



# Barr Beacon School

Prospectus 2022-2023

**Proud to Succeed**

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



**MATRIX**  
ACADEMY  
TRUST



# CONTENTS

- 01. Matrix Academy Trust
- 02. Welcome
- 04. Admission Arrangements
- 08. Sharing Information with Parents
- 10. Supporting our pupils
- 12. Beacon Values
- 14. Pastoral Care
- 16. Uniform Expectations
- 18. Pupil Expectations
- 20. Curriculum
- 24. Sports and Performing Arts
- 28. Careers Advice and Guidance
- 30. Extra-Curricular Activities
- 32. International School
- 34. Post-16
- 36. Further Information

## ABOUT MATRIX ACADEMY TRUST

Matrix Academy Trust is a family of schools serving different communities in the Midlands. Whilst our schools are different, they share the same old fashioned values of respect and self-discipline. Our vision is for all our Academies within the Trust to be Outstanding and to ensure that every child leaves with employability skills and the opportunity of accessing higher education. Each Academy has their own Headteacher and Parent Advisory Forum which is the link between the parents, the school and the Trust. The Trustees sit on the Trust Board which is the decision making group. The Trust is committed to improving the life chances of all pupils and refuses to accept deprivation as an excuse for underachievement.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

I am delighted that you are considering Barr Beacon School as the school of choice for your child. This prospectus will give you a flavour of what Barr Beacon can offer your child. We hope that you share our vision and have the same high expectations, traditional values and ambition for your child. Whichever school you choose, I wish your child every success in their secondary education.

*Dame Mo Brennan*

## MATRIX BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr Jeremy Bench  
Dame Maureen Brennan  
Mr Stephen Smith  
Dr Deborah Park  
Mr Stephen White  
Sir Mark Aspinall  
Mrs Deborah Williams  
Mr Adam Heath

Providing  
Support | **Sharing  
Excellence**



“

*The values that Barr Beacon instils in its pupils should be universal values that everyone lives by.*

*Parent*

# PROUD TO SUCCEED

## Dear Parents,

As an Outstanding school, we work hard to get the best for every single one of our pupils. Supporting Manor Teaching School Hub, we are called upon to share our expertise with other education providers to help them get the best for their learners too. We are always focused on making sure we secure the best possible future for the next generation and, being an outstanding SCITT (School-Centred Initial Teacher Training), this extends to our high quality teacher training. Whilst future-focused in many ways, we hold on to the best parts from the past. We are traditional when it comes to discipline, courtesy and good manners.

These values never go out of fashion and they underpin our drive for academic success. Our school community is proudly diverse and we do not tolerate bias, prejudice or discrimination of any kind – whether conscious or unconscious – and we instil in our pupils nothing less than the urge to go out into the world and make it a better place. I am immensely proud to work with so many supportive governors, dedicated staff and delightful young people. It is a privilege to be the Headteacher of Barr Beacon School.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Draycott  
Headteacher







# Admission Arrangements

**The number of intended admissions in September 2022 will be 252. 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.

**Definition:** A 'Looked After Child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption order, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. 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.

Pupils will be admitted at the age of 11 years without reference to **ability, aptitude, race or religion.**

**Definition:** a child who resides at the same address as the child for whom a place is being requested and is one of the following:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents
- Half brother or sister sharing one common parent
- Step brother or sister (i.e. related by parent's marriage)
- Any other child for whom it can be demonstrated that he or she is residing permanently at the same address (e.g. under the terms of a residency order).

**3.** Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child.

Definition: relevant medical or social grounds that show that attendance at the school is essential and supported in writing by a medical practitioner or social worker. Requests for such consideration will be subject to verification by the Governing Body.

**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/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage/or the member of staff has been seconded to support other schools within the Matrix Academy Trust.

**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 2022, should be lodged by Friday 15th April 2022.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR YEAR 12 ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2022

Students will be considered for entry into Year 12 based upon their academic attainment and/or individual subject grade criteria and the availability and suitability of courses at Barr Beacon School.

