

# BB



**NEWSLETTER**  
JULY 2018



**AIR SQUADRON TROPHY**  
**SCHOOL DIVERSITY WEEK**  
**THE WORLD OF BOOKS**  
AND MUCH MORE

**YEAR 11 PROM 2018**



**60 YEARS OF BEACON**  
**ALUMNI INTERVIEWS**

60  
YEARS  
OF



**BARR BEACON SCHOOL**  
PROUD TO SUCCEED



**#CHICKENWATCH**



[@barrbeaconsch](https://twitter.com/barrbeaconsch)



[www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk](http://www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk)



[vimeo.com/matrixacademytrust](https://vimeo.com/matrixacademytrust)

## End of Year Newsletter 2018



Ms L Draycott  
Headteacher

What a year it has been! The Year 11 and Year 13 proms were triumphant finales after so much hard work and we know the examination results will truly be a cause for celebration.

Something else to celebrate is the forthcoming regeneration of our pool. When it re-opens in January 2019 it will be completely rejuvenated. We have been awarded over three quarters of a million pounds from the government's Conditions Improvement Fund. This will be used to replace the tiling, windows, doors, lighting, heating and the pool's power plant. The improvements will also make the pool fully accessible for the first time, with disabled access throughout the building.

The government are giving us money obtained from the 'sugar tax'. It has never been more important for schools to promote healthy lifestyles with their pupils and this will make sure we can keep doing this both for Beacon pupils, pupils from our local primaries and, of course, members of the public. Each year, thousands of people enjoy our pool facilities and these works will guarantee thousands more will be able to do so in future.

Over the holiday, we will be keeping in touch via letter, text, Twitter and our website.

Everyone at Barr Beacon hopes you have an excellent Summer.

  
Ms L Draycott

### Attendance Information for Parents/Carers

Please remember that if you take your child on holiday during school time you are very likely to receive a fine from Walsall Local Authority. The Local Authority may also take parents/carers to court if their child is persistently absent (below 90%). Some parents have even been arrested, taken to court and fined over £500.

**Notice** - *If your child needs to take prescribed medication please ensure you have signed it in at reception. The forms are available under the Publications tab on the website.*

We regularly conduct research in school to identify opportunities for enhancing the learning for all pupils. This includes surveys and group interviews. If you would prefer your child not to be involved, please contact Mr Lowbridge-Ellis.

## IMPORTANT DATES AND NOTICES

**GCSE Results Day** | Thursday 23rd August 2018

**A Level Results Day** | Thursday 16th August 2018

**Staff Training Day** | Monday 3rd September 2018

**First Day Back for Pupils** | Tuesday 4th September 2018



# PARENT FORUM MEETING Summer 2018

Mr Lowbridge-Ellis (Deputy Headteacher) opened the meeting.

Dr Deborah Park (Chair of Governors) thanked everyone for their commitment to Parent Forum

Mr Lowbridge-Ellis went through the actions that have happened since the previous meeting (Spring 2018)

## WE DISCUSSED

Mr Lowbridge-Ellis demonstrated the new electronic Progress Evening appointment system. Parents/carers were very impressed, especially at the algorithm which schedules the appointments to minimise waiting time.

Mr Foster (Assistant Headteacher) presented on the intent behind the current Year 7 and 8 assessment system and whether reporting could be further improved. The video had been warmly received:

<http://www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk/understanding-your-childrens-report-year-78/>

Some parents/carers wanted to keep the detail of the working at grades (%) and some said they would just like to know if their children were working below, above or in line with where they should be.

Mr Lowbridge-Ellis presented on the national shift towards a knowledge-based curriculum and how Barr Beacon has been adapting its already Outstanding practice. Parents/carers were very enthusiastic about knowledge organisers produced by Beacon teachers. Parents/carers suggested ways they could be shared.

Ms Draycott (Headteacher) asked, ahead of the Induction Evening on 3rd July, if there was anything that should be emphasised to new parents/carers on this evening.

## THIS HAPPENED AS A RESULT...

This system will be used for Progress Evening appointments from the start of the new term.

The suggested improvements will be fed back to the whole Senior Leadership Team who will make modifications to make reports even more valuable than they are currently. A 'best of both' approach will be adopted and evaluated in an upcoming Parent Forum meeting.

Knowledge organisers will be made available for parents to access as well as pupils.

The Induction Evening presentation will include topics suggested by Parent Forum, including a look at the school year ahead and the years to come, the best ways to communicate with the school and the steps we take to ensure a smooth transition for pupils joining us from primary school.

60  
YEARS  
OF



BARR BEACON SCHOOL  
PROUD TO SUCCEED

Barr Beacon School opened in 1958. To celebrate the school's first 60 years, we are looking for former students to share their memories of their time here. If you would like your story to be told, or you know someone else who was a pupil at Beacon, please don't hesitate to get in touch: [dlowbridgeellis@barrbeaconschool.co.uk](mailto:dlowbridgeellis@barrbeaconschool.co.uk)

As a sneak preview, here are our first two profiled alumni.

## Sam Eades

Sam Eades reads books for a living. For many of us, this sounds like an idyllic career. And her love of reading received a considerable boost in her time at Barr Beacon.

