



Barr Beacon School  
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

KH/PK/SE/LPEI23

21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Information re: External Examinations**

As your child will be sitting external examinations this summer it is important that we point out to both parents and students that external exams have many different rules to internal exams. We ask that you discuss the following information with your child.

- The dates and times of external exams are set by the exam boards. We are not able to deviate from these time slots and pupils will **not** be able to catch up any missed exams. Students' attendance in external exams is essential even if your child feels a little under the weather, but this is their only opportunity. Where absence is absolutely necessary, proof of illness through a doctor's note will be required. Parents will be charged for unnecessarily missed exams.
- The following items are banned from exams: Mobile phones; MP3 players; **all** watches, including smart watches. Students will be reported to the exam board if they have any of these items with them and this may lead to disqualification. It may be worth students leaving their watches at home on the days of exams. Additionally, it may be pertinent for sixth formers to entrust their mobile phones with a trusted friend during the times of exams.
- The start time of morning exams is 9:00 am. It is essential that students be on school site in plenty of time when they have an exam. Public transport can at times be unreliable and so we urge students to catch earlier buses on the days of exams to make sure they are not late.
- Afternoon exams start at 1:00 pm. It may be that some longer exams mean that students finish after 3:15 pm and therefore will miss the school buses. Students should ensure they have a back-up plan for getting home on these days.

The overall summer Exam timetable can be found at [www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk/exams](http://www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk/exams)  
Links can also be found here for additional information and a copy of the exam posters explaining rules.

Finally, can we remind you that results days are as follows:

Y13 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Y11 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023

We will send further information about results days at a later date.



Barr Beacon School  
Old Hall Lane  
Aldridge  
Walsall  
WS9 0RF  
West Midlands



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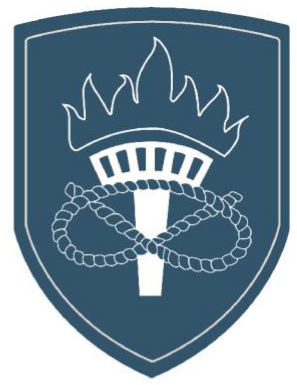


@barrbeacon.school



postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk





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Lastly, the rules around students being given Access Arrangements, including separate or 'quiet' rooms for exams have tightened. JCQ guidance states that pupils and students are only able to receive Access Arrangements if it is their usual way of working.

Additionally, with exam anxiety it states that **general nervousness about sitting examinations are not sufficient grounds for separate invigilation**. Candidates would need a substantial long-term experience of anxiety to receive a smaller venue. A recent Doctor's note may not be sufficient evidence to warrant special arrangements.

A really useful blog, from Nick Lait (Head of Examination Services at the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ)) can be found at <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/blogs/understanding-the-requirements-for-separate-invigilation/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Hibbs  
Headteacher



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