



- Year 11 Prom
- 60 Years of Barr Beacon Celebration Event



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## A message from the Head Teacher



Ms L Draycott

As I write this, we are within sight of the end of term. And what a term it has been, with the end of examinations, leaving events and proms for Years 11 and 13, educational visits, Discovery Week adventures and, the piece de resistance, our celebration of Barr Beacon's 60 years.

I know many of your children will have further activities planned for over the holiday – whether that is going away on holiday, day trips to interesting places or staying at home and catching up on their interests. Holidays are lovely, but staying at home with a good book can be just as good. Which reminds me – if your child is in Year 7, 8 or 9, make sure you take up our Reading Challenge. You can find out more on the next page and our website.

If you are reading this within the first three weeks of the Summer holiday, spare a thought for our pupils currently trekking across Peru. By now, they will have already flown halfway around the world, met the local people and built a community centre in baking heat: it's not just the holiday of a lifetime – World Challenge is about being challenged. The clue is in the name!

We regularly go beyond the lesson-based curriculum at Barr Beacon – not just at the end of term. But the sheer volume of activities from these final few weeks shows the range of experiences and opportunities we provide for our pupils. There are loads more things happening in this last week which we did not even have space for in this bumper issue – such as having 28 students from China in school. Pupils and staff have loved showing off our school to our guests and we will be reporting on this, and anything else we ran out of room for, in the next issue.

In the meantime, have a lovely Summer.

*L Draycott*

Ms L Draycott  
Head Teacher

### Attendance Information for Parents/Carers

Please remember that if you take your child on holiday during school time you are very likely to receive a fine from Walsall Local Authority. The Local Authority may also take parents/carers to court if their child is persistently absent (below 90%). Some parents have even been arrested, taken to court and fined over £500.

**Notices** - If your child needs to take prescribed medication please ensure you have signed it in at reception. The forms are available under the Publications tab on the website.

We regularly conduct research in school to identify opportunities for enhancing the learning for all pupils. This includes surveys and group interviews. If you would prefer your child not to be involved, please contact Mr Lowbridge-Ellis.

Our summer reading challenge is aimed at encouraging pupils to read six books, of all kinds, during their summer holiday. Read more on the school website now.

## Summer Reading Challenge



### A Level Exam Results

Thursday 15th August 2019

Results will be available from 7:00am.

Staff will be on hand to help with next steps (university, apprenticeships, etc).

Year 12 exam results will be available from 10:00am.

### GCSE Exam Results

Thursday 22nd August 2019

Results will be available from 9:00am

Staff will be on hand to help with entry to Sixth Form and other next steps.

We only issue results to candidates unless there is a letter from the candidate explaining that an adult will be collecting results on their behalf. The named person must bring their ID.

### OPEN MORNINGS ALSO AVAILABLE

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!**

**THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**6 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Sixth Form Open Evening**  
Thursday 28th November 2019. 6-8:30pm



# CELEBRATION EVENING

Friday 12th July saw Barr Beacon School celebrating its 60th anniversary year, with more than 700 former pupils and teachers returning for a special celebration evening. This included pupils who started Beacon in its first year, 1958, right through to those who only left recently. Current pupils led tours of the school buildings, many of which brought back memories. Early in the evening, entertainment was provided by a troupe of dancers from Key Stage 3 and there was a parade from our RAF Cadet force.

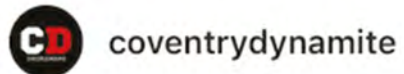
Later, a 20-piece big band, managed by a former Beacon pupil, played an hour of favourites in the Main Hall. This was followed by a two hour set of music from across the decades, curated by our talented resident 'DJ Mellow', a pupil in our current Year 10. The evening was a tremendous success and we would like to thank everyone who attended for making it such a special celebration.





## Cheerleading Champion

Khiya in Year 8 had a fantastic time at the International Future Cheer Competition in Bournemouth over the 6th/7th July weekend and finished the season on a high. Her Team 'Detonate' won their division with a perfect routine, making them the National Champions! We have been supporting her cheerleading for some time and we are so proud to see her succeed. She is going for tryouts get on a travelling team which, apart from participating in regular competitions in the UK, will also compete at the Future Cheer Competition in Barcelona next year.



coventrydynamite Detonate smashed it out of the park with a zero run 🤔🔥❤️💣 #fcbythebeach



## Audacity Street Dance

On Sunday 7th July Darby in Year 9 entered Audacity Street Dance Competition 2019 with her dance school 'Cre-8 Dance'.