Having finished school in 2002, Sam is now a publisher for Trapeze Books and she was delighted to be welcomed back to Barr Beacon to inspire the next generation of potential writers and publishers. She spent the day with pupils who have set their sights on careers in books and even managed to fit in a school dinner.

"Beans and chips together are the best. There's nothing like them."

It wasn't just the food that impressed Sam:

"I can't believe how positive the atmosphere is, and how aspirational too. Everyone seems to be encouraging the children to reach their potential. We didn't have all those boards with the universities on when I was here. It's palpably different to when I was here."

Not that Sam had an unhappy time at Beacon herself. "I credit Miss Capewell with **nurturing my love of reading**. She had real character. Sometimes she would just pause the lesson and try to infuse us with her love of nature. 'Did you notice the moon last night?' she would ask. Or 'how beautiful were the drops of dew on the grass this morning?'"



Sam really enjoyed her day at Barr Beacon and is eager to return:

"The pupils here are really polite. The teachers are happy. Everyone seems to have a great awareness of other people besides themselves. Curiosity is definitely fostered and pupils are not afraid to show their creative sides."

## Thom Southerland



No one called 'Thom Southerland' has ever been on roll at Barr Beacon School. However, if you were at Barr Beacon anytime from 1995-2000 you may recognise the man in this photograph as Tom Smith. Back in the late nineties, Tom was a child who, he confesses now, was "a bit naughty" before he found his calling: musical theatre.

Now, as Thom Southerland (he changed his name because Equity, the union for creative practitioners, already had someone named Tom Smith on their books) he is a world famous director of stage hits include Titanic: The Musical, Grand Hotel, Parade and The Full Monty. But it all started back in the 1990s with his form tutor at Barr Beacon.

"I was a bit naughty to start with to be honest. But it was my form tutor, Mrs Emery, who persuaded me to stay behind after school three days a week to work on the school productions. This is what changed everything. My Head of Year, Mrs Hepburn, was also really supportive."

"The thing about Barr Beacon is that it **made me want to do more than I thought I could**. It wasn't just 'this is the National Curriculum, do this'. The school wanted more from everyone."

"I have absolutely no doubt that I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now without teachers taking the time to have a quiet word with me and channel my energies into something constructive."



"There was no drama on the curriculum then - it was all done at the end of the school day. That's how I got involved."

"In my time at school I appeared in Oliver!, Hobson's Choice, Grease and An Inspector Calls - quite the range of productions!"

"It was quite amazing what the teachers managed to pull together. They didn't just get the 'drama kids' involved but they encouraged people who'd never acted or sung before to do just that. I learned so much by just watching how the teachers worked, getting a broad mix of people to produce something special. It's what I do for my day job now - but it started at Barr Beacon."

"I have really fond memories of my time at Beacon. There are too many teachers to list but Miss Gardner was a great music teacher. Mr Mills was a superb maths teacher. I was terrified of maths but he made it so interesting. He had whiteboards with formulas all over the walls. "One day you'll understand what they mean" he always used to say. Miss Capewell's English lessons were very memorable too."

Thom left Beacon in 2000 at the end of Year 11. He would have liked to continue into the sixth form but his family moved to Dorset.

"I always had a really good time at Beacon. Those days were fantastic. I think back to them so much. The enthusiasm of the teachers was infectious. The English teachers were always telling us what plays they were seeing. **Now I get to direct them for a living.**"



# Prom 2018



Friday 6th July saw the sun shine on the beautiful grounds of Nailcote Hall where staff eagerly awaited the arrival of our Year 11 Prom guests. This year brought a range of fast cars and jam-packed limos filled with excited and accomplished young people. Students spent the evening snapping photos in the photo booth, testing their balance on the bucking bronco, pleasing their sweet teeth at the chocolate fountain and getting a self portrait drawn by our very talented caricaturist. We even had our very our balloon modeller on hand all evening and the brilliant disco dome (staff certainly enjoyed that one).

Once the sun had gone down, our Prom King and Queen had the duty of starting off the firework display that then led into a party to end all parties with our DJ. A great night was had by all and it will certainly be one to remember.

The full prom DVD will be available to purchase in the new academic year and more information will be posted when available. You can watch the trailer on the school website now.



# Art, Textiles & Food Exhibition



It was a resoundingly successful evening for the Art, Textiles and Food Exhibition. The iCentre was buzzing with pupils, parents and other family members proudly looking at the outstanding work produced by Year 11 pupils over the past two years. Practical work from the textiles class, photos of food dishes and an collection of art work were proudly displayed. All warmly congratulated Year 11 for their hard work and creativity.

# Young Photographer of the Year



We were delighted to host the Rotary Club's Young Photographer of the year competition. Winners from across the West Midlands were presented with their awards in a prestigious ceremony.

Winners and some of the winning entries are shown below. The full gallery can be found here: [www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk/young-photographer-of-the-year/](http://www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk/young-photographer-of-the-year/)



# Matilda The Musical

'To change the world it takes a little genius'. This is the message forty seven of our pupils heard last week when they visited Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre to see Matilda,, the multi-award winning musical. It is the heart-warming tale of the young Matilda whose desire to learn and achieve is played out on stage with fantastic theatrics and performances from a brilliant cast.

