Berwickshire High School

Weekly Heads Up!

22nd October 2026

I understand this week may have caused worry for some families, and I want to reassure you that the safety and care of our students and staff is front and centre of everyday practice at Berwickshire High School.

We talk, all the time, about this school being a village and how we look after each other as villagers. This week is a perfect example of that. I wanted to draw your attention to just a few of the things we do to keep your young people safe, which I hope will provide you some comfort.

- We follow strict safeguarding procedures around access to our building, which was highlighted as excellent practice by SBC.
- Our site is monitored by 24-hour CCTV.
- We work very closely with our community police officer and all necessary agencies to ensure the highest levels of safety and care for the students and staff in our building and act on advice accordingly.

Of course, as a result of this week, as we would with any incident, we'll review things again.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate the week, doing our best for our village of staff and students.

This week, many subjects have sat their checkpoint assessments, and they continue into next week. I know students have been studying hard and I commend their efforts.

Thank you to all parents who attended our S1 Parent Evening last night – it was very well attended and positively received by all.

As we look ahead to next week, we're delighted to be hosting our annual Careers Fair, with over 40 careers represented. We're so grateful to all the businesses who are giving up their evening to be with us. Our Bearistas will be on hand to keep you caffeinated too.

Mrs E Dickson, Headteacher



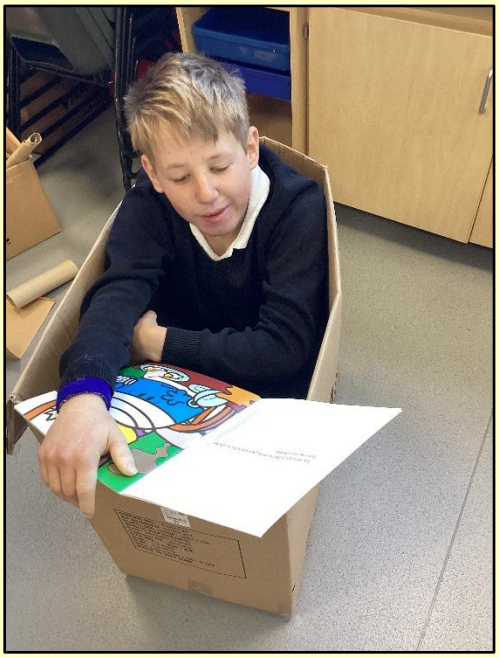
Wee Read 2026 - Rising to the Challenge

We can be very proud of the fact that about 650 of the 91336 Scots who pledged to read on the 7th October were indeed Berwickshire High School pupils and staff. The gauntlet was thrown down by Mrs Dickson and the reading challenge was on (once an English teacher... always an English teacher) when she motivated the staff to produce the best photographic evidence of themselves and their students reading in the first seven minutes of their period 1 class. It is wonderful what creativity is inspired by a simple promise of a prize!

On the day the hush was tangible and the variety of texts students chose to read was impressive. We would like to thank staff and students for rising to the challenge and having a wee read.

Long may it continue. Miss Currie







Developing the Young Workforce News

Engineering Science visit





This week, our S3 Engineering Science class welcomed Chris and Jack, a former student, from UFO Lighting. The company, based in Coldstream, specialise in designing and manufacturing fibre-optic lighting systems and also produce LED lighting and bespoke light fittings. They brought along a range of fibre optics and track light fittings for students to explore, including a gold-painted light fitting made especially for the Hard Rock Cafe in Las Vegas!

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to see real-world applications of electrical engineering and learn more about the industry. A big thank you to Chris and Jack for taking the time to visit and bring electrical engineering to life!

Lucy Owenson, DYW Coordinator

Maths Week Careers Insight Talks

As part of Maths Week in October, we were delighted to welcome a range of local professionals to share how maths is used in their everyday working lives.
Our S1–S3 students enjoyed hearing from professionals at Galedin Vets, Police Scotland and Aqualution, who shared the different ways mathematical skills are applied across a variety of careers. The talks provided a valuable opportunity for students to see the relevance of maths beyond the classroom, with speakers sharing real-life examples and giving students work-related problems to solve.

