Birch Wood Area Special school
Class BWCA
Autumn 2025
Curriculum Newsletter









Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying how proud we are as a class team of the resilience that the students have shown in transitioning not only from BWV to College, but also in moving classes internally. We have seen a positive start to the academic year. Already, the students are demonstrating their commitment to independent life skills by using Teams and emails to communicate with staff and organise their own career meetings. We can see their personal progression every day.

We follow the Aspire Pathway and have planned a variety of engaging topics, content, knowledge, and skills for the next term, outlined in the table below. In addition to academic learning, we will provide your young person with opportunities to develop essential life skills and gain work-related experiences, both within and outside of Birch Wood College. Our goal is to prepare your young person for their transition into adulthood and equip them with the necessary skills and experiences for success. We look forward to working in partnership with you and your young person throughout the term.

Maths		
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	
Statistics and Probability.	Algebra and Ratio.	
English		
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	
GCSE Reading Skills – Paper 1.	GCSE Writing Skills – Paper 1.	
Entry Level 2/3 Component 1 – Pets.	Entry Level 2/3 Component 2 – Heroism or Survival.	
PSHE		
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	
Mental health and Emotional wellbeing. Independence.		
Reading		
Word of the week. Own choice – levelled reading book. Non-fiction articles.		

ASDAN Personal and Social Development

In ASDAN PSD, students will be covering the following in the Autumn term:

Module 7 - Health and Wellbeing

This module is all about exploring ways to stay emotionally and physically healthy. Learners will keep a record of emotional wellbeing activities like reading or listening to music. Learners will where possible undertake a recognised course in first aid.

Module 11- Expressive Arts

The Expressive Arts module allows students to explore various creative fields, including painting, poetry, music, and drama. Students will watch performances, provide critical feedback, and study artists in both poetry and drama.

Module 1- Communication

This module is all about finding and sharing information in different ways. Learners will join in a group discussion to raise their opinions and learn from other points of view. Learners will practice sharing and presenting ideas to others by writing, talking or drawing or even take on an editorial role and write for a blog or newspaper.

Employability/Enterprise

Students will explore career options and refine their aspirations in this module. This course will help students turn their goals into actionable steps, such as preparing job applications and getting ready for success in the workplace. Through hands-on, virtual and practical experiences, students can investigate various jobs while developing essential skills for working well with others. They will participate in virtual work experiences with McDonald's, the NHS, and Haven, focusing on teamwork and communication. Students will also gain experience at Rutland Farm Park, learn how to write a CV, and understand health and safety in the workplace.

Food for Personal Development		
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	
Food Preparation	Safety in the Kitchen	
Pupils will learn to select and prepare ingredients for a recipe. To understand the importance of breakfast.	Pupils will learn to Identify risks in the kitchen. To understand cross contamination / bacteria/ infection.	
Core PE		
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	
Engaging in physical activity in the community to develop independent life skills.		

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Option Subjects

Health and Social Care		
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	
Intro MU 1.1 Understand the range of service provision and roles within health and social care (adults and children and young people), early years and childcare.	Intro MU 1.2 Understand the principles and values in health and social care (adults and children and young people), early years and childcare.	
Creative Media		
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	
Introduction to Creative Media and Digital Art Investigating creative styles used in print, audio and digital video	Exploring and experimenting with Media print, audio and digital video techniques.	
Duke of Edinburgh Award		

Volunteering Section

Students will engage in a variety of projects both in college and within the community. These may include sports leadership, supporting younger students with reading and charity fundraising projects.

Expedition Section

Students will be working on skills needed for expedition, these will be practised in college and with the community. Topics will include first aid, navigation skills (using compass and map), how to summon help, campcraft skills (tents, cooking), teamwork and leadership and the countryside code.

If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to send me an email at hawkinsl@birchwoodschool.co.uk. I am always happy to help you with any queries about your young person.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Best regards,

Lesley Hawkins BWCA Class Teacher