

# VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY



## BARR BEACON NEWSLETTER

### SUMMER 2020 FEATURING...

- VIRTUAL DANCE SPECTACULAR
- MEET THE NEW SENIOR TEAM
- VIRTUAL BARR BEACON TOUR





FEATURING..

**VIRTUAL DANCE  
SPECTACULAR**



## WELCOME

This has been an academic year unlike any other. And yet, we have done everything we can to make it as 'normal' as possible.

In this newsletter you will see us finding new ways to do things we would have been doing in school anyway: Year 6 induction; Sixth Form induction; assessments; rewards; celebrating success; the Dance Spectacular; providing pupils with the knowledge they need to engage in debates

around current events; form tutors having 'chats' (over Teams) with their tutees. Heads of House even did an assembly and the PE department got people active with Virtual Sports Day! And in the last few weeks, Years 7, 8 and 9 have experienced special Live Events for maths, English and science. The technology has sometimes not been as reliable as we would have liked and we know many of you have been wrestling with broadband speeds and sharing screens. But I am sure you agree that we have made the best of a testing situation. Thank you for all your lovely feedback.

Nevertheless, we are eager to get back to something more 'normal' in September. On our website, you will find information about how we are going to accomplish this. We need your support to make sure everyone can return to school safely. It will not be exactly the way it usually is - it cannot be - but we are looking forward to seeing the whole school come back on to site.

In the meantime, we want all of our pupils to stay safe over the summer. There is work on our website for those who want to keep their brains ticking over.

See you soon!

Ms L Draycott





# JUNIOR MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE SUCCESS

The Junior Mathematical Challenge is a 60-minute competition aimed at pupils across the UK.

It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Junior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make pupils think, yet still challenge those with more experience. This was the last question on the paper this year :

Yes, it's not easy is it?!

So well done to all of our Year 7 and 8 pupils who took part. We actually had 3 pupils win Gold, 5 win Silver and 8 win Bronze certificates!

Those who competed in Year 7: Imogen (Silver), Amelia (Bronze), Abi (Bronze), Sidney (Bronze), Arjan, Olly, Ryan, Jessica, Joshua and Harry.

Those who competed in Year 8: Natalia (Gold), Olivia (Gold), James (Gold), William (Silver), Katie (Silver), Chloe (Silver), Rebecca (Silver), Tansy (Bronze), Elliott (Bronze), Abi (Bronze), Sophia (Bronze), Ella (Bronze), Aeman, Gabriel and Safah.

We will issue them with their certificates in the new term.

In the diagram,  $PQRS$ ,  $JQK$  and  $LRK$  are straight lines.

What is the size of the angle  $JKL$ ?

A  $34^\circ$     B  $35^\circ$     C  $36^\circ$     D  $37^\circ$     E  $38^\circ$

We have had some fantastic artwork from a Year 6 pupil who is joining us in September!

Vikhyati's father is understandably proud of her creations.

He says his family is "Looking forward to being a part of the BB family... to attain as well as to carry the legacy forward."



# NIKITA WINS TOP FILM-MAKING PRIZE!

Nikita in Year 9 has won a top prize in the Sky Academy Studios #keepconnected film-making competition. More than 500 films were entered by students across the UK. Nikita's film, 'Untold Story' was selected as the winner of their Secondary School category.

The idea behind the competition was for children to bring their lockdown stories to life using technology they could access at home.

Here are the thoughts of Ian France, Commissioning Editor at Sky Kids:

"Throughout Nikita's eloquent presentation we saw how she supported her family with an inner strength and courage. A true story highlighting the reality of the COVID pandemic. Thank you for sharing your story Nikita."

#keepconnected

Ian France, Commissioning Editor at Sky Kids

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

We are very proud of two of our ex-students who have both graduated this summer with First Class Honours Degrees.

A.Whyte BA (Hons) Business Management, Accountancy and Finance

S. Aujla BSc. (Hons) Medical Physiology and Therapeutics

We wish them both all the very best for the future.

**Joe Willis signs for Walsall FC**

We are really proud of our former pupil Joe Willis who has signed his first professional football contract!

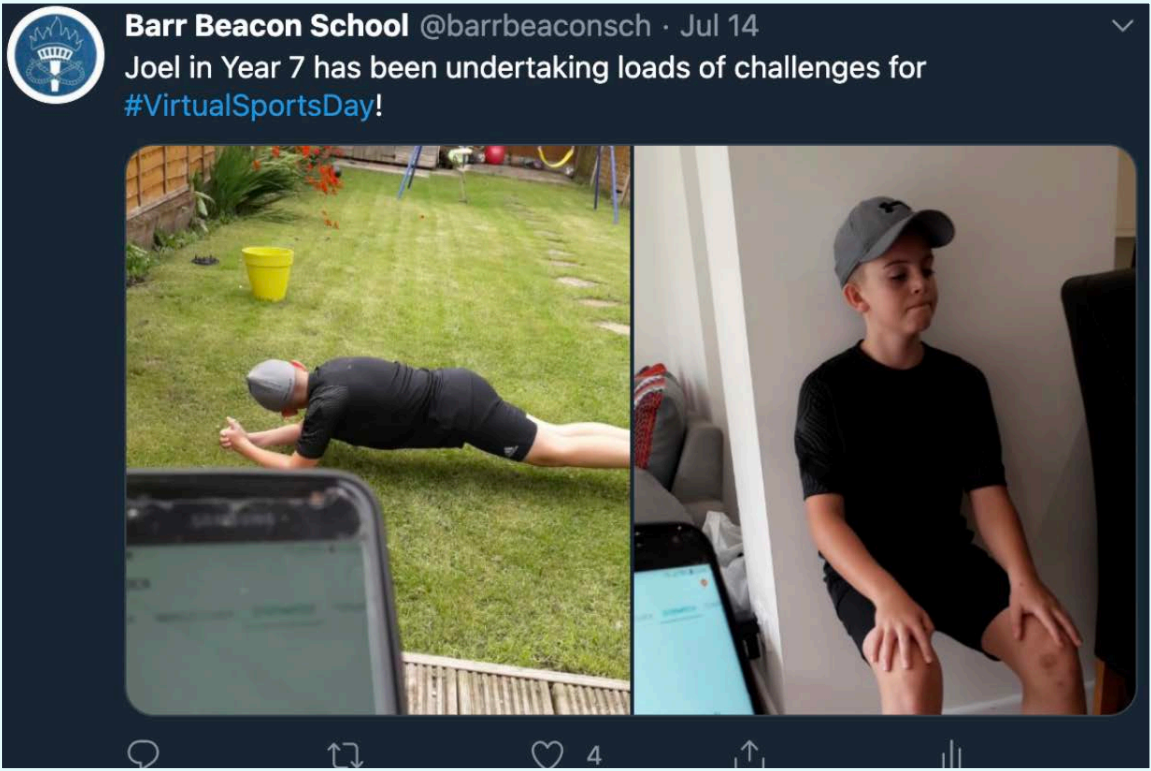
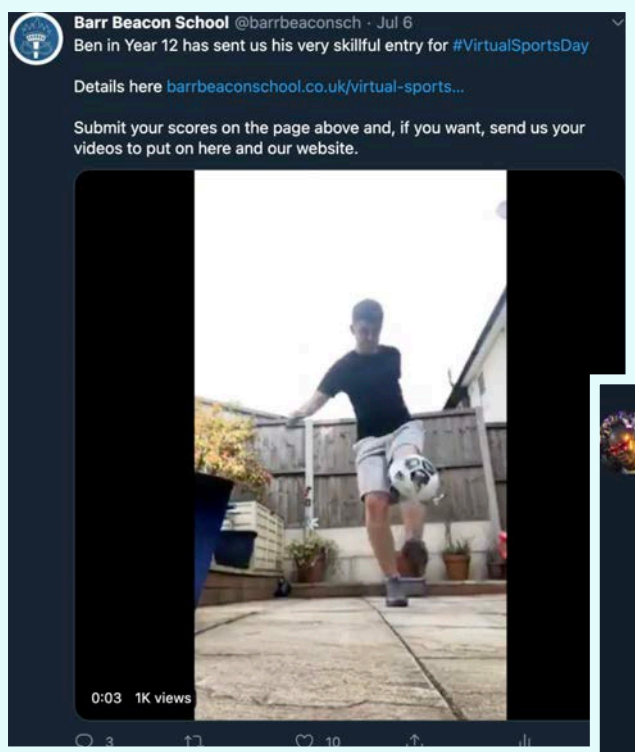
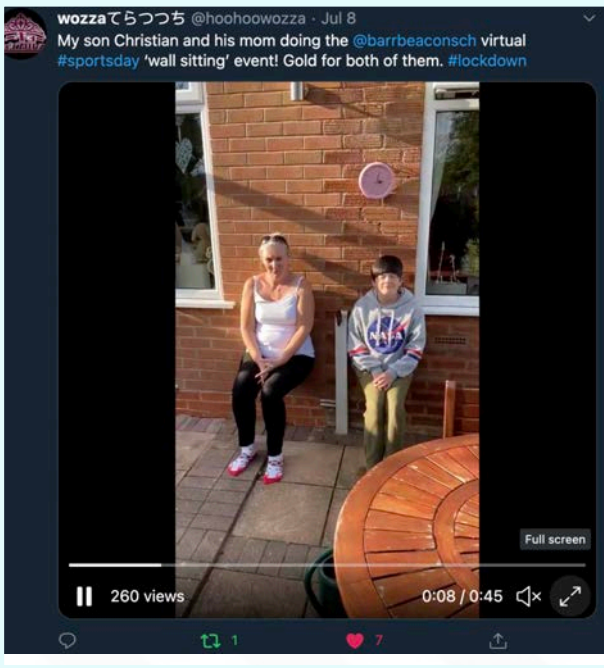




# VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY

Well done to all the pupils who participated in Virtual Sports Day. It was fantastic to see pupils attempting all the different challenges and contributing to the House competition. The results are as follows;