The pupils gave great reviews, referencing the amazing spectacle of lights and sound as well as the particularly terrifying example of Miss Trunchbull swinging a pupil around by the pigtails amongst the reasons they enjoyed their visit so much. "It's opportunities and events such as these that leave a last memory in a child's reflections of education. We really value being able to offer these experiences to our pupils," said Ms Draycott.



## GLOW-IN-THE-DARK DODGEBALL

14 Sixth Form girls have been some of the first to try out sports with a difference: they glow in the dark! Recently, the gym has been decked out with glow in the dark equipment and the girls used it to its fullest, engaging in a highly competitive game of Glow in the Dark Dodgeball. Pupils engaged with the concept for over an hour with an excellent attitude and an open mind. The girls who took part really enjoyed the experience and are already looking forward to taking part in similar events in future.



# We're in the Top 10!

Highest Performing Academy Chain & Local Authorities at Key Stage 4



EDUCATION  
POLICY  
INSTITUTE

Over the last two years the Education Policy Institute has published analysis by its own researchers, and in partnership with the London School of Economics, which allows a much better understanding of the impact of the academies programme on pupil attainment.

Report by Jon Andrews | June 2018

## Wentworth Golf

Barr Beacon pupils have really been getting into golf – both playing and watching it. On the back of the last 3 coaching courses at Great Barr Golf Club, 11 Pupils went down to Wentworth to watch the BMW European Tour Golf event, which included some of the best golfers in the world. The pupils were fortunate enough to make the Celebrity PRO-AM day where they saw well-known faces including Niall Horan (formerly of One Direction, now a successful solo performer) and Ryan Giggs (former Man United star turned manager of the Welsh national team).

The event at Wentworth was packed full of opportunity for the pupils to see their sporting heroes take part in a fun and festive round of golf. The pupils also had the chance to try out their own skills in the many competitions running around the performance village inside the complex. With a large number of pupils getting their pictures taken with some of the best golfers in the world, the day was a huge success and we are all looking forward to putting those experiences into practice on the golf course.



**'My dream day out' by James in Year 7**

It was an early start on 23rd May. We had to leave at 5:15am for Wentworth Golf club in Surrey. It took us 3 hours on the minibus to get there. We were going to see the BMW PGA Pro-Am Championships where the best of the best golfers, such as Rory McElroy and Tommy Fleetwood, were playing. All of us were so excited when we saw the exhibition stands including the real Ryder Cup leading on to the first tee.

When we got onto the course, we raced out there to see who was playing. To our delight, on the first tee was Andrew Johnston, also known as the 'Beef'. He was playing with John Arne Risse an Ex-Liverpool defender and Rick Sheils who is a Youtuber who currently has around 350,000 subscribers with his golf vlog. We followed them up the first hole and on to the second. We got pictures with Beef and Rick Sheils. Later on in the day we got a picture with last year's winner Alex Noren, Teddy Sherringham and also one of my all time favourites and great player Andy Sullivan, also known as Sully.

There was a lot of excellent golf played by the professionals and at times, frankly shocking golf played by the celebrities. Pep Guardiola and Niall Horan were surprisingly decent players. At 5:15pm we had to meet back at the exhibition and my dream day out was coming to an end.

Thanks to everyone who organised one of the best days I have had.

## Sporting Successes

Aaron in Year 10 has been selected to play on the England Under 16s team. The tournament takes place in July in Croatia. This is a tremendous honour but one that is well deserved. His PE teachers have long recognised him as a "brilliant" player and we know he will do himself, his school and his country proud. England will play Croatia twice during the tour and Aaron hopes to feature in these games. Aaron has been playing for Aston Villa academy from a very young age and, through hard work, combined with real talent, he has taken his football up to international level.

Mackenzie has been completing in BMX regional, national and international competitions from a very young age. He is currently number 3 in Great Britain after 6 rounds of the National BMX Series, as well as being the regional number 2 for his age group. He has been invited to attend the National School of Racing training sessions by British Cycling, from which many riders go on to compete in the Olympics. Not only is Mackenzie an extremely talented rider but he is also a young volunteer for British Cycling and he mentors younger riders to try to help them have the same success that he has had. Well done Mackenzie on your fabulous achievements.