A huge thank you to Nick, Carin, Gemma and Beth for giving up their time to share their experiences and stories with our pupils. It was a great opportunity to highlight the many different ways maths can be used in the world of work. Lucy Owenson







S2 Students - RHET Day Instructions

- Reminder that the RHET day is taking place on Wednesday 28th October. This will be at the Hirsel in Coldstream.
- You need to ensure you have the correct clothing on the day:
    - Outdoor clothing (not school uniform)
    - Jumper
    - Rain Jacket
    - Wellies (if you have them), if not sturdy footwear
    - Hair Tied back (if applicable)
    - Hat/gloves – We will be outside all day!
    - Please make sure you bring a packed lunch and a water bottle.
- If you get free school meals please order a grab and go the day before (Tuesday 27th October).
- Please ensure you bring medication if you need it.
- Go to registration as normal on the day. After registration we will all meet in the big canteen.
- We will aim to leave at around 9 and hope to be back in school by 3.30.
- We will wait in the hall until the end of the day.

Applications now open! EDF Torness Power Station Engineering Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship

Applications for the EDF Torness Power Station Engineering Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship are now open. Applications open on 01 October and close on 31 October 2026. We'd be grateful if you could share this opportunity with your students and parents/carers. This apprenticeship offers a chance to earn while learning, gain valuable qualifications, and build the skills needed for a career in Britain's clean energy future.

How to apply
Students can apply online via the EDF careers website by scanning the QR code below. We encourage them to check the entry requirements and complete their application before the closing date.

What to expect
The recruitment process includes an online application, assessments and an interview. We'll support candidates throughout the process and keep them updated at each stage.

scan to find out more

Scan the QR code below to find out more about our Apprenticeship Programmes and encourage students to join our Apprentice Community for the latest opportunities and updates.

SUCCESS IS PERSONAL

Contact email addresses for Head of Years		
S1	Mrs Rebecca Robertson	Rebecca.Graham@scotborders.gov.uk
S2	Miss Abbie Gibson	Abbie.Gibson@scotborders.gov.uk
S3	Mr Will Hudson	William.Hudson@scotborders.gov.uk
S4	Miss Abbie Gibson	Abbie.Gibson@scotborders.gov.uk
S5	Mr Will Hudson	William.Hudson@scotborders.gov.uk
S6	Mrs Rebecca Robertson	Rebecca.Graham@scotborders.gov.uk

THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD – 'RIGHT OF THE WEEK'



ARTICLE 33 (drug abuse)

Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs.

Home Economics Practical Lessons - Week beginning 268th October

This is what students will be making next week. Please could we ask your help in ensuring your child has the correct equipment.

Year	Making	Tub/Container
S1	Tacos	Yes
S2	Cheese Scones	Yes
S3	Fruit Scones Fruit Muffins	Yes Yes
Seniors	Assessment: Leek and Potato Soup Assessment: Apple Meringue Pie	Yes Yes

Heads Down - Upcoming Student Assessments (October)

Subject	Level	Teacher	Assessment	Date
Beekeeping	Level 5	Ms Addie	Unit 1 LO3+4 Test	Monday 26th
Chemistry	N5 (short)	Ms Addie	Checkpoint	Tuesday 27th
Chemistry	S3	Ms Addie	Rates and Formula Test	Wednesday 28th

Heads Down - Upcoming Student Assessments (November)

Subject	Level	Teacher	Assessment	Date
Modern Studies	S2 - 2D1	Mrs Hoggan-Nisbet	Poverty - End of Unit	Monday 2nd
Modern Studies	S2 - 2D2	Mrs Hoggan-Nisbet	Poverty - End of Unit	Wednesday 4th



Parent Council



Next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 28th October** at 6.00pm. All welcome to attend.

e-Sgoil's 2026/27 Evening Study Support programme

Registration is now open for e-Sgoil's 2026/27 Evening Study Support programme, offering free online study support to pupils in S4–S6. Funded by the Scottish Government, the programme provides live, interactive online sessions delivered by experienced, GTCS-registered teachers.

