



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer break and found some time to unwind. Below is an overview of what we'll be covering during the Autumn Term. Each half term, we'll introduce a new topic that will shape our curriculum theme. Alongside these themes, you'll also find a brief summary of what students will be learning in their other subjects.

Our themes this term will be:

Autumn Term 1	<p>In this Material World</p> <p>This term, our theme is "In This Material World." We will be exploring the materials that make up the world around us.</p>
Autumn term 2	<p>The show must go on</p> <p>After the October half-term, our theme is "The Show Must Go On." We'll be exploring the exciting world of performing arts – including drama, music, dance, and the creative work that goes on behind the scenes.</p>

The Post-16 Lodge class is now known as **The Falcons**, as chosen by the students. As part of the **Navigators** pathway, the class offers a personalised and supportive learning experience. Learners follow a curriculum that covers core subjects such as literacy, maths, and life skills, with a strong emphasis on developing communication abilities and fostering independence in all areas of learning.

My Communication – Reading and Literacy

Autumn 1 English – Advertising and Magazine Covers

Students will begin working on the topic of **Advertising and Magazine Covers**, which links to **Entry Level qualifications (Component 1)**. Students will also continue developing their communication skills through the **ASDAN Speaking and Listening module**, working towards their **ASDAN Communication qualification** as part of "My Centre."

Autumn 2- Advertising and Magazine Covers

Students will develop their speaking and listening skills through practical activities such as **greeting visitors** and engaging in **community-based communication**, as part of their **ASDAN Speaking and Listening module**.

Reading and Communication

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.

All students will engage with topic vocabulary, signs and symbols, and Makaton, while some will also use communication boards and word mats as part of their weekly learning. During Communication sessions, students will focus on developing their ability to initiate social interactions, as well as improving attention and listening skills. This half term group Communication sessions will commence, led by SALT Therapist Steph Shuttlewood. Additionally, each day begins with a Good Morning routine designed to support communication development and help students settle smoothly into the school day.

My Thinking - Maths

Maths

Students will be developing their numeracy skills through the **ASDAN Number Entertaining** module, which focuses on counting and ordering numbers in practical, real-life contexts. They will take part in role-playing activities based around cafés, where they will practise skills such as counting items, ordering numbers, and handling simple transactions. This hands-on approach helps students build confidence with numbers while engaging in everyday scenarios.

My Movement - PE

Students are focusing on improving their physical skills through health-related fitness activities. These sessions help them understand how their bodies respond to exercise, the benefits of staying active, and how they can incorporate these healthy habits into their daily lives beyond Birch Wood, supporting their journey towards greater independence.

Additionally, students will build their abilities in team games by learning game rules, practicing cooperation and turn-taking, and applying the physical skills they develop in PE to a variety of activities.

Myself - PSHE

Autumn 1- Healthy Relationships

In Autumn 1, students will focus on mental health and emotional wellbeing by learning strategies to promote positive mental health and maintain a balanced lifestyle through exercise, sleep, leisure, and relaxation techniques.

They will also explore relationships, understanding how to express their values, respect different cultural and faith perspectives, and challenge prejudice. The curriculum covers forming and maintaining friendships, staying safe in new and online relationships, and developing healthy emotional connections. Students will practice communication skills to handle challenges and endings in relationships respectfully. Additionally, they will learn about building professional relationships and recognising appropriate boundaries in the workplace

Autumn 2- Readiness for Work

Students will explore their strengths, skills, and interests to help them explore different future jobs and opportunities. They will also start practicing how to write a CV, get ready for part-time job interviews, and find out about work options in their local community.

My Enrichment ASDAN PSD

Computing Towards Independence

Students will start by learning how to identify the different parts of a computer and follow a start-up routine with minimal help. They will then begin to explore how to open and use various apps independently. Alongside this, students will develop an understanding of how to use the internet safely and responsibly, learning important skills to navigate technology confidently and protect themselves online.

Humanities and R.E Towards Independence

Students are developing their knowledge and skills in Geography. Currently, they are exploring different types of weather and learning how weather patterns vary across various locations. This helps students understand the environment around them and how it can differ depending on where you are.

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.

First Aid – St Johns Ambulance

We will be participating in the St John Ambulance First Aid programme. This programme aims to develop students' awareness of basic first aid skills, helping them to understand how to respond safely and confidently in everyday situations. Through this, students will gain valuable knowledge that supports their independence and personal safety.

My Enrichment

Cooking

Students will take part in practical cooking sessions designed to build their basic cooking skills and boost their independence. These sessions will help them become more confident in the kitchen by learning important safety practices, understanding common cooking terms, and becoming familiar with the use of various kitchen equipment. Through hands-on experience, students will develop essential life skills that support their ability to prepare simple meals safely and independently, fostering greater self-reliance in daily living.

Art

This term, students will explore the fundamentals of mark making and colour through a variety of creative activities. They will learn about colour mixing and how to create harmonious colour combinations, gaining a deeper understanding of how colours interact with each other. Through experimenting with different lines and textures, students will develop their ability to express themselves visually and apply these techniques to create pastiches—artworks inspired by the styles of other artists.

Students will also study how different artists use colour intentionally to convey atmosphere, mood, or emotion in their work. They will learn to identify and analyse the use of various types of lines—such as bold, delicate, curved, or jagged—in different artistic styles and contexts. This exploration will help students appreciate the power of mark making and colour as tools for creative expression and storytelling.

Behaviour for learning Autumn 1 – Be Kind and Be Respectful

During this term, students will focus on the important values of kindness and respect, learning how these qualities help create positive relationships and a supportive community. Through discussions, activities, and real-life scenarios, students will explore what it means to be kind to others, how to show respect for different people and their feelings, and why these behaviours are essential in school and beyond.

Students will develop their understanding of how kindness and respect impact friendships, teamwork, and communication. They will practice expressing empathy, listening actively, and resolving conflicts in respectful ways. The curriculum also encourages students to reflect on their own behaviour and recognise the importance of treating others as they would like to be treated.

Music – Beat Boxing

This term, students will dive into the art of beatboxing, exploring rhythms and sounds they can create using just their voices. Through fun and engaging activities, they will develop their musical creativity and build confidence in expressing themselves. Students will practice creating their own unique beats and rhythms independently, learning how to control tempo, pitch, and volume. As they progress, they will have the exciting opportunity to prepare for a showcase at the end of the term, where they can share their beatboxing performances with the whole school, celebrating their creativity and achievements.

What you can do at home

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

This new activity encourages learners to explore movement through fun and accessible dance sessions inspired by *My Movement* and Cosmic Kids Yoga. Students will watch and follow along with videos featuring different dance styles and genres, such as hip-hop, salsa, ballet, and even yoga-inspired movement. The focus is on enjoyment, self-expression, and physical activity tailored to individual abilities.

By engaging in these guided sessions, learners can improve coordination, balance, and body awareness, while also boosting confidence and mood. The sessions offer a relaxed environment where students can move at their own pace, try new movements, and develop social skills through group participation

My Communication: <https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk/> <https://all4kidsuk.com/after-school-activities-childrens/leicestershire/melton-mowbray>

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@birchwoodschool.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