



Barr Beacon School  
[www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk](http://www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk)

Our Ref: LD/JT/cc/Film Studies GCSE

27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of an exciting change we have made to your child's curriculum. You will be aware that your child began studying towards their GCSE in Media Studies at the beginning of Year 9. Our experience of teaching this course has shown us that many pupils struggle to remember all of the different media types this course entails and even pupils who worked very hard throughout lockdown will struggle to remember everything. We have therefore moved your child from GCSE Media Studies to GCSE Film Studies.

The Film Studies curriculum is far more focused. What your child has learned so far from Media Studies will not go to waste as they have learned the core concepts which are applicable to all forms of media. They will now be able to focus their analyses on just film texts, rather than having to worry about applying their knowledge to lots of media formats in their examinations.

Furthermore, the style and structure of questions in the Film exam will be more accessible to pupils given that there are more stepped questions. In comparison, the Media Studies exam is mostly made up of long extended response questions. The Film Studies questions are more approachable for pupils and will build their confidence.

The Film Studies course also carries considerable currency with employers and universities and we have considerable success with Film Studies at A level. Recently, a former student contacted us to tell us she had achieved a First Class degree in Film at the highly prestigious King's College London.

### **What will the Film course involve?**

- Pupils will explore and investigate a range of engaging films from a number of different contexts. Unlike the Media specification, the Film Studies course is solely focused on analysing film as a medium, rather than exploring a broad range of different types of media.



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- Below is the list of films that pupils will be studying. Please note that some of these films set by the exam board have a 15 certificate.
  - Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956), PG
  - E.T. the Extra Terrestrial (1982), U
  - Little Miss Sunshine (2006), 15
  - Slumdog Millionaire (2008), 15
  - Tsotsi (2005), 15
  - Attack the Block (2011), 15

If you would like further information, please email [postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk](mailto:postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Draycott  
Headteacher



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