

Ref:KH/gk/CareersAdviceParentCarerLetter/Year11

6th October 2026



Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Preparing for Study Beyond Year 11

Dear Parents/Carers

As our Year 11 pupils prepare to embark on a big transition to the next stage of their learning, we are writing to make you aware of important careers information that will be helpful to you.

What should my child be doing now?

Your child should be thinking carefully about where they wish to study after Year 11. They can apply to Sixth Forms, Colleges, Training Providers and for Apprenticeships. The [Skills for Careers](#) website summarises these choices well.

We recommend that all pupils make applications to their next steps choices by January 2027, as popular courses may fill up early at some providers.

Open Events

We would recommend you attend local Sixth Form and College Open events, which are taking place over the next couple of months:

- [Barr Beacon School Sixth Form](#) Open Evening is taking place on Thursday 26th November. Please check back on our website closer to the date for information on timings.
- [Walsall College](#)
- [Birmingham Metropolitan College](#)
- [Sandwell College](#)
- [South Staffordshire College](#)
- [University College Birmingham](#)

Apprenticeships

For pupils interested in apprenticeships, you may find our [Apprenticeship and Training Provider Directory](#) helpful. You may also be interested in attending a local [Apprenticeship Show](#) taking place at The New Art Gallery in Walsall on Thursday 12th November from 4.00pm to 7.00pm.

Back-Up Plans

We always advise our Year 11 pupils to apply to more than one provider. It is useful to have back-up options in case a pupil does not meet the entry requirements for their chosen provider, or if their chosen courses do not run due to number restrictions. This is especially important for apprenticeships, as they can be very competitive and vacancies may not always be available in the industries your child wants.



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Keeping future career aspirations in mind

If your child has a future career aspiration they are working towards, then it is important to consider which level 3 subjects they need to study at Sixth Form or College to ensure they meet the future entry requirements of universities or employers. For example universities may stipulate certain A level or level 3 subjects to study some of their courses. The [Informed Choices](#) website or [UCAS Course Search](#) tool can be very useful here.

Apprenticeships are harder to prepare for, as each individual employer will set their own expectations. If you want to speak directly to university and apprenticeship providers then the [What Next?](#) event at the NEC on Saturday 27th February will be a great opportunity to do so.

What is the school doing to support my child?

All Year 11 pupils have now had a meeting with our Careers Adviser, offering tailored support and advice. Further meetings are available to your child if needed. If your child wishes to book an appointment, they can do this via their tutor or by emailing postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk. Parents can also request to meet with our Careers Adviser or you can ask your child to see a copy of their Action Plan.

Our Careers Fair has given pupils the chance to speak with colleges and apprenticeship providers about their next steps, a refresher assembly has taken place reminding pupils of the key options ahead, and tutors will be supporting pupils to prepare for their next steps applications in form time after half term. In addition to this, all pupils will have a mock interview in December. Where pupils have been proactive and made early applications, mock interviews will be provided earlier by the careers team; pupils can ask their tutor to refer them for this support.

At this exciting but sometimes overwhelming time, we appreciate your support at home. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Hibbs
Headteacher



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