



# Barr Beacon

## School Prospectus

'Proud to Succeed'

2023 - 2024

# 'PROUD TO SUCCEED'

  
**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

## Dear Parents,

I am proud to introduce myself as the Headteacher of Barr Beacon School from September 2022.

While I am new to this role, I am not new to Barr Beacon School having been part of the school's journey of success for some time thus the essential foundations which make our school so special are not about to disappear. My commitment to you is that they will be strengthened.

My staff work tirelessly to ensure that every child succeeds and achieves their potential. The teaching and support staff are led by strong leaders who are just as ambitious for your child as you are. We firmly believe that every child should have high aspirations and we will work relentlessly to enable this for Barr Beacon's pupils.

We have high expectations of our pupils from their conduct and behaviour in school and out in the community to the way that they wear their uniform with pride. Alongside this, we expect them to work hard to achieve success while enacting the Beacon Values.

Our website is an important source of information and communication holding a wealth of details for you to learn more about us. We use this platform to share and celebrate the wonderful achievements and successes of our pupils.

I know that you have chosen Barr Beacon School for our values and determination for your child to succeed. I look forward to welcoming your child on their journey with us and to working with you for the next seven years at Barr Beacon School.



*K Hibbs*

**Mrs K Hibbs** | Headteacher



# A PROUD MEMBER OF MATRIX ACADEMY TRUST

Education Without Exception

I am very proud to be the CEO of the Matrix Academy Trust. It is truly a privilege to work with like-minded, hard-working colleagues who are all focused on delivering the Trust's vision.

Our vision is simple: every child deserves an exceptional education. We make this happen by doing the things which really make a difference. Working smartly means we have staff who want to work here. It ensures we have the capacity to care for every pupil, providing them with the best possible education – without exception.

A great school is one people want to work at and one parents want to send their children to. No matter how great our schools might be, we never rest on our laurels. We are restless in our efforts to keep improving and we instil this in our young people.

Welcome to Matrix Academy Trust.

Lynsey Draycott



## ADMISSIONS.

The number of intended admissions in September 2023 will be **252**.

**Pupils will be admitted at the age of 11 years without reference to ability, aptitude, race or religion.** Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied.

1. Children in Public Care (Looked After Children & Previously Looked After Children). A Looked After Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions.
2. Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school in years 8-11 in September of the relevant year. Siblings of Sixth Form students DO NOT qualify for a sibling claim.
3. Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child.
4. Children of Staff employed at The Academy. Where a member of staff (all full time teaching and support staff determined as those on a 37 hours a week and above contract) has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made.
5. Pupils from feeder Primary Schools - Meadow View JMI, Park Hall Junior Academy, Pheasey Park Farm Primary living within 2.9 miles of Barr Beacon School, as measured by a straight line. In the event of over-subscription from feeder primary schools, students living closest to Barr Beacon School will be given priority.
6. Proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearest being accorded the higher priority, distance being measured in a straight line.



Visit the school website for a full breakdown and descriptions of our admissions criteria.

## APPEALS.

Parents whose children are refused admission to the school have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. The necessary forms and information should be obtained from the Clerk to the Appeals Panel, Barr Beacon School, Old Hall Lane, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0RF to whom completed forms are returned. Please mark the envelope ADMISSION – APPEAL.

Appeals, in respect of Year 7 intake for September 2023, should be lodged by Friday 14th April 2023.



## MOST ABLE.

We believe that everyone should aspire to achieve as highly as they can. To this end, although pupils are stretched at Barr Beacon regardless of their academic potential, we provide more able pupils with opportunities such as MENSA testing, visits to and talks from university staff and activities that challenge and push them out of their comfort zone. We raise the aspirations of more able pupils through a range of speakers from professions such as medicine and law, visits and targeted career advice.

The school has strong links with a range of Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge who support us in immersing more able pupils in challenging academic theory and abstract concepts. More able pupils are given the opportunity to attend residential summer schools and a range of workshops at such universities in Years 10-13.

As with all pupils, the progress of Most Able pupils is carefully monitored by a designated member of Leadership and Heads of House. Most Able pupils have the potential to progress towards the highest levels of academic achievement and we have the highest expectations of them.

## APPOINTMENTS.

A new parents' evening is held in the Summer term for the parents of pupils who will be joining the school in the following September. At this meeting there is an opportunity to meet Heads of House and the Senior Leadership team.

