



Our Ref: LD/cc/Year10CatchUp

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

In this letter you will find an overview of what we are doing in each subject area to check the learning of our Year 10 pupils and what we are doing to plug gaps in their knowledge, including material they may have missed or misunderstood during lockdown.

We greatly appreciate everything you are already doing at home to create an environment in which your child can concentrate on their school work and we know you will want to do everything you can. You may also find our guide to home learning useful:

<https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Home-Learning-Guide.-BB.pdf>

You should have also received a text this week linking to our video which explains how our remote learning works, so your child can keep up with their studies if they are unable to attend school. If you did not receive this, please make sure we have your most up-to-date mobile phone number. The link is also here: <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/keep-up-with-your-learning-even-if-you-have-to-stay-at-home/>

Checking understanding and plugging gaps

All of our teachers are making sure Year 10 have strong foundations in each of their subjects so new knowledge will be able to be built successfully. During lockdown, even the hardest-working pupils will have struggled to understand some things and misconceptions may have crept in.

That is why all of Year 10 are sitting in-class tests in each of their subjects. The feedback from these tests is being shared with pupils in lessons and used by teachers to plan for the year ahead.

Here is an overview of each subject's approach. Please ask your children about these tests and the feedback they are receiving. You might start by asking them the questions we are constantly asking in school:

- What are you learning well in this subject?
- What do you need to do to improve your learning in this subject?

Subject	Overview of in-class test and feedback
Art	During Year 10 Art lessons, pupils have been working into their Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) project 'Greed and Gluttony'. Pupils have been exploring the art practitioner Joel Penkman and have been completing an artist research on her work. This task is to help pupils develop their critical understanding and analysis skills of art and design practitioners. This is the first submission for their coursework and will be



Barr Beacon School
Old Hall Lane
Aldridge
Walsall
WS9 0RF
West Midlands



MATRIX
ACADEMY
TRUST

0121 366 6600

@barrbeaconsch

postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk



	assessment once displayed in their A3 portfolios. Pupils have also been working on their application of various materials, techniques and processes in Art. Students have completed a tonal piece which has been assessed and targets have been discussed with pupils. Pupils are currently exploring colour pencil blending and completing an artist copy for their Joel Penkman research. Practical lessons are assessed via teacher observation during lessons. 1 to 1 conversations and demonstrations are delivered to address any misconceptions. Pupils receive instant feedback within their lessons regarding what they have done well and what they need to continue to work on for next time. Pupils also receive an assessment / effort grade in their A3 portfolios for every study they submit.
Biology	See Science (triple), below.
Hospitality & Catering	Since the start of September, pupils have started to learn content for their Unit 1 exam. This exam is planned to take place in the summer term of this academic year. This will hopefully mean that they will have 40% of their overall grade banked before they go into Year 11 next September. Teaching ensures that pupils are knowledgeable in all areas required for the exam. They have just completed a class test (which is out of 46 marks) which will help their teacher understand what areas they are secure with and what areas need to be retaught or revised further. These class tests will be marked by the teacher and handed back to the students so they are also aware of the topics and areas that then need to be revised further at home. The aim is to finish teaching new content by Christmas so that the focus can then switch to recalling, revising and exam technique practice.
Chemistry	See Science (triple), below.
Childcare	Pupils have completed a knowledge quiz to test their ability to retrieve key information from the learning in Year 9. This will allow pupils and their teachers to identify any gaps within their knowledge and which text each pupil needs to focus on. Pupils will be sitting an exam for their external component this year. This exam is heavily focussed around milestones that occur during a child's development as well as themes of growth and development.
Computer Science	This year, pupils will build their skills and knowledge in programming and algorithms which they will apply to their exam in the summer. Pupils will then move onto completing topics for their exams. This will include logic, security, laws and ethics. In lessons, they will complete theory, tasks and exam practice.
Dance BTEC	Pupils will do small quizzes at the start of each lesson to test their recall of key content from Years 7, 8 and 9. Pupils will then complete 2-3 hours of practical workshops to improve their physical skills in preparation for their Component 2 recordings. These workshops concentrate on contemporary techniques.



