

10th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,



Homework and Independent Study

Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents/carers of our expectations regarding homework and independent study in the Sixth Form.

Sixth Form study requires students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning. Regular completion of homework, alongside purposeful independent study, is essential to making good progress and developing the habits needed for success in examinations and beyond.

Homework

Students will have a minimum of one homework task set each week for every subject they study. This is a minimum expectation. The amount of homework may increase in some weeks depending on the needs of the subject, the stage of the course and the work being covered in lessons.

Information about homework tasks, including details of what students are expected to complete and the relevant deadline, will be provided through Class Charts.

Teachers will set appropriate deadlines, ensuring that students have sufficient time to complete each task to a high standard. Students are expected to check Class Charts regularly, keep track of their deadlines and manage their workload effectively.

Independent Study

When students are not in timetabled lessons, they will be scheduled to attend Study Hall. This dedicated time is an important part of our approach to independent learning and is designed to provide students with the opportunity to complete homework, consolidate their learning and undertake wider study.

We expect students to dedicate approximately five hours per subject each week to their learning. Study Hall provides valuable time for students to fulfil this expectation, alongside home learning and to develop the independence, organisation and study habits needed to make strong progress.

To support students in making the most of these sessions, one tutor period each week will be dedicated to developing effective study habits. This will include teaching active learning strategies, helping students to organise and prioritise their workload, and supporting them to plan and manage their Study Hall time productively.



Our aim is to ensure that students develop the confidence and skills to take increasing ownership of their learning and make purposeful use of the time available to them.

Part-Time Employment and Wellbeing

We understand that many Sixth Form students may choose to begin or continue part-time employment alongside their studies. While part-time work can provide valuable experience and help students to develop important skills and independence, we encourage students to carefully consider the demands of balancing employment with their academic commitments.

Students should avoid over-committing themselves to work and ensure that they are leaving sufficient time to complete their homework and independent study requirements. It is equally important that students allow themselves adequate time for rest, social activities and their personal wellbeing.

We appreciate your continued support in helping our Sixth Form students develop the independence, organisation and study habits that will enable them to succeed. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's homework or independent study, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Reade, Head of Sixth Form.

Yours sincerely,



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Headteacher



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