Key Information:

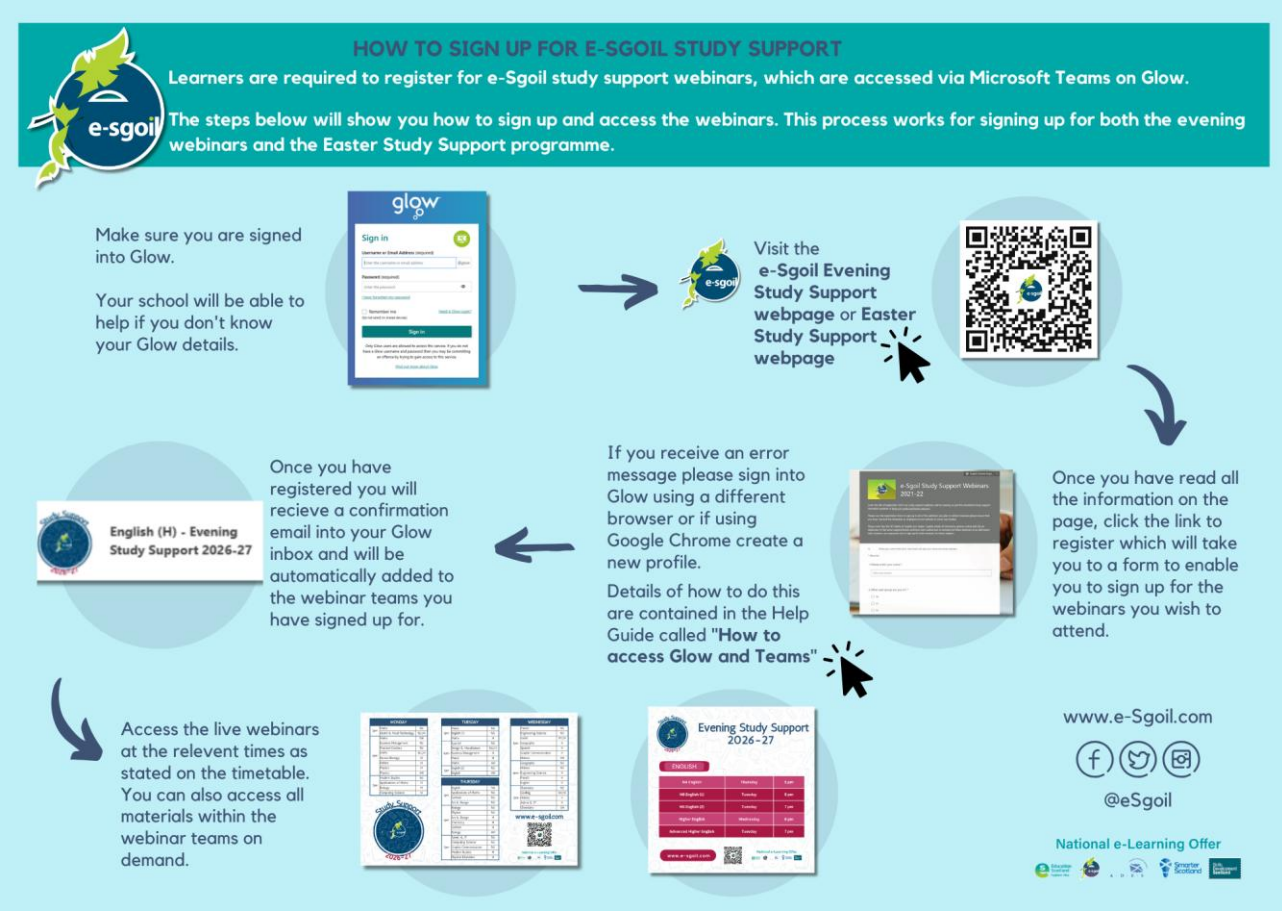
- Start date: Monday 26 October 2026
- Cost: Completely free
- Subjects: 57 different webinars available each week during term time, covering a wide range of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher subjects.
- Format: Live, interactive sessions delivered through Microsoft Teams using Glow.