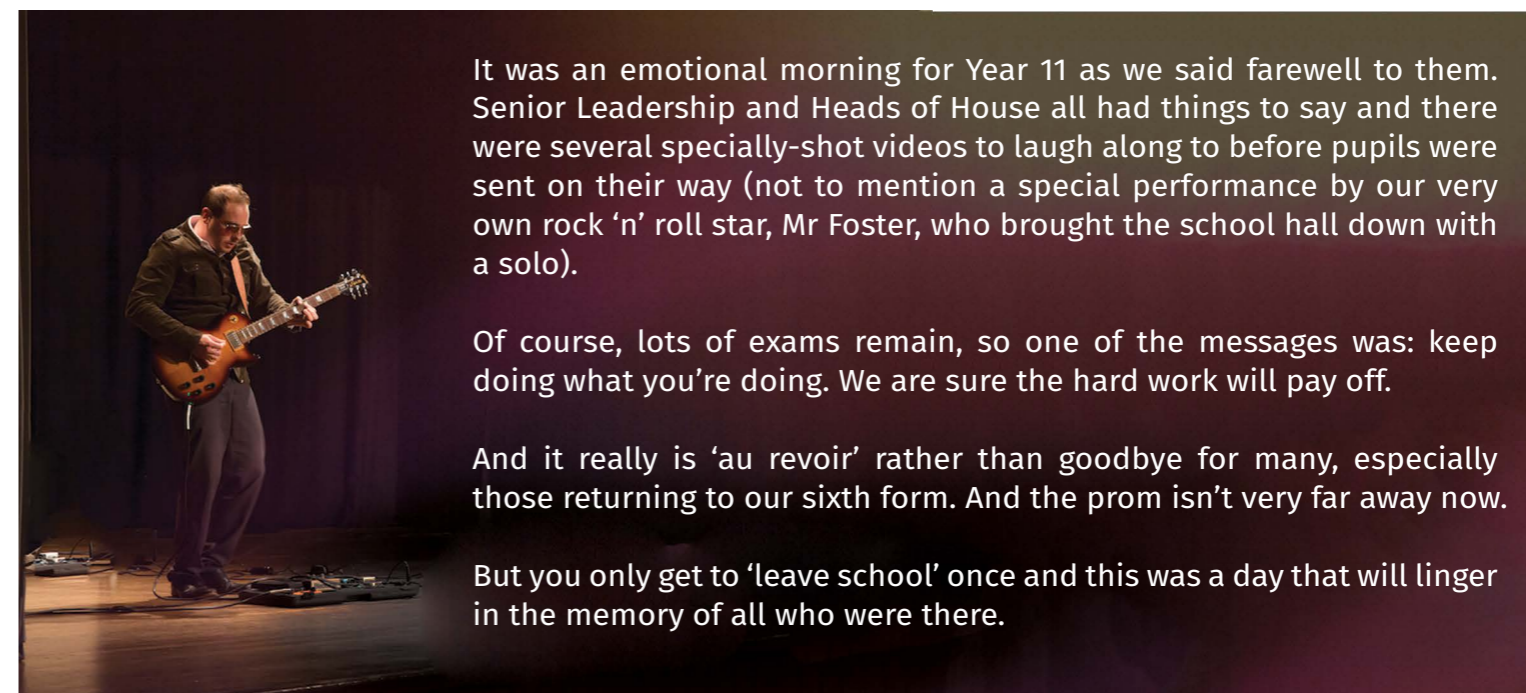
## Sixth Form Graduation

## Year 11 Celebration Event

It was an emotional day, for students and staff, as Year 13 had their last fully timetabled day.

A very special event crowned their time at Barr Beacon with speeches from staff, certificates from form tutors and lots of cake. They capped it off by taking off their graduation caps – and promptly threw them in the air (as is traditional).

We know Year 13 are going to do us proud in their examinations and we're looking forward to 17th August's Results Day already.



It was an emotional morning for Year 11 as we said farewell to them. Senior Leadership and Heads of House all had things to say and there were several specially-shot videos to laugh along to before pupils were sent on their way (not to mention a special performance by our very own rock 'n' roll star, Mr Foster, who brought the school hall down with a solo).

Of course, lots of exams remain, so one of the messages was: keep doing what you're doing. We are sure the hard work will pay off.

And it really is 'au revoir' rather than goodbye for many, especially those returning to our sixth form. And the prom isn't very far away now.

But you only get to 'leave school' once and this was a day that will linger in the memory of all who were there.





# School Diversity Week



# Aston University Trip



School Diversity Week originates with a charity called Just Like Us. And just like us here at Barr Beacon they believe that tackling LGBTQ+ bullying is everyone's responsibility.

To raise money for the charity, 100 rainbow ribbons were bought by pupils and staff. To raise even more money, seven quiz teams from Years 7 and 8 competed in a House quiz. The overall winners were representatives from 8M2, including Jak, Zac, Dilraaj, Kodi-Leigh, Kyle and Ewan. They won because they combined their knowledge, with the team featuring specialists in each of the different rounds: movies, music, sport, books and news events.



Show **your support** for LGBTQ+ Young People and raise money for charity.

Get your own **Rainbow Ribbon** for 50p from the ICentre at breaktime.

### Why is this important?

Not all pupils are as fortunate as those at Barr Beacon. Many LGBT+ young people hear homophobic remarks every day. These experiences can have a life-long negative impact on their wellbeing: More than 25% of LGBTQ+ young people attempt suicide. Just Like Us is a charity setup to help build a world where LGBTQ+ young people live awesome lives.