Barr Beacon School's minimum entry requirements for post 16 studies are as follows:

GCSE Mathematics at grade 5 or above.

GCSE English (Language or Literature) at grade 5 or above.

4 other subjects at grade 4 or above

Students refused a place in Year 12 are entitled to appeal to an independent appeal panel. To progress from Year 12 to Year 13, students must meet the academic selection criteria we set. Students will be notified of these criteria prior to them taking up their places in September of Year 12.

## MOST ABLE

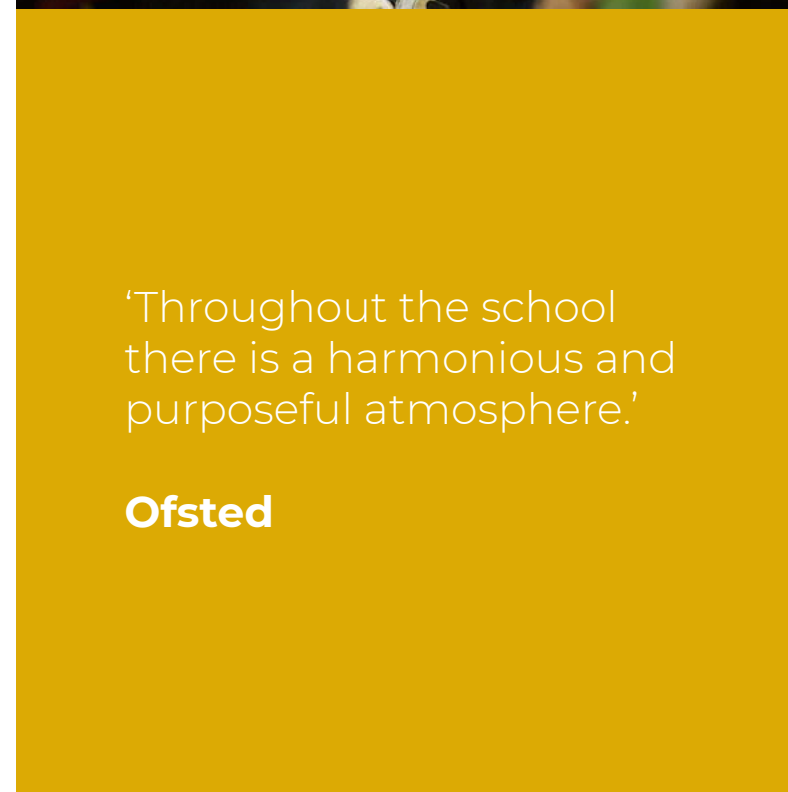
We believe that everyone should aspire to achieve as highly as they can. To this end, although pupils are stretched at Barr Beacon regardless of their academic potential, we provide more able pupils with opportunities such as MENSA testing, visits to and talks from university staff and activities that 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.



‘Pupils here are pushed and prepared for life.’  
**Parent**



‘Throughout the school there is a harmonious and purposeful atmosphere.’

**Ofsted**



‘The school is fully committed to equal opportunities for all students.’

**Ofsted**



# Sharing Information with Parents

## INDIVIDUAL 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.

## VIRTUAL PROGRESS EVENING

One Progress Evening is arranged for each year group during the school year. Year 11 and Sixth Form will have two

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 BARR BEACON SCHOOL

New pupils are invited to visit the school for an induction day in July during a normal working day. Senior staff visit primary schools to talk to staff and pupils to ensure a smooth transition.

## WAITING LIST POLICY (YEAR 7 INTAKE)

Until 31st August 2022 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 2022, the waiting list will be maintained by the school and parents should make enquiries by contacting Barr Beacon School Admissions on 0121 366 6600.

## IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

Applications for in-year admission (age groups other than the normal year of entry) must be made directly to the school.







# Supporting our pupils



## 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.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY PROVISION

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 could include: group work, correct answer modelling, scaffolding resources or one to one in class support from teachers or support staff.



# 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, Eco-warriors 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.