Darby competed as a soloist and she also competed in a duo. Out of over 50+ dancers, Darby gained 1st place in her duo and she gained 2nd place in her solo.

Darby was absolutely fantastic and her talent raised the roof. It was a brilliant day and Darby had to battle her way through numerous amounts of dance heats in order to achieve what she did.

It was a very hard competition and the level of talent was high. However, this did not stop Darby from going out there and doing what she does best.





## Dorset Fieldwork

Once again our Year 12 pupils had a fantastic trip to PGL Osmington Bay. The weather was the best we've ever had on this trip and the pupils certainly enjoyed four days at the coast. Pupils took full advantage of the beautiful weather, enjoying evenings on the beach and campfires. The staff were extremely pleased by how enthusiastic and engaged our pupils were and it was a real pleasure to take them on the trip.

It wasn't all sunbathing and ice cream though! Whilst there, pupils conducted fieldwork that will support them in writing their NEA projects next year. As part of the fieldtrip pupils had to analyse how the coast changes due to geology, the impacts that human management has on the coastline and also how Weymouth has changed over time. This is an invaluable experience for our geographers as they are able to see what a career in geography may look like, conducting cost benefit analysis and monitoring coastal engineering to evaluate its success.





# Discovery Week 2019

This year's Discovery Week was an enriching experience for all, with pupils trying out many things they had not before.

Some went abroad, to Paris and Italy, and some had adventures closer to home. Whether it was indoor skydiving, braving the latest white-knuckle rollercoasters, pushing themselves to their sporting limits, or making their own films, all had a great time.





## End of Year Roundup

Year 11's Celebration Assembly on 4th June started with an introduction by the Headteacher, a flashforward to the upcoming prom. And then the laughter began, starting with a flashback to every pupil's Year 7 photograph (how much they have changed!).

The Heads of House made a special video and another reel of photographs showed Year 11 how much their teachers had changed, with many staff sharing their own school photos. After a prize draw, the staff video was played: a tongue-in-cheek riff on many recent 'box sets' and Netflix titles, including Peaky Blinders, Queer Eye and Birdbox.



We are delighted to introduce our Senior Team for 2019-20.



Beth is Head Girl, Harjodh is Head Boy with Casey, Edna & Simrit as their three deputies.

## Cadets Go Rifle Shooting

On Saturday the 18th May, a selection of Year 9 and 10 Cadets came back to school to learn how to use a rifle. Places for this tremendous opportunity were soon filled as people were keen to get stuck into what they would not be able to achieve if it wasn't for the RAF CCF.

This started at 9am in the training room where we were briefed on safety, the power of the rifle, when to carry out an NSP (Normal Safety Precaution) and how to operate this weapon by Flight Lieutenant Vahter, a highly qualified instructor for this opportunity.

After this, groups took it in turns with the weapons, remembering the sequences and parts of the weapon you should operate at certain points of the task. Some found this less easy than others, mainly because some of us were left handed and we were using right handed guns, but we all agreed that the challenge made us even more determined to pass the weapons handling test we had to carry out before being able to shoot with a target. Once passed, you have this Cadet qualification for 6 months.

Those who were struggling came together to help each other which was lovely to see the Cadet solidarity and togetherness of the contingent. Many Cadets passed the Weapons Handling Test first time, and we helped the few that needed a slight recap before doing it again. Soon enough we were out on the school field putting everything we had learned into practice, only this time using targets.

This was also another opportunity to see where Cadets' individual talents lay, as those who struggled with the weapon previously were hitting the targets rather successfully for first time attempts. We all loved this experience and those who were deemed talented enough will be picked for our next Air Squadron Trophy team. We cannot wait until our whole contingent has the opportunity to shoot as this was an extremely rewarding experience!