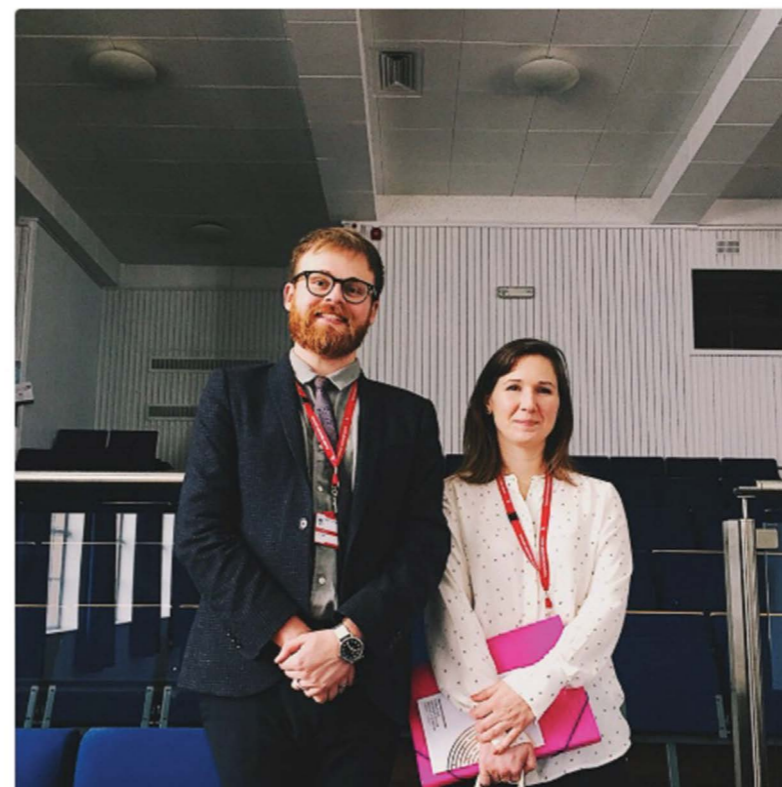
## QUIZ FANS ASSEMBLE!



**House General Knowledge Quiz**  
Tuesday 3rd July in the New Training Room (B Block)  
3.00pm-4.00pm

Dr Carnell and Dr Hills took eight Year 10 pupils to Aston University as part of the Researchers in Schools (RIS) series of tutorials. Pupils were escorted around the university in a personalised tour and attended several talks specifically for them. They were able to choose subjects that they wanted to find more about. These were History, Biomedical Science and Mechanical Engineering.

The pupils who attended were Madison, Gabrielle, Cairo, Roman, Jersey, Sean, Ryan and Jaya.



## Take Your Child to Work Day

## Take Your Child to Work Day

Year 9 Take Your Child to Work Day was a chance for every pupil in the year to experience day in the life of their parents, carers, relatives or a family friend. Pupils were able to experience the world of work, develop some new employability skills and gain a new appreciation of the hard work their loved ones do every day.

One pupil said "It was hard, and I wouldn't want to do it full time, but I now know just how much my dad does for me".

Another pupil, Lily, brought back a pack of everything she had achieved in the day, including some 3D printing items she was lucky enough to create.

What was most impressive about the day, was some of the wonderful employer feedback sheets showed what a varied and valuable experience this was for so many:

"Just wanted to say how great Jack has been today in the studio. We looked at what sort of things he could carry across to both stills and video imagery for next year's projects, with lots of tips and hints around lighting and sound especially. He got to have a go of the studio cameras outside to practice lighting subjects and pull focusing. His eagerness to learn and apply what we did today to his future work to make it more stylised was really infectious. I can see why he's been getting such good scores in his class this last term."

"Darci produced some excellent work, including new conceptual designs for a new page on the company's customer website following a meeting where she successfully identified key requirements. Excellent work!"

"Emilie created a general knowledge quiz for SEND children. She was patient and was an excellent teacher in training."

"Jack really enjoyed his day at the airport. He was able to experience and interact with the many roles and departments around the terminal buildings and airfield. It certainly gave him a flavour of the employment possibilities at the airport. He was truly well-mannered and a credit to Barr Beacon."

"Hashim had the opportunity to complete an internal audit with the Quality Assurance Officer. He very quickly understood the process. He was very analytical and demonstrated good business acumen. Hashim has been invited back to complete a full week of work experience during the summer."

"Arjun was very professional and mature. He spoke to various police officers about their roles and appeared very interested in how the job was performed."