# 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.

## 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 could you please ensure you allow the gate to shut behind you. Please do not hold the gate 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.

## 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.



# Uniform Expectations

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.

A list of required equipment can be found on the school website.

Pupils MUST bring PE kit to all PE lessons. If pupils fail to bring kit, they will be expected to wear school kit. 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.



Pupils MUST bring PE kit to all PE lessons. If pupils fail to bring kit, they will be expected to wear school kit.

## PE KIT FOR ALL PUPILS

- Barr Beacon School navy short-sleeve polo shirt with collar (with school badge and pupil’s name embroidered)\*
- Barr Beacon School Plain navy shorts or Barr Beacon plain black tracksuit bottoms or Barr Beacon 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)

## OPTIONAL FOR ALL PUPILS

- Barr Beacon navy blue mid-layer ¾ zip top\*
- Gum Shield (recommended)

## DANCE KIT

- 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.)
  - Students are expected to participate in dance lessons with bare feet unless they have a medical condition. In this case, students will need to wear socks with grip.
- \*It is expected that all of these items of PE kit will have the pupils initial and surname stitched into the garment.

- Black blazer (with school badge).
- Black school trousers or black school skirt with school emblem only (no shorter than 5cm above the knee).
- White polyester/cotton shirt (worn with school tie) with a top button. To be worn 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 (must be tucked under blazers with the school tie visible).
- Bandanas are not permitted.
- Fake tan is not permitted.
- Any cult and other extreme of fashion, hairstyles or body piercing is banned.
- False nails and gel nails are not permitted in school. Fake eyelashes are not permitted.

The House tie, blazer badge and school skirts and trousers are available from Clive Mark, Crested School Wear and Uniform Plus or the school shop. Note: We do not have expensive designer variations on any standard uniform for any year group.

## 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.
- Full and partially shaved heads and shaved eyebrows are also not permitted
- No patterns or lines in hair or eyebrows.
- Fake tan is not permitted.
- Any extreme fashion, hairstyle or body marking/piercing is banned.
- False nails, false eyelashes and nail polish are not permitted in school.
- Nose and tongue piercings are not permitted. Retainers for any piercings are not permitted





A photograph of two young pupils, a boy and a girl, standing outdoors in their school uniforms. The boy on the left is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a green and black striped tie. The girl on the right is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a yellow and black striped tie. Both are smiling and looking towards the right. A semi-transparent blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title 'Pupil Expectations' in white text.

# Pupil Expectations

## ATTENDANCE

We expect your child to attend at all times. If a child does not attend school they will not learn. All parents and 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 guardian 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 8.50am every morning and should be outside of their form rooms at 8.45am.

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.

## 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. We need your support to ensure that we work in true



# Curriculum

You can find out more about what pupils learn in each subject on the school website.

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

## **YEAR 7, YEAR 8 AND YEAR 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.

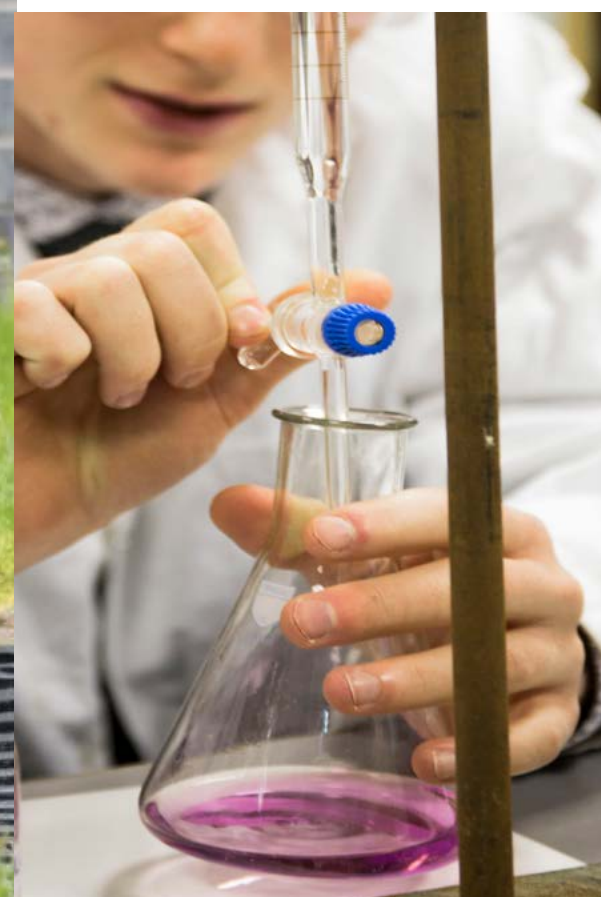
In order to offer a curriculum appropriate to all needs, some pupils will follow a course in Literacy. Pupils are allocated to a teaching group commensurate with their prior attainment. The school operates a one week timetable of 25 teaching hours. Each lesson lasts 60 minutes.

