



Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Our Ref: LD/cc/DLE/LockdownYear13

5th 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 your Year 13 child will be learning remotely, at home until after half term.

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 13 students 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.

Remote Learning

All children at home should access learning through Teams. **Attendance will be monitored and we will be contacting home for any student 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 6th January. Students should follow their usual timetable.

There is a form period each day from 8.50-9.10 which they should join to check in with their tutors.

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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.
- 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 student 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. Any students 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 students 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 Sixth Form 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 the Sixth Form Team to discuss support that can be offered by the school. The Sixth Form Team will be making phone calls throughout the week to families who need them most. In addition to this, our extensive Success Centre programmes and school counselling sessions will still be running remotely. 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](#).

Staying fit at home

Three times a week the PE team will also be posting on our website some different activities to appeal to a broad range of students. E.g. 'your PE teacher does Joe Wicks', couch to 5km, Yoga and pilates, Zumba and more.

Free School Meals

During the national lockdown, students 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 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.

Additional support which is available via the government's '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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Draycott