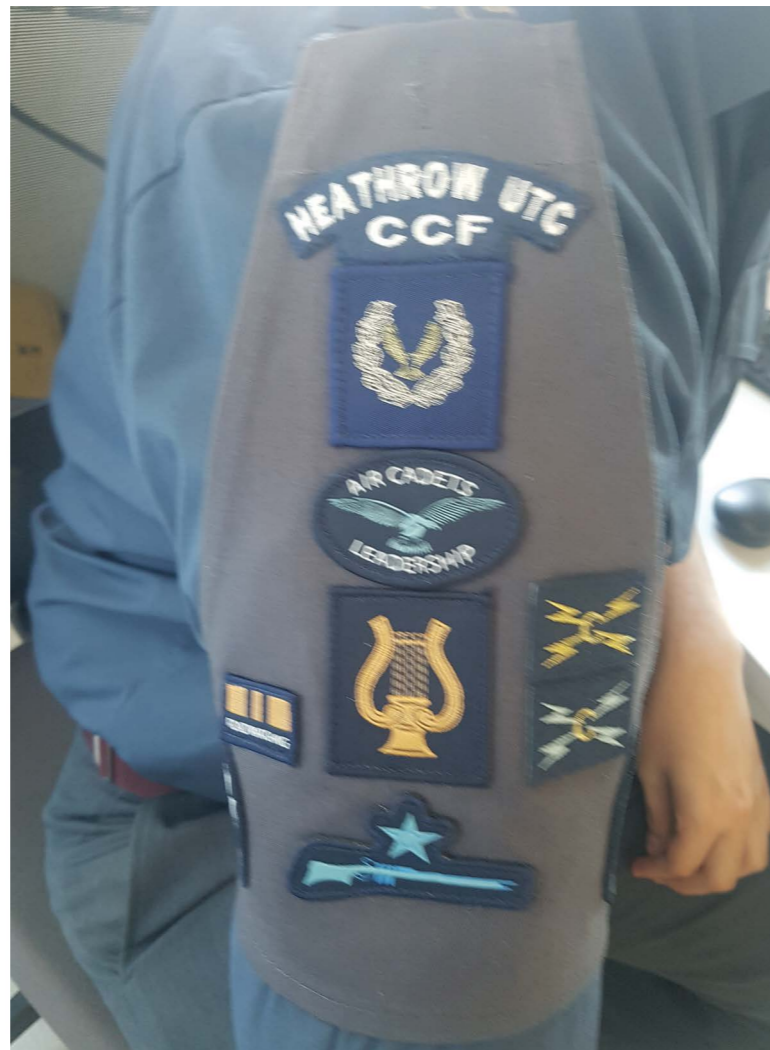
"Ian used our CAD package to design and draw his own house and produced excellent work for a first time user".



## Radio & Comms Talk

During the Cadets' after school session on Monday 25th June 2018, Barr Beacon School's CCF (Combined Cadet Force) had Pilot Officer Kelly conduct a session on 'Radios and Communications'. This was a very exciting occasion for the cadets as they had the opportunity to be awarded their Blues Comms badges. Pilot Officer Kelly is from Heathrow CCF Unit. He is currently employed at Heathrow Airport where he works on the ground support of the planes coming in and out. He kindly took time out of his busy schedule, along with Warrant Officer Javier Kelly, in order to help our Cadets progress further within the unit. He was very impressed with the standard that our Cadets are at and saw many exciting prospects in the new and upcoming Year 8 Cadets.

The cadets took part in learning the radio wavelengths, and also thinking about where the optimum place is for a satellite to be placed. They finished the session by doing official radio checks, learning the commands and repeating them to each other in the session. It was a great learning experience for the cadets and, on behalf of Barr Beacon CCF, we would like to thank Pilot Officer Kelly and Warrant Officer Javier Kelly for their time and knowledge.



## Mini Air Squadron Trophy

Over the last 3 weeks, Barr Beacon CCF have undergone a series of challenges and tests within their flights in order to see which flight has made the most progress over the year. The Air Squadron Trophy (AST) is a competition that is conducted nationally in the UK with many other CCF units. Our aim is to compete at the AST in the coming year and so we ran our own Barr Beacon CCF AST in order to prepare the Cadets accordingly. There were events such as: navigation, first aid, team building, uniform inspection and drill. The Cadets responded brilliantly to the competition and the results found that our first recipients of our AST trophy were (jointly) Phantom and Lightning flights. Well done to all flights and bring on next year's Beacon's AST!



## Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh

This summer, over 150 pupils have taken part in practice and assessed Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. The expeditions took place across a range of rural areas in the Midlands, including the Lickey Hills, Cannock Chase, the Peak District and Long Mynd. All pupils who completed the Bronze Award had to walk for two days and camp one night, and the Silver Award groups had to walk for 3 days and two nights on each of their expeditions.

The pupils represented the school perfectly, with other campsite users and staff commenting on how well behaved and polite they were. The expeditions were physically and mentally gruelling, but pupils gained resilience and skills that they will never forget. We are looking forward to awarding pupils who have completed the full award with their certificates on awards evening. Well done all!

## #ChickenWatch



Over the last two weeks Barr Beacon Science Department has been resonating to the sounds of little cheeps. The Ready to Hatch program saw 10 eggs arrive and over the following two days hatched into little chicks.

The scheme allowed Year 7 pupils to learn about the development of chickens during incubation, consider how to look after the chicks, and to collect scientific data by completing mini investigations. Pupils had to look after the chicks over the two weeks by cleaning them out and providing food and water for them. During this time the chicks were also weighed and measured and it was found that on average they gained 80g over the ten days.

Not only were the chicks used in lessons but they were visited every morning, break, after school and well any free time anyone had by their extensive fan club – teachers and students alike! Pupils got to hold and play with the chicks whilst they watched them grow up. Many pupils commented on how adorable the chicks were and how much they enjoyed handling them. Dani in Year 12 said ‘having the chicks gave our science department a real buzz of positivity’.

Sadly the chicks had to leave us but they were collected and lovingly taken to a rescue sanctuary to live happy free range lives.



## I'm a Scientist and I'm an Engineer

This term, Year 9 and Year 8 pupils got to partake in a live chat with scientists working in the medical research and space engineering sectors respectively. Pupils had a series of lessons that allowed them to research in different aspects of the areas being studied. For Year 8 this included leaning about black holes and satellites whereas Year 9 found out about stem cells, disease transmission and whether life was possible anywhere in the universe.