## **YEAR 9 OPTIONS**

Information is given by means of a Pathways booklet and a meeting 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. Information is given by means of a Pathways booklet and online materials during the year.

## **YEARS 10 AND 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 will include a small 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.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education takes place throughout the school and there is a moral education element as part of Personal Social and Health Education in Year 9, 10 and Year 11.

Religious Education is an important part of the school's cultural and moral education. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education and acts of collective worship on the grounds of religious conscience. Contact the Headteacher in writing to request withdrawal.

### E-SAFETY

E-safety is an important element of our PSHE curriculum. Pupils learn how to keep safe and behave online. The online world has many advantages and disadvantages and this is covered in cross-curricular lessons, assemblies and by our e-safety working group 'Digital Leaders'.

### RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

From September 2020, Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) has been compulsory. RSE is taught within the school's Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum.



RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity. It seeks to support and prepare pupils for adult life. Our curriculum is designed to support children to cope with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up and prepare them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The content is taught in an age appropriate and developmentally appropriate way.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of RSE (intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health), up until three school terms before your child turns 16. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships or Health Education.

The curriculum on relationships and sex will complement, and be supported by, the school's wider policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, SEND, e-safety, anti-bullying and safeguarding.

### 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 20 minutes five times per week and record this in their reading logs.





# Sports and 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. All Key Stage 3 pupils will also be able to work towards gaining Barr Beacon School's Arts Award in recognition for their skills.

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.