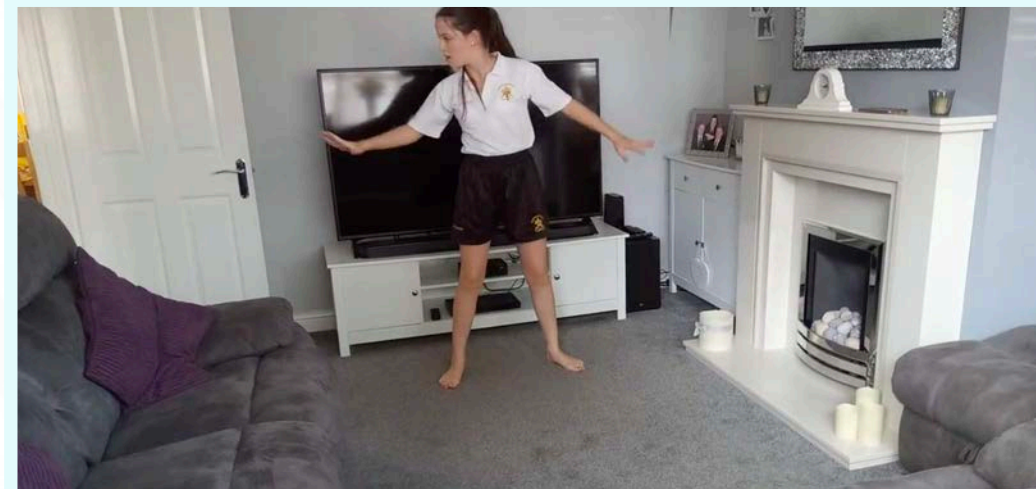
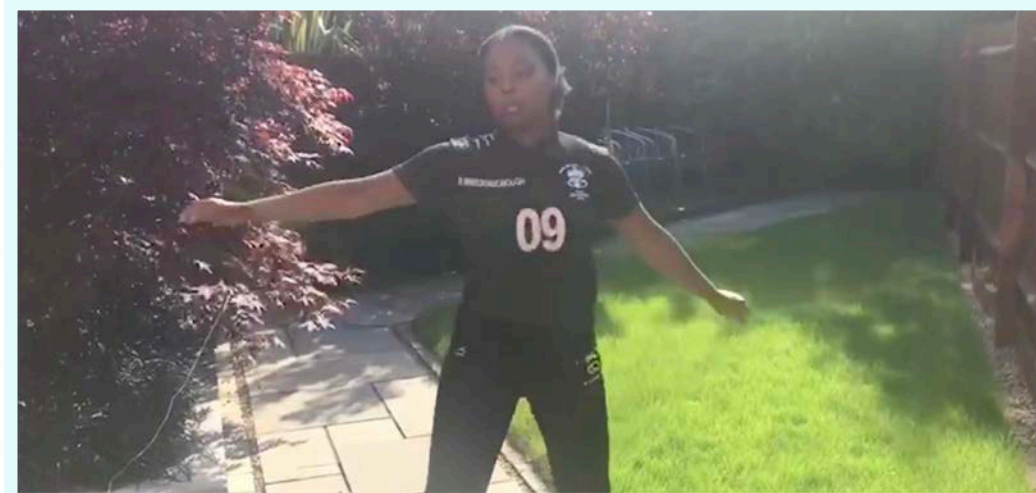
1st Place - Malvern  
2nd Place - Wrekin  
3rd Place - Clent  
4th Place - Bredon





# VIRTUAL DANCE SPECTACULAR!

Every year, Barr Beacon School hosts the annual 'Dance Spectacular' to celebrate the hard work and success of our students from Years 7 – 11. Due to the current circumstances, our students have been working extremely hard at home to ensure our show can still go ahead virtually. You can find the video on the school website.



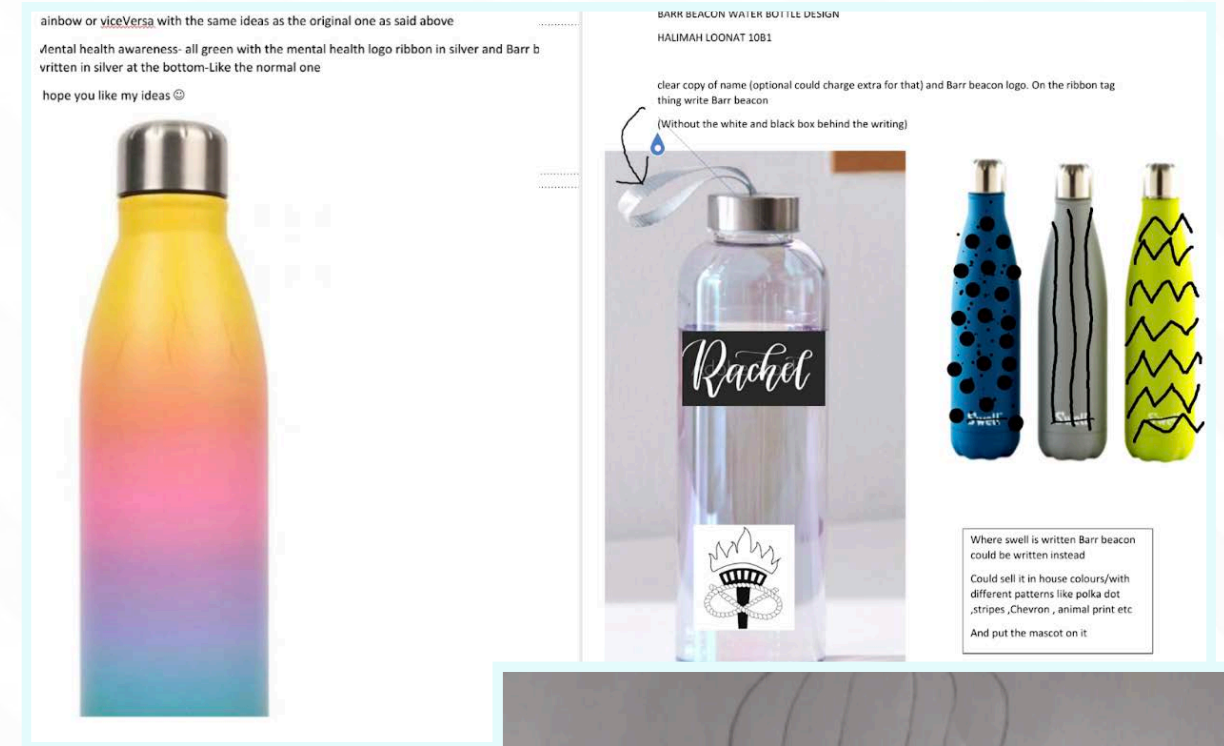


# DESIGN A WATER BOTTLE COMPETITION

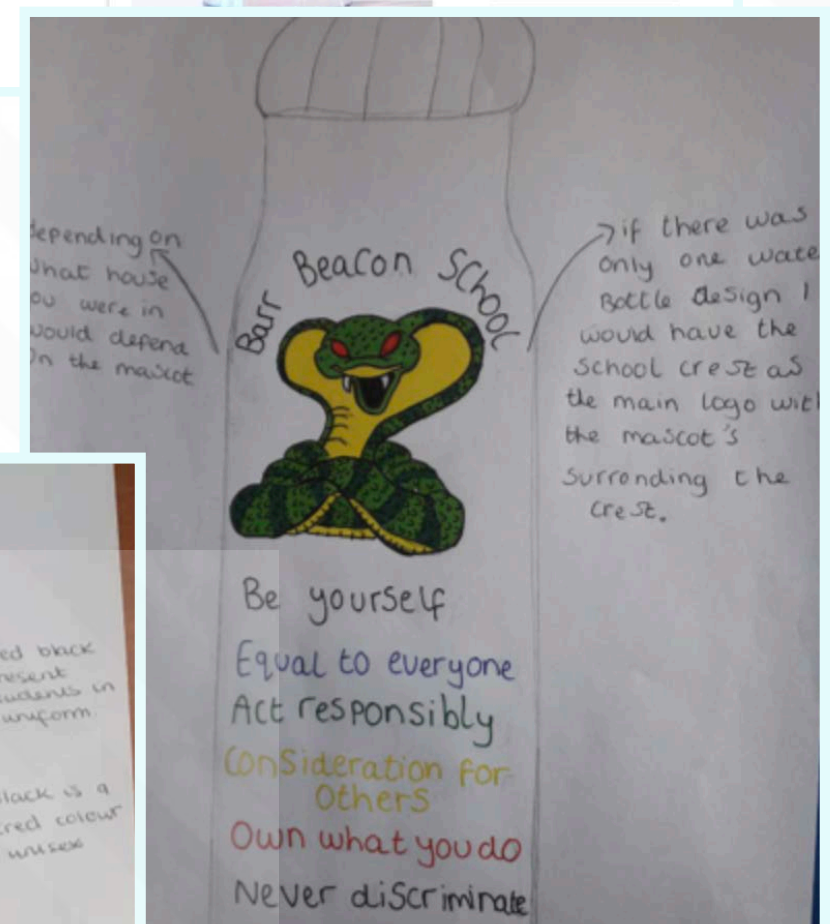
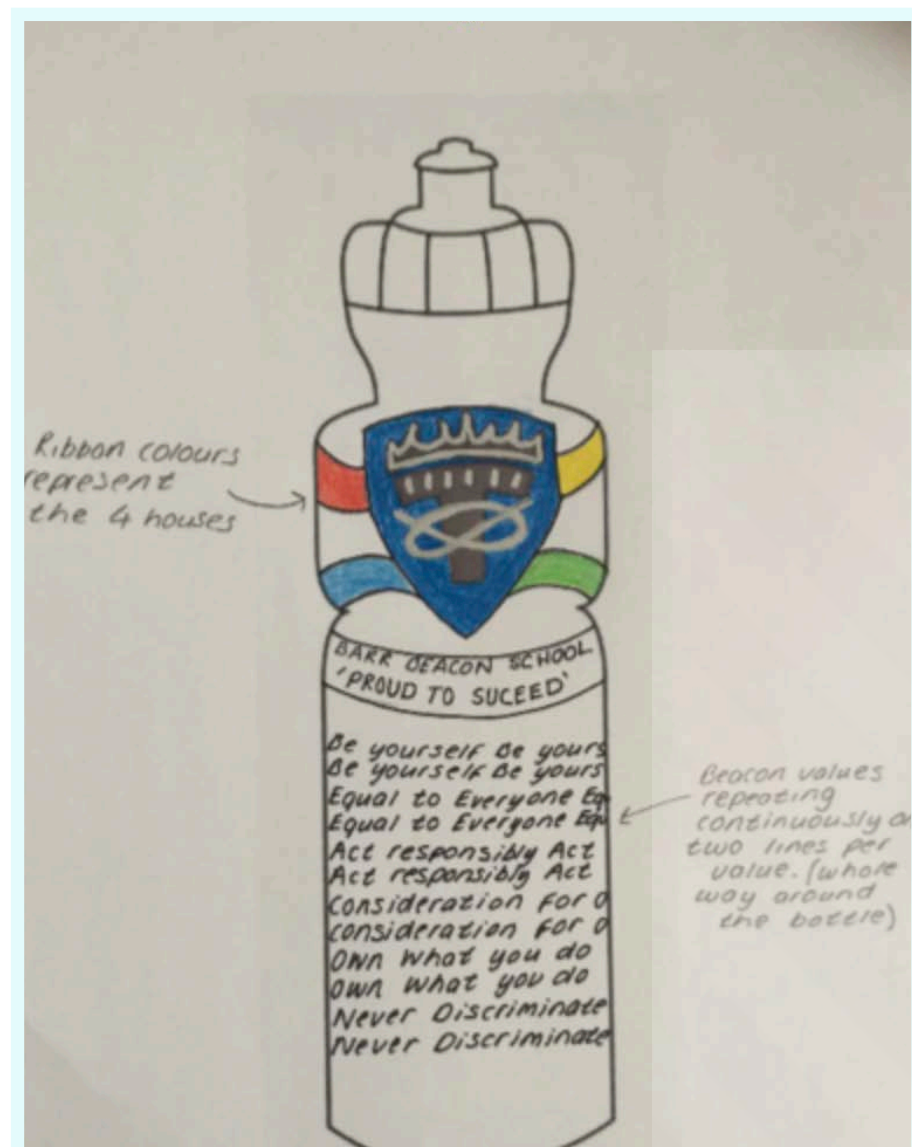
In April, we launched a design a water bottle competition. The competition has now been judged and the following results confirmed.