Once pupils had researched the areas the scientists were studying they got the opportunity to talk to the scientist regarding their work, their careers and all other aspects of being a scientist. Pupils found this experience very interesting and many commented that their knowledge of scientific careers has increased.



## WORLD CHALLENGE UPDATE

The World Challenge team have managed to collect a huge number of football shirts to take and donate to those less fortunate in Nepal.

The team would like to say a huge thank you to those who donated. They will be making their way across the world shortly



# Celebrating STEM

# The Punctuation Man

Five of our Year 9 pupils were invited to a 'Celebrating Science and Engineering' event at Lichfield Cathedral.

The pupils were competing against 11 other schools from across the West Midlands in the 'Mars Rover Challenge'. They turned into mini-engineers for the night and set about building a robot from Lego, digitally programming it and then testing it to see if it was up to the challenge of transporting them 3000km across Mars! The pressure was on as the team had one hour to complete the task during which time they tested, refined and even rebuilt their robot a few times. The atmosphere was buzzing as members of the team worked well together in their determination to succeed.

The youngsters learnt new STEM knowledge and skills – a critical part of a rapidly changing world. Well done to them all!

On Monday 2nd July, Years 7 and 8 received an interactive workshop on punctuation. Pupils really got into the dancing and the quizzes involved in the day and we've since heard them singing some of the songs around school! The workshop provided a fun way of re-capping their prior knowledge of punctuation and went over some of the more challenging examples, such as the semi-colon. There was a real buzz in the room throughout the performance and Mr McDermid was very impressed with how well our pupils answered his questions. It was a refreshing take on what can be a dry topic!



"I gained many skills such as learning how to program."



"The task was challenging but also very enjoyable."



# Dinosaurs & Disasters Debate



On Monday 18th June, pupils from Years 7 to 10 converged on the new training room for a grand debate. The topic? Whether we should protect endangered species in the face of natural disasters or, instead, let nature take its course. Using resources from the Into Film organisation, pupils used the hypothetical example of Jurassic Park's dinosaurs to fuel an intense formal debate. On the one side 'Let nature take its course' and on the other: 'Protect the dinosaurs'. There were well conveyed arguments on both sides but 'Protect the dinosaurs' took the day.

The director of the film Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom gave his approval on Twitter.

**Barr Beacon School** @barrbeaconsch · 20h  
Protect the dinosaurs or let nature take its course? Pupils loved the @intofilm\_edu #JurassicWorldFallenKingdom debate today. There were compelling, powerfully conveyed arguments on both side, but 'protect the dinosaurs' won out in the end. Thanks for the inspiration @FilmBayona

**JA Bayona** @FilmBayona  
Filmmaker. Barcelona. El Orfanato. The Impossible. Penny Dreadful. A Monster Calls. Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom.  
Joined December 2010  
1,254 Photos and videos

You Retweeted

**JA Bayona** @FilmBayona · 2h  
Great work, guys! Fantastic idea bring films into discussion at school.

**Barr Beacon School** @barrbeaconsch  
Protect the dinosaurs or let nature take its course? Pupils loved the @intofilm\_edu #JurassicWorldFallenKingdom debate today. There were compelling, powerfully conveyed arguments on both side, but 'protect the dinosaurs'...

# Careers in the World of Books



On Wednesday 4th July we had the great pleasure of welcoming two visitors into school from the world of books. Joanna Courtney writes historical fiction for Pan Macmillan and has recently made her first foray into contemporary novels. Sam Eades is a publisher at Trapeze Books and is also a former student of Barr Beacon (look out for a forthcoming alumnus profile). Joanna and Sam ran a series of sessions throughout the day for pupils interested in pursuing writing as a career.

The sessions focused on generating ideas for characters and plots, how to write an 'elevator pitch'-style synopsis for a busy publisher to notice your book and also a seminar on how to get into publishing.



## Flash Fiction

As part of their enrichment, Year 12 students have been having a go at crafting 'flash fiction' – that is: complete stories using the fewest possible number of words.

Some of these stories have been published online, including these:

**Her** by Olivia-Ann Saxton

She was there again, watching.

I saw her distorted shadow in the doorway. As I cautiously leaned over and flicked the light on, she disappeared. Maybe I imagined it. The nightmares were not as frequent. I told my therapist that I was sure of it.

I could hear the faint noise of unnerving, childish giggles echo throughout the room. I was home alone. Thoughts of her swarmed around my head like a hornet's nest, each idea's sting slowly paralysing my brain.

**The Witch That Exists** by Lidia Giusa

"Witches don't exist." My gran's words echoed around my head as the horrific visage grinned at me through my window.

But, I know they do.

She sits outside my window every night, staring right at me. Sometimes she will wave at me. Sometimes she will call me over to the window, encouraging me to open it.

I don't know what she wants, but I do know I'm the only one who can help her, the only one that knows she exists.

Stories using the  
**fewest possible**  
number of words.



## Reading Challenge

Four of our avid year 7 readers were rewarded for their commitment to reading with prizes on Wednesday. Two pupils who have read and reviewed in excess of 25 books this year won a Kindle Fire and three additional pupils reading over 60 books between them have been awarded with vouchers which will enable them to buy more books.