We are always keen to see parents/carers about any aspect of a child's education. It is vital that appointments are made to ensure that you see the appropriate person. Whenever you contact the school, please give the name of your son's/daughter's Form Tutor, group and Head of House.

## PROGRESS EVENINGS.

One Progress Evening is arranged for each year group during the school year. Year 11 and Sixth Form have two Progress Evenings. All Progress Evenings take place online via our video call system. It is expected that all Parents/Carers attend all Progress Evenings. You will be informed of the dates in advance for these evenings and they will be published on the school website.

Each Progress Evening is seen as a vital part of the communication between home and school. You will have the opportunity to make an appointment with each of your child's teachers using our online booking system and you will be able to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.



## REPORTS.

Effort, homework and attainment grades are issued to parents to keep you informed of your child's progress. You will be reminded by text that a report has been issued. If, on any occasion, you do not receive a report, you should immediately let your child's Head of House know.

## VISITS TO SITE.

New pupils are invited to visit the school for an induction day in July during a normal working day. Additionally, Support Staff including the SENDCo communicate with primary schools to discuss pupils' needs to ensure a smooth transition.

## WAITING LIST

Until 31st August 2023 parents may enquire about their child's position on the Waiting List by contacting the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team on 01922 652585. From 1st September 2023, the waiting list will be maintained by the school and parents should make enquiries by contacting Barr Beacon School Admissions on 0121 366 6600.



## PASTORAL CARE.

All staff are committed to developing pupils' social skills, attitude, academic progress and their personal welfare. All staff are involved in this work. In particular, Form Tutors are directly responsible for the progress of their tutees and work closely with Heads of House and Assistant Heads of House, who lead the teams of Form Tutors within each House group. We expect pupils to do well at Barr Beacon and there is a positive reward system for academic achievement and effort.

The school's first priority, over and above all other responsibilities, is the welfare of pupils. If staff are concerned about the welfare of any pupil, parents/carers are usually the first to be contacted.

If the concerns are sufficient to suggest that there is the possibility of abuse, then staff will contact the appropriate Child Protection Agency, usually Children's Services with or without parental consent.

The school is aware that this occasionally causes problems in relationships with parents. However, if the school is concerned about a pupil, there are procedures which we have to follow to ensure their safety.

We do share information as part of our multi-agency agreement with Health Services, Police, Children's Services and other agencies where appropriate. In order to safeguard pupils, Barr Beacon is a no mobile phone site for Years 7-11.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

Barr Beacon provides a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils of all abilities. Whatever ability, each child is encouraged to reach her/his potential. Recognising that some children may require extra support, there is a range of provision on offer to match individual children's needs. The SEND Coordinator has the responsibility of ensuring the Code of Practice is implemented. All staff take responsibility for meeting the additional needs of the pupils that they teach.

Parents are fully involved in the process of monitoring their child's progress. The school encourages active involvement of parents in the learning of all children, understanding that regular communication plays a vital role in the success of each individual. Pupils with additional needs experience a range of teaching strategies within lesson time that include: group work, correct answer modelling, scaffolding resources or one to one in class support from teachers and support staff.



## LEARNING SUPPORT.

Barr Beacon School is an inclusive school. This means pupils will be supported mainly in the classroom through quality first teaching. If a pupil has an Educational Health and Care plan in place, specialist staff will support the pupils in the classroom, or provide materials to help scaffold the teacher's work. Where special needs of a registered disability are identified, every effort is made to make special provision for pupils within the resources available.

Children with specific learning needs may be invited to attend a range of clubs both before and after school to overcome weaknesses in areas as specified by the Code of Practice. Please be aware that the school is situated on a hill and is a multi-level site consisting of six separate buildings. Wheelchair access is currently only available on the ground floor, except in the Sixth Form block, the Creative Arts block and B block where there are lifts.



**Our curriculum** provides pupils with the **knowledge and experiences** which will **interest and empower** them to **thrive in the workplace** and make informed contributions to our **democratic society.**



## YEARS 7 - 9

Following close consultation with primary schools and the use of children's reading ages, pupils (upon entry) are allocated to a tutor group in one of 10 forms. Each form belongs to one of four houses: Bredon, Clent, Malvern or Wrekin.