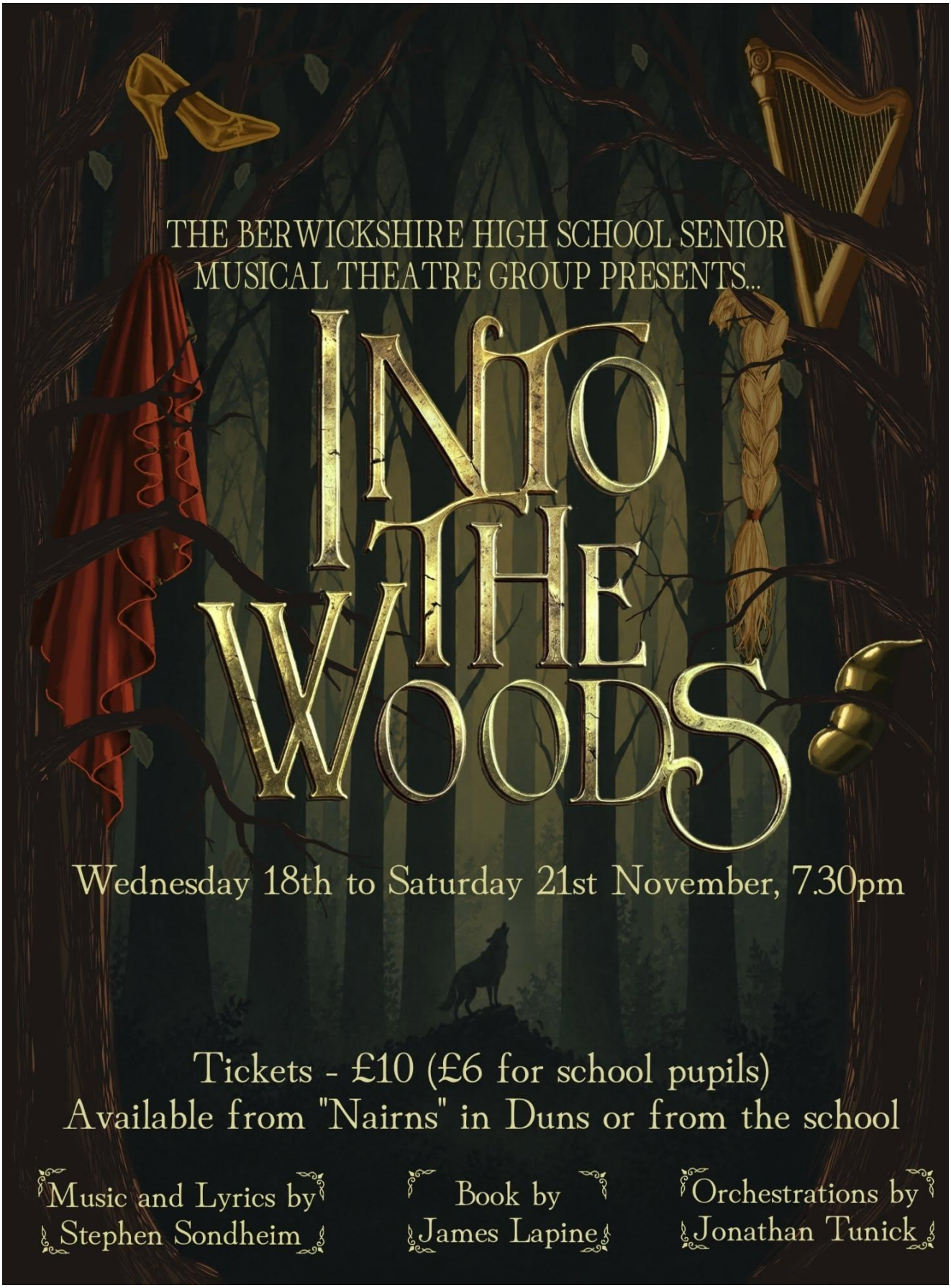
Last year, over 8,400 pupils across Scotland registered for the programme, with 91% of surveyed learners reporting that the sessions helped improve their final examination grade.