1st place - Mia Wood  
 2nd Place - Kuran Marwaha  
 3rd Place - Katie Owen  
 4th Place - Halima Loonat

Mia's winning entry (below) will be used to design the water bottle and everyone will receive an Amazon Voucher.



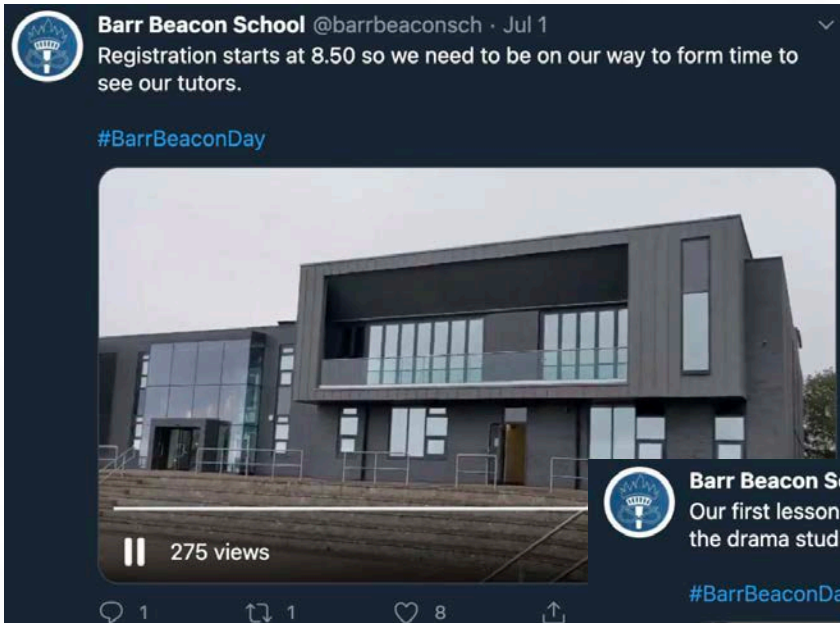
Here are the other fantastic entries.



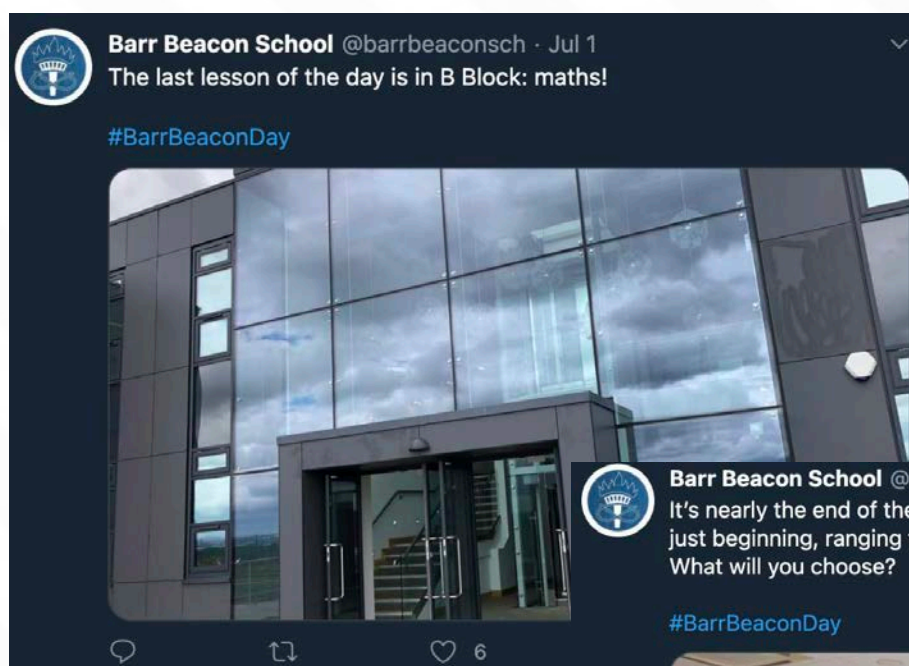


# A VIRTUAL DAY AT BARR BEACON

Because we could not have Year 6 onto school site, we showed them what a day at Barr Beacon usually looks like through Twitter.







# SUMMER OF SCIENCE

Our science department has prepared a #SummerOfScience to keep everyone entertained all summer. Explore the wild on a safari, visit an aquarium or science museum, train to be an astronaut, build machines... 27 different exciting sites to explore!

Go to: [www.padlet.com/BBScience/SummerScience](http://www.padlet.com/BBScience/SummerScience)

padlet.com/BBScience/SummerScience

**Science expeditions**  
Embrace your inner geek and voyage where no one has gone before! Are you up to the task? - how many of these virtual visits or creative challenges can you master?

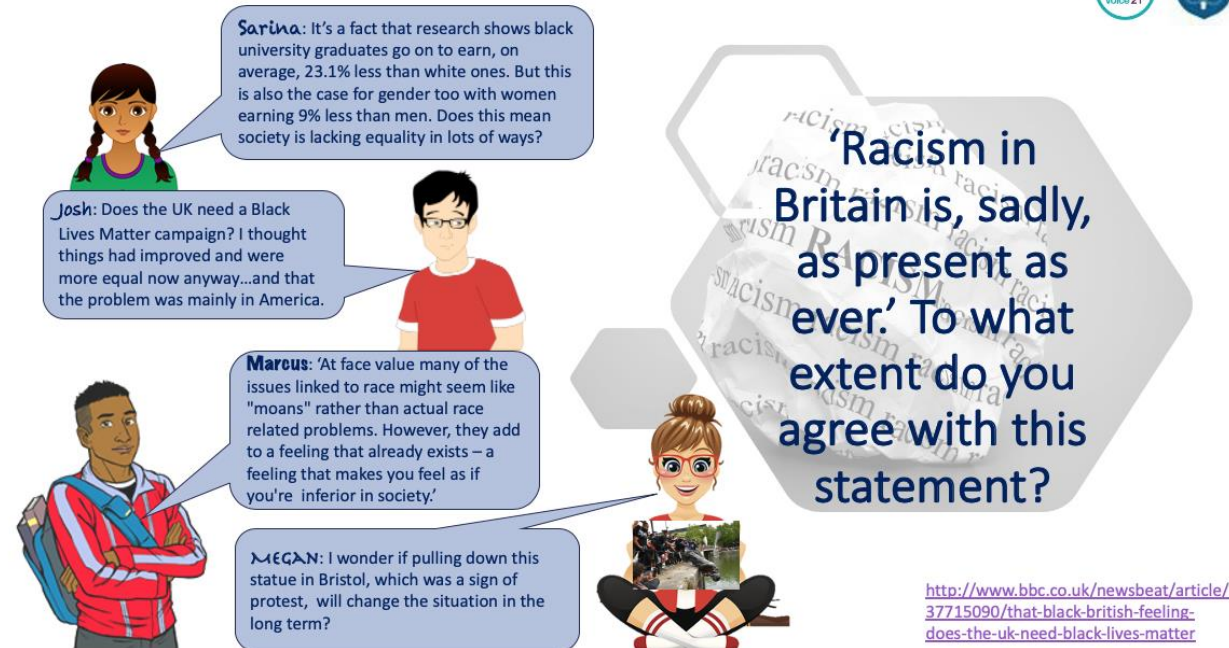
Space	Science	Animals and conservation	Science experiments	Natural history	Engineering
<b>Virtual Planetarium and solar system discovery show</b> The Universe is a vast and intriguing place, and this show explores our own little corner of it: the Solar System. Starting from our home planet, the Earth, you'll travel through our celestial neighbourhood, visiting objects like planets, moons and asteroids, and ending with a fly-out to view our galaxy, the Milky Way. 	<b>London Science Museum - Virtual Museum</b> Explore the science museum with a virtual tour on Google StreetView or enjoy a curated tour of the museum. You can also explore their 325,000 object in amazing detail. 	<b>WWF Activities for pupils</b> Take inspiration and ideas from their hub of seasonal and fun creative activities that are designed to encourage pupils to get outside, get creative using recycled materials, and learn about nature and sustainability. 	<b>Royal Institute - Experiments and Practicals</b> A series of short films making it fun, easy and cheap to do science experiments at home with your family. 	<b>London Natural History Museum - Virtual Museum</b> Dive into the Museum from home with a virtual self-guided tour of the galleries, an interactive experience about Hope the blue whale and audio guides narrated by Sir David Attenborough. 	<b>Dyson Challenge Cards</b> Can you skewer a balloon without popping it? Coat a nail in copper? What happens when you plug a clock into a potato? Dyson engineers have designed these challenges specifically for children. Ideal for home or in the classroom, they encourage inquisitive young minds to get excited about engineering. 
<b>Solar System Discovery   Virtual Planetarium</b> The Universe is a vast and intriguing place... 	<b>Virtual tour of the Science Museum   Sci...</b> Explore the Science Museum online with science museum 	<b>Activities for pupils</b> Take inspiration and ideas from our hub... 	<b>Experimental   The Royal Institution: Sci...</b> A series of short films making it fun, eas... 	<b>Virtual Museum: 12 ways to explore fro...</b> We hope you share our passion for the M... 	<b>WARNING: Some of these practicals require adult supervision</b> One practical (etching metal) will release chlorine gas which can be harmful if you have asthma. 
<b>CERN - Virtual Visits</b> "Visit" the site of the Large Hadron Collider - the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator. A variety of interactive activities including virtual reality videos and tours of the site. 	<b>NASA - Citizen Science Projects &amp; Other Activities</b> NASA's citizen science projects are collaborations between scientists and interested members of the public. Through these collaborations, volunteers (known as citizen scientists) have helped make thousands of important scientific discoveries. 	<b>Chester Zoo - Virtual Zoo</b> Take part in one of many virtual tours of Chester Zoo which broadcasted the zoo whilst in lockdown. 	<b>Lockdown Science</b> Here you will find the experiments you can do at home. All very low-tech. No fancy equipment. Just what's in the cupboard and the fridge, and some fun for kids. 	<b>Scouts - The Great Indoors</b> While Scouts normally love the great outdoors, they've pulled together some inspired indoor activity ideas to keep you entertained while schools are closed due to coronavirus. 	<b>Challenge Cards</b> Take a look at the engineering Challenge... 
		<b>Virtual Visits</b> If you cannot come physically to CERN, L... 	<b>Home   LOCKDOWN SCIENCE FOR KIDS</b> Stuck for lockdown activities? Try these... 	<b>STEM - Massive list of activities for all ages</b> A range of fun, hands-on activities for families to use at home, suitable for all ages from 4 to 16. 	