The subjects they will study are: English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language (German or French), Geography, History, Religious Education, Physical Education and Personal Social and Health Education. Additionally pupils will study a Technology rotation of Art, Computer Science, Food, Creative Media & Textiles and a Performing Arts rotation of Dance, Drama & Music.

In preparation for KS4, Year 9 will experience a range of GCSE subjects on rotation including, Psychology, Sociology, Business, Childcare and Health & Social Care. Pupils will study the same language in Years 7, 8 and 9.

In order to offer a curriculum appropriate to all needs, some pupils will follow a course in Literacy. Pupils are allocated to a teaching group commensurate with their prior attainment. The school operates a one week timetable of 25 teaching hours. Each lesson lasts 60 minutes.

## YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Information is given by means of a Pathways booklet and a meeting is held for parents during the year to make choices for Year 10. Parents and pupils may discuss the choice of their option subjects with a member of the Leadership Team if required.

## YEAR 10 - 11

All pupils continue with a broad-based educational programme, including the core of English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Personal Social and Health Education. The last two are non-examination subjects.

Personal Social and Health Education deals with vocational guidance as well as moral, religious, economic, citizenship and health issues. Pathways choices include a number of vocational courses and GCSE subjects. Pupils follow a Science course which will include all three Sciences and will result in 2 GCSEs. Some pupils follow three separate Science courses. There is setting in English, Mathematics and Science. In all other subjects, pupils are taught in mixed ability groups. Opportunities to experience Citizenship, RE and STEM activities will occur throughout the year for all year groups.

## BEACON VALUES.

The most valuable asset that we at Barr Beacon have is our pupils. We are very proud of them. Every Barr Beacon pupil is expected to embrace our BEACON Values. These values were conceived and developed by the pupils themselves and are based upon the British Values.

A team of pupils work together as Beacon Values Representatives to promote these values and make them an important part of daily life at Barr Beacon School. Every pupil at Barr Beacon School is taught to embrace these values in order to make our school and our local communities a positive environment to live in. Our values help to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain.

## BE YOURSELF

We celebrate our many differences and teach all pupils to have the courage to be yourself.

## EQUAL TO EVERYONE

We celebrate all of our differences whether they be racial, political or sexual orientation. All Barr Beacon pupils are valued Barr Beacon pupils.

## ACT RESPONSIBLY

We are a telling school and have the expectation that we should all do the right things to nurture a positive environment in which everybody can thrive.

## CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Our School Council, Ecowarriors and Anti-bullying Champions work together to ensure everybody is caring for one another and our environment.

## OWN WHAT YOU DO

Barr Beacon pupils take responsibility for what they do, what they say and how they act. Together we show commitment and work hard.

## NEVER DISCRIMINATE

Barr Beacon is a diverse school who stand together as one to challenge all forms of discrimination. As a telling school we always speak out to challenge discrimination.

## EXPECTATIONS.

At Barr Beacon School, the expectation for our pupils in both behaviour and achievement is extremely high. We expect pupils to be polite, orderly and considerate of others and of property.

Barr Beacon is a school where pupils learn and therefore high standards of behaviour are expected in and out of classrooms. This ensures all pupils can learn effectively. No one has the right to spoil other pupils' learning. A positive, caring atmosphere based on an ethos of mutual respect provides a working environment where pupils can reach their full potential.





## UNIFORM.

**The Headteacher's decision will be final in all matters relating to uniform, jewellery and hairstyles.** If you do not support this, then please do not choose Barr Beacon School for your child. Parents and carers will be required to collect any confiscated items. If they are not collected within four weeks, they will be disposed of. Pupils **MUST** bring PE kit to all PE lessons. If pupils fail to bring kit, they will be expected to wear school kit.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM.

- Black blazer (with school badge).
- Black school trousers or black school skirt optional school emblem (no shorter than 5cm above the knee).
- White polyester/cotton shirt (worn with school tie) with a top button. Tucked into waistband of skirt or trousers.
- House tie to be worn with 6 stripes visible.
- Black socks or black tights (no patterns or over knee socks).
- Smart black polishable leather school shoes which are sensible and lightweight. Training shoes, canvas shoes and fashion boots are not acceptable.
- Black 'v' neck sweater (optional). No cardigans.
- Plain colour outer coat (not leather or denim).
- Black, plain headscarves, wraps, bands, or hair clips/ornaments (tucked under blazers with a visible tie).
- Plain black belts with a plain buckle are permitted.
- Bandanas are not permitted.

