



Our Ref: LD/cc/Year9CatchUp

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 9 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 Year 8.

In Year 9, they will also be sampling a range of Humanities subjects for the first time on a rotational basis. This letter explains how we are giving pupils some fundamental knowledge in each of these subjects, which they may choose to pursue for their GCSEs.

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

### **Checking understanding and plugging gaps**

All of our teachers are making sure Year 9 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.

Here is an overview of each subject's approach. Please ask your children about their learning 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 9 Art rotation pupils are completing an Art project on 'Confectionary'. Pupils will be exploring the art practitioner Sarah Graham and completing an artist research on her work. Pupils will be developing their critical understanding of art practitioners and their skill to analyse artwork in more depth. This forms the first part of their Art assessment. Feedback will



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	<p>be given to students on how they have collated and analysed the artist's work. Pupils will also be given the opportunity in their practical lessons to explore a range of art materials, techniques and processes, building on their knowledge from Y7 and Y8. Students will be given a range of challenges from colour pencil blending to pen stippling. 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 for next time. Pupils will also be assessed at the end of their rotation based on their final outcome.</p>
Business Studies	<p>During your child's Business Studies rotation, they will be looking at the concept of marketing and more specifically the Marketing Mix.</p> <p>Pupils will learn the key skills required to construct a Marketing Mix and will then apply these concepts to a real business situation, where they will create a mix for a product they have designed. They will complete the project by delivering a business pitch of their idea.</p>
Computer Science	<p>During your child's Computer Science rotation they will start off with some recall of content they covered in Years 7 and 8 in order to allow them to build on their knowledge and skills this year.</p> <p>Pupils will build on their knowledge of algorithms and look at more advanced algorithms to allow them to build small programs in Python.</p> <p>The second part of their rotation will allow pupils to explore what IT involves – they will explore skills using Microsoft Excel and complete a small project using given data.</p>
Dance	<p>Within their performing arts rotation slot, pupils will be introduced to Dance through a period of 6 lessons whereby they will further develop the fundamental concepts of the subject. Pupils will explore actions, dynamics, space and motif development. Pupils will learn a commercial dance piece. This will give students an insight to the BTEC Performing Arts Award they could start in Year 10.</p>
Drama	<p>Within their performing arts rotation slot, pupils will be reintroduced to Drama through a period of 6 lessons whereby they will further explore the fundamental concepts of the subject. Pupils will explore visual theatre and Commedia Del Arte by being introduced to practitioners such as Kneehigh National Theatre and Frantic Assembly. This will give students an insight to the BTEC Performing Arts Award they could start in Year 10.</p>
English	<p>Year 9 pupils will begin the term with a whole novel reading of Noughts and Crosses, with a specific focus on reading non-fiction texts. This is to review which skills they have retained from Year 8 and to foster a love of reading. Lessons will include</p>



	<p>analysis and writing skills, key vocabulary, spelling and recall tests to establish what students understand on the content they have learned.</p> <p>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 a writing task. This is to identify skills that students understood and those they 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 they will receive an overview of what the subject will be like if they were to take it further at GCSE level. Pupils will then carry out a mini project where they will be given a design brief and asked to plan a suitable menu of dishes which meets the requirements of the brief. Pupils will be continually assessed based on how well they are meeting the requirements of the design brief that they have been given. Pupils will then choose one of the dishes and plan, prepare and cook within the lesson. Pupils will carry out an evaluation of their final outcome and document a photograph of their dish within their work. The project will then be assessed overall as a whole and pupils will receive formal written feedback on what they did well and what the areas of improvement are if they were to take this subject further at GCSE level.</p>
French	<p>In French, pupils have returned to school to a module called 'My world' - this module is an opportunity for recall of key topics previously covered lower down the school such as describing your family members and your relationship with them, discussion of your hobbies and favourite things and discussing school life. This module will allow teachers to identify and address where any foundational knowledge of the language is lacking and to address these areas through the subsequent lessons. Pupils will have opportunity through this course of study to practise their use of tenses – a vital skill for them to make progress through Year 9.</p>
Geography	<p>In Geography we will study Population and Development in the first term. Studying these topics will build upon the knowledge pupils have from studying Geography in Year 7s and 8. We will ensure that pupils have strong foundations in their knowledge by giving pupils regular knowledge quizzes, retention activities and comparing current content with content they studied last year. 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 so that all pupils have good foundational knowledge before we continue to the next topic.</p>
German	<p>In German pupils have returned to a topic called 'Daily Routine'. This topic covers key foundational knowledge of German such as</p>



