



Grange Drive



Birch Wood
Vale School



Birch Wood
Ashton House

Birch Wood College

We are delighted to update you on the recent activities at Birch Wood College this term. It's a pleasure to see our young people expanding their social circles, reflecting their social skills and growing in confidence. We would also like to congratulate all the young people who have finished their GCSE exams. This has been a challenging time, but they have coped remarkably well so far, demonstrating the hard work they have put into their studies. We are very proud. Please take the time to read about the experiences and achievements of our wonderful young people this half term. I hope you and your family had a great half-term break, and we look forward to the new academic year.

Julie Peattie- Head of Post 16

What has been happening this term?

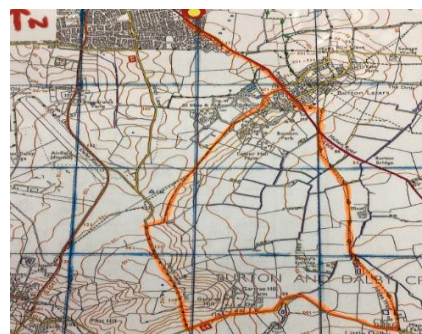
Crime and Punishment Workshop

Students at Birch Wood College have been learning about Crime and Punishment as part of their Personal Development lessons. Students at BWCN attended a full-day workshop across two historic sites. The session started at Rutland County Museum (including the only surviving New Drop Gallows in the United Kingdom!) to examine historical punishments and how the penal system has changed. The focus was specific local Rutland cases and characters from the 1700s and 1800s. Following this, at Oakham Castle, students gained practical experience in a courtroom setting by participating in a mock trial. The students were exemplary, and their high level of engagement demonstrated their enthusiasm for learning.



DofE Expedition

Post-16 students participating in the DofE programme this year successfully passed and completed their Bronze award. As part of their final assessment, students had to complete a two day and overnight expedition. The expedition involved completing an 11 km navigation walk, utilizing their survival and camp craft skills, mastering route planning techniques, and understanding emergency procedures. Congratulations!





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Travel Training

Being able to travel on public transport is a crucial life skill. Post-16 students have been taking part in travel training in the Melton area to become safe and independent travellers. The students have covered: - Building confidence in using buses - Personal safety - How to use timetables and buy tickets - Road safety, including coping with traffic on major roads - What to do when things go wrong (e.g., the bus is late). Students have made fantastic efforts to gain confidence and skills to travel independently.



Makaton Club



During Friday lunch, the Makaton Club is open to all Post 16 and MV16 students and staff. Led by Birch Wood College students, this club has become very popular, attracting 18 members from MV16 and BWC. The club provides a fun and exciting way for students to learn a wide range of Makaton sign language through songs, modelling, and conversation. The Makaton Club has fostered friendships and strong bonds, and they are now up to core session 5. This week, BWC students are saying goodbye and good luck to some MV16 student members who are moving on to new opportunities and who have greatly supported the students' inclusion. Beyond teaching communication, the Makaton Club has brought understanding, friendships, self-confidence, and self-belief to both Birch Wood College and MV16 students.



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Befriender scheme

The establishment of the Befriender Club has had an overwhelmingly positive response, drawing enthusiastic participation from students at both BWC and MV16. This initiative has proven to be a catalyst for personal growth, as it provides a platform for students to develop self-confidence and an opportunity to forge meaningful connections and enhance their communication and interpersonal skills. The club's activities, which include engaging in board games and meaningful conversations, have provided enjoyment and inspiration, fostering an environment where friendships can flourish and students can thrive. Witnessing the natural development of these valuable relationships and seeing the tangible impact on the students' individual growth has been truly uplifting.



Community Visits:

The students have been on various visits to Melton. They have been tasked with buying items in town, such as toiletries and personal items. They have been practising their money-handling skills and have demonstrated increased confidence in accessing the community and developing their life skills for the future.





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Prom

The young students enjoyed a magical evening at the prom, creating unforgettable memories as they laughed, danced, and celebrated with their closest friends.



Residential:

Post 16 students spent 2 nights at Lea Green this term where they had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities and push themselves out of their comfort zones. They participated in rock climbing, the high ropes and zipline, bush craft and had a lot of fun on the waterslides!





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Good luck to all of our Birch Wood College leavers!

Kyle Scrafton has successfully gained employment with Sensetec as a security engineer.

Tegan Reilly is aiming to study animal care at The Hub.

Daniel Partridge and Emma May Mason will both be studying "Preparing for Work" at Homefield College.

Charlie Shahrami-Niya will be studying plumbing at Stamford College.

Leo Jones will be studying Pathway 3 at Homefield College

We wish you all the luck in the world!