	Pupils will be learning how to apply them to professional repertoire.
Drama BTEC	Pupils will do small quizzes at the start of each lesson to test their recall of key content from Years 7, 8 and 9. Pupils will then complete 2-3 hours of practical workshops to improve their drama skills in preparation for their component 2 recordings. These workshops will be focused around performance skills such as characterisation, voice projection, facial expression and gestures as well as design skills such as creating a set, costumes and staging. Pupils will be learning how to apply them to professional repertoire.
English language	As an initial assessment quiz, pupils are being asked a series of questions requiring them to retrieve knowledge from across the course. This allows teachers and pupils to see what they can remember and where they have gaps that need to be filled. The initial assessment quiz is out of 28 marks. Following this, all pupils will also be sitting an extended writing task very similar to what they will face in the exams: writing a description or narrative. The feedback from this will focus on how much they have remembered about structuring a creative piece of writing and if they have any spelling, punctuation and grammar issues that need to be addressed. English language is a subject that relies heavily on regular practice, so the feedback will help your child to identify what they can be practising outside school, as well as in lessons.
English Literature	Pupils have completed a knowledge quiz to test their ability to retrieve key information from all the texts which they have studied in Year 9. This will allow pupils and their teachers to identify any gaps within their knowledge and which text each pupil needs to focus on. English Literature relies heavily on the knowledge of the plot, themes, context and characters, so feedback will help your child identify their strengths and weaknesses and help us plan our curriculum around filling in any knowledge gaps.
French	In French, pupils have completed a series of GCSE style questions designed to test their knowledge and recall of the first four modules of their GCSE study covered in Year 9. By completing these questions teachers have been able to identify, quickly and clearly, the areas where pupils have not retained knowledge or are struggling to apply their skills. As pupils move on to cover the next module in their Year 10 learning, teachers will ensure that vocabulary and structures from modules 1-4 are embedded in activities to ensure pupils are consistently being encouraged to retrieve this knowledge. Furthermore, based on the recent exam results, a programme of intervention is to be put into place on an individual level where pupils will receive support from the Foreign Language Assistant in lessons to accelerate their progress.



Geography	Pupils are completing an extensive knowledge quiz to test their recall of key content from Year 9. Pupils are also completing exam questions that have been created to replicate the style of a GCSE paper, covering content that they have studied since Year 9. This will, alongside their knowledge quiz, allow pupils and their teachers to identify gaps in their knowledge. Intervention will then be put in place, during a review week, on a class-by-class basis dependent on their needs. Pupils will receive personalised targets from their class teachers as well as whole class feedback in their lessons.
Health and Social Care	Pupils are currently working through the theory content for Unit 2 – Health and Social Care Values, Learning aim A. This looks at the reasons why people may access health and social care provision, the specific services they offer and importantly the barriers they may face when accessing such services. In this Learning aim pupils will complete a piece of controlled assessment that will require them to analyse the circumstances of two individuals with health and social care requirements. They will identify barriers for the users and make realistic suggestions as to how the barriers may be overcome. Pupils will submit their assignment and will have the opportunity to resubmit for improvement should they need to. Following on from this; pupils will commence Learning aim B that looks at the care values expected in Health and Social care settings. Here again pupils will complete two pieces of controlled assessment one of which will involve a role play situation where pupils get the opportunity to demonstrate the fundamental care values, this will be assessed by the teacher and will contribute to the overall grade for Unit 2.
History	Pupils are currently revisiting Britain: Health and the People. Pupils have completed a knowledge test and done a baseline assessment covering 3 out of 4 question types, including the longer written answer where they receive marks for written accuracy. Pupils are now being taught thematic lessons to cover surgery, public health and disease to ensure that any gaps in knowledge are being addressed. Pupils will then complete a 60-question quiz to check that knowledge and skills have been developed before moving on to study World War One.
Mathematics	Pupils will complete two exam papers, one calculator and one non calculator, that contain the mathematics content from Year 9. Some of this will have been done as home learning but results from the assessment will inform curriculum planning for the rest of the year, to ensure we prioritise weaker topics as we move into our 2-year GCSE scheme. A review week in class will provide teachers the opportunity to re-teach some topics. Pupils will also receive a question by question review which will allow them to see which topics they can focus on independently using programs such as MatchWatch or their revision guides.
Media Studies BTEC	Pupils are expanding their practical knowledge through workshops, experimenting with different filming setups and pre-



