



Our Ref: LD/cc/Year12CatchUp

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Barr Beacon School  
[www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk](http://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 12 students and what we are doing to plug gaps in their knowledge, including material they have missed from the end of their GCSE courses. We have also included resources you may find useful in helping your child develop their study habits.

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. That is why we have put together this booklet which explores the science behind revision and will help you to help your child get into the right revision habits:

<https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Exams-Help-Documents-Spreads.pdf>

You may also find useful our guide to home learning: <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 12 have strong foundations in each of their subjects so new knowledge will be able to be built successfully. During lockdown, even the hardest-working students will have struggled to understand some things and misconceptions may have crept in.

That is why all of Year 12 are taking tests in most of their subjects. The feedback from these tests is being shared with students 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?



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Subject	Overview of in-class test and feedback
Art and Design BTEC	In Art and Design, students are completing an initial assessment based on their current knowledge of how to analyse practitioners' work. Students will also have a short practical assessment focussing on tonal principles. This is to assess students' knowledge and skill level so future planning can be tailored to students' needs. Individual feedback will be given to students and targets will be set. Students will have the opportunity to discuss feedback and targets with their teacher.
Biology	In Biology, students took a baseline assessment upon starting that helped identify gaps in knowledge and skills from GCSEs which need to be worked on to enhance their understanding of KS5 learning. Individual feedback will be given to students and targets will be set. Students will have the opportunity to discuss feedback and targets with their teacher. This term they are learning about biological molecules and cells with their two teachers.
Business BTEC	In BTEC Business, all content is new. Students are being assessed this year in 2 ways. Firstly, they will complete 3 assignments for Unit 1: Exploring Business that are internally assessed. The grade and points for this unit will go towards their final grade. Secondly, they will be externally assessed in an exam on Unit 3 Finance. Lots of prior assessments will take place as we go through the content to prepare students for the exam in the summer. All assessments carried out will have individual feedback for students.
Chemistry	In Chemistry, students took a baseline assessment upon starting that helped identify gaps in knowledge and skills from GCSEs which need to be worked on to enhance their understanding of KS5 learning. Individual feedback will be given to students and targets will be set. Students will have the opportunity to discuss feedback and targets with their teacher. This term they are learning about mathematical chemistry and bonding with their two teachers.
Computer Science	In Computer Science Unit 1, students will start by looking at computer processors and how computers process information. They will explore the types of processors and how they differ and how this impacts on a computers performance. They will then move onto applications used on a computers and tasks they can achieve. This will allow them to understand types of programming languages and how computers get from high to low level languages, a form that humans and computers understand. Students will then explore databases and how they are used to store and organise data and how they can be searched to query information quickly and effectively. Students will also explore data types, HTML/CSS & JavaScript skills, boolean algebra and computing related legislation and ethics.



	In Unit 2 students will explore programming techniques and algorithms for paper 2. They will learn Python programming and use this to practise the skills and knowledge they will then apply to the Unit 2 paper
English language	In English Language, students will complete a transcript-based Spoken Language assessment based upon work that they have completed this term and their individual preparation work completed over the Summer. They will also complete extended questions from Spoken Language to ensure they are able to access the course and check their ability to answer exam questions. This will highlight any gaps in knowledge that can be addressed in the lessons. Feedback will be given in class and students will have the opportunity to discuss this with their class teacher who will use these results to inform their teaching, plug any gaps and provide opportunities for practising weaker skills and extended answers.
Geography	Students will sit an initial numeracy skills test to look at their ability to use data and their interpretation skills. They will also be asked to complete a variety of different longer written answer to assess their extended writing skills and retention of the key knowledge they have learned since we began the course. Feedback will be given in class and students will have the opportunity to discuss this with their class teacher. Teachers will be then able to use this assessment to ensure that any gaps in skills can be addressed and knowledge and material from the GCSE course can be built upon. In addition, students will need to have purchased the core text book to support students with content, exam skills and revision through the whole of there A-Level course (see the Essentials letter sent previously).
Health and Social Care	BTEC Health and Social Care students are being assessed this year in two ways. Firstly, students will complete an initial assessment based on Unit 1 – Human Lifespan Development. The content and exam techniques for this exam will be taught until December, with assessments taking place as we go through the content to prepare students for the external exam in the January 2021. Secondly, students will be completing internal assessments such as Meeting Individual Care & Support Needs, Nutritional Health and Principles of Safe Practice in Health & Social Care. Students will be assessed through assignment work to a pass, merit or distinction grade. The grade and points for this unit will go towards their final grade. All assessments carried out will have individual feedback for students.
History	Students will sit an initial skills test to look at their ability to recall knowledge and assess their source and interpretation skills. They will also be asked to complete a longer written answer to assess their extended writing skills. Feedback will be given in class and students will have the opportunity to discuss this with their class teacher. Teachers will be then able to use this assessment to ensure that any gaps in skills can be addressed and knowledge and material from the GCSE course can be built

