



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you've had a lovely summer break and managed to find time to relax. Please find below the outline to what we will be learning about over the Autumn Term. You will find that each half term we introduce a new topic to theme our curriculum. As well as our themes, you will read a short overview as to what the students will be learning in their other subjects.

Our themes this term will be:

Autumn Term 1	Our Independence This half term, we will be exploring "Our independence" and life skills and independence inside and outside of school.
Autumn term 2	The World around me After the October half-term, we will explore "The world around me". We will be making cross-curriculum links throughout and exploring the local community.

The Post 16 Lodge class students are on the Independence and Aspire pathway. This curriculum offers a personalised approach, including subject teaching in areas such as literacy, math, and science. In addition, the class focuses on addressing the students' communication needs and developing their independence throughout the curriculum.

My Communication – Reading and Literacy
<p style="text-align: center;">Autumn 1 English – Classic Literature</p> <p>Throughout our English lessons this term, students will explore classic literature stories. The first novel we will begin is "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." We will explore the story, the sequencing, and the deeper meanings of words/phrases used.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Autumn 2- Non-Fiction advertising</p> <p>Students will explore television, radio, and print adverts to study Identifying and labelling features and structures. They will also analyse features and explore annotations.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Reading</p> <p>During tutor-based reading sessions, students will practice their reading and comprehension skills using various resources for nonfiction, reading for pleasure, and phonics. This will emphasise inference skills and decoding. Students also have weekly sessions on reading and phonics tailored to their levels.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Communication</p> <p>All students will use topic vocabulary, signs and symbols, and Makaton, while some students will also use communication boards and word mats throughout their weekly curriculum. During Communication sessions, students will develop their initiation of social communication, attention, and listening. Group Communication sessions will begin after half term with SALT Therapist Steph Shuttlewood. Each day, we also lead a Good Morning routine session to work on communication skills and to help students settle into the school day.</p>

My Thinking - Maths

Maths

Students will be looking at **Numbers**. They will focus on following different numbered sequences whilst using rote counting to help develop sequential counting. Students will also look at ordering, comparing and calculating prices of foods. In the second half term we will focus on **Money**. We will be looking at money values and start to recognise denominations and the value of money. During this term we will be taking part in the **Rickshaw Challenge** which is a fundraising/ Enterprise challenge which we'll be able to further our knowledge and experience this at school.

My Movement - PE

Students are working on developing their physical skills through **health-related fitness activities**. Through these activities, pupils will learn how their body responds to exercise, the benefits of exercise, and hopefully, how they can apply these to their lives outside of Birch Wood, developing their skills for independence.

Students will develop their skills in team games, such as rules of the game, working/turn-taking with others, and applying physical skills learnt in PE to differing activities.

Myself - PSHE

Autumn 1- Mental health and emotional wellbeing

Students will begin to look for strategies to promote mental health and emotional well-being and address difficulties. They will also explore how to achieve a healthy life balance through leisure, exercise, sleep, and time online, as well as calming and relaxation strategies.

Autumn 2- Readiness for Work

Students will explore how to evaluate strengths, skills, and interests in future roles and opportunities. Students will begin to learn how to write an effective CV, prepare for interviews for part-time work, and learn about career opportunities in the community.

My Enrichment ASDAN PSD

Computing Towards Independence

Students will begin to explore how to independently find the different parts of a computer and complete a computer start-up routine with minimal support. They will then begin to understand how to access different apps on the computer and be able to confidently use the Internet safely.

Humanities and R.E Towards Independence

Towards Independence provides a framework of activities to develop and accredit personal, social, work-related and independent living skills. Students will develop knowledge in Geography and develop geographical skills.

Employability

Students will be completing an ASDAN Work Awareness course. Throughout the autumn term, they will learn about the world of work and workplaces through a variety of class-based activities and internal work experience linked to transferable employability skills.

Forest School

Forest school is an opportunity for students to experience nature and the outdoor environment in a safe, secure, and hands-on way. At Forest School, students explore, play, and problem-solve using a range of activities, with the aim of building their sense of independence, self-esteem, and teamwork abilities. The students are taught about nature and how to respect all living things.

Moving together showcase

Throughout the programme, students will engage in activities designed to enhance their memory of movements, spatial understanding, and overall physical abilities. They will be instructed in a specific routine that incorporates these skills and will have the opportunity to showcase their progress at our annual show.



My Enrichment

Cooking

Practical sessions developing basic cooking skills. Developing knowledge of safety in the kitchen, cooking terms and equipment.

Personal Safety Towards Independence

Students will explore ways to stay safe in different locations inside and outside of school. They will develop a better understanding of how to independently and safely perform daily life skills tasks. Additionally, they will learn how to stay safe in the kitchen and handle potential hazards.

Art

Mark making and colour

Learning about colour mixing and colour harmony. Exploring line and texture and applying these techniques to a range of pastiche's. Students will learn to distinguish how different artists use colour to convey atmosphere or mood and analyse different types of line used in various works.

Behaviour for learning

Our Behaviour Curriculum seeks to equip students with the skills and mindset necessary for independence beyond their school years. We strive to cultivate self-reliance, emotional regulation, and problem-solving abilities, enabling students to navigate challenges and opportunities with confidence. Students will begin this by demonstrating class routines and creating a class reward system.

Citizenship Towards Independence

Students will be supported in developing a greater awareness of themselves (appearance, preferences, independence). Students will demonstrate the ability to make appropriate decisions about their actions and behaviours in line with community rules. Students will demonstrate knowledge of others and how to assist and help others in the community.

Music - Body Percussion

For students to develop an internal pulse and explore a deeper understanding of rhythm and the ability to create rhythms using body percussion. Students will have the chance to make music independently and share it with the school.

What you can do at home

My Movement: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CosmicKidsYoga>

Just dance, watch and copy different genres of dance.

My Communication: <https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk/> <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/directories/information-and-support-directory/singing-cafe-melton>

My Thinking: Money recognition, adding up change, handling money in shops. Looking at clocks and telling the time, talking about what day is tomorrow.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on meadsj@birchwoodschoool.co.uk I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your young person. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to the next academic year.

Class Teacher

Jordan Meads