By Corporal Payne (Year 10)







# A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

New photos from the mid-1970s until 2000

Former Beacon teacher Andrew Neenan, whose photos we have featured previously in our 'Back to the 70s' feature, has sent us a veritable treasure trove of archive images. Together, they form a fascinating time capsule of a quarter of a century of our school's history.

Presented here chronologically, here are some things to look out for on your journey through time:

Shots that reveal how some subjects were taught quite differently compared with today – and often in very gender stereotypical ways. Back then, only the girls were trusted with the ironing boards and the boys with the metalwork tools. How things have changed!

There are numerous photos of form groups across time. Do you recognise yourself?

Of course, fashion has changed. There are a lot of flares and long-flowing locks of hair. Having said that, not everything has changed. Those coats with furry hoods have recently made a fashion come back. What goes around comes around...





## Sixth Form Induction Day



The students arrived looking very smart in their business dress. After a formal assembly, they met with subject teachers who talked them through the essential steps that would ensure success as students embark on their Level 3 qualifications. Students were set some wider reading tasks for over the Summer. These will give them a head start, ready to hit the ground running in September. The second part of the induction involved developing resilience. The students were split into teams and competed against each other in activities such as Gladiator Duels, Football Speed Cage and a somewhat arduous assault course!



## Year 13 Prom



Year 13 students gathered at Radisson Blu Hotel on Thursday 27th June to mark the end of their (for most of them seven year) journey at Barr Beacon School.

Students arrived to a contemporary silver and royal blue setting. They enjoyed a hot oriental buffet before spending the evening 'dressing up' for photos in the photo booth, socialising with staff, enjoying a range of sweets from the pick 'n' mix selection and dancing the night away to music ranging from R&B to some old classics. A thoroughly good time was had by all.

We look forward to our final gathering with this class of 2019 on Results Day in August.





# Italian Adventure



15 pupils left school in the early hours of Wednesday morning to start their Italian adventure!

Day 1: We were taken to Naples City, where we had an overground tour of the famous city sites and saw three of the 40 churches in the city. We also had an underground tour of the ancient tunnels and chambers which were used by the Greeks and Romans. We ate fresh Napoli pizza, which was the ideal first meal in Italy. We rounded off the day with a refreshing swim in our hotel pool.

Day 2: What a jam-packed day! We started by climbing Mount Vesuvius. At the crater of the volcano we learnt about past eruptions and how the volcano is monitored. In the afternoon, we visited Pompeii which had been completely covered by an eruption from Mount Vesuvius back in AD79. We were in awe of the well-preserved buildings and were able to see the world's oldest surviving 'beware of the dog' sign. On the evening we went to a Gelateria where we produced and tasted real Italian gelato.

Day 3: Firstly, we visited a buffalo mozzarella farm where we were able to pet the buffaloes and taste mozzarella, cheese and chocolate made with buffalo milk. The pupils really enjoyed petting the buffaloes, who were very friendly and calm. We then spent the afternoon exploring Ancient Greek ruins and underground natural caves. For our final meal in Italy, we made our own pizzas which were delicious.

Miss O'Connor and Mr Nunn would like to congratulate pupils for their excellent behaviour and participation on the trip. Well done!