	upon. In addition, students will need to have purchased the two core text books on Tudor England and Nazi Germany. These resources will help to support students with content, exam skills and revision through the whole of there A- Level course. See the previously sent Essentials letter for more information.
Law BTEC	Students will sit an initial assessment based on knowledge gained from introduction lessons and summer induction tasks. There is one assessment for each side of the course. The questions will be short answer responses to allow students to demonstrate knowledge of key legal principles and to see if students have retained fundamental knowledge and legal terminology. Individual feedback will be given to students on a question by question basis and students will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher. The data will be used to inform future planning and to allow identification of areas that may need extra support.
Mathematics	Students will sit an initial assessment that will be focused on GCSE topics that are heavily used throughout their time studying A-Level Mathematics. Feedback will be given on an individual basis. Follow up questions and solutions will be supplied in areas that may need a little extra support. Teachers will also use this information to inform their planning in the upcoming topics. Students also have access to online tests on the topics that they are currently studying. These tests give instant feedback and allow the student and teacher to identify areas that may need more support.
Media Studies BTEC	In Media, students will be given a baseline assessment based on the fundamental concepts of media that they will be introduced to in their first unit of study: film production. In subsequent lessons we will feedback to students about their main strengths and overall misconceptions, to plug any gaps in their knowledge and develop their overall confidence in the subject in preparation for their first assignment in the next few weeks. Students will receive individual targets for this assessment so that they know what to focus their attention on.
Philosophy	In Philosophy, students are completing a detailed knowledge test covering the terms needed during the course. They will also complete extended questions from Ethics and Philosophy to ensure they are able to access the course and check their ability to answer exam questions. This will highlight any gaps in knowledge that can be addressed in the lessons. They will receive individual targets and feedback for each quiz and exam question completed.
Physics	Students took a baseline assessment upon starting that helped identify gaps in knowledge and skills from GCSEs which need to be worked on to enhance their understanding of KS5 learning. Individual feedback will be given to students and targets will be set. Students will have the opportunity to discuss feedback and targets with their teacher.





	This term they are learning about particles and waves with their two teachers.
Psychology	In Psychology, students are completing a knowledge test on information learned during their summer project task and in the first few weeks of lessons. These will be exam style questions and an essay which will help us to see which skills students are doing well at and which they need more support with going forward. These will be marked by the teacher and students will receive individual targets and they will reflect upon the assessment in a review lesson. They will then continue to study the topics of Approaches and Research methods.
Sociology	In Sociology, students are completing a knowledge test on key concepts and sociological theories that we have introduced them to in the first few weeks of the course. The questions will consist of definitions, summaries of theories and some short exam style questions. These will be marked by the teacher and students will receive individual targets and misconceptions will be addressed in the subsequent lessons.
Sports Science	Students will sit a knowledge test based on the anatomy and physiology content they studied during GCSE PE or BTEC Sport. The questions will be short answer to see if students 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 future planning of advanced anatomy and physiology needed for their upcoming BTEC Sport and Exercise Science exam in January.
Statistics	Students will sit an initial assessment that will be focused on GCSE topics that are heavily used throughout their time studying A-Level Statistics. Feedback will be given on an individual basis. Follow up questions and solutions will be supplied in areas that may need a little extra support. Teachers will also use this information to inform their planning in the upcoming topics. Topic tests will also be used by the teacher to test the retention and retrieval of knowledge as the course progresses. This will then help both student and teacher identify areas that may need extra help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



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