### THE SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR SPORT AND PERFORMING ARTS INCLUDE:

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

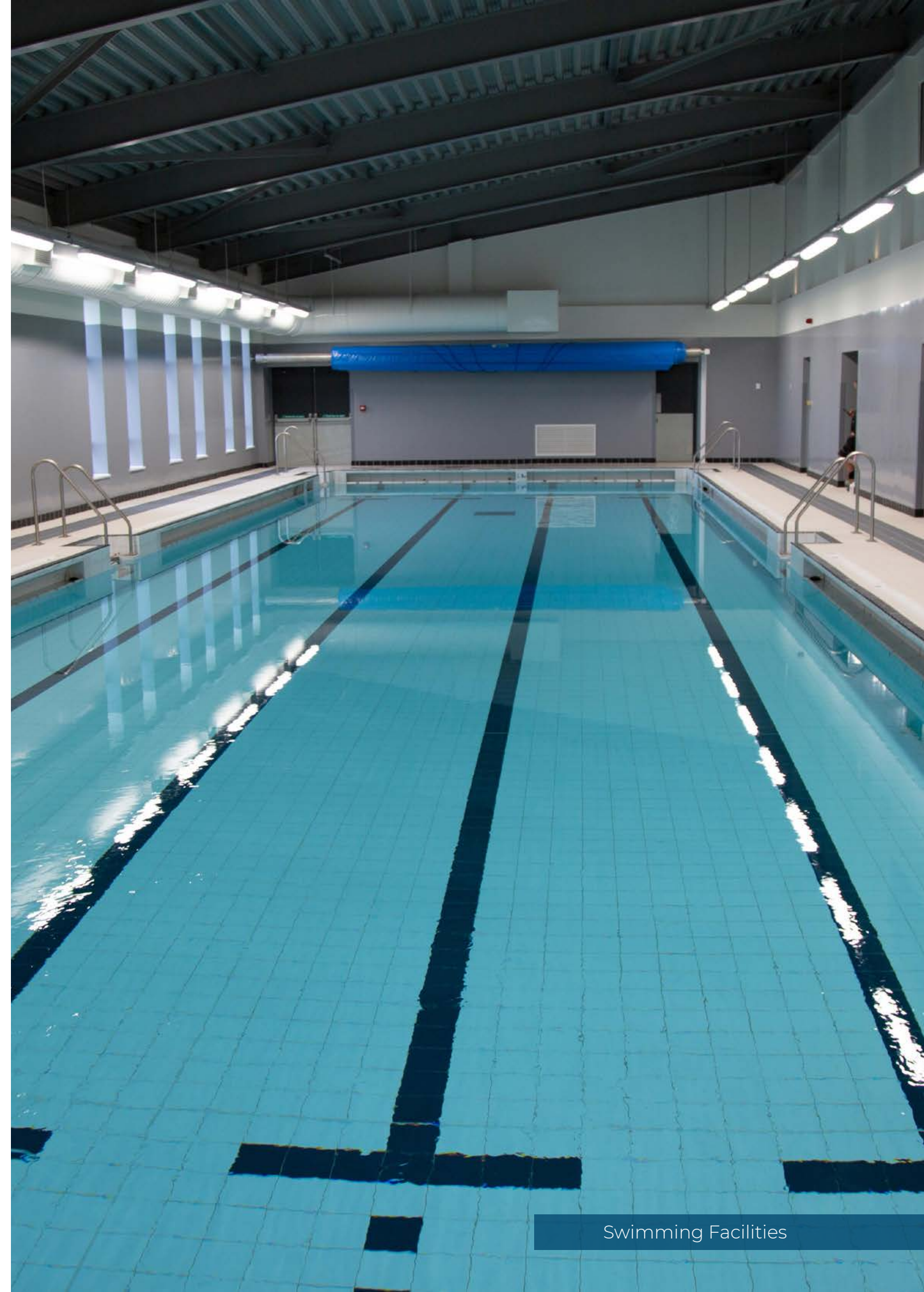
We encourage competition in sport and regularly enjoy success in a range of sporting activities at district, county and national levels. We hold an annual Sports Day (weather permitting). When a pupil regularly attends Extra Curricular activities, they may have the honour of being selected to represent 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.

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH

For each of the past 3 years there have been over 200 pupils complete their Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Each of these pupils has participated in volunteering, physical activities and skill based learning both inside and outside of school.

Pupils will have the opportunity to join Duke of Edinburgh Award in Year 9. To prepare them, all pupils receive extensive training on a range of skills from map reading to camp craft. Pupils now have the opportunity to complete their Gold Award in Sixth Form, where students will participate in expeditions in the Peak District and Snowdonia.







# Careers Advice and Guidance

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. In 2018, we were appointed as the 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.

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.

A detailed plan for our Careers Programme can be found from the Careers tab on our website and is mapped to the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Careers Guidance.

## 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.





# Extra-Curricular Activities

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.

## INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils in their time at school will have the opportunity to explore the wider world with various international visits planned every year. The following trips are planned for 2021-22:

- Ski Trip to America
- Matrix Football Tour to Cologne
- Discovery Week offering a variety of overseas opportunities
- Turing Projects in Spain & Germany

Pupils gain valuable experiences from their time abroad. All trips support our cultural capital ethos which helps pupils' personal development for life after their time at Barr Beacon School.

## PUPIL VOICE

The views of pupils are heard and valued through the School Council, Career Apprenticeship Champions, Prefects, Senior Team, ECO Team, Local Youth Parliament, Anti-Bullying Champions, Digital Leaders, Mental Health Champions and Sixth Form Subject Representations.