## JEWELLERY AND MAKE UP.

- One plain gold or silver stud earring in each ear lobe is permissible - no other jewellery is permitted.
- No makeup may be worn by pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 may wear discreet makeup.
- Hair colour and high fashion hairstyles are not permitted. Any extreme fashion, hairstyle or body marking/piercing is banned.
- False nails, false eyelashes and nail polish are not permitted in school. Fake tan is not permitted.

## PE UNIFORM.

- School navy shortsleeve polo shirt with collar (with school badge and pupil's name embroidered)\*
- School plain navy shorts or school plain black tracksuit bottoms or school leggings (with school badge and pupil's name embroidered)\*
- Trainers (must not be high tops or pumps)
- White ankle socks (must not be trainer socks)
- Football boots
- Plain black football socks
- Plain black one-piece swimming costume
- Swimming hat of any colour (for pupils with long hair only – your child's PE teacher will advise on hair length)

\*It is expected that all of these items of PE kit will have the pupil's initial and surname stitched into the garment. Uniform Plus, Clive Mark and Uniforms. School know our requirements and will advise you accordingly.

## DANCE UNIFORM.

- Plain black t-shirt.
- Plain black shorts (cycling shorts not permitted) or plain black tracksuit bottoms or Barr Beacon school leggings.\* (with school badge and embroidered name).



We do not have expensive designer variations on any standard uniform for any year group.  
Coats must not be worn inside buildings and must be removed upon entry to any building.  
Hoods can only be worn up during adverse weather conditions.



## **ATTENDANCE.**

We expect your child to attend at all times. If a child does not attend school they will not learn. A parent or carers of a pupil who will not be attending school through illness etc are required to telephone the school office before 9.00am to give the reason. A note, signed by a parent or carer confirming the reason, must be brought after every absence, otherwise the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. By law only the school can authorise an absence. Pupils are registered at 8.40am every morning and should be outside of their form rooms at 8.35am. The Local Authority's Educational Welfare Service investigates unexplained absences. It is essential that pupils attend school regularly. We believe that school attainment and success are closely linked with regular attendance. Dental or medical treatment should be arranged after school where possible or during the school holidays. If your child's attendance is below 90% they will be monitored by the Education Welfare Service.

If, for very exceptional circumstances, you need to request absence from school for your child during school time, you should apply to the school 8 weeks prior to the known absence for an official Pupil Absence from School form. Once this has been returned to the school, the school will confirm whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised. We do NOT authorise holidays during school term time. Research has found that two weeks absence can seriously affect examination results.

By taking time off school for holidays parents are encouraging their child to fail. Cheap holidays will reduce the academic achievement of your child. Our "attendance matters" booklet which is on the school website gives further details regarding attendance including penalty notices.

## **HOMEWORK.**

All pupils are expected to do homework. The amount set will be appropriate to the age and different needs of pupils. A homework timetable is given to pupils at the start of each year, or when they join the school. We offer a Homework Club through our extracurricular programme to support pupils with completing their homework.

All homework tasks are available on the school website for parents/carers to track.

## SPORTS & PERFORMING ARTS.

Sport is a very important and vibrant part of pupils' lives at Barr Beacon School. The school's philosophy is to provide opportunities for all at a level appropriate to pupils' abilities in a wide range of sporting activities. Our intention is that all pupils enjoy their physical educational experience and develop self-respect, teamwork, confidence and the sporting competence they need to participate in physical activity out of school hours and in later life.

In Key Stage 3, pupils will experience a broad and balanced curriculum from team sports such as football and volleyball, to individual sports such as swimming and athletics, to outdoor adventurous activities such as orienteering and kayaking, whilst learning about how these activities encourage a healthy, active lifestyle.

During Key Stage 4, pupils are able to select the activities they wish to pursue including traditional competitive team games and fitness and healthbased activities.

Barr Beacon also offers a lively Performing Arts department. In Key Stage 3, pupils take dance lessons which include a range of styles including street, contemporary and cultural dances such as capoeira and Bollywood. Pupils will also have drama lessons in Key stage 3 that cover a range of genres and practitioners, as well as having the chance to fulfil a range of roles from acting, directing, stage designing and lighting. In addition, pupils will receive music lessons, where they will explore a range of musical genres from blues to pop. They will use a variety of instruments from ukuleles to keyboards.