# TALKING POINTS

At Barr Beacon School we aspire for pupils to speak clearly and confidently at all times. We also want pupils to be able to have a discussion with others, expressing their views maturely while being sensitive to others' viewpoints. We often have such discussions in school but, while pupils are at home, we have been posting 'Talking Points' on our website, often linked with what's going on in the news.

## Speaking "Clearly and Confidently" – being proud to succeed at Barr Beacon



**'Racism in Britain is, sadly, as present as ever.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

**Sarina:** It's a fact that research shows black university graduates go on to earn, on average, 23.1% less than white ones. But this is also the case for gender too with women earning 9% less than men. Does this mean society is lacking equality in lots of ways?

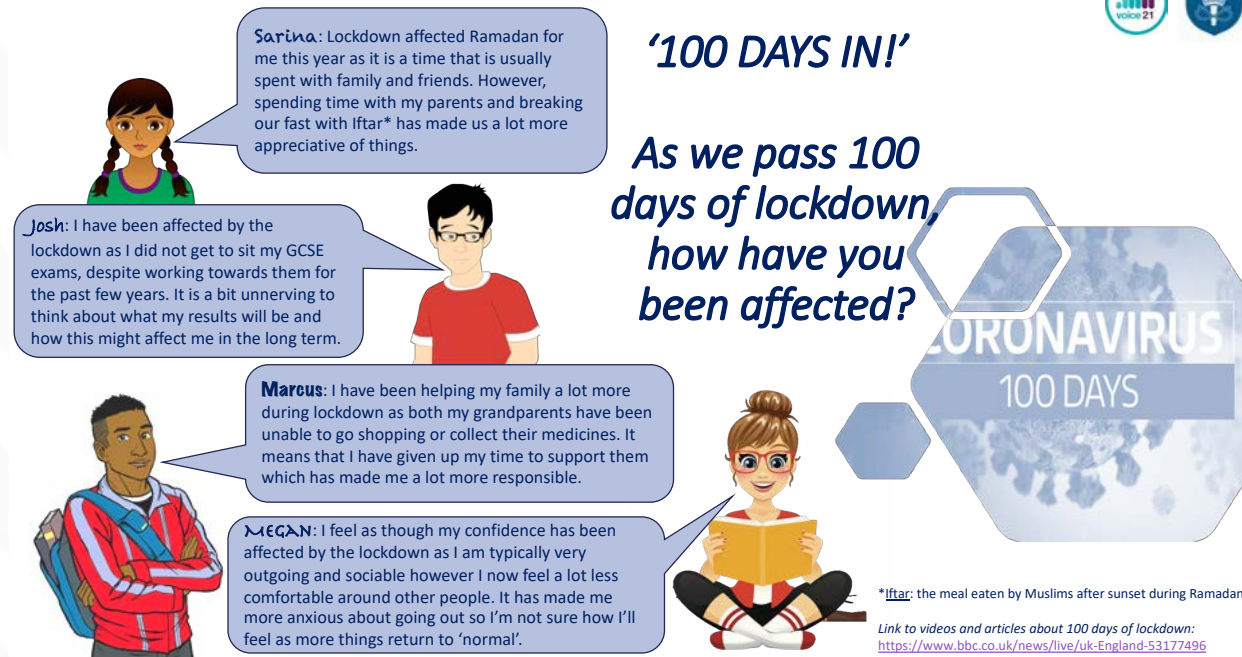
**Josh:** Does the UK need a Black Lives Matter campaign? I thought things had improved and were more equal now anyway...and that the problem was mainly in America.

**Marcus:** 'At face value many of the issues linked to race might seem like "moans" rather than actual race related problems. However, they add to a feeling that already exists – a feeling that makes you feel as if you're inferior in society.'

**MEGAN:** I wonder if pulling down this statue in Bristol, which was a sign of protest, will change the situation in the long term?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/37715090/that-black-british-feeling-does-the-uk-need-black-lives-matter>

## Speaking "Clearly and Confidently" – being proud to succeed at Barr Beacon



**'100 DAYS IN!'**

**As we pass 100 days of lockdown, how have you been affected?**

**Sarina:** Lockdown affected Ramadan for me this year as it is a time that is usually spent with family and friends. However, spending time with my parents and breaking our fast with Iftar\* has made us a lot more appreciative of things.

**Josh:** I have been affected by the lockdown as I did not get to sit my GCSE exams, despite working towards them for the past few years. It is a bit unnerving to think about what my results will be and how this might affect me in the long term.

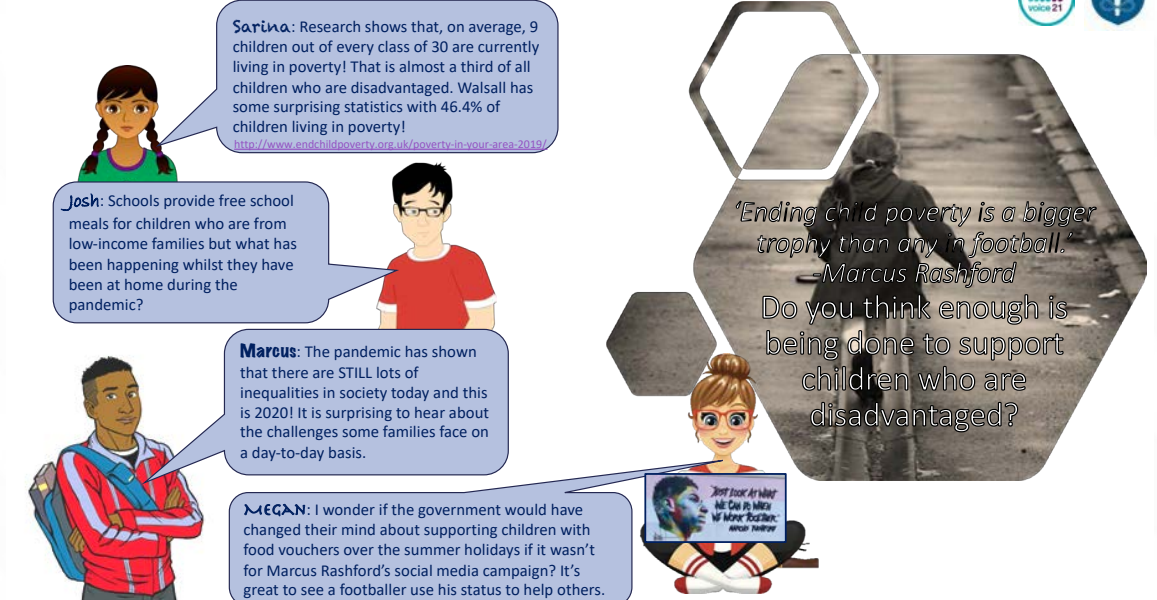
**Marcus:** I have been helping my family a lot more during lockdown as both my grandparents have been unable to go shopping or collect their medicines. It means that I have given up my time to support them which has made me a lot more responsible.

**MEGAN:** I feel as though my confidence has been affected by the lockdown as I am typically very outgoing and sociable however I now feel a lot less comfortable around other people. It has made me more anxious about going out so I'm not sure how I'll feel as more things return to 'normal'.

\*Iftar: the meal eaten by Muslims after sunset during Ramadan

Link to videos and articles about 100 days of lockdown: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-53177496>

## Speaking "Clearly and Confidently" – being proud to succeed at Barr Beacon



**Sarina:** Research shows that, on average, 9 children out of every class of 30 are currently living in poverty! That is almost a third of all children who are disadvantaged. Walsall has some surprising statistics with 46.4% of children living in poverty! <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2019/>

**Josh:** Schools provide free school meals for children who are from low-income families but what has been happening whilst they have been at home during the pandemic?

**Marcus:** The pandemic has shown that there are STILL lots of inequalities in society today and this is 2020! It is surprising to hear about the challenges some families face on a day-to-day basis.

**MEGAN:** I wonder if the government would have changed their mind about supporting children with food vouchers over the summer holidays if it wasn't for Marcus Rashford's social media campaign? It's great to see a footballer use his status to help others.

**'Ending child poverty is a bigger trophy than any in football.'**  
– Marcus Rashford

Do you think enough is being done to support children who are disadvantaged?

## Why is talking at home important?

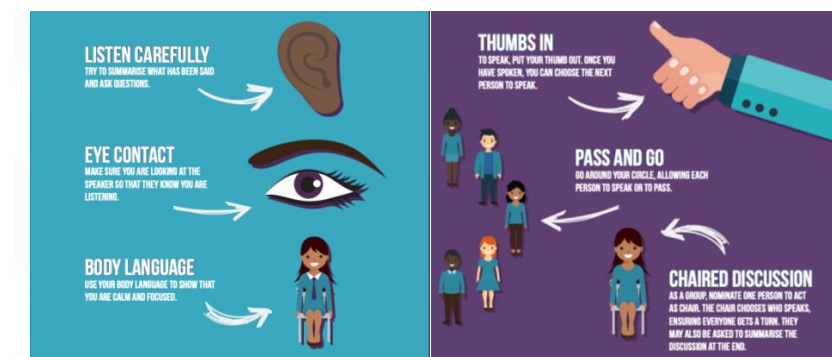
**At Barr Beacon School,** we want you to be **proud to be yourself** and for you to present yourself and your ideas with **pride** and **clarity**. This means that when communicating you will need to speak **professionally**, with **thought** and in formal **Standard English**.

There are lots of ways to start purposeful conversations at home, be it through discussions, debates, presentations or even quizzes! Every opportunity that you have to engage with speaking activities will help 'empower [you] to better understand [yourself], each other and the world around [you].' (Voice 21)

## Top tips for Talking at Home:

**Ground rules:** It is important to **establish ground rules** for both you and your family/conversation group. Clear expectations for listening and speaking can make having discussions more effective and more purposeful. **No devices, mobile phones or distractions** should be an enforced rule to provide you with some **focused time to talk...and listen to one another**.

