



Our Ref: LD/cc/Year7CatchUp

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 prior learning of our Year 7 pupils and what we are doing to plug gaps in their knowledge so they can catch up on any learning they may have missed from the end of primary school. In some cases, they may be starting subjects which are new to them for the first time. This letter explains how we are building strong foundational knowledge in these subjects.

We appreciate everything you are already doing to create an environment in which your child can concentrate on their school work at home, including homework. 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/>

Here is an overview of each subject's approach. Please ask your children about their work 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	Year 7 Art pupils will be focussing on the visual elements in Art and design and exploring art movements of the 20th Century. Pupils will develop their knowledge of art movements, the visual elements and how to analyse a piece of artwork in the initial theory lessons. They will then learn an oil pastel transferring technique and how to apply tone to a line drawing before bringing these components together to produce a collage in the style of the art movement Dadaism. Practical lessons will be assessed via teacher observation during lessons. Pupils will get instant feedback within their lessons regarding what they have done well and what they need to continue to work on with regards to their artwork and their homework tasks. Pupils will be assessed at the end of their rotation based on their final outcome.



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Computer Science	<p>In the computer science rotation, pupils in Year 7 will start off by looking at some basic technology etiquette – this will include how to set a secure password, how to stay safe online and how to navigate around a PC.</p> <p>They will then move onto looking at a computer in depth and the individual hardware components of a PC.</p> <p>Pupils will then move onto starting programming skills – they will start by understanding what algorithms are and how they are used to solve problems. They will then use this knowledge to create small programs using Python</p>
Dance	<p>Within their performing arts rotation slot, pupils will be introduced to dance through a period of 12 lessons whereby they will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of the subject. Pupils will explore actions, dynamics, space and motif development. Pupils will learn a contemporary dance piece before choreographing a small section of their own.</p>
Drama	<p>Within their performing arts rotation slot, pupils will be introduced to drama through a period of 12 lessons whereby they will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of the subject. Pupils will explore devising techniques such as still image, narration and thought tracking to name a few. Pupils will apply these skills to develop their own performance to the narrative ‘Spooky Tales’.</p>
English	<p>In English, Year 7 pupils will have completed work on Greek Myths, a topic they will probably be familiar with from primary school in order to help ease into the new reading and writing skills. We then transition into a full text reading with a more specific focus on key skills such as quotation retrieval, language and structural analysis or SPaG to ensure they have strong foundations moving forward. Pupils also have regular key vocabulary, spelling and recall tests to ensure students understand the content they have learned. These skills will be assessed in the coming weeks through a one-hour assessment lesson; 30 minutes on a reading question and 30 minutes on writing task. This is to identify skills that students understand and identify the skills that students have struggled with. Students will have a series of feedback lessons in order to reflect and recraft any areas they need to develop before moving forward.</p>
Food	<p>When your child starts their Food rotation the focus will be on health and safety and personal hygiene. They will be learning about the different health, safety and personal hygiene rules which must be adhered to when preparing and cooking food. Pupils will be taking part in a variety of practicals where their practical skills will be assessed via teacher observation. Pupils will be given immediate feedback on the outcome of their practicals so that they are aware of what areas they performed well on and what areas they still need to work on. When pupils have completed the health and safety element of the rotation, they will then move onto the “pizza design challenge”. This</p>