How to Register
Pupils can find further information, view the available subjects and register using this link: Study Support | e-Sgoil

Important: Pupils will need their Glow username and password to register and access the sessions.

We would strongly encourage all Senior Phase pupils to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to consolidate their learning, build confidence and prepare for their national qualifications. Mr Murray, Depute Headteacher




THE BERWICKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR
MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS...
INTO THE WOODS
Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st November, 7.30pm
Tickets - £10 (£6 for school pupils)
Available from "Nairns" in Duns or from the school
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

BERWICKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL

CAREERS FAIR 2026

Thursday 29th October
6 – 8pm
Berwickshire High School

All BHS students, parents & carers and our cluster P6+7 pupils are invited to come along and gain a real insight into the many different career pathways and opportunities available to them in the future

Berwickshire High School

BHS

Contact Details:
Email: cgracey@scotborders.gov.uk
lowenson@dywborders.co.uk
Phone: 01361 883710
Twitter: Direct Message @DYWBHS

Aim for Best: Learn • Achieve • Contribute

MCR Pathways | Skills Development Scotland | DYW Borders Developing the Young Workforce | Scottish Borders Council



Become a volunteer mentor for a young person in the Scottish Borders

Who believed in your potential? MCR Pathways is launching into all secondary schools and college campuses across the region, looking for trusted adults to mentor local young people, helping them build confidence, discover their strengths and realise their potential. Whatever your background, career or experience, you can make a difference.

We'll provide the training, PVG process and ongoing support. Mentoring is very flexible. Designed to fit around your life - all it takes is just one hour a week during term time.