Here are some ways you could ensure that this happens:



## Some suggestions for getting started:

Finding opportunities to talk are key to quality discussions however time can be found at **unexpected times** and in a variety of **settings**:

- A daily walk
- Weekly supermarket trips/queues
- At breakfast time/dinner time/family meal time
- A scheduled daytime break when the whole family stop their work for 20 minutes to 'take a break'
- A routine for talking opportunities: 'Talking Tuesdays'
- **But...remember to enforce the rule for no distractions**



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES WORK ON TWITTER

**Barr Beacon MFL** @barrbeaconmfl · Jun 4

Over the last few days Frau Brazier has had lots and lots of work and pictures of things our wonderful MFL students have been doing at home sent her way. She felt they all needing sharing so here we go.... 🇩🇪💪



**Barr Beacon MFL** @barrbeaconmfl · Jun 4

Another fantastic piece of artwork. Katie in Yr. 7 has drawn the beautiful Königssee in 🇩🇪🇩🇪 I love your use of paint here and how you have manage to capture the different tones. Great work 🇩🇪🇩🇪 @barrbeaconsch



**Barr Beacon MFL** @barrbeaconmfl · Jun 4

Gabriel in Yr. 8 also produced this detailed drawing of Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria. Frau Vryaparj had no idea there were so many talented artists in her German class. Sehr gut gemacht 🇩🇪🇩🇪 @barrbeaconsch



**Barr Beacon MFL** @barrbeaconmfl · Jun 4

Kareena in Yr. 7 has reproduced the painting 'The Little Owl' by German artist Albrecht Dürer. Amazing work 🇩🇪🇩🇪 you should be very proud! @barrbeaconsch



**Barr Beacon MFL** @barrbeaconmfl

Let's start with this fantastic French Cheesecake made by Ishani. Looks delicious! 🇩🇪🇩🇪🇩🇪 You'll have to make it for us all when we get back to school @barrbeaconsch




**Barr Beacon MFL** @barrbeaconmfl

Mustafa in Yr. 7 has completed another fantastic drawing inspired by European artists. This time 'Sunflowers'.... I love how you've made it your own Mustafa. Well done 🇩🇪🇩🇪 @barrbeaconsch

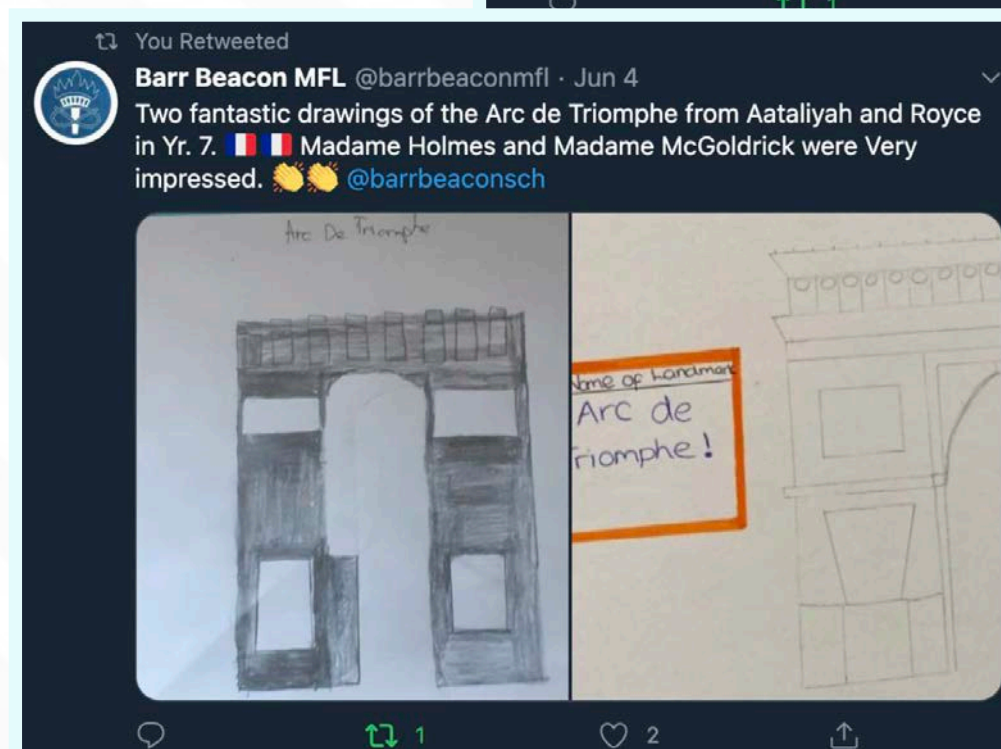
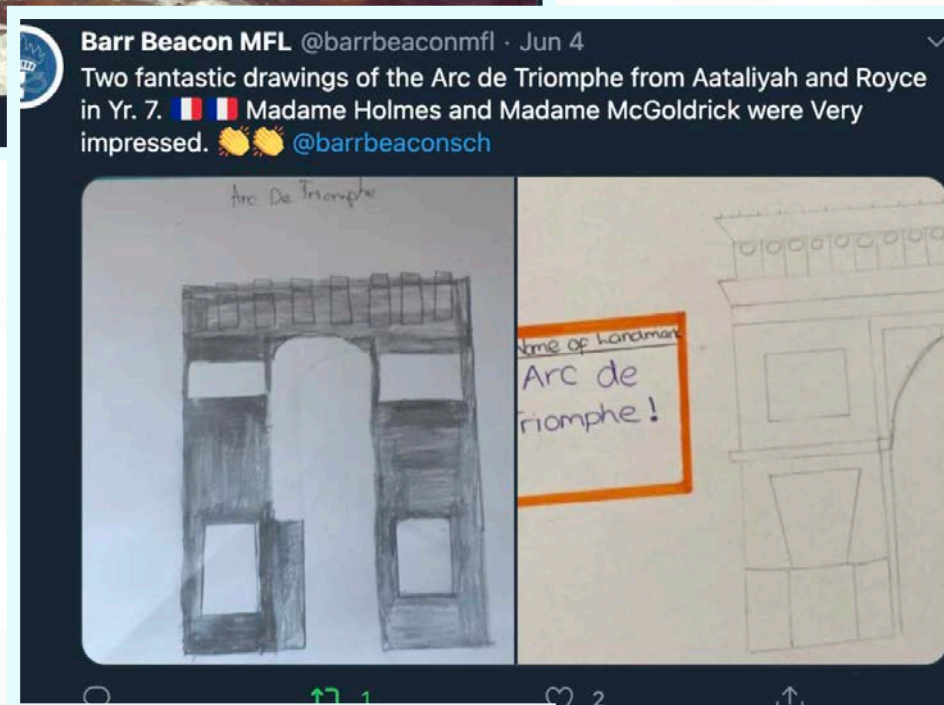
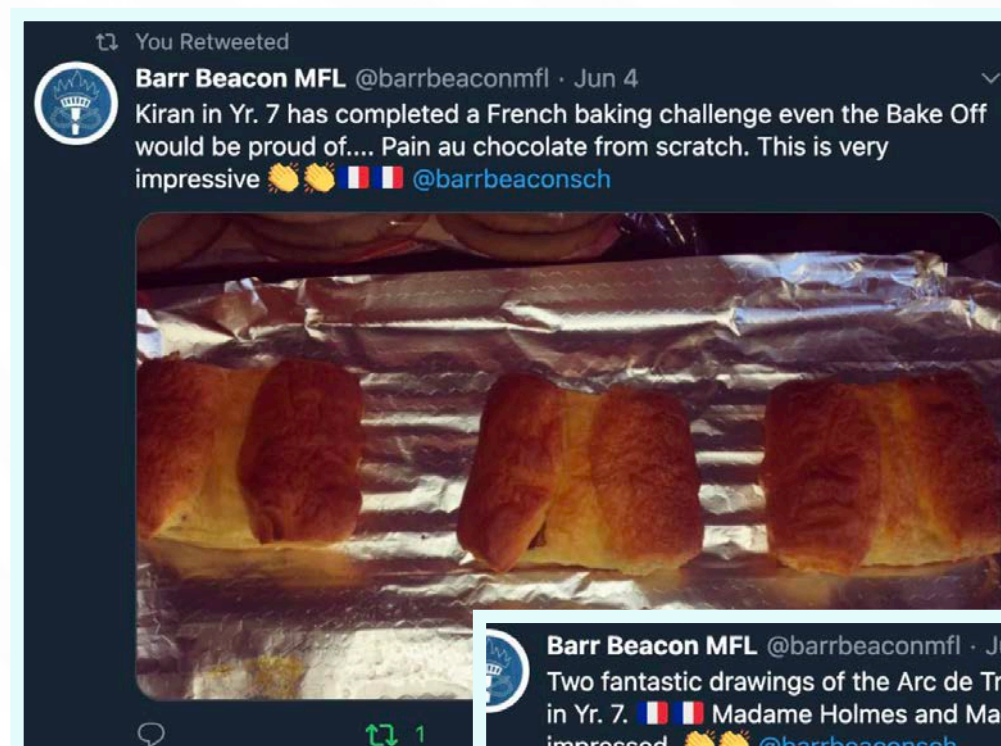


**Barr Beacon MFL** @barrbeaconmfl · Jun 4

These fantastic 'Thank You NHS' posters by Charlie, Gabriel and Jamie in Yr. 8. I love how much German you've got on here! 🇩🇪🇩🇪 Although we won't be clapping tonight, it is great to keep showing our appreciation to our fantastic NHS for all they've done and do. @barrbeaconsch







## HEAD OF HOUSE ASSEMBLY

Being in lockdown did not prevent our Heads of House delivering an assembly, recording it for all pupils to listen to. You can still access it from the link below. The theme was community and linked with current events.

<https://bit.ly/3eRg5mS>

# Community



A group of people who feel some sense of belonging or interpersonal connection and share some characteristics.



## LIVE EVENTS TO YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

Maths, science and English delivered live events to Years 7, 8 and 9. Maths presented pupils with questions over Kahoot. Science explored discoveries and scientists who should be better known, including those from minority backgrounds. English examined writing techniques. Well done to all pupils who got involved.



# SIXTH FORM

## A message from Head of Sixth Form

It has been a pleasure welcoming our Year 12 students back into school over recent weeks, albeit on a part time basis. They have welcomed some level of normality and seeing friendly, familiar faces.

I am very proud of how the students have been coping during these unprecedented times and all the uncertainty that surrounds us. It has not been easy but in true form, they have kept going, demonstrating their resilience.

The Sixth Form team have been busy working away in the background and we are delighted to announce that we have appointed our Senior Team, House Captains, Subject Ambassadors, Charity and Events Managers and Progress Mentors ready for the new term. Congratulations and well done to all successful applicants. We are looking forward to working with you as you put your fabulous ideas into practice. As this school year draws to a close, we are very much looking forward to September and welcoming our new Year 12 as well as supporting our Year 13 as they start their final journey with us.

Students please stay safe over the summer and spend some time preparing yourselves academically for what lies ahead. See you in September, with your fresh trims! In the meantime if you need any advice, remember I am only an email away.

Look after yourselves.

Mrs Osborne  
Head of Sixth Form

## GOOD LUCK YEAR 13

Staff and Year 13 students contributed their favourite recipes to our cookbook, which has been passed to Year 13 as a keepsake before they leave us to start their next chapter. Staff have also included farewell messages.

Good luck for a happy and successful future Year 13! We will miss you.



# INTRODUCING OUR NEW SENIOR TEAM



From top left (clockwise) I Sohail: Head Boy, H Kumar-Mehay: Head Girl, J Anderson: Deputy Head Boy, E Allen: Deputy Head Girl, M Hill: Deputy Head Boy.

