



Birch Wood
Vale School

Spring 2 Newsletter

Where a love of learning grows

We are very pleased to be able to share with you the different things that have been happening this term. In such a short term, it is amazing how many different things have taken place. I am particularly proud of the Post 16 students, who have been fund raising for their chosen charity as part of their Duke of Edinburgh course. Many of the activities which have taken place this term have provided an opportunity for our older students to develop important practical working skills- great work everyone!



I hope that you and your family have a lovely Easter break

Tom Smith
Head of School-Birch Wood Vale

What has happened this term?

World Down Syndrome Day – On Tuesday 21st March, Birch Wood School celebrated World Down Syndrome Day – a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

The date for World Down Syndrome Day being the 21st day of the 3rd month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

A wonderful video was put together with input from every class at Birch Wood School (to watch it, please click here <https://fb.watch/jwhzPgiLkT/>) to support this year's theme which is "with us not for us". This theme emphasises how decisions about our young people should be made with them and not for them and the importance of giving them the skills to be able to make their own decisions.





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Sports Club

We have been pleased to finally offer Sports Club again for our students at BWV and Ashton House. The sessions have proved to be a massive success ever growing in popularity with a range of our students. This term we have welcomed Leicester Riders coaches to deliver some bespoke sessions to our students which have been enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to the anticipation of a bespoke sports club beginning very soon for our Grange Drive students too!



Leicester Riders Basketball Festival

Year 9CB competed in a basketball tournament at the Morningside Arena which is the home ground for the Leicester Riders Basketball team. It was an incredible experience for the Year 9 to take part in and play against some wonderful individuals.

They played against 3 other teams in the tournament where we saw some fantastic shots, dribbling and team work. Each one of the students helped to support one another and other students from different schools. They showed great determination, sportsmanship and resilience. We are immensely proud of them. Well done Year 9.





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March House Farm

Birch Wood School and March House Farm in Great Dalby have developed an exciting partnership, providing opportunities for students across the school to experience different seasons on the farm. Our first visit was a great success both for students and staff who enjoyed a great day, taking part in a nature walk, holding the lambs and doing craft activities. We are really looking forward to our next visit.





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World Book Day This year we invited all students across Birch Wood School to dress up in clothes inspired by a genre of a book. This ranged from characters in Science Fiction books to characters within thriller books. It was wonderful to see all of the amazing costumes our students arrived in for World Book Day! We had a wonderful time sharing stories and celebrating our love of reading.



Twilight Academies (After School Revision)

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Evenings, students studying GCSE English, Maths or Science who are in Year 11 or KS5 have been invited to join us for extra sessions to support them in their preparation for their exams in May and June.

Some students who have struggled to access these due to transport have joined us remotely using Microsoft Teams.

We have been so impressed to see so many of our students regularly joining us, and putting such a high level of effort into their studies. I know this will support them in their future success.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths Revision 3.15-4.15pm Remote Maths Revision 4.35-5.15pm	English Revision 3.15-4.15pm	Remote English Revision 4.35-5.15pm	Science Revision 3.15-4.15pm



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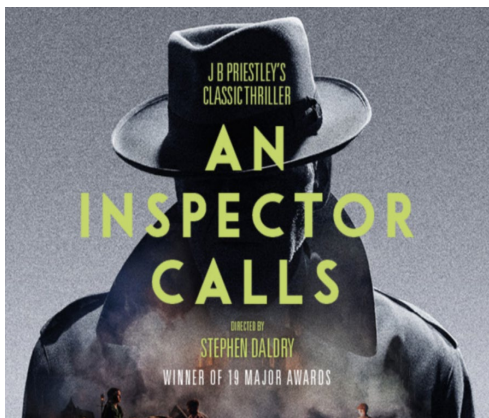
Spring 2 Newsletter

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Theatre Visit

On Thursday 23rd March, students from 11AM went to the Curve Theatre in Leicester to watch an evening performance of *An Inspector Calls*. We had a really successful visit, with the students really enjoying the performance and seeing the play they had studied in English live on stage. Their behaviour was exemplary and we were all really proud of the way they responded to the play. There were gasps at the right moments, and giggles at little jokes and some of the character quirks.

After the performance, students were talking about the different presentations of characters, the effects on stage, symbolism in the play, and the reasons why the directors may have presented the play in the way that they did. What a wonderful trip to the theatre!



Duke of Edinburgh Fund Raising

Students from post 16 at Birch Wood Vale and Ashton House have been working hard towards the various sections of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. As part of their volunteering project, students have been organising fundraising events. Students in 5PW and The Swifts organised a stall morning at BWV which included a variety of fun games, a tombola and a cake sale. The event was a massive success and they raised £233.15 for their chosen charity the Dogs Trust. Following the theme of animal charities, The Sand Martins have also been busy working towards a raffle to raise money for the PDSA, so watch out for upcoming advertisement and your chance to win some fantastic prizes!



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Vale School

Spring 2 Newsletter

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Key Stage 4 and Post 16 Construction group It has been great to see students from the Construction group developing their skills in really practical activities which they have been completing recently as part of their course. They have had to work as part of a team supporting each other to successfully lay the concrete foundations for their brickwork. To do this they were joined by a local construction company who were very impressed with their attitude. The students have also been working on their bricklaying skills as can be seen below- we are so impressed!





Spring 2 Newsletter

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Work Experience for 11AM

Birch Wood School are focused on implementing a sustainable and meaningful programme of work experience. We have partnered up with Peter Le Marchant Trust to trial an innovative workplace experience called Unbox Your Future. This programme provides students and school staff with accessible labour market information; giving them the opportunity to explore different sectors and learn about job roles direct from an employer in that sector.

The students followed a four week programme with the first two weeks in school working with the employer and two weeks actually working on a long boat.



Student comment: "I enjoyed going to Peter Le Marchant Trust because I had experience on going on a boat, serving the customers and I enjoyed having a go at steering the boat. I also enjoyed having a great time learning new things from the staff."



Spring 2 Newsletter

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Birch Wood Community Café

The Birch Wood Community Café is re-opening on Monday 24th April at Melton Mencap. Please come and show your support!



Birch Wood Community Café

at the

Melton Mencap Centre

Re-opening Monday 24th April 2023

Open Mondays 11:00am – 2:00pm

Managed, Prepared and Run by

Post 16 Students

from BirchWood Vale School

Please Support Us !

For Further Information Contact : Di Alexander

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Spring 2 Newsletter

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Key Dates next term

Monday 3rd- Friday 14th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 28th April	Undiagnosed Children's Day (SWAN UK)
Monday May 1st	Bank Holiday
Friday May 5th	PMLD Awareness Day
Monday 8th May	Coronation Day Bank Holiday
29th May- Friday 2nd June	HALF TERM
June	Preparing students for transition to new classes and teachers where appropriate
May 15th- June 16th	Exam period
30th June	School Reports
30th June	Employability Day
4th (GD) & 5th BWV/AH July (proposed)	Sports Days
July 12th	Prom
Thursday 13th July	School closes to students
Friday 14th July	Staff INSET Day- school closed to students