



Barr Beacon

School Prospectus

'Proud to Succeed'

2025 - 2026





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



Matrix
Academy Trust

'PROUD TO SUCCEED'

The Ofsted logo features three stylized human figures in blue above the word 'Ofsted' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Good
Provider

Dear Parents,

I am proud to be the Headteacher of Barr Beacon School where success is achieved through hard work and dedication from staff and pupils.

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 expectation 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K Hibbs'.

Mrs K Hibbs | Headteacher

ADMISSIONS.

The number of intended admissions in September 2025 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.



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 2025, should be lodged by 3pm Friday 11th April 2025.



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 super-curricular opportunities such as MENSA testing, visits to and talks from university staff and activities that challenge and push learners 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



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

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 in advance 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, Form 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 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 2025 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 2025, 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 School 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, Computer Science, Music, Physical Education and Personal Social and Health Education. Additionally, pupils will study a Technology rotation of Art, Food, Creative Media & Textiles and a Performing Arts rotation of Dance & Drama

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 for pupils and parents to help make pupil choices for Year 10. Pupils also receive assemblies led by subject specialists to provide key detail about each subject we offer at Key Stage 4. 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. Pupils may choose to 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. It is important to note that we are committed to the EBACC, which underpins our Pathways design.

In year 11 and 13 pupils are expected to attend Period 6 to support their preparation for their terminal examinations. Additional interventions are implemented and are adapted to pupils' needs.

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 *(tucked under blazers with a visible tie)*, wraps, bands, or hair clips/ornaments.
 - Plain black belts with a plain buckle are permitted.
 - Bandanas and caps are not permitted.
- (See the school website for specific guidance)

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.
- Teeth gems are not permitted.
- Shaved hair to the skin, lines shaved in the hair or in eyebrows are 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 blue or 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 items of PE kit and uniform have the pupil's name labelled inside each item. You can have a child's initial and surname stitched onto PE garments at a cost but this is optional. Uniform Plus, Clive Mark and Crested School Wear 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.)* Pupils are expected to participate in dance lessons with bare feet unless they have a medical condition. In this case, pupils will need to wear socks with grip.

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 carer 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 at line up by 8.35am. The Local Authority's Educational Welfare Service investigates unexplained absences. It is essential that pupils attend school regularly. 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 curriculum maps are available on the school website for parents/carers to track what pupils are learning.

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 health-based 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.

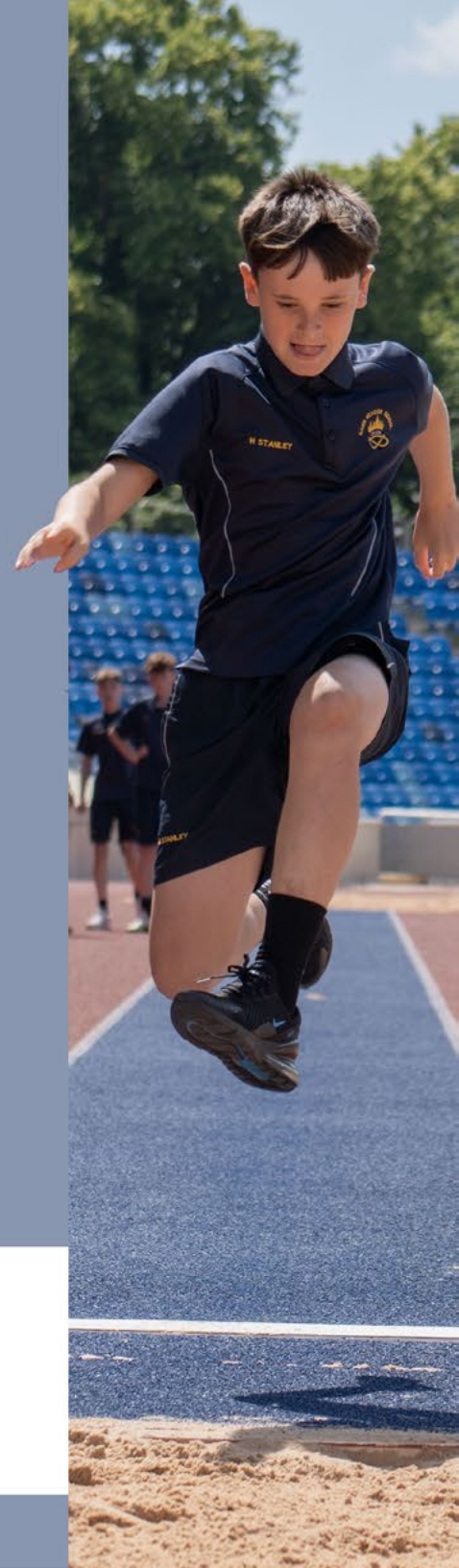
Barr Beacon School operates an extensive Extra Curricular sports programme including a wide range of competitive and non-competitive activities in which all pupils are encouraged to participate.