Their enthusiasm for reading is inspiring and we commend their achievements.



## Year 12 Induction Day

On Monday 9th July we welcomed back 150 Year 11 students who returned to school for their Year 12 Induction Day. The day started off with a bit of a dance-along to Gloria Gaynor's 'I am what I am' followed by an ice-breaker activity where we discovered that one of our students is related to Ozzy Osbourne!

The students were then introduced to the Senior Six, who shared their top tips for Year 12, before going off for taster sessions in their chosen subjects. Students have been set some wider reading tasks for over the summer in preparation for the next chapter in their journey at Barr Beacon.

We're all looking forward to results day (Thursday 23rd August) and seeing our new Year 12 in September.

# House Success

## **BREDON**

Bredon's Attendance has been outstanding again this year. We currently have the highest attendance in the entire school with 96.25%. We also have the largest number of pupils with 100% attendance for this academic year; an incredible 52! Well done Bredon House! This is a great position for us to be in and bodes well for September. There have been some great individual success stories throughout the year and many pupils have received praise postcards in recognition of this. However, the overall form with the best attendance is 7B3 who achieved an amazing 98.2%. Can you hold on to top spot again next year?

Manraj in Year 10 recently played rugby for Staffordshire County and assisted with a try. Fantastic work, Manraj!

Emma in Year 10 recently played flute at a concert in West Bromwich with the Sandwell Youth Concert Band. Well done Emma, I am sure that you sounded amazing!

Sam in Year 10 has recently completed two archaeological digs and was on the front page of the Young Archaeologist's Club for his most recent project. This is awesome news, Sam!

Zoe in Year 10 placed in 6th position in slow and 4th position in fast dance. I am also proud to inform you that Zoe reached the semi-finals in this year's World Championship Dance Competition. This is great news Zoe; you definitely have a great talent in Dance.

Mackenzie in Year 10 is currently ranked the 3rd best BMX rider in the country. He also archived a podium position in the Nationals Race in Scotland. What an amazing achievement! Well done, Mackenzie.

I hope you have a very relaxing Summer Holiday and I look forward to seeing you all on the first day back.

## **CLENT**

It has been an excellent and busy year for pupils in Clent House. This term in particular has seen the appointment of our Prefect team and I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Max and Emily in Clent House who were both awarded Head Prefect.

In sport there have been a number of achievements both in and outside of school. Maise in Year 9 took part in a 5k running event in Aldridge on Sunday 10th June. She completed the course in an amazing time of 27m29s and her hard work and determination were recognised by the event staff. She achieved the 'spot prize', which was awarded to only a few people for sprinting the last bit of the run. It was also fantastic to see how many pupils from Clent House took part in the Sports Day Heats. We had an amazing turn out and I am very much looking forward to Sports Day in the up and coming academic year.

Callum in Year 10 completed an excellent piece of writing for French and his teacher has recognised his effort and excellent work ethic in and outside the classroom.

I would like to thank all pupils for their hard work this academic year and wish you a lovely and well deserved summer. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

# House Success

## **MALVERN**

Danielle in Year 10 came 3rd in her dancing competition. Well done! You are so talented. Keep up the great work.

Tobias in Year 10 achieved his Headteacher's Award for the 4th year running. He is now planning to get 5. Such an excellent role model to the younger year's. Well done Tobias.

Tia in Year 8 achieving her Learn to Swim Certificate at Barr Beacon's Schools leisure centre. Well done Tia, such an achievement.

Dilraj in Year 8 has been selected to compete at the Bangra Dancing National Championships. I'm looking forward to hearing how the experience was and also to see lots of pictures.

Khiya in Year 7 has been cheerleading for two years and is part of a team call "Twist Extreme". - Khiya has competed before in an international competition in Wales. She is currently competing again at a Championship. We are waiting to hear great news! Go Khiya!

Thank you to all the Malvern pupils that competed and participated in Sports Day heats and went above and beyond for the house. There are too many pupils to mention. A great day was had by all competitors and were very much supported by their peers. I'm looking forward to Sports Day later in the year for a win for Malvern.

Enjoy your summer break, don't forget hats, suncream, water and stay safe!

## **WREKIN**

Kian in Year 8 has had a busy six months. After a family holiday experience he has embarked upon an epic journey to becoming a scuba diver. He first qualified as an open water diver before gaining his dry suit licence (for diving in cold weather). Kian said he found this the hardest challenge of his life, both physically and mentally. He has also earned his advanced open water licence and hopes to be a dive master or even an instructor in the future. Well done Kian.

Well done to all of the Year 10 Wrekin pupils who were successfully selected to be Prefects. They had intense training for two days and are now fully prepared to be the face of Wrekin for the next twelve months.

Dylan from Year 7 recently completed a charity triathlon for Marie Curie to help people and families who are suffering with terminal illnesses. Dylan completed a 4km run followed by a 4km cycle and then a 100m swim. He did this in an amazing 33 minutes and 33 seconds raising £240. This is a great achievement.

I want to wish all Wrekin pupils a great, safe summer and look forward to seeing them in September.





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$a+b$

$x^2$   
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