expressing a sense of self, analysing decisions and justify choices, what influences my choices moving onto how do I make good choices? We will be working in small groups, using power point presentations and having discussions to gain further understanding.

In Spring 2 we will be investigating a range of factors that influence consumer choices and decisions and explore and express a sense of self. Investigate various ways to participate in school and society, investigate the influences on a young person, develop skills and strategies to improve own learning.

My Enrichment

We will continue working on AIM awards and this term we will be focussing on ICT Skills- Developing and presenting Information using ICT and Beginning College modules. Aim awards – students will be working on AIM awards towards a Certificate or a Diploma in Personal and Social Development Skills. Entry Level 2. Moving Together will be continuing on a weekly basis working on weekly routines, keeping fit and working on a performance for the end of the year.

We will be re-introducing the local community visits as a class (when safe to do so following our school Risk Assessment), accessing local interest community groups, and going shopping to the local supermarket and attending a local coffee shop for a drink in the afternoon. Within these sessions, we will be practising skills role-played in class. These skills include using money, making choices, being independent, communication skills and learning about appropriate behaviour when in public. A letter and Risk Assessment will be made available for you about how we plan to do local visits as part of our Post 16 offer.

Art - This year we will be receiving Art lessons from a qualified secondary Art Teacher. He will be delivering Art on a weekly basis. If there is enough interest a B-Tec in Art made be available for selected student's to work towards. Cooking for Life skills will continue with shopping on a Monday (when safe to do so following our school Risk assessment) in a local Supermarket, then cooking an entire meal with minimal adult support on the Tuesday. More information about cooking and a letter will follow. The students will decide what they want to cook and this will be planned on a half termly basis.

Electric Umbrella- will continue on a Wednesday afternoon. This is a music and movement group for young adults with special needs, it is fully inclusive and is co-run by disabled young people. This is a group that we joined in lockdown and have so much fun connecting to special schools all around the country. I will send out a permissions slip to ask if your child is allowed to be on camera. Drop me an email if you haven't already and you are happy for your young person to be on the screen. If you would like to find out more about this group – see the link <https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk>

Autism Progression Framework – we will begin to look at the 8 skills that will give us a baseline to work from. These skills are from the areas such as - Communication and Interaction, Social Understanding and Relationships, Sensory Processing, Interests routines and Processing, Independence and community participation, Healthy living, Learning and engagement, Emotional understanding and self-awareness. This will enable us to be more focussed on what specific skills sets that we need to continue to develop. We are also hoping to have an artist in school for a half term (if restrictions permit this) to work on a series of sessions for the students to explore using their senses. The topics will be around sustainability, and self-expression. I will update you when this will take place in school.

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class The Lodge - 5CA
Spring 2022
Curriculum Newsletter



Things you could do at home

When you read to your child or do any activity, encourage them to talk about what they are doing/what is happening/what they understand.

Helping with household jobs

Helping with the shopping and cooking

Making choices

Thinking about how you can help other people

In Post 16, we aim for your young person to have new and exciting opportunities, gaining readiness for their next learning journey, beyond Birch Wood School. If you are unsure about anything in the Independence curriculum on offer then please email me on aduc@birchwoodschoo.co.uk.

I am always pleased to help you with any questions you may have about your child. Many thanks and we all look forward to an exciting term.

Charlotte Adu – Post 16 Class Teacher