	and post- production materials. Students will be creating production logs to log their progress and discuss where improvements can be made within their work. These progress logs will be completed both in lessons and as homework and will be assessed on the completion of the learning aim and will contribute to their overall BTEC grade.
Media Studies GCSE	Pupils will continue to practice drawing on knowledge from last year in weekly retention quizzes. They will also be continuing developing their knowledge of newspapers in line with all aspects of the key concepts (RAIL). Students have been provided with RAIL knowledge organisers and also knowledge organisers to help consolidate their learning of Component 1. The knowledge organisers will also assist them in preparing for the study of other set texts and the development of their media terminology. Pupils will receive regular feedback on their progress in assessments and quizzes, through whole class feedback and also personalised written feedback.
PE GCSE	Pupils will sit a knowledge test based on the content they studied during lockdown. This is core content about the cardio-respiratory and musculoskeletal body systems as well as training for physical fitness. The questions will be short answer to see if pupils have retained the fundamental knowledge. Individual feedback will be given on a question by question basis. The teacher will also use this data to inform which content needs further exploration.
Philosophy	Pupils are completing a detailed knowledge quiz covering the breadth of the course. This will include knowledge on Christianity and Sikhism studied so far. They will also complete 12 and 5 mark exam questions to ensure they are able to apply their knowledge within the exam. This will highlight any gaps in knowledge that can be addressed in the lesson. They will receive individual targets and feedback for each quiz and exam question completed.
Physics	See Science (triple), below.
Psychology	In Psychology pupils are completing a series of retention lessons on content covered during home learning. They will then complete a quiz on the topics of Memory and Research methods and two exam questions on Memory. This is so that any misconceptions can be addressed going forward. All assessments will be reviewed and reflected upon. They will then start new topics: either Social Influence or Perception.
Science (combined)	This term in science, students will build on their knowledge from KS3 to explore science across all three of the scientific disciplines. During all lessons, quizzes and knowledge recall activities are being used consistently, as well as keyword, spelling and definition recall tasks. By half term, pupils will have a greater understanding of energy, particles, radiation, atomic theory, the periodic table and key reactions.



	Pupils are taking simple knowledge checks to find and address gaps in understanding before they take exam style question-based assessments.
Science (triple): biology, chemistry and physics	<p>This term in science, students will build on their knowledge from KS3 to explore science across all three of the scientific disciplines. During all lessons, quizzes and knowledge recall activities are being used consistently, as well as keyword, spelling and definition recall tasks. By half term, pupils will have a greater understanding of photosynthesis and respiration in biology, atoms and the periodic table in chemistry, and energy and radiation in physics.</p> <p>Pupils are taking simple knowledge checks to find and address gaps in understanding before they take exam style question-based assessments.</p>
Sociology	Pupils will sit a series of knowledge tests on the family topic and research methods. This will highlight any gaps in knowledge and check understanding of work completed last year. All assessments will be teacher marked and targets given to each pupil. These will help highlight areas that may need to be revisited.
Spanish	Pupils have completed a series of GCSE style questions designed to test their knowledge and recall of the first four modules of their GCSE study covered in Year 9. By pupils completing these questions, teachers have been able to identify, quickly and clearly, the areas where pupils have not retained knowledge or are struggling to apply their skills. As pupils move on to cover the next module in their Year 10 learning, teachers will ensure that vocabulary and structures from modules 1-4 are embedded in activities to ensure pupils are consistently being encouraged to retrieve this knowledge. Furthermore, based on the recent exam results, a programme of intervention is to be put into place on an individual basis where pupils will receive support from the Spanish assistant within lessons to accelerate their progress.
Sports Science	Pupils have completed a knowledge quiz to test their ability to retrieve key information from the learning in Year 9. This will allow pupils and their teachers to identify any gaps within their knowledge and which text each pupil needs to focus on. Pupils will be sitting an exam for their external component this year. This exam is heavily focussed around training to improve health and fitness. Pupils must learn the components of fitness, fitness tests and methods of training.
Textiles	<p>The course is 50% exam and 50% Non-Examined Assessment (which is a 20-page written portfolio and a practical product). Pupils are currently working through the content for the exam which is split into 2 sections, a core section and a textiles section. There are 25 taught lessons for the core section and 9 taught lessons for the textiles section. Pupils have already sat an assessment paper at the start of the year which has identified</p>



	<p>gaps in knowledge for the textiles section of the course. All pupils have question booklets for the core and textiles content where they are assessed topic by topic. The booklets clearly show areas that need to be revised as they are in topic order. In lessons, we are increasing levels of exam practice and the use of exam papers to support pupils to be confident with the exam. Pupils have a contents page for both core and textiles sections to support with organisation of folder, alongside a specification of the course to use as a checklist for revision.</p>
--	--

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Draycott
Headteacher



Barr Beacon School
Old Hall Lane
Aldridge
Walsall
WS9 0RF
West Midlands



MATRIX
ACADEMY
TRUST

0121 366 6600



@barrbeaconsch



postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