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 events 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 each 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.

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 clear and 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 wide range of employers and education providers to offer an inspiring, supportive and motivational careers programme for everyone. We aim to give every pupil to best chance at progressing onto their chosen career pathway, through an exciting range of careers events that showcase the full range of options available, and by helping pupils to navigate that choice with well-informed, up-to-date and impartial advice and guidance.

We offer careers activities to meet everyone's individual needs and allow our pupils to broaden their horizons by meeting new and inspiring people who help us to bring together a careers programme that raises aspirations, challenges stereotypical thinking and promotes equality and diversity.

We take a whole school approach to careers education, with careers support being embedded into the whole curriculum and school journey.

The careers programme at Barr Beacon School goes beyond helping pupils to figure out what their next steps should be; it helps pupils to recognise their own strengths and interests and to continually develop the essential employability and life skills to make successful applications to their chosen pathways. Our Skills 4 Life approach and extra/super-curricular opportunities help pupils to see the value in everything they do and empowers them to thrive in the workplace.

Barr Beacon School has been recognised for its excellent work within careers. In 2018, we were appointed as the Lead School for Walsall in the Black Country Careers Hub. We go further than 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.

GLOBALBRIDGE

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.

'Globalbridge' is a careers platform that has been designed by employers to support pupils showcase their talents and stand out from the crowd. Pupils can create a media rich online profile, showcasing academic and wider achievements, and track the skills they develop through their experiences in and out of school. In the future, this can be used as a digital CV or record of achievement. With lifetime access to the platform, student can continue building their profile after leaving school.



Visit the Matrix Academy Trust dedicated careers site for more information

www.matrixcareersguide.co.uk



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL.

Our International programme is at the heart of Barr Beacon School and we have proudly held the International Schools Award for many years. We know that our pupils need to leave our school with more than just academic credentials: an exploration of the wider world that we are part of is essential to ensuring our pupils are well rounded future citizens.

Through our curriculum offer, we prioritise the discovery of

- Culture
- Communities
- Creativity
- Careers
- Compassion

Our policy and strategy is carefully curated to ensure that all pupils can participate in our international programme and this ethos is the golden thread of our curriculum offer.

We have created many international relationships which have been developed and embedded. We have strong links with schools in Sicily and Germany and our pupils have enjoyed reciprocal visits. We participate in Turingprojects and our pupils in Year 9-12 can take part in World Challenge or Camps International biannually.

Most recently as part of the Matrix our pupils have been able to visit Japan, Spain, Italy and Peru as part of the Turing Project which enables international travel. More exciting opportunities are planned to new destinations for the forthcoming academic year.

Annually we have two Foreign Language assistants which ensures that our pupils have first-hand exposure to a variety of cultures. Our staff are encouraged to link with international colleagues via eTwinning and exchange the best of our teaching and learning experience.

Discovery Week is our annual event in which pupils can select from a variety of cultural experiences which have included trips to Barcelona and Paris as well as school based 'food from around the world'.

Our character education programme, Beacon Values, embeds a focus on international events, celebrations and beliefs. Through PSHE and school assemblies pupils learn about Black History Month, LGBTQ history around the world, Fair Trade, European Day of Languages and refugees. We are proud of our pupils' voices and pupil representatives are encouraged to lead these assemblies for their peers.



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 Tuesday 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 by West Midlands Travel 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; at Barr Beacon School we use WeDuc. 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

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 dedicated 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. Parents or carers will not be seen on demand.

When entering or exiting through the main entrance gate during the school day you must ensure that 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 School 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.



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