	<p>using present tense verbs, giving an opinion, describing yourself, talking about what you wear and what you like/ don't like to eat, Many of these are things pupils will have covered lower down the school, so the opportunities for staff to identify and address any gaps in knowledge or misconceptions will be considerable. Pupils will also be encouraged to revisit the past tense during this module to ensure that this fundamental skill is practised in order to allow pupils to progress further with the Year 9 studies.</p>
Health and Social Care	<p>Year 9 pupils will look at both Health and Social Care and Child Development together as part of this Humanities rotation. Pupils will gain an understanding of the structure of both BTEC courses including the combination of both internally and externally assessed units in order to complete the qualifications. During the rotation, pupils build a sound knowledge of the key aspects of both subjects including both types of settings, users, ages and stages of development, areas of development, children's play and the variety of different factors that influence growth and development, including lifestyle choices, financial considerations and environmental factors. Pupils will be assessed throughout the rotation based on a range of classwork and homework tasks, building to an assessment at the end of the rotation.</p>
History	<p>Year 9 pupils will be building on their skills gained during Year 8 and are studying World War Two in the first half term. 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 completed their first assessment and we will have developed their source skills and contextual knowledge of the period to ensure that they are familiar with how to evaluate sources and the skills needed to apply this to assessments. Teachers will go through the assessment to ensure any gaps are addressed and skills will continue to be built on as the year progresses.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Over the course of the first half term, pupils are completing work to ensure that they have strong foundations from our Year 9 content, including links to home learning topics covered in Year 8 during lockdown. This will then be assessed through a 1 1/2 hour non-calculator assessment. Pupils will receive a review sheet so that they can work independently with the use of MathsWatch at home on any topics they struggled with. Teachers will also go through the assessments and will pick up key topics to review within lessons in the consolidation week.</p>
Media Studies	<p>Year 9 Media pupils are on a 6 week lesson rotation and are exploring print production within the Media. They will explore the layout of magazine front covers, advertising techniques, representation of groups of people/places/cultures and use Photoshop to create their own magazine front cover. Pupils will be assessed throughout the rotation and receive an overall mark</p>





	based on the work they have produced within their booklets. The booklets printed and shared on Microsoft Teams contain the grading criteria therefore pupils have access to this at all times.
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	In PE, pupils have returned to the physical activity rotations they would have missed during lockdown. This means, by Christmas, pupils will have participated in a full range of 12 sports since they joined Barr Beacon. In Year 9, pupils will start to apply the core skills they developed in previous years to outwit opponents. Pupils will be verbally questioned about the health and fitness theory knowledge that was set during lockdown. This will inform teachers what content needs to be further developed for those wanting to choose BTEC Sport or GCSE PE in Year 10.
Psychology	In Psychology we will study concepts related to the topic of Memory. Pupils will look at how our memories are processed and case studies which help to explain this. This is so that pupils start to understand what Psychology is and build foundational knowledge for later in the year. For example, the concept of a key theory and how to evaluate the validity of theories and studies. Pupils will all be assessed at the end of the rotation. Teachers will then feedback on the assessments and ensure that all misconceptions are addressed and that pupils know what their future targets are.
RE	In RE we will study ethical and philosophical topics that will build on what pupils have learnt over the past two years. We will ensure that pupils have strong foundations in their knowledge by giving them regular knowledge quizzes and linking what we do to the religions we studied in Year 7 and Year 8. Pupils will all be assessed at the end of each half term. Teachers will then feedback on the assessments and will pick up key misconceptions to review in the following lessons.
Science	Year 9 pupils will have carried out a baseline assessment, which included year 7 and 8 knowledge and skills that they had an opportunity to look over in a skills check week at the start of term. 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 bioenergetics and waves which were two topics that were explored in lockdown. We are now looking at them in



	more depth so students can demonstrate their mastery of the topics.
Sociology	In the Sociology rotation we will start with an introduction to what is Sociology and explore key sociological concepts. This is to ensure pupils have a strong foundation of what Sociology is and be able to use real life examples to demonstrate sociological knowledge. Pupils will be assessed at the end of each rotation on their understanding of key terms. Teachers will feedback to students and address any misconceptions. Pupils will be set individual targets.
Textiles	<p>Year 9 Textiles pupils will be on a 7-week rotation, gaining an taste of GCSE Design and Technology: textiles. Pupils will learn about natural and synthetic fibres alongside woven, non-woven and knitted fabrics. Pupils will develop their skills on the sewing machine, creating different seam types used in industry, identifying the type of movement mechanical system for a sewing machine. Pupils will be assessed throughout their rotation based on their product analysis, specification and evaluation assessed homework. Pupils will learn how to use a textiles knowledge organiser and assessed through pop quizzes. Pupils will also develop the skills to strengthen materials and create decorative techniques in textiles.</p> <p>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 samples and their homework tasks.</p>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



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