## RAF CADET FORCE

Pupils will have the opportunity to apply for a place in the schools Cadet Force in Year 7. The aim of the Cadet Force is to develop their skills in the following areas; leadership, followership, resilience and self discipline. The Cadet Force will provide a wealth of varying activities to pupils ranging from drill, weapon training and flying to a host of outdoor adventure activities. Pupils will also learn about the theory of flight and the mechanics of aviation to support the whole school approach to STEM. All the hard work throughout the year will be showcased at the annual review where Cadets spend time demonstrating to others their new found skills.



# International School



Camp International | Cambodia



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.

The 17 UNICEF Global Goals were agreed by world leaders in 2015 to end World Poverty, fight inequality and stop climate change by 2030. Barr Beacon School is proud of its links with 17 Global Goals which support the PSHE programme and are embedded with the work we do on our international projects.

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.





## Post-16

**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.

### ALUMNI

Our Alumni Network ensures all former pupils, past and present, keep in touch with the school. An alumni mentoring scheme will begin, offering advice, application support and mock interviews to pupils. The alumni will also be invited into school to talk about their journeys and inspire our pupils to consider new career pathways. Developing stronger links with our alumni will bring about new opportunities for our pupils, enrich the delivery of our careers programme and allow us to proudly showcase the many wonderful achievements of our former pupils.







## Further Information

### **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 PROCEDURE**

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 BUS SERVICE**

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.

### **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 AND 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

We offer an extensive pastoral support programme to promote the mental well-being of our pupils. As part of this, we have Mental Health Champions that provide support and encouragement for all to engage in important activities that promote a positive Mental Health such as exercise, talking to friends and family and being creative. Our five steps to a positive Mental Health are:

- Connect – Talk with Family. See friends. Share
- Keep Learning – Read for fun. Teach yourself. Grow.
- Be Active – Walk. Cycle. Run around. Keep Well.
- Take Notice – Look around you. Listen. Rest. Be.
- Be Creative & Play – Draw. Paint. Act. Play more.

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.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS AND CHARGES

All pupils are entitled to be entered by the school for any prescribed examination which they have been prepared for by the school, except:

Private examination entries may be made and paid for by the parents if the school has not prepared the pupil for this exam. Fees charged by Examination Boards for checking and re-marking public examinations are chargeable to parents when parents request this. If a pupil fails to complete the examination requirements for any public examination for which the school has paid or is liable to pay an entry fee, then the fee will be recovered from the parent. If a pupil retakes a BTEC external assessment, they may be required to pay the examination entry fee. This will be at the discretion of the Headteacher.



Failure to complete the examination requirements includes failure to complete the coursework requirements and/or failure to sit the final examination(s).

If a pupil fails to complete the examination for medical reasons and provides certified medical evidence then grades may be awarded. This is a very rare occurrence and only applies with a serious medical problem, e.g. hospitalisation on the day of the exam.

**TERM DATES**

**Autumn Term 2022**

Term Starts:	Monday 5th September 2022
Half Term:	Monday 24th October 2022 to Friday 28th October 2022
Term Ends:	Friday 16th December 2022

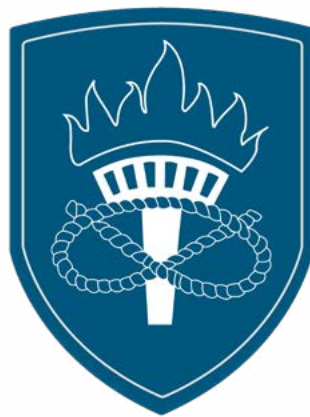
**Spring Term 2023**

Term Starts:	Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Half Term:	Monday 20th February 2023 to Friday 24th February 2023
Term Ends:	Friday 31st March 2023

**Summer Term 2023**

Term Starts:	Monday 17th April 2023
Half Term:	Monday 29th May 2023 to Friday 2nd June 2023
Term Ends:	Tuesday 25th July 2023





**‘Proud to Succeed’**