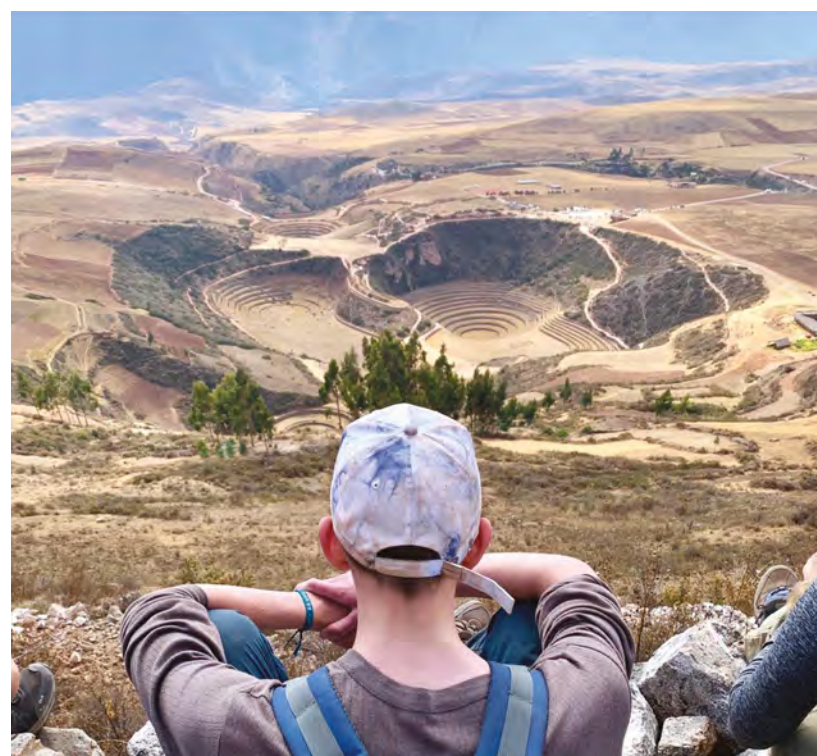
# YEAR 11 PROM

Friday 28th June saw the sun shine on the beautiful grounds of Nailcote Hall where staff eagerly awaited the arrival of our Year 11 Prom guests. This year brought a range of fast cars and jam-packed limos filled with excited and accomplished young people. Students spent the evening snapping photos in the photo booth, testing their balance on the bucking bronco, pleasing their sweet teeth at the chocolate fountain and even getting a self-portrait drawn by our very talented caricaturist.

Once the sun had gone down, our Prom King and Queen had the duty of starting off the firework display that then led into a party to end all parties with our DJ. A great night was had by all and it will certainly be one to remember. Photos from throughout the evening can be found below.







Six of our pupils and Miss Smith are on an expedition to Peru. They began by staying in the city of Cusco before building a community centre from scratch! And that was just in their first week. They still have three weeks remaining. You will be able to read a full report in the next newsletter. In the meantime, here are some fantastic photos they have sent us.





**Miss  
Franks**



**Clent  
House**

**Bredon  
House**



**Mr  
Townsend**

It has been an excellent and busy year for pupils in Clent House. We have had brilliant participation in House events and excellent camaraderie throughout the year. Whatever happens regarding the trophies we are all winners.

We still have 42 pupils in the house who have 100% attendance. This is a fantastic achievement - not one day off all year! - so well done to those individuals. 7C1 have continued with their fantastic attendance and are still at the top of the leader board with a form attendance of 97.9%, a very big well done 7C1!

This term in particular has seen the appointment of our Prefect team and I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate M. Amos who has been awarded Deputy Senior Prefect. I wanted to say a big thank you to the prefects for all of their support with the Year 6 induction evening and day you were very helpful and made sure all pupils enjoyed their day.

As a house we are proud of our sporting achievements. We have had lots of pupils involved in a whole variety of sports as well as dance competitions. I. Jhalley (Year 7) has been selected for her county netball team which is brilliant news well done. K. Thornhill (Year 9) has also been involved in a football tournament for her football team and played very well showing great sportswomanship. She trains 4 to 5 times a week for 3 hours at a time showing great determination. K. Owen (Year 8) recently attended a sporting event at Alexander Stadium run by the BBC. She also got a medal for her efforts. Well done.

C. Worrall (Year 7) completed the 10K March for Men in aid of Prostate Cancer UK on Sunday 9th June. He completed it in 1 hr 50 minutes and we are very proud of his achievement.

S. Hayre (Year 7) took part in a rounder's competition. She was an amazing backstop, very talented in many positions, supported everyone in the team and such an enthusiastic and talented player.

We have so many amazing performing arts stars in our mits. We had several Clent pupils perform to the whole of Year 7 showing off their talents and beautiful voices. M.Caddy (Year 7) performed a beautifully sung duet showing off her talents along with I. Jhalley & E. Maund (Year 7) who performed together. A. Bainbridge sung an exquisite solo and has also successfully secured the lead in Annie for a show outside school. Well done.

M. Singh, J. Carroll & C. Worrall (Year 7) completed a radio interview about the Saltmine Knife Crime talk and they all made excellent contributions. It is going to be aired on Sunday 21st July between 7am-9am and I am excited to listen in.