You can read their acceptance messages on our website.

## SHOWCASING OUTSTANDING WORK!

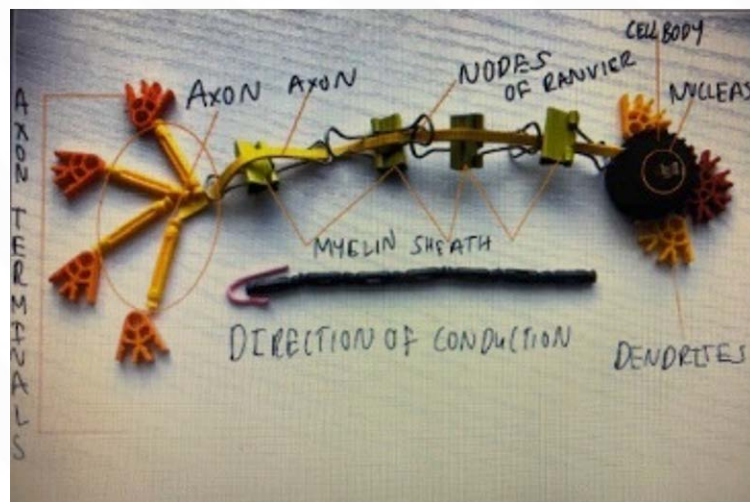
Well done Hena on the 20 page document you produced for your work on glycolysis and the light dependent reaction in photosynthesis for Biology. A fantastic level of effort!



# NEURON COMPETITION

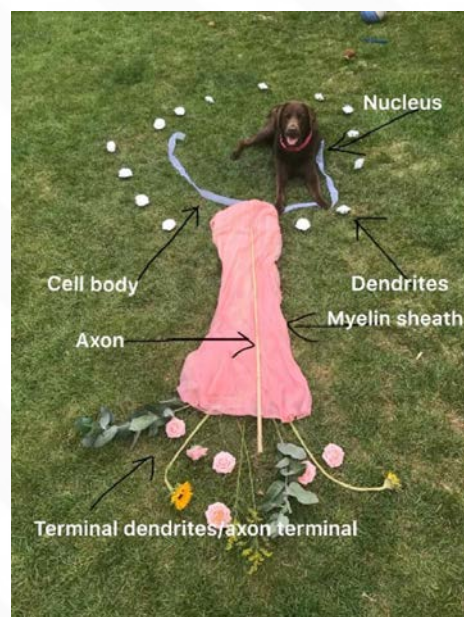
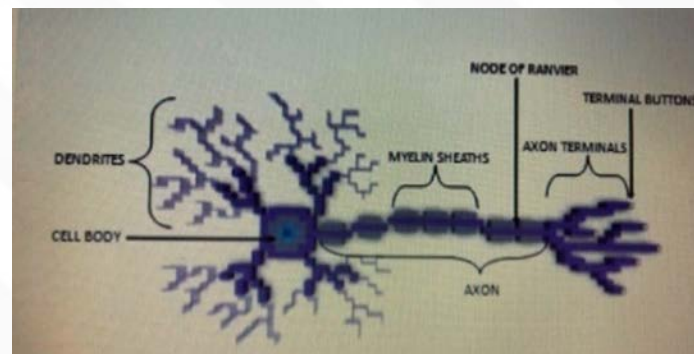
Well done to Year 12 Psychologists for the excellent effort that went into this task. There were some amazingly creative entries. Here are a few examples:

S. Ashford used Minecraft to create a video illustrating an electrical impulse traveling through a motor neuron.



A. Shahid went above and beyond by adding these fantastic labels.

S. Ashford used Minecraft to create a video illustrating an electrical impulse traveling through a motor neuron.



H. Hussain used her imagination to the maximum and included her dog!

## VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY

Thank you to B. Binnion for his participation in our Virtual Sports Day. He demonstrated his formidable 'kick up' skills! Check out our Twitter page to see him in action. You can also see some of our Year 12 tutors joining in!

## VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

In these rapidly changing times, our students' resilience and adaptability makes us extremely proud. When work experience placements had to be cancelled, many did not give up and devoted their time to seeking out virtual work experience instead.

D. Hussain attended an intensive, week long, virtual placement with Young Professionals, where he was able to gain an insight into working for some of the biggest employers in the country: EY, PWC, Capgemini, the RAF, the NHS and CIMA. He gained invaluable advice on topics such as psychometric testing, personal branding and interview skills, the latter being of great benefit to him in his interview for a leading role within school.

A number of our Sixth Form students aspire to become future medics and dentists, fields where work experience has long been important. Through online experiences from the likes of Observe GP and Brighton and Sussex Medical School, they have been able to gain a better understanding of the day to day life of medical professionals.

J. Patel has even managed to secure experience in person at a local pharmacy that sorely needs some extra support.



# SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL INDUCTION ASSEMBLY

On Monday 6th July we broadcast live to students hoping to join us in September as Year 12. We shared information about the mindset required to enjoy success in our Sixth Form, including a strong work ethic, developing into an independent learner and high uniform standards. The Senior Five recorded a video message for them which was played during the assembly. Please see our website for FAQs. You can also check the dress code on the Sixth Form page.

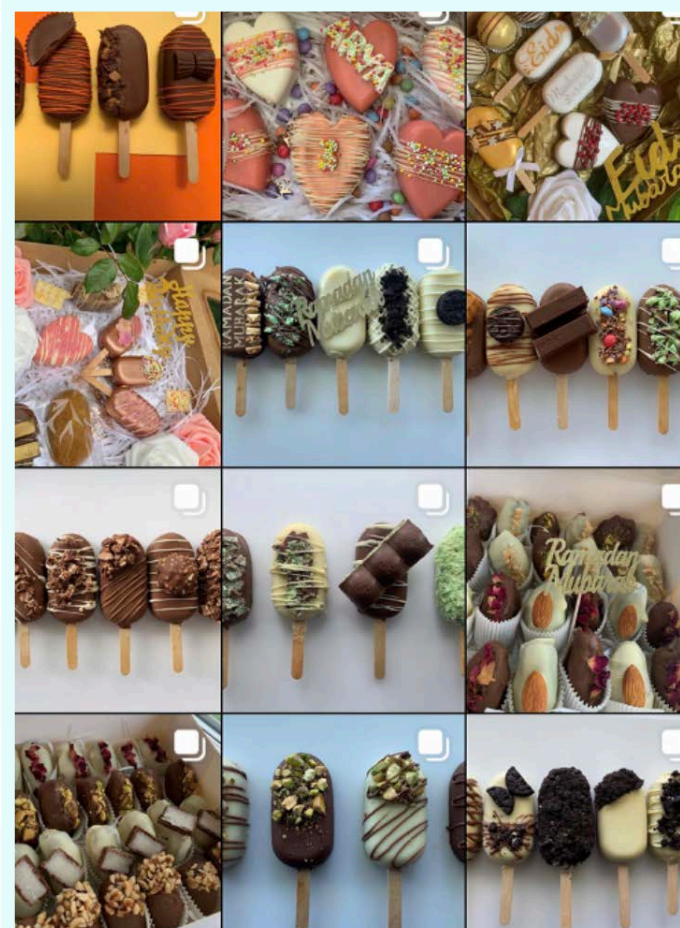
## CHARITY BAKING

We are very proud of H. Hussain, one of our Year 12 students. She has used Lockdown as an opportunity to put her baking skills into practice and earn money for charity.

What started as a hobby to give her something to do besides schoolwork has turned into a successful cake selling venture with all proceeds going to the Penny Appeal, which aids people in more than 30 crisis-hit countries. So far she has raised £1042.55!

Next on the agenda is to bake cakesicles for NHS staff at Walsall Manor Hospital to thank them for all the hard work they continue to do during this difficult time.

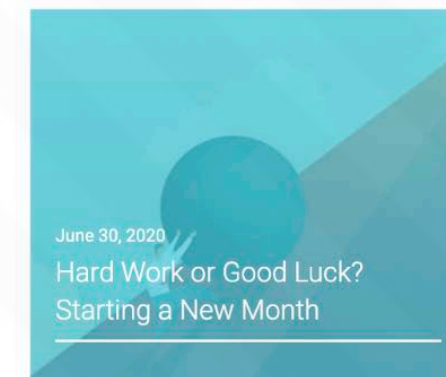
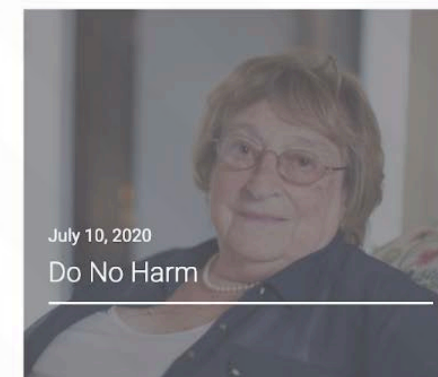
You can find out more about the Penny Appeal charity at [pennyappeal.org](https://pennyappeal.org)



# SENIOR TEAM BLOG

## Senior Team Blog

Welcome to the beginning of our Senior Five blog! Regardless if you're an avid blog reader, a veteran blog poster, or if the only time you have ever read a blog has been in an English lesson...welcome! As the Senior Team of 2020/2021, we want each post to either inspire you further, be an extra push of determination or ignite the curious minds of the students at Barr Beacon School.



## Senior Team Blog: Black Lives Matter

By H. Kumar-Mehay, Head Girl

The world may seem to be a scary place right now. But the scariest thing of all is the thought of turning a blind eye to the issues in our society, the thought of not educating ourselves. Not just on the health issues that our world faces today but the social issues that people of colour, in particular that black people, face every day.

Over the past few weeks, the problems that face black people every day have suddenly caught the mainstream media's attention and now hopefully yours. It seems that every few years the Black Lives Matter movement appears as 'important' as if these lives are only to be cared over a certain period of time. These problems, however, are not short term for this community. Unfortunately, it seems as if these problems that are faced are ones that have an unlimited lifespan. We cannot live in a world where a person's skin colour determines if some people will come back home to their families. People should be able to live their lives without the constant fear of getting stopped for appearing 'suspicious', determining if they will live to see another day or die.

We should refuse to ignore this truth and refuse to not share this truth with others. If you are unaware of the problems that black people face today, I am not here to advise you to do some research. I am here to tell you that you **must**. You must research and educate yourselves to help fix a system built upon discrimination and antagonism. To help build a future we all deserve, we must be better so we can live in a world where we are emancipated from the destructiveness of injustice that affects black people today. In this day and age, it is simply not enough to not be racist. We need to be to actively anti-racist.

Thank you.



To all those black individuals who have lost their lives to injustice, we will fight for peace so that you can rest in peace. Here are some of those names. Names we must never forget.