Barr Beacon School operates an extensive Extra Curricular sports programme including a wide range of competitive and non-competitive activities in which all pupils are encouraged to participate.

We encourage competition in sport and regularly enjoy success in a range of sporting activities at district, county and national levels. We hold an annual Sports Day (weather permitting). When a pupil regularly attends Extra Curricular activities, they may have the honour of being selected to represent the school. To achieve success in sport, and all areas of life, it takes dedication and commitment. This is something Barr Beacon strives to instil in its pupils through sport.

Pupils will be encouraged to participate in our regular Performing Arts evenings throughout the year. These range from small intimate performances to school talent shows and full musical productions.

### FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- Gymnasium
- Upgraded 25m swimming pool
- 3 football pitches and a rugby pitch
- Outdoor table tennis tables
- Multi-purpose sports hall
- Purpose built dance studio
- Drama studio
- Static Basketball Hoops



## READING.

All pupils are expected to have a reading book in school each day. Wider reading for individual subjects and reading for enjoyment will enhance your children's access to the curriculum. We encourage you to promote reading at home and in school.

In years 7-11, Form Tutors will read with their form twice a week to develop the reading skills of inference and deduction as well as encourage discussion amongst peers. Pupils should be reading independently at home and we request that parents support us with this.

In years 7 & 8 our pupils take part in Accelerated Reader. They will read for up to 20 minutes five times per week and record this in their reading logs.

Positive attitudes towards reading begins at home and we encourage you to read at home with your child. This is the best foundation that can be laid for lifelong learning! We celebrate pupils successes each half term when they join the mini-millionaires club and read 1,000,000 words.

## ANTI-BULLYING

Barr Beacon is a Telling School and we encourage all pupils to talk about their experiences, thoughts and feelings. Bullying has no place in our school and it will not be tolerated. There are well-developed procedures for staff and pupils to follow if incidents do occur.

The topic of bullying is explored in assemblies and during tutor time so that pupils are reminded they should tell someone if they do not feel happy about a matter. Our pupils know that there is no need to "suffer in silence". Our Anti Bullying Champions are also available and they are trained to support pupils too.



## DISCIPLINE.

### Rules are simple and are kept to a minimum.

At all times there should be courtesy and consideration for the needs, convenience and safety of other people. The school rules are set out in the school's behaviour policy and the school booklet 'Introduction to Barr Beacon School' which can be found on our website. Heads of House and other pastoral staff will investigate concerns and this may involve speaking to your child in school.

Discipline is firm and consistent on the basis that children respond to high expectations placed upon them. When sanctions need to be administered it can consist of a reprimand, detention, referral to a Director of Learning, referral to a Head of House and the Senior Leadership Team.

On rare occasions, a senior member of staff is involved and parents may be invited to the school to discuss particular problems. A variety of strategies are used to improve behaviour. However, in serious or persistent cases of indiscipline, exclusion from school will result.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR.**

All pupils are encouraged to develop an interest and participate in the wide range of activities which take place outside the normal school timetable. We encourage all pupils to actively involve themselves in Extra Curricular activities. We expect every child to be involved in at least one Extra Curricular activity. A copy of the Extra Curricular Programme is available on the school's website. This programme is updated each term.

An extensive programme of educational journeys, camps and field studies, both in this country and abroad, is undertaken each year. Fieldwork associated with examination courses is also a regular feature of the school's academic life. A wide range of clubs and activities take place after school. There are many Performing Arts and sporting activities in which the pupils may participate and the school takes part in competitions and shows with other local schools.

## **RAF CADETS.**

Pupils will have the opportunity to apply for a place in the schools' Cadet Force contingent at the end of Year 7. The aim of the Cadet Force is to enhance the development of skills in the following areas: Leadership, Resilience and Self-discipline whilst underpinned by the 'Core Values' of the RAF. The Cadet Force achieves this through a wide variety of activities ranging from fieldcraft, drill, weapon training/marksmanship and flying to a host of outdoor adventure activities (including the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme). Pupils will also have the opportunity to learn about the theory of flight and the mechanics of aviation, which supports the whole school approach to STEM. All of the pupils' hard work throughout the year will be showcased at the annual review & dinner night where Cadets receive their awards/badges and celebrate their new found skills.