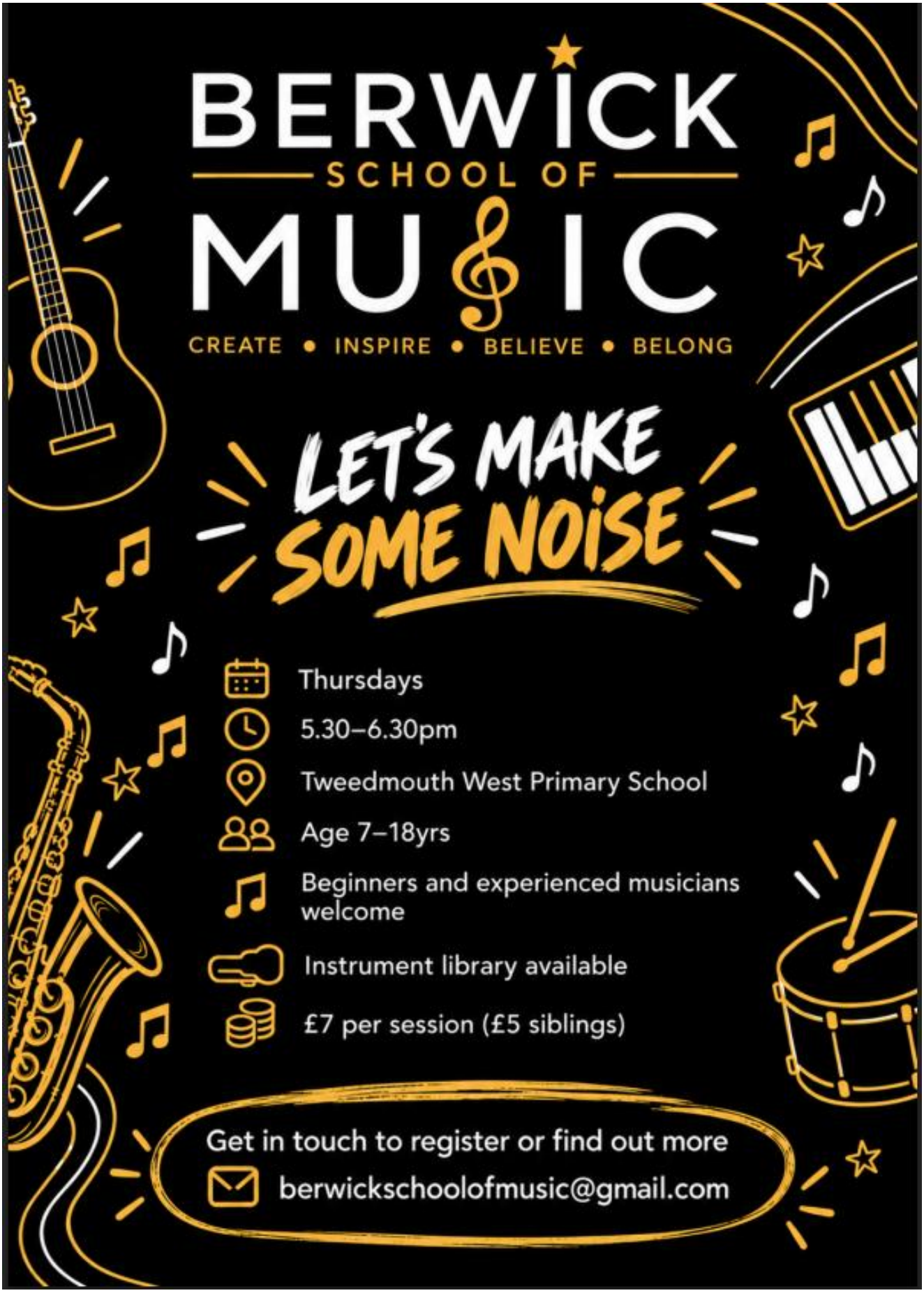
Could you be the person who helps a young person believe in themselves and their potential?

Become an MCR Pathways mentor today:
mcrpathways.org/become-a-mentor

Scan QR Code to Register Now

scotborders@mcrpathways.org
Scottish Charity Number: SC045816

Aim for Best: Learn • Achieve • Contribute


BERWICK
SCHOOL OF
MUSIC
CREATE • INSPIRE • BELIEVE • BELONG
LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE
Thursdays
5.30–6.30pm
Tweedmouth West Primary School
Age 7–18yrs
Beginners and experienced musicians welcome
Instrument library available
£7 per session (£5 siblings)
Get in touch to register or find out more
berwickschoolofmusic@gmail.com



The Creaky Blinders

Live @ Duns Volunteer Hall

30th October 2026

Tickets £12

www.aheartforduns.org

IMPACTFUL PARENTS

JOIN IMPACTFUL PARENTS

AN ARTS-BASED CREATIVE EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT FOR UNEMPLOYED PARENTS

Are you an unemployed parent? Do you want to get creative, learn new skills and get support with your next steps?

Join our creative light touch employability programme near you!

COMPLETELY FREE
TRAVEL EXPENSES & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



- Creative arts projects
- Crafting activities
- Work with a professional artist

- Build your confidence
- Connect with other parents and make friends
- Boost your wellbeing

SCAN FOR INFO

IMPACT ARTS · Scottish Borders Council · West Lothian Council · Midlothian · East Lothian Council