



Barr Beacon School  
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Our Ref: LD/cc/DLE/LockdownYear11

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### National Lockdown Arrangements

Last night, the Prime Minister announced that a new national lockdown will come into force at 00:01 on Wednesday 6 January.

Here is the most up-to-date information issued from the Department for Education:

“During the period of national lockdown, schools... will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only. Public vocational exams and assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned. **All other children and students will learn remotely until February half term.**”

This means that, unless you are a critical workers and your child is coming into school (see Critical Worker Children, below), your Year 11 child will be learning remotely, at home until after half term (see Remote Learning, below).

The Department for Education has also stated this in regards to examinations:

“In these circumstances, we do not think it is possible for exams to go ahead fairly this summer. The Secretary of State for Education will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.”

At the moment, we have no more information about how Year 11 pupils will be awarded qualifications this year. We simply do not know. What we do know is we need to prepare our children for all eventualities. Therefore, in the meantime, they need to continue with their studies as originally planned. As long as it is safe to do so, we are intending to run another series of mocks in March, as we always intended to do.

Year 11 progress evening will continue as planned this Thursday. The information you receive from your child’s teachers help you to guide your child in their studies at home.

### Critical worker children

The government’s updated list of who counts as a critical worker is here: critical workers list. If you have not already made us aware that you are a critical worker and you intend to send your child into school you must send in confirmation via postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk along with proof (letter or ID badge) and your child’s name and form. Where a critical worker child can be kept at home, and undertake the extensive remote learning we are providing, you are advised to do so. This will further reduce the risk of viral transmission and potentially relieve pressure on the NHS.



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Children of critical workers in school will follow their usual timetable, completing the same remote learning as pupils who are at home. They will remain in year group bubbles in computer-equipped rooms. They will need to wear full uniform. They will be taking part in PE kit at their usual times so they need to bring in their PE kit on the days they usually have PE. Hot meals will be served as usual in the Bistro for pupils who want to purchase them. Free meals will be provided as usual to eligible children. Each morning, children will need to enter school from the top gate. They may arrive from 8.30 and must be registered by 8.50. The only difference to the timings of their usual school day is that they will leave school (also from the top gate) at **3.00pm**. With the exception of Homework Club, after school activities will not be running.

It is the law for all pupils (except those who are medically exempt) to wear a face covering in school communal areas. We are currently having to give out lots of face coverings every day. Starting from pupils' first days back, we will be charging pupils who arrive at school without a face covering or have to be issued with one during the day. This will need to be paid for through Wisepay. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals we have issued them with a plain, reusable covering which they will need to bring to school every day.

There are no school buses this week. From next Monday (11<sup>th</sup> January) there will be a limited service consisting of one 705 and one 881. We will communicate the times for these buses as soon as we have them off the bus company. The bus company have said that they will be monitoring the loads of these buses and the service could change in future.

### **Remote Learning**

All children at home should access learning through Teams. **Attendance will be monitored and we will be contacting home for any pupil who is not engaging with learning.**

<https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/keep-up-with-your-learning-even-if-you-have-to-stay-at-home/>

**Live lesson streams commence on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.** Pupils should follow their usual timetable, starting at 8.50 and **ending at 3.00pm**. This is a change from the usual Year 11 finish time at 3.20pm, but otherwise the times of the school day are completely the same.

There is a form period each day from 8.50-9.10 which they should join to check in with their tutors. PSHE will not be live streamed this week but will commence on 14<sup>th</sup> January at 9.10am.

Please make sure your child has watched both of these videos. Even if your child has experienced learning through Teams before, there have been some modifications. Therefore, please make sure that they have watched the videos.

Everything is explained in the videos but here are some very important points:

- If your child has any technical issues (including forgotten logins/passwords) please contact [itsupport@barrbeaconschool.co.uk](mailto:itsupport@barrbeaconschool.co.uk).
- If they are not sure about any of their work in a particular subject, they need to contact their teacher through Teams, using the Chat function.

- Make sure your child checks their Calendar so they can see all their lessons for the week. If any are missing, they need to contact the teacher of that subject using the Chat function.
- We do not envision any pupil misbehaving online. But if anyone does behave inappropriately they will be immediately removed, you will be informed and your child will most likely be banned from future lessons. Teams is constantly being monitored and lessons may be recorded to make sure no one behaves inappropriately. We strongly encourage your child to send any work they produce to their teachers. Teachers will make their expectations clear about this in the lessons themselves.

**If a teacher is absent**, meaning a Live stream cannot take place, your child will be set an Assignment for that lesson instead. This will be communicated to your child's class by the class teacher or subject leader.

We know that some households may have computer and internet issues so please contact us if this applies to you: [postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk](mailto:postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk). Any pupils who are using **work packs** to complete their work will receive phone calls to check how they are getting on. The work packs are extensive and pupils should aim to do what they can.

If we experience technical issues ourselves during a lesson, please bear with us. We will always endeavour to get up and running again as quickly as possible.

### **Pastoral care**

Form tutors will be completing daily check-ins each morning via Microsoft Teams and PSHE continues to be set as part of home learning. If your child is ever unsure about this, please have them contact their tutor through the Chat on Teams (this is in the instructional [video](#)).

In addition to the form period each day from 8.50-9.10, there will be a House assembly every Monday in this time slot. This will be streamed through the Teams. A register will be taken for this so please make sure your child is present.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's emotional wellbeing, please contact their Head of House to discuss support that can be offered by the school. Heads of House will be making phone calls throughout the week to families who need them most. In addition to this, our extensive Success Centre programmes of support, Tigers Curriculum and school counselling sessions will still be running remotely. Assistant Heads of House will also be contacting pupils with low attendance to support in their transition back to school. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if your child would value any additional support.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs Sorensen (Assistant Headteacher). Contact details can be found [here](#).

### **PE Remote Learning**

- PE teachers be setting Teams Assignments for pupils to complete during CORE PE lesson time in place of live lessons. This will involve 'beat the teacher' challenges, fitness sessions with pilates, etc. They will be blending theory into these Assignments as they go. These will mostly be recordings.

- In addition, there are extra-Curricular challenges. Three times a week the PE team will also be posting on our website some different activities to appeal to a broad range of pupils. E.g. ‘your PE teacher does Joe Wicks’, couch to 5km, Yoga and pilates, Zumba and more.

### **Free School Meals**

During the national lockdown, pupils who receive Free School Meals will be contacted weekly by text message every Wednesday. The text will include a list of the food in the food box. We ask for replies to [postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk](mailto:postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk) by Thursday at 11.00am so that we can prepare boxes for collection from school between 2.00-3.00pm on the Friday. To collect, parents/carers are asked to buzz at the top gate and the boxes will be brought out to you. Please be aware that if you are collecting multiple boxes that these are quite large and heavy.

The government food vouchers which were available during the first lockdown are no longer available. Food boxes are what schools are now able to offer to support families. Additional support which is available via the governments ‘Winter Covid Grant’ is run by Walsall Council. We advise that you make contact directly with Walsall Council to access this support on 0300 555 2855.

If you still have any queries after reading through this letter, please contact [postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk](mailto:postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Draycott