



Our Ref: LD/cc/Year13CatchUp

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 13 students and what we are doing to plug gaps in their knowledge, including material they may have missed or misunderstood during lockdown. 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-Document-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 13 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 13 are taking tests in many 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
Biology	<p>In the summer term, students completed practice papers at home to help identify where there are gaps in their knowledge and skills from Year 12 content. We will continue to work on these gaps in school and expect students to be working on this independently as well.</p> <p>This term, students are learning about respiration and photosynthesis with their two teachers and will take assessments that are summative of all knowledge so far (which will also include Year 12 content) so that the students can start to see the 'big picture' and get an idea of how they will perform when everything is on the paper rather than individual modules.</p>
Business BTEC	<p>Students were internally and externally assessed last year and awarded grades/points towards their final grade. They are currently learning new content and therefore there is no catch up required. However, a drop-in catch up will be available for students on Monday evenings in D210i. They will be assessed on work in two ways this year. Firstly, the assessment of Unit 14 Customer Service is internally marked and feedback is given to students. Secondly, they are preparing for an external assessment on Unit 2 Marketing which will take place in January. Prior assessments will take place in class to prepare students for the exam. Another opportunity to improve their grade can also be taken in the summer.</p>
Chemistry	<p>In the summer term, students completed practice papers at home to help identify where there are gaps in their knowledge and skills from Year 12 content. We will continue to work on these gaps in school and expect students to be working on this independently as well.</p> <p>This term students are learning about thermodynamics and carbonyl compounds with their two teachers and will take assessments that are summative of all knowledge so far (which will also include Year 12 content) so that the students can start to see the 'big picture' and get an idea of how they will perform when everything is on the paper rather than individual modules.</p>
Computer Science	<p>In Year 13, students will go back to recall all the topics covered in Year 12 but will extend their knowledge in each topic. They will continue to build programming skills which they will apply to both their programming project and their unit 2 exam. Students will be guided to use the topics audit to monitor their level of skill/knowledge and will work with staff to fill in any gaps in their knowledge this year.</p> <p>Alongside preparing for their exams students will also complete a programming project in which they will create a mini project they will build over the year. This is 20% of the course and will be developed both in school and out so students will follow tight deadlines.</p>



English language	Students will sit initial tests comprising a combination of short answer and multiple-choice questions and some slightly longer answers based on work that they have completed this term and terminology from Year 12 and their independent work. Results and feedback will be offered in class. This, alongside regular extended work in class and homework, will be used to inform teaching in order to plug any gaps and provide opportunities for practising weaker skills. Additionally, every student has been allocated a personal tutor to assist them with their coursework development this term and exam preparation after the December break. Language masterclasses have been programmed until March and will be available live and online; these have been chosen to enhance the classroom lesson content and have been prioritised to cover content which is needed to plug gaps.
English Literature	Students will sit initial tests comprising exam style questions based on their study of Hamlet and pre-1900 poetry this term. Results and feedback will be offered in class. This, alongside regular extended work in class and homework, will be used to inform teaching in order to plug any gaps and provide opportunities for practising weaker skills. Additionally, every student has been allocated a personal tutor to assist them with their coursework development this term and exam preparation after the December break. Masterclasses have been programmed live and online and prioritised to revisit content from Year 12.
Geography	Students are completing an extensive knowledge quiz to test their recall of key content from Year 12. Students are completing exam questions that have been created to replicate the style of an A Level paper, covering content that they have studied since Year 12. This will, alongside their knowledge quiz, allow students 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. Students will receive personalised targets from their class teachers as well as whole class feedback in their lessons.
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 2 – Working in Health & Social Care. 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. Students will also sit another external assessment called Enquiries into Current Research in Health & Social Care in the summer. Secondly, students will be completing internal assessments such as Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs and Promoting Public Health. 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 from Year 12. They will also be asked to complete a longer written answer to assess their essay 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 Year 12 course can be built upon.
Law BTEC	Students will review topics studied during lock down through retention and review tasks and assessments. This will be based on legal terminology and concepts and include scenario work which will help develop the skills needed for their formal assessment. Feedback will be given in class and students will have the opportunity to discuss any concerns. This will enable the teacher to address any gaps in knowledge and identify areas that may need extra focus and support. This feedback will also be used to inform planning for revision and preparation for assessment.
Mathematics	Students will sit an initial assessment that will be focused on topics that were taught in Year 12. 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	Students will be completing an audit of their practical skills to determine the current gaps in their knowledge as they progress through Year 13. They will be focusing this year on their final internally assessed unit (Unit 21 – Film Editing) and the large externally assessed unit (Unit 3 – Digital Media Skills). Therefore, it is extremely important that students work hard to develop their practical skills throughout this year, as they will be heavily relying on these for their external assessment. Students will be asked to constantly log and refine their practical skills throughout this year in preparation for their assessments.
Physics	In the summer term, students completed practice papers at home to help identify where there are gaps in their knowledge and skills from Year 12 content. We will continue to work on these gaps in school and expect students to be working on this independently as well. This term students are learning about motion and electricity with their two teachers and will take assessments that are summative of all knowledge so far (which will also include year 12 content) so that the students can start to see the ‘big picture’ and get an idea of how they will perform when everything is on the paper rather than individual modules.



Psychology	In Psychology students are completing assessments on learning from Year 12. This is to ensure that they have secure foundational knowledge before moving forward with Year 13 content. The assessments will be marked by teachers and students will receive a target. They will then reflect upon these assessments in a review lesson and any misconceptions will be addressed in lessons and homework set. They will then move on to study Issues and debates and Biopsychology.
Sociology	Students will complete past exam questions and essays on year 12 content to check understanding of content. These will highlight gaps in knowledge and exam skills. Individual targets will be set after each essay and will enable the teacher to address misconceptions and any gaps in knowledge.
Sports Science	Students will sit a knowledge test based on the factors, theories and interventions they studied during lockdown. The questions will be short answer to see if students have retained the fundamental knowledge. Individual feedback will be given on Teams on a question by question basis. The teacher will also use this data to inform which factors, theories and interventions need further exploration than others.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



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