

Hi Year 6,

Just a quick hello from your Head Boy, Matty and Head Girl, Freya. We want to say Hi and Congratulations on accepting your place at Byrchall for September! You're going to be the first year 7 to start in our brand-new school!

You will have lots of chances to meet us and other staff and students over the next few months and tell you about all of the fun things that happen at your new school.

Starting high school might feel a little scary at first, but trust us when we say that every single one of us has been in your shoes. We remember the mix of nerves and excitement, and we're here to let you know that it's all part of the experience! I still remember my first day in year 7 well. There were lots of friendly faces from both staff and older students who were there to help and this is still the case today! My first day in year 7 was the start of me making special friends who I have enjoyed spending time with over the last 5 years.

As the Head Boy and Head Girl, we are here alongside lots of other prefects and buddies too to help to support you throughout your high school journey. Whether you have questions about classes, need advice on clubs to join, or simply want someone to talk to, we're here for you. There will always be somebody here with a smile to have a chat to you and help answer any questions that you might have.

Being a student at Byrchall is more than just coming to lessons. We have had so many opportunities to get involved in lots of different clubs and activities. Our school is like a big family and we all look out for each other! During my time here, I have loved taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh, this has been a real challenge but something I am proud of. I have had the chance to take part in lots of musicals, last year's Lion King was extra special as it was the last one to take part in the old building. When you join us, you could be part of the first musical to take place in our new building! We have been on so many trips to theatre trips, Alton Towers, college visits and many more. If you enjoy music and play an instrument you also get the chance to take part in events like Battle of the bands. Getting involved in things outside lessons is the best way to meet new people whilst having lots of fun too.

You might be worried about making friends in High School but that's why we are all put into forms. Every day we go into form and do lots of different activities to get to know other people such as games, competitions and team building activities. You will have lots of different opportunities over the next few months to come to different events like Friendship day, transition nights and summer school where you can meet new friends and some of our amazing teachers before you join us full time in September.

If you like the idea of houses in Harry Potter, we have a similar set up, minus the wands and brooms! Each form is part of one of these houses: Vikings, Romans, Trojans and Spartans. When we arrived, we were sorted into these houses and they became our school family. Every year, we hold house competitions where we showcase our hidden talents and battle it out to win the house cup. The house competition has 4 categories: Music, Dance, Drama and Art, it's a fab opportunity to show off talents you might already have outside of school! By getting involved in these competitions and by following Byrchall's values, you can earn yourself house points which can be spent at our in-school Fairtrade Tuckshop. You can also earn points and badges in our school Recognition scheme too for taking part and getting involved in things!

High School is an amazing adventure where you begin to learn who you are and what you might want to achieve in the future! There are lots of people at Byrchall who will help you to achieve your dreams and ambitions and become the best version of you that you can be!

The best tips we can give you to make sure you enjoy high school are:

- Get involved in every club and activity that you can – you get to learn so much from the teachers and other people and make new friends.
- Try to stay organised with homework but make sure you leave time outside school to enjoy activities you enjoy too!
- Don't be afraid to ask – there is always someone who will be there to help you.
- Enjoy every minute, your five years will go so fast!

We hope you have a lovely Summer, come along to Summer school and get to meet lots of teachers, make new friends, explore our school and have fun days out! We look forward to meeting you and can't wait for you to join us full time in September.



**Matthew and Freya
Head Boy and Head Girl, 2023-24**