K. Joiner (Year 9) was the first pupil during discovery week to earn the bronze Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. He managed to earn over 25 digital badges in just over a day. Well done – a great example of hard work paying off.

You have all worked really hard and should be very proud of yourselves for everything you have achieved this year, as I am. I wish you all a fantastic summer break. Stay safe, relax, enjoy yourselves and keep your fingers crossed for the sunshine.

What a fantastic year it has been for Bredon House. Our pupils have involved themselves fully in house competitions and we are currently in a great position to reclaim the prestigious House Cup. Here are some of our highlights from the final half term.

#### **Bredon Prefects**

I was extremely proud to announce the newly elected Bredon prefects in my last newsletter. Further to this exciting news, the prefects have now received their much desired badges and ties. The Bredon prefects were truly outstanding in helping both parents and pupils during this year's Year 6 Induction Week. Well done all, you represented your house and the school superbly well.

#### **Head Teacher Awards**

The following pupils have consistently worked hard throughout this academic year and have all achieved their Head Teachers Award. Well done all! This is an incredible achievement.

Olivia	Year 7
Fraya	Year 8
Cameron	Year 9
Mansi	Year 9
Thomas	Year 9
Felicity	Year 9

#### **Brilliant Boxer | Written by McCauley in Year 7**

I recently won an incredible boxing fixture which swung back and forth. I trained really hard and all of my dedication paid off as I came from behind to beat my opponent. Boxing teaches me about how to improve my fitness and the importance of discipline.

#### **Fabulous France Trip | Written by Natalia in Year 7**

During discovery week I had an amazing opportunity to go to France. It was incredible! I explored a variety of markets, went to the superb Eiffel Tower and had so much fun at Disneyland Paris. I had a truly brilliant time.

#### **Rounders Victory**

On Wednesday 19th June and Thursday 4th July, Barr Beacon School beat St Francis 18-11 and St Thomas Moore 30-18. Olivia (Year 7), Niamh (Year 7), Rachel (Year 7) and Abbigail (Year 7) were all instrumental in our success. All of the girls demonstrated excellence with both the bat and in the field. Well done girls!

#### **Golden Boot Winner | Written by Arjun in Year 7**

My football season has recently finished. I play for Colron Lions and we played superbly well, achieving some excellent victories. I also won the Golden Boot Award, scoring 30 goals and hitting five hat tricks. I am really proud of how I was able to help my team.

#### **Ballet Brilliance | Written by Molly in Year 7**

Last week I performed my ballet dance exam. I achieved a grade 2 which I am really proud of. I am now practicing even harder positions which will help me to progress even further. I love ballet dancing as it is something which I am really passionate about.

#### **Lest We Forget | Written by Tyne (Year 9)**

During History's 'Blast from the Past' in Discovery Week, Tyne and her family made this incredible cake to remember those who had fought for our freedom. Well done Tyne!

#### **Finally...**

I hope you have a very relaxing summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all on the first day back in September.



**Mrs  
Thind**



**Wrekin  
House**

**Malvern  
House**



**Mrs  
Saunders**

Wrekin pupils have been celebrating the last half term in style. Whilst some have taken part in Discovery Week with trips abroad, others have chosen the activities based in school or more local activities such as adventure and amusement parks. There has been some brilliant feedback in how our pupils conducted themselves whilst taking part in these activities.

It has also been my pleasure to sign so many praise postcards and commendation certificates recently: a record of 15 praise postcards signed in one week!

Wrekin also have the least amount of lates out of all the Houses, gaining us 50 House points. Let's keep this trend up! We are just second with our 100% attendance. Come on Wrekin, next year we need to take the lead!

#### **Senior and Head Prefects**

It is my absolute pleasure to announce that so many of our Wrekin prefects are representing us in the senior team.

Deputy Senior Prefects: S. Bodhani 10W1 & W. Mellor 10W2

Head Prefects: F. Guest 10W1 & E. Lorton-Mulcare 10W1

Congratulations on your new appointment of Deputy and Head prefects.

#### **House Heroes**

Z. Hendon – For the manner in which he conducted himself with the Year 7s and acting as a role model whilst still enjoying the France Discovery Trip.

