

Dear parent/carer,

***Team Birchwood believe in the power of aspiration, knowledge and kindness. We know that we achieve our best when we work together.***

At Birchwood we believe that strong values are as important as academics; it is of utmost importance to us that we are equipping our learners to be socially responsible citizens once they leave us. We know one aspect of school life that contributes to this is helping to keep the school litter free and tidy. It promotes understanding of life skills such as personal responsibility and shows learners that they should treat their environment with respect.

With this in mind, we will be moving to every learner having one community duty every academic year to help with tidying up in the canteen areas. We will start after the October half term holiday with each form in the school being allocated a week in the year. They will decide as a form who will help out on each day of that week so that everyone participates. On their elected day, learners will be allowed to go straight to the canteen to collect a card that will allow them access to the front of the dinner queue at 13.15 and then their duty will run from 13.40 – 13.55. Each learner that completes their duty will receive 3 BIRCH points and they can volunteer for extra duties if they want to build their points up.

We hope that you can see the importance of this focus on responsibility and respect in our school community.

We are also running an initiative after the October half term break called *Respect Reaps Rewards*. Any learner who receives 50 BIRCH points from 5<sup>th</sup> November to the 6<sup>th</sup> December, then they can wear their own clothes on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December and will receive a Christmas selection box. Staff will be looking out for polite, kind and respectful behaviour to reward with BIRCH points as well as the usual points going out for ATL1s in lessons, good behaviour and perfect attendance. We are hoping that we don't see any school uniform on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you for all your ongoing support.

Many thanks,



Ms Emma Mills