	will be directly linked to the new ACE award (Award for creative excellence) that we are currently running across the technologies faculty. They will be given the chance to design their very own pizza which must link to a specific design brief. They will then get the chance to make this pizza in the school's food room and this will be photographed, documented and assessed at the end of their food rotation. Children will be given written feedback on their assessment about what they did well and how they can improve further for next time. There will also be many occasions where pupils will get the chance to peer assess each other's work so pupils are able to improve their work before it is assessed more formally by their teacher.
French	Year 7 pupils have started their French studies by considering their prior knowledge about the French-speaking world. We have discussed where in the world French is spoken, along with discussing some key aspects of French culture. We also start with the basics of introducing yourself, greeting others and using numbers alongside a solid foundation of French phonics. This is to ensure that regardless of the language they learned in primary school all pupils have a strong basis for their future French studies. Pupils will now look to build on this over the coming months by expanding on introducing themselves and talking about their own hobbies.
Geography	Year 7 pupils will have carried out a baseline assessment, which included both geographical terminology and key geographical knowledge, varying from commonly taught primary topics and more specific general geographical knowledge to allow them to build on skills from KS2. 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 good geographical foundational knowledge as we start with the topic of Amazing Places which draws on many different geographical topics.
German	Year 7 pupils have started their German studies by considering their prior knowledge about the German-speaking world. We have discussed where in the world German is spoken, along with discussing some key aspects of German culture. We also start with the basics of introducing yourself, greeting others and using numbers alongside a solid foundation of German phonics. This is to ensure that regardless of the language they learned in Primary school all pupils have a strong basis for their future German studies. Pupils will now look to build on this over the coming months by expanding on introducing themselves and describing themselves and others.
History	Year 7 pupils will have carried out a baseline assessment, which included both historical terminology and key historical knowledge, varying from commonly taught primary topics and more specific general historical knowledge to allow them to build on skills from KS2. 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 grounding of Historical Skills and the Norman Conquest; which will be called upon further in the following topic of Church, State and Black Death.
Mathematics	Over the course of the first half term pupils are completing work to ensure they have strong foundations for our Year 7 content. This will then be assessed in the weeks prior through a 1 hour non calculator assessment. Pupils will then receive a review sheet so they can work independently with the use of MathsWatch at home on any topics they struggle with. Teachers will also go through the assessments and will pick up key topics to review within lessons in the consolidation week before half term.
Media Studies	Within their technology rotation slot, pupils will be introduced to media through a period of 8 – 9 lessons whereby they will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of the subject. We explore camera techniques, including camera shots and angles, and we develop our practical skills through storyboarding and editing workshops. By the end of the rotation, pupils will have filmed and edited their own silent films. Pupils will need to have a good knowledge and understanding of the editing software we use – Adobe Premiere Pro.
Music	Within their performing arts rotation slot, pupils will be introduced to music through a period of 12 lessons whereby they will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of the subject. Pupils will explore performing, composing and appraising through a range of developing instrumental techniques including ukulele and electronic keyboard. Pupils will also develop a range of composing skills through exploring a variety of cultures and dramas.
PE	Pupils completed baseline assessments in long distance running, football and endball. This has informed staff which group they should be in. Pupils have now started their first sport rotation. Pupils spend 10 lessons developing the core skills in each rotation. At the moment, pupils will be learning swimming, badminton, cricket, athletics, fitness or softball. Pupils will be practically and verbally assessed throughout these lessons.
RE	In RE we will study four of the world faiths in Year 7. This will ensure all pupils have a foundational knowledge in these faiths before we go on to more thematic topics. All pupils will have a baseline test in RE so that teachers can build on their skills during the lessons. We continually strive to ensure that all pupils have strong foundations in their knowledge of RE. We do this by giving pupils regular knowledge quizzes, retention activities and linking learning to previous lessons and experiences. Pupils will all be assessed at the end of every half term. Teachers will then feedback on the assessments and ensure that all misconceptions are covered to ensure that all





	pupils have solid foundational knowledge before we continue to the next topic.
Science	Year 7 pupils will have carried out a baseline assessment, which included KS2 knowledge that they have reviewed over their first few weeks at Barr Beacon. 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 the fundamentals of science and have addressed the first 'Big Question' about famous scientists from throughout history.
Textiles	Year 7 Textiles pupils will be focusing on health and safety in textiles, learning basic textiles skills and using equipment. Pupils will develop their knowledge of techniques such as tie dye, applique, casings and other manufacturing processes. They will then learn how to create design ideas developing into a final design alongside researching examples of smart and modern materials in textiles. Practical lessons will be assessed via teacher observations during the lesson, with a practical log of their work in their booklets. Pupils will get instant feedback within their lessons regarding what they have done well and what they need to continue to work on with regards to their drawstring bag and their homework tasks. Pupils will be assessed at the end of their rotation based on their final product alongside an assessed homework design idea.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



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