M. Summersby – For getting involved in every activity which she had the opportunity to participate in during the France Discover Trip.

Eva Shergill – For getting involved in every activity which she had the opportunity to participate in the France Discover Trip.

Jessica Ellison - For always being there for others throughout the duration of the France Discovery Trip.

M. Sheffield 7W2 – Captain of the rounders team and a fantastic bowler. She consistently shows exceptional talent and skill throughout the game. She is a brilliant leader for the team and sets up tactical games for the opposition to compete against. Many outstanding one hand catches, her technique is effortless. Such a talented young lady.

G. Johnston – Excellent batting skills throughout the rounders matches. Her tactical performance has significantly improved in each game, making her such an asset to the team.

P. Hollingsworth – A team player in the rounders matches, who has the ability to play many positions but recently second post where she has stumped many of the opposition out and worked well together with the bowler.

K. Brookes 7W1 – Brilliant at second post, fortunate to have had many players stumped out because of her quick reactions playing rounders.

I. Jones 7M1 – A great player across both batting and fielding. Isabelle is an asset to the team and very often intervened to stump players out in rounders.

C. Wilkins and C Mayne did a radio interview on 10th July for Radio WM on what they had learnt from the Saltmine Knife Crime talk. They made excellent contributions which is aired on 21st July between 7am-9am.

M. Sheffield 7W2 – Mia was selected for the South Staffordshire county netball team, awarded one of the 24 places on offer for the 2019-2020 season. She has also trialled for Staffordshire and Worcestershire and made the final selection process in September.

K. Mistry, S. Bonhani, E. Tivnan, E. Lorton-Mulcare for completing Silver for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

D. De-Silva has been selected to represent Warwickshire ECC Cricket under 15 squad.

I think we can agree that Wrekin have had a lot to celebrate and pupils to praise this last half term. I wish you all a fun and relaxing six week break and look forward to seeing so many fresh faces in September.

Wow, what an amazing term.

#### **Rounders**

On Wednesday 19th June and Thursday 4th July, pupils took part in a rounders competition against St Francis and St Thomas More. The girls played exceptionally well and developed such confidence throughout the game. They work so well together as a team and are a credit to Barr Beacon. The score was as follows:

BB vs St Francis 18-11 rounders

BB vs St Thomas Moore 30 1/2 - 18 rounders

Well done to this talented squad but in particular to Malvern pupil I. Jones for being a great player across both batting and fielding. She is an asset to the team and very often has intervened to stump players out.

#### **Dance**

On Sunday 7th July, D. McGuirk entered Audacity Street Dance Competition 2019 with her dance school Cre-8 Dance. She competed as a soloist and she also competed in a duo. Out of over 50+ dancers, she gained 1st place in her duo and she gained 2nd place in her solo. She was absolutely fantastic and her talent raised the roof.

It was a brilliant day and she had to battle her way through numerous amounts of dance heats in order to achieve what she did!

It was a very hard competition and the level of talent was high however, this did not stop her from going out there and doing what she does best. It is a phenomenal achievement and I am unbelievably proud of her. I look forward to more competitions and more brilliant results.

#### **Cheerleading**

Well done to K. Clarke as she attended the International Future Cheer Competition in Bournemouth and her team Detonate Junior Level 2 won their division with a perfect routine, making them the National Champions.

I am super proud of her.

She will be up for try-outs and is hoping to get on a travelling team which, apart from the regular competition, will also compete at the Future Cheer Competition in Barcelona next year. Wow, exciting and what an opportunity!

#### **Music to my ears!**

Well done to S. Patel in for passing her Piano Exam and also to M. Anderson for completing her Grade 5 Drums and Euphonium exam. I'm very proud of both of you for the dedication and success that you are achieving. Keep it up.

#### **Prefects**

I'm very honoured to welcome and congratulate my Prefects for Malvern. They went through the challenge of an interview and were successful and quickly were put out of their comfort zone in a series of challenges at Woodlands Camp. They were all amazing and I'm looking forward to working with them in Year 11: C. Birch, S. Bruerton, D. Chauhan, M. Ford, L. Morris, L. Millard, R. Moore, A. Moore, C. Palmer, C. Pincher





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