## **DUKE OF EDINBURGH.**

At Barr Beacon School we run the Duke of Edinburgh Award. All pupils have the opportunity to participate in the bronze level of the award in Year 9. They can then choose to continue to Silver and Gold in Years 10 and Year 12 respectively. Pupils will organise their own volunteering, skill and physical sections; we will support pupils through the process of choosing these. As well as this, the school prepares all pupils for the expedition section. The expeditions take place during the summer term of Years 9, 10 and 12. Pupils learn about the Countryside Code, map skills, first aid, cooking and camp craft. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a fantastic way for pupils to develop their confidence, boost their CV and increase their resilience.



## CAREERS.

At Barr Beacon School we work in partnership with a range of employers and education providers to offer a wide ranging, inspiring and exciting careers programme for everyone. Barr Beacon School has been recognised for its excellent work within careers and is the proud recipient of the Gold Quality in Careers Standard. We are a Lead School for Walsall in the Black Country Careers Hub. We are going beyond simply helping our own pupils, and have built strong partnerships with local schools to share best practice and improve careers education for every child in the Black Country.

We offer impartial, well-informed, up-to-date advice and guidance on the full range of opportunities available. As well as providing a large selection of careers events and activities throughout the year, which are tailored to the needs of each pupil, we also take a whole school approach to careers education. All staff, our Careers Champions, our Alumni, local employers and higher education representatives help to drive forward a programme which raises aspirations, challenges stereotypical thinking and promotes equality and diversity.



Visit the Matrix Academy Trust dedicated careers site for more information

[www.matrixacademytrust.co.uk/careers](http://www.matrixacademytrust.co.uk/careers)

## The careers programme at Barr Beacon School goes beyond helping pupils to figure out what their next steps should be;

it helps pupils to continually develop the essential employability and life skills to make successful applications to their chosen pathway. Our pupils need to be prepared for the evolving working world and so, at the heart of our Careers Programme, is a focus on building up essential lifelong employability skills. Our Skills 4 Life approach helps pupils to see the value in everything they do for their wider careers and teaches the philosophy that careers education is a life long journey.



## START PROFILE.



When children enter Barr Beacon School in September they will begin the process of recording their achievement and career goals. This process will continue throughout their school career until they complete their compulsory education.

The Start Profile has been designed to support pupils and help in the process of setting targets and achieving success in academic skills, personal life and future careers. The start profile will develop into an online folder of evidence, which may be asked for at interview for employment, apprenticeships and Sixth Form or College placements.



## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL.

All pupils in their time at school will have the opportunity to explore the wider world with various international visits planned every year. We are committed to making sure Barr Beacon plays an important part not only in the local community, but also the international community. Throughout their time at Barr Beacon, pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of international projects.

Barr Beacon School is also an International Immersion school working with agencies to support the opportunity for students around the world to experience the English education system and to develop their English speaking skills. Most recently, we had a group of Chinese pupils and their teachers in school for a week, learning about the English education system. Pupils at Barr Beacon have the opportunity to play a significant role including being 'buddies' for international visits.

Barr Beacon School holds the prestigious International Schools Award. We have held this for many years. Our pupils have international experiences both through the curriculum and beyond. The International Schools Award shows that our school embeds what it means to be an international citizen into all that we do. Our pupils learn about and have a respect for other cultures, communities and ways of life.

### WE ARE ALWAYS:

- Developing closer links with our community through partnership working.
- Developing international links and global partnerships.
- Increasing social cohesion through a greater awareness of cultural diversity.

Our exciting opportunities have taken students on the World Challenge to Nepal and to Peru with Camps International. We hold bi-annual ski trip to America and we have taken part in a range of Erasmus projects in recent years too.

In 2022, pupils who have previously been unable to travel internationally were taken on two exciting trips to Germany and to Spain. Many more opportunities are planned for the future. We also actively seek to work with other local and international schools to broaden pupils' horizons and provide new learning experiences.

We are committed to ensuring that our curriculum offer supports international learning about cultures and community. We also take every opportunity to celebrate international events.



