



Birch Wood
Vale School

Summer 1 Newsletter

Where a love of learning grows

We are pleased to be able to share with you the activities that have been taking place at Birch Wood Vale this term. Although this is a short term students have had lots of educational opportunities which have included sports festivals, leadership opportunities, celebrating the Kings Coronation, visiting Leicester including travelling by train. As well as linking into their curriculum this is also giving students additional skills in preparing for adulthood. I hope that you and your family have had a lovely half term, we look forward to the next and final term of the year. Please be aware of the key dates at the bottom of the Newsletter, we will give you a detailed outline of any further end of term events in the coming weeks

Tom Smith

Head of School, Birch Wood Vale



What has been happening this term?

Year 9 Humanities visit to Melton

9CB have been learning about World War 1 and 2 in their Humanities lessons; as part of this students explored Melton World War Centenary Trail to see the buildings which played a pivotal role in the town's war efforts. Students visited a number of locations including; Wicklow Lodge, Old War Memorial Hospital, Railway Station, St Marys Church, Old Post Office, Market Place, Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe, The Melton Times office, and Egerton Lodge War Memorial Gardens, exploring the importance of how these buildings were used during war. This was a valuable experience for these young people, they showed great enthusiasm and engagement. Student feedback about the visit.

"It was exciting to see the buildings, I liked seeing how the buildings have changed. The Railway Station looks so different, I enjoyed seeing the tracks and how it looked before".

"It was historical and I enjoyed seeing the old buildings. It was very interesting; I learnt a lot from the trip. I didn't realise how much history Melton had".

"I was actually surprised; the buildings were still up even though they were still old and used during the war".





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Disability Athletics Championship

On Thursday 11th May students from Grange Drive and BWV represented Birch Wood at the Disability Athletics Championships. This is a county Athletics competition, all our students were incredible and represented our school with pride. They not only showed tremendous respect and encouragement to each other but also to their competitors from other schools. Two Students from Year 7 through to post 16 represented the school in the competition, as well as students from the Eagles and the Treehouse.

It was an extra special day to see the combination of the festival and competition as the students from each site were able to watch each other compete. The support they showed each other was amazing. It was an excellent day for both the staff and students and we are looking forward to receiving the results of the competition.



A small group of our BWV Students attended a leadership workshop on Monday 15th May where they were able to practise and develop their sports leadership skills. The session was organised by Inspire Together and was led by Sam (as pictured with our students) who has his own disability and has been able to achieve great success in both sport as an athlete and a sports leader- what an inspiration!

The students were able to follow his example of being an excellent leader and engaged confidently with both each other and students from other schools to make a start in organising and leading their own sporting activities

This session was to prepare them ahead of some events next term that they should hopefully be attending and leading younger students through as well as the opportunity to help out with some Special School competitions happening in the next academic year.

We have high hopes for the students involved in this event - some outstanding leadership shown by all of them!





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The Kings Coronation Big Help Out

On May 5th Students at Birch Wood Vale were involved in a range of different volunteering activities just prior to the Kings Coronation as part of the big help out. Some of the activities included cleaning the pond, clearing litter in the local community, cleaning windows, dusting, hoovering, visiting the local supermarket to donate food to the local food bank and making a keepsake box.





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8ES decided to mark the day by making keepsake boxes to celebrate the coronation, putting messages of positivity inside to keep as a reminder or gifting their box to someone as an act of kindness. What a wonderful way to mark the Coronation!



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.

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	Friday
Maths Revision 3.15-4.15pm	English Revision 3.15-4.15pm	Science Revision 3.15-4.15pm

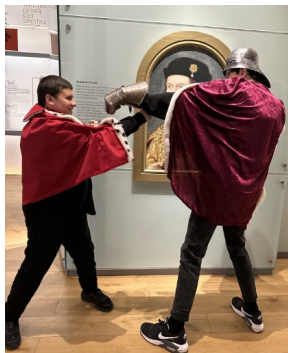


Year 9 visit to Leicester

On Wednesday 24th May, 9CB went to Leicester on the train to visit the Richard III museum. There was a lot of walking involved, to and from the train stations in Melton and Leicester, but all the students did really well with this. When they arrived at the museum, they learnt about Richard III's reign, his character and how he has been portrayed since the time he was alive. They found out about some of the ways that actors have played Richard III in different versions of Shakespeare's play since the time it was written. They also learnt about the archaeological dig to find Richard III's remains in the car park, and the science and processes behind this. There was even a chance to see the actual burial site and try on some clothes from the time.

After this, they had lunch in the sun near the New Walk museum, and even found time to have a look round there. They managed to see the dinosaur and Ancient Egyptian exhibits, the section about different animals and habitats, and some of the interesting art work and sculptures. The members of staff answered lots of questions that students had about the different exhibitions and artefacts.

The amazing weather certainly helped the day, and we all had a wonderful time exploring and learning so much.





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7DP Residential Trip to Beaumanor Hall May 9th and 10th

The students from 7DP attended a residential at Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire. They did lots of exciting activities. They started their day with a treasure hunt which gave them the opportunity to explore the lovely grounds of Beaumanor Hall working as a small team to find different clues on the map.



After lunch time they had an archery session where the students showed some amazing skills and were great at supporting each other and the staff.



They had a brief break and then headed into the main hall for their evening meal





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After dinner students built land buggies, splitting into two teams to problem solve and work as a team.



We then headed back to the accommodation to get students showered and ready for bed. The students did so well sleeping in a new place and had a good night's sleep



After breakfast in the main hall, students packed up the cabin responsibly before their survival and den building activity. The students showed some amazing team work and creative ideas in making their shelters that needed to be waterproof.



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We then headed for lunch, a bit of cricket and then a chance to visit the shop before we headed of back to school at 2pm. You could physically see student's confidence grow over the two days. The feedback from the instructors about our students was excellent, they were an absolute pleasure to take and a real credit to the school. A big thank you to all of the staff involved who made the trip a great success.



Where is the ball?





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**Birch Wood Community Café
at the
Melton Mencap Centre**

Open Mondays 11:00am – 2:00pm

**Managed, Prepared and Run by
Post 16 Students**

from BirchWood Vale School

Please Support Us !

For further information please contact:

Tom Smith: Head of School

Birch Wood Vale

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Key Dates next term

Exam period continues	End June 28 th for all students
Sandmartins – Monday 19 th June The Swifts and 5PW – Friday 16 th June	Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
22 nd – 23 rd June.	'Qualifying Expedition' - Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award
Friday 29 th June	Birch Wood Whole School LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration
Birch Wood Vale: Tuesday 4 th July Grange Drive: Wednesday 5 th July	Sports Days
Thursday July 6 th	BWV moving up day to their new class
Wednesday July 12 th	School Prom for Key Stage 4 and 5
Thursday July 13 th	School closes for the summer
Tuesday 29 th August	School reopens to students