ERIC GARNER - JOHN CRAWFORD III - MICHAEL BROWN - EZELL FORD  
DANTE PARKER - MICHELLE CUSSEAU - LAQUAN MCDONALD - GEORGE MANN  
TANISHA ANDERSON - AKAI GURLEY - TAMIR RICE - RUMAIN BRISBON - JERAME REID  
MATTHEW AJIBADE - FRANK SMART - NATASHA MCKENNA - TONY ROBINSON - ANTHONY HILL  
MYA HALL - PHILLIP WHITE - ERIC HARRIS - WALTER SCOTT - WILLIAM CHAPMAN II  
ALEXIA CHRISTIAN - BRENDON GLENN - VICTOR MANUEL LAROSA - JONATHAN SANDERS  
FREDDIE BLUE - JOSEPH MANN - SALVADO ELLSWOOD - SANDRA BLAND  
ALBERT JOSEPH DAVIS - DARRIUS STEWART - BILLY RAY DAVIS - SAMUEL DUBOSE  
MICHAEL SABBIE - BRIAN KEITH DAY - CHRISTIAN TAYLOR - TROY ROBINSON  
ASSHAMS PHAROAH MANLEY - FELIX KUMI - KEITH HARRISON MCLEOD - JUNIOR PROSPER  
LAMONTEZ JONES - PATERSON BROWN - DOMINIC HUTCHINSON - ANTHONY ASHFORD  
ALONZO SMITH - TYREE CRAWFORD - INDIA KAGER - LA'VANTE BIGGS  
MICHAEL LEE MARSHALL - JAMAR CLARK - RICHARD PERKINS - NATHANIEL HARRIS PICKETT  
BENNI LEE TIGNOR - MIGUEL ESPINAL - MICHAEL NOEL - KEVIN MATTHEWS - BETTIE JONES  
QUINTONIO LEGRIER - KEITH CHILDRESS JR. - JANET WILSON - RANDY NELSON  
ANTRONIE SCOTT - WENDELL CELESTINE - DAVID JOSEPH - CALIN ROQUEMORE - DYZHAWN  
PERKINS - CHRISTOPHER DAVIS - MARCO LOUD - PETER GAINES - TORREY ROBINSON - DARIUS  
ROBINSON - KEVIN HICKS - MARY TRUXILLO - DEMARCUS SEMER - WILLIE TILLMAN  
TERRILL THOMAS - SYLVILLE SMITH - ALTON STERLING - PHILANDO CASTILE - TERENCE  
CRUTCHER - PAUL O'NEAL - ALTERIA WOODS - JORDAN EDWARDS - AARON BAILEY  
RONELL FOSTER - STEPHON CLARK - ANTWON ROSE II - BOTHAM JEAN  
PAMELA TURNER - DOMINIQUE CLAYTON - ATATIANA JEFFERSON - CHRISTOPHER WHITFIELD  
CHRISTOPHER MCCORVEY - ERIC REASON - MICHAEL LORENZO DEAN - BREONNA TAYLOR  
G E O R G E F L O Y D

Read the full article on the school website.

# Hard Work or Good Luck? Starting a New Month

By H. Kumar-Mehay, Head Girl

*“White rabbits”*

*“Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit”*

*“Pinch punch first day of the month”*

Whatever you may say when you wake up to a new page on the calendar, let me ask why we may say these things? (Let’s leave aside their sometimes very strange origins: <https://metro.co.uk/2018/10/01/why-do-we-say-white-rabbits-and-pinch-punch-on-the-first-day-of-the-month-7993616/>)

I can put my hands up to admit that I am one of those people who like to say these ‘good luck’ mantras to just be on the ‘safe side’. But this left me to ponder why should we depend on these few words to help determine how these next 31, 30, 28 (or 29 in a leap year) days will go?

My own personal ethos (and that of Barr Beacon) fully agrees that hard work will always pay off no matter how long it takes. Success is not determined by luck. Only we can decide how we want to mould our futures, whether it is a long-term goal like wanting to pursue a certain vocation or a short-term goal like simply getting through a whole month and keeping yourself organised.

A new month can commemorate a sense of change in ourselves like setting new goals to achieve. Perhaps we could take up a new skill, talk to a new face in one of our classes or even try something that we had always wanted to do but never had the chance to, such as staring a blog? (N.B. I’m talking autobiographically here!)

It is also a great time to look back on the last month and not forget what we have learned and how the world is changing. Both the Black Lives Matter movement (see the previous blog) and Pride Month has shown us that our world is striving closer towards equality that the people of these communities have always deserved. Starting a new month isn’t about moving on to the next ‘trending’ discourse but a chance to tackle these problems further until there is nothing to tackle. Remember to educate, sign petitions and donate to both communities as we need change.

Now, a new month doesn’t always mean a new you and new goals. You shouldn’t ever feel limited to a date beginning the 1st to push you into a state of fresh starts. It could be in the middle of the month, in the middle of the week, in the middle of the day and you may feel in a little bit of a slump, but this doesn’t mean you have to wait another 15 days to start all over again. You can hit the refresh button whenever you like and the sooner you do, the closer you can get to reach this month’s goals you may have abandoned on the second square of the calendar.

But a new month is always a great place to reset and go. And go with passion, determination and never giving up.

For this new month of July which we’re all about to embark on, I hope we can all embody all of these qualities and when we hit the 31st I cannot wait to see all the amazing things we have achieved and that we can carry on with in the future.

Although we may not need it, as hard work will be the backbone of our successes, for this month and many more months to come... good luck!

For more information on the Black Lives Matter movement please read our previous blog post.





## Do No Harm

Joshua Anderson – Deputy Head Boy

### Do no harm

**On 9<sup>th</sup> July, Year 12 students had a webinar with a 96-year-old survivor of the Holocaust, Iby Knill. Joshua Anderson, Deputy Head Boy, reflects on this and his visit to a former concentration camp earlier in the year.**

After visiting Bergen-Belsen on the 12<sup>th</sup> February and witnessing the atrocities committed by the Nazi regime, my eyes have been forever opened by the extremely powerful testimony of Iby Knill. Despite the horrific trauma she has faced, she has an extremely positive resolve towards all aspects of life, including holding no resentment to those at Auschwitz-Birkenau. After being liberated, she spent time working in the home office where she was the only woman out of 50 men.

After living an extremely normal life up until the 1930s, she noticed a major turning point in 1935 from the introduction of the Nuremberg laws into society. As a young person at the time, she was shocked and confused as to why she was being made to wear a Star of David on her coat and being marked out from the rest of society. Her life was completely turned upside down when a family friend called Lucy was taken away to be used sexually by German soldiers in Russia. This appalled me as I was horrified to hear about how inhumane the Nazi regime was as they took an innocent teenage girl away from her home and forced her into a situation no one should ever have to experience.

After hearing the news, Knill escaped to Hungary as an illegal immigrant up until 1942, when an insider leaked the location of 148 Jewish men and women. The Nazis reacted swiftly and imprisoned her along with everyone else hidden within the network. They were sent to Auschwitz where one of the most upsetting comments I've ever heard appeared in one of her poems; Knill wrote: "only the strong and healthy will remain". I felt extremely guilty when I read this and realised how lucky and privileged we are to have hot meals every single day, to never have to worry about if the water we're drinking is clean or where we will sleep at night. In April 1944, Knill was sent on a death march towards Bergen-Belsen concentration camp until the march was intercepted by allied forces and her life as a prisoner due to her religion was over.

After the meeting concluded, she said many powerful and extremely relevant things. She discussed how she has always lived by her father's motto 'Do no harm' and on differences in class, gender, race and religion, she stated that "all differences should be valued and respected". This remains relevant in today's society with all the unjust actions that are being taken towards Muslims in concentration camps in China, who are also being persecuted because of their religion. She urged that as humans, we need to learn from the mistakes of the holocaust. Knill also mentioned the fact that "under the skin, we're all the same"; we all need to understand and appreciate what has been shown to us by the BLM movement (our Head Girl Henna wrote an amazing piece on this which can be read [HERE](#)).

I believe as a school, events like these are key to promoting global issues and as Deputy Head Boy, I was proud at the number of non-historians who turned up to hear the inspirational survivor talk about her experiences.

I would like to thank Mrs Selby for organising this important event but, most importantly, I'd like to thank Iby Knill for helping us to keep the memory alive and aiding us in remembering the 6 million Jews who sadly lost their lives.

Some useful websites can be found here if you'd like to hear more about Iby Knill or learn more about the holocaust.

<https://www.het.org.uk/>

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

# TWEET, TWEET

## THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR TWITTER ACCOUNTS



**Barr Beacon School** @barrbeaconsch · Jul 3

A fantastic resource by YoopiesUK for parents on how to talk to your children about [#BlackLivesMatter](#) 🍌

They include films, books, podcasts and website references.

Available to read here : [bit.ly/3itxgNu](https://bit.ly/3itxgNu)



**Yoopies** @YoopiesUK · Jun 11

Opening a conversation with your children on race isn't always easy, have a look at our guide packed with films, books, podcasts and websites for parents. [yoopies.co.uk/c/press-releas...](https://yoopies.co.uk/c/press-releas...) [#BlackLivesMatter](#) 🍌 [#Parenting](#)

## A PARENT'S GUIDE TO BLACK LIVES MATTER



**Barr Beacon School** @barrbeaconsch · Jul 3

[#FACTFRIDAY](#) 🍌

1 million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute! 🌍

Can you think of some ways you could reduce your daily plastic use?



GIF

1 2

Mistakes  
ARE  
PROOF  
THAT YOU  
ARE  
TRYING

**Barr Beacon School** @barrbeaconsch

"Mistakes are proof that you are trying" 🌟

Never be afraid to make mistakes! [#motivationalmonday](#)



You Retweeted  
**National Online Safety**  
@natonlinesafety

Lockdown your personal info! 🛡️👤 You wouldn't share sensitive information with a stranger, so why do it online? This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide provides #OnlineSafety tips for parents on protecting 'Personal Data' >> [hubs.ly/H0s2bGDO](https://hubs.ly/H0s2bGDO)

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.natonlinesafety.com](https://www.natonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

### What parents need to know about PROTECTING PERSONAL DATA

**EVERY DETAIL IS KEY**  
Which info should you be wary of sharing online? And the obvious, such as full names, date of birth and address, think of the type of information you're asked for when answering security questions for services such as online banking. The name of your first school, your mother's maiden name, the names of your pets, your favourite band. Data thieves will harvest as much of this information as possible, so don't make it easy for them by publishing it anywhere online.

**SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY**  
Social media sites, such as Facebook, encourage us to share sensitive information in order to build our online profiles. Many people are lulled into thinking that only their friends can see such information, but that's rarely the case. Such information can easily be shared with friends or even anyone searching for you unless basic privacy settings are in place. Keep social media profiles to the bare minimum. If you enable the 'discoverable' setting, you're making it easier for anyone to find you. If you enable the 'discoverable' setting, you're making it easier for anyone to find you.

**DANGEROUS GAMES**  
Online games are a particular risk for children. Many of the most popular games - such as Fortnite, Minecraft or Roblox - have voice or text chat features, allowing them to talk to fellow gamers. Or, sometimes, people pretending to be fellow gamers. It's very easy for children to be lured into sharing personal data such as their address, birthday or school. It's critical parents both educate children on the dangers online chat in games and take steps to protect their children.

**IMPOSTERS AND PHISHING ATTACKS**  
Have you ever experienced someone asking you for details on social media, it's easy to be lulled into thinking it's a friend or family member. There are some rules for you and your children to follow. 1. Never share personal information with anyone online unless you can be absolutely certain you know who they are. 2. Never click on links or open attachments in emails or social media, unless you're 100% certain they are genuine. Scammers often use phishing emails to get you to click on links or open attachments, which could lead to you giving away sensitive information, such as account numbers and PINs.

**THE RISKS OF PASSWORD SHARING**  
Password sharing, using the same password for multiple sites - is one of the easiest ways to lose control of your personal data. Sharing passwords is common, but it's not always the best idea. For example, if you're using the same password for a school email as you use for your social media, for example, you're handing data thieves an easy route into your email, where they will discover all manner of sensitive information, such as bank emails and contacts. Your email account will often also be the one that's used to reset passwords on other accounts. Don't share passwords and password managers to create strong, unique passwords for every site.

### National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday Safety Tips for Parents & Carers

**LOOK OUT FOR LEAKS**  
Many security software packages have features that look for personal data leaks or prevent people from entering it into risky sites in the first place. For example, the 'SafeSearch' feature on Google will block out images of data such as your email address, and then warn you when it detects a leak. It's important to be aware of these features and to use them to help you protect your data. If you're using a security software package, make sure it's up to date and that it's set to scan for leaks. If you're not using a security software package, consider getting one. It's important to be aware of these features and to use them to help you protect your data.

**KEEP DATA GUARDED**  
Don't give the thieves a head start by handing them pieces of sensitive information for free. For example, it's very common to see email addresses in documents or spreadsheets - an insecure way that you can be sure that you're not giving away your email address. If you're using a security software package, make sure it's up to date and that it's set to scan for leaks. If you're not using a security software package, consider getting one. It's important to be aware of these features and to use them to help you protect your data.

**DON'T OVERSHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**  
The biggest threat to your child's privacy is you. Parents often overshare personal information on social media. Full names, names of schools, children's birthdays, names of their friends, all of this can be used to build a profile of your child. It's important to be aware of these features and to use them to help you protect your data.

**BE WARAY OF SHARED NETWORKS/SYSTEMS**  
Avoid connecting any personal data into a web browser when you're using public Wi-Fi for a coffee shop or airport. For example, if you're using a security software package, make sure it's up to date and that it's set to scan for leaks. If you're not using a security software package, consider getting one. It's important to be aware of these features and to use them to help you protect your data.

**PLAY SAFE IN ONLINE GAMES**  
Children must be taught to treat strangers in online games with the same caution as they would treat strangers in the street. Don't allow children to use their real name as their username or to give out personal information. It's important to be aware of these features and to use them to help you protect your data.

**Meet our expert**  
Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as The Sunday Times, BBC, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 4 and the IT News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues over the years.

[www.natonlinesafety.com](https://www.natonlinesafety.com) Twitter: @natonlinesafet

You Retweeted  
**Action for Happiness** @actionhappiness · Jun 29  
We can't control what happens to us, but we can choose how we respond

Join us for #JumpBackJuly and find ways to be more resilient in challenging times [actionforhappiness.org/jump-back-july](https://actionforhappiness.org/jump-back-july)

**We can't control what happens to us, but we can choose how we respond**

1. Avoid saying "must" or "should" to yourself today	2. Put a problem in perspective and see the bigger picture	3. Shift your mood by doing something you really enjoy	4. Get the basics right: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	5. Help someone in need and notice how that gives you a boost too	6. Don't be so hard on yourself. It's ok not to be ok	7. Reach out to someone you trust and share your feelings with them
8. When things go wrong, be compassionate to yourself	9. Challenge negative thoughts. Find an alternative interpretation	10. Set yourself an achievable goal and make it happen	11. Go for a walk to clear your head when you feel overwhelmed	12. When things get tough, say to yourself "this too shall pass"	13. Write your worries down and save them for a specific 'worry time'	14. Let go of the small stuff and focus on the things that matter
15. Notice something positive to come out of a difficult situation	16. Ask yourself: What's the best thing that can happen?	17. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it	18. Make a list of 3 things that you can feel hopeful about	19. Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time	20. Choose to see something good about what has gone wrong	21. Notice when you are feeling judgemental and be kind instead
22. Get back in touch with a supportive friend and have a chat	23. Write down 3 things you're grateful for (even if today was hard)	24. Catch yourself over-reacting and take a deep breath	25. Think about what you can learn from a recent challenge	26. Ask for help from a loved one or colleague. Be specific	27. Remember that you are not alone, we all struggle at times	

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

[actionforhappiness.org](https://actionforhappiness.org)

Daily actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together

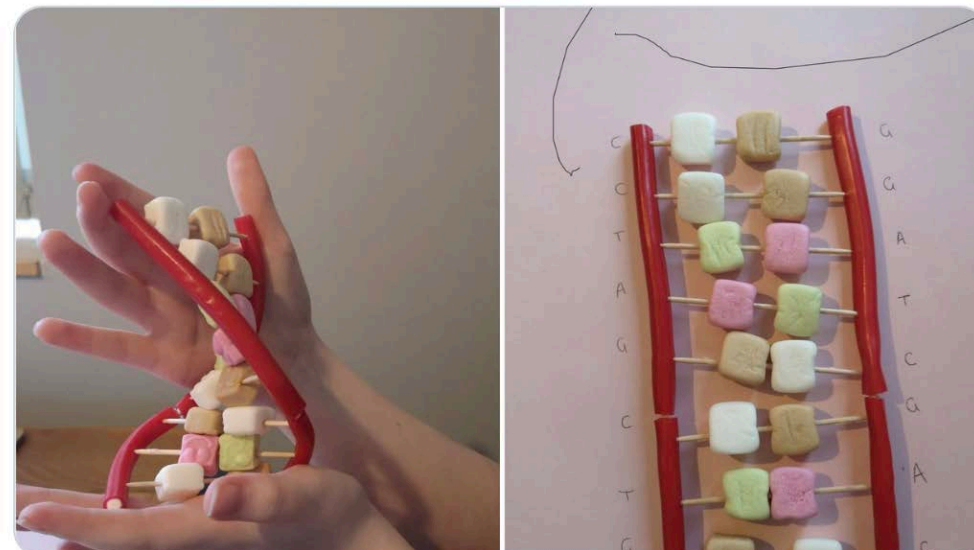
10 1.1K 1.2K

**Barr Beacon School**  
@barrbeaconsch

Our new Head Girl Hena and new Head Boy Ibrahim celebrating having their names inscribed on the board in the Main Hall.



**Barr Beacon School** @barrbeaconsch · Jun 12  
Izobele in Year 10 has made this fantastic model of a double helix at home for her work on DNA.



2 10





## WREKIN HOUSE NEWS

It is with delight that I write this newsletter, finishing the academic year on a high (given the circumstances), being able to talk about all the inspiring and thoughtful things our Wrekin warriors have been doing. Please find below some of our house heroes:

M. Griffiths in Year 9 has been completing the tasks on the Actions for Happiness calendar (which we share on Twitter every month). She's been completing the 'meaningfulness activities' by sending her friends pictures of the times they all enjoyed together at the park and from when they watched films at home together. She has also been contacting her nan to tell her how grateful she is of her.

E. Sammons in Year 8 was successful in the Diversity TikTok challenge and appeared on their Instagram story, as well as being nominated by her teacher as one of the hard workers in dance.

In addition, R. Mardenborough in Year 9, Yer 11s O. Ndala and E. Tivnan all entered the UK National Dance Championships, held online this year as a virtual competition by the UDOIT Dance Foundation. These students were successful in getting through to the next round!

Every year, Barr Beacon School hosts the annual 'Dance Spectacular' to celebrate the hard work and success of our students from Year 7 - 11. Due to the current circumstances, our students have been working extremely hard at home to ensure our show can still go ahead virtually. You can view their view on our website: <http://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/dance-spectacular/>

I know that many pupils have been engaging in similar activities where they have worked hard to develop a routine and taken an interest in a new hobby or by learning a new skill. I know that many of you will join us back in September as keen bakers! I do love a good dessert, but that's not the only reason I am most looking forward to welcoming you all back. I can't wait to see you all face-to-face again. I want to wish you all a safe and sunny (maybe?) six week break. Take care and see you all soon.

Mrs Thind  
**HEAD OF WREKIN HOUSE**



## CLENT HOUSE NEWS



One of the most pleasing aspects of being Head of House has been to watch and be amazed at how you have all adapted to such challenging circumstances.

I've spoken to so many parents, carers and grandparents who have told me about the amazing things you have been doing. You should all be proud of what you have achieved. Our achievements may all look different: some of you will have thrown yourselves into you schoolwork whilst for others it has been a more difficult journey. Don't think that you always have to judge yourself by what others do. You will know yourself if you have faced challenges and overcome them and for that you should be proud.

I'd also like to thank you on behalf of your form tutors for responding to their messages on Teams; telling them about what you were doing. You might have thought that their messages were only about schoolwork but I can assure you that the main reason for them asking about you was their interest in your welfare. We know this has been difficult and we care about you.

Thank you again for what you have achieved, it's a privilege to be your Head of House. Enjoy the summer break and I hope to see you all again soon.

Mr Murphy  
**HEAD OF CLENT HOUSE**







## BREDON HOUSE NEWS

Over the last four months I have never being more proud to be Head of Bredon House.

In our Head of House online assembly we found out that the colour blue represents unity, peace and tranquillity.

It has certainly being difficult to have peace and tranquillity during these very challenging times but the unity between us all has been truly outstanding.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise all of those pupils who have received praise postcards from their subject teachers for their amazing home learning tasks. You should be incredibly proud of your work and effort here.

It has also been really encouraging to hear that so many Bredon pupils have done incredibly well in their online assessments. A huge well done!

This year has been a real challenge, but as I always remind you, we are a house which is built upon hard work, resilience, unity and encouragement and I have seen these qualities flourish in you all over these uncertain times.

I miss you all so much and I cannot wait to see you all soon,

Please stay safe,

Mr Townsend  
**HEAD OF BREDON HOUSE**



## MALVERN HOUSE NEWS



I have been extremely proud of how hard you have been working and engaging with your studies over this difficult period. I have received many stories of successes on your assessments and work ethic.

We have learned the meaning of community in our House assembly and also that the colour red for Malvern means strength, leadership, love and passion. We have all been strong over the last coming months and adapted into our 'new normal', making the best of things. Many of you have demonstrated love for others by helping your families and also helping with charity work in the local community. It goes to show that there are no limitations and barriers to your abilities and how you adapt to new situations. It makes me very proud to hear and see all the lovely stories of your involvement in the community.