# SIXTH FORM



**All students have the opportunity to select from a variety of courses at A Level or BTEC National Award standard.**

Students will study 3 A levels, 3 BTECs or a combination of A levels and BTEC courses in Year 12. Students continue with 3 courses into Year 13. Every student who applies to the Sixth Form is given a personal interview with the Sixth Form Team in order to discuss career aspirations, university choices, apprenticeships and subject options. In this way, the school can personalise the timetable for each student.

All students follow a comprehensive PSHE course that is designed to explore careers, health, apprenticeships, university applications, current affairs, revision and wider reading skills, matters of citizenship and personal education. All students experience a period of enrichment on a Wednesday afternoon. A wide range of courses are available to broaden the mind and body, including the Extended Project Qualification and many more.

In addition, the Sixth Form offers a wide range of opportunities for students to gain more experience, through conferences to medical schools, work experience placements and higher education courses whilst they study for their Level 3 qualifications.

Finally, we offer close pastoral support to all of our students to ensure that they perform to the best of their ability and reach the universities and higher apprenticeships of their dreams. Outstanding university guidance enables students to select the most appropriate pathway.

All Sixth Form students are expected to wear business suits.



## **BICYCLES**

No cycle may be brought on to the premises unless it is mechanically safe and pupils who cycle will be expected to have attained a satisfactory standard of proficiency.

All reasonable care will be taken, but the responsibility for the safety of cycles and accessories will remain with the owners. Cyclists are advised to padlock their cycles. Cycling helmets are strongly recommended. We promote cycling by the provision of a cycle shelter.

## **COMPLAINTS**

If you wish to make a complaint about the school, in the first instance, you should contact the Headteacher in writing and your complaint will be investigated.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT**

Please ensure that emergency telephone numbers (work phone number, mobile phone numbers etc) are kept up to date. Notify any changes of address, telephone, emergency contact etc to the school office immediately. Schools are required by law to have two emergency contacts per child.

## **SCHOOL BUSES**

School bus services are provided each morning. There are two departure times at the end of the school day on the following routes: 881, 705 & 788. Further details are on our website.

## **CASHLESS SCHOOL**

We are a cashless school; all payments are made using a biometric system allowing for parents or carers to top up their child's account remotely at any time. Payments for meals and school trips are made using the same system. No cash is ever received in school.

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

Pupils eligible for free school meals will receive funding for their daily lunch. They are also given a breakfast allocation, which can be taken during a pupil's break.

Many other opportunities are provided to support pupils' academic achievement and additional learning resources are provided to enable independent access. It is a parent or carer's responsibility to apply for free school meals for their child. If any support is required with this process, please contact the school reception who will be able to assist. It is a parent or carer's responsibility to inform Barr Beacon School if there is a change to circumstances that may affect their child's free school meal eligibility. For further details about eligibility and to apply please visit [www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk/fsm](http://www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk/fsm)

## **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

The belief that everyone deserves to be treated equally, including having the same opportunities, is central to everything that we do at Barr Beacon School. There are many events throughout the year to promote the school's culture of equality and diversity.



## MENTAL HEALTH

At Barr Beacon School we recognise the importance of supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils. Our whole school approach includes an extensive PSHE programme, assemblies, form time activities, pupil voice through the Well Being Team, a school counsellor and pastoral support as well as working with external agencies. These include CAMHS (Child and Adolescent, Mental Health Service) and the School Nursing Team. We complete weekly activities to allow pupils to reflect and build a toolkit of support strategies through Thoughtful Thursday. Along with our 'Action for Happiness Calendar' which helps people take action for a happier and more caring world.

## SCHOOL SECURITY

We aim to keep all of our pupils safe. There are CCTV cameras around the school. CCTV images may be used from time to time to ensure the safety of pupils, visitors and staff and the protection of Barr Beacon School's grounds and contents. Parents are asked to contact school first if they wish to make an appointment to see a member of staff, and on visiting school report directly to reception.

When entering or exiting through the main entrance gate during the school day you must ensure you allow the gate to shut behind you. The gate must not be held open for other visitors or pupils to enter or leave the school site. The gate is in place as a security measure for the school and allows us to know and monitor who is coming onto and leaving school site. All visitors need to communicate with reception via the intercom before entry is granted.

We will act to ensure Barr Beacon remains a safe place for pupils, staff and other members of the community. People who threaten or assault anyone in the school, or persist in abusive behaviour, will be asked to leave the premises and we may request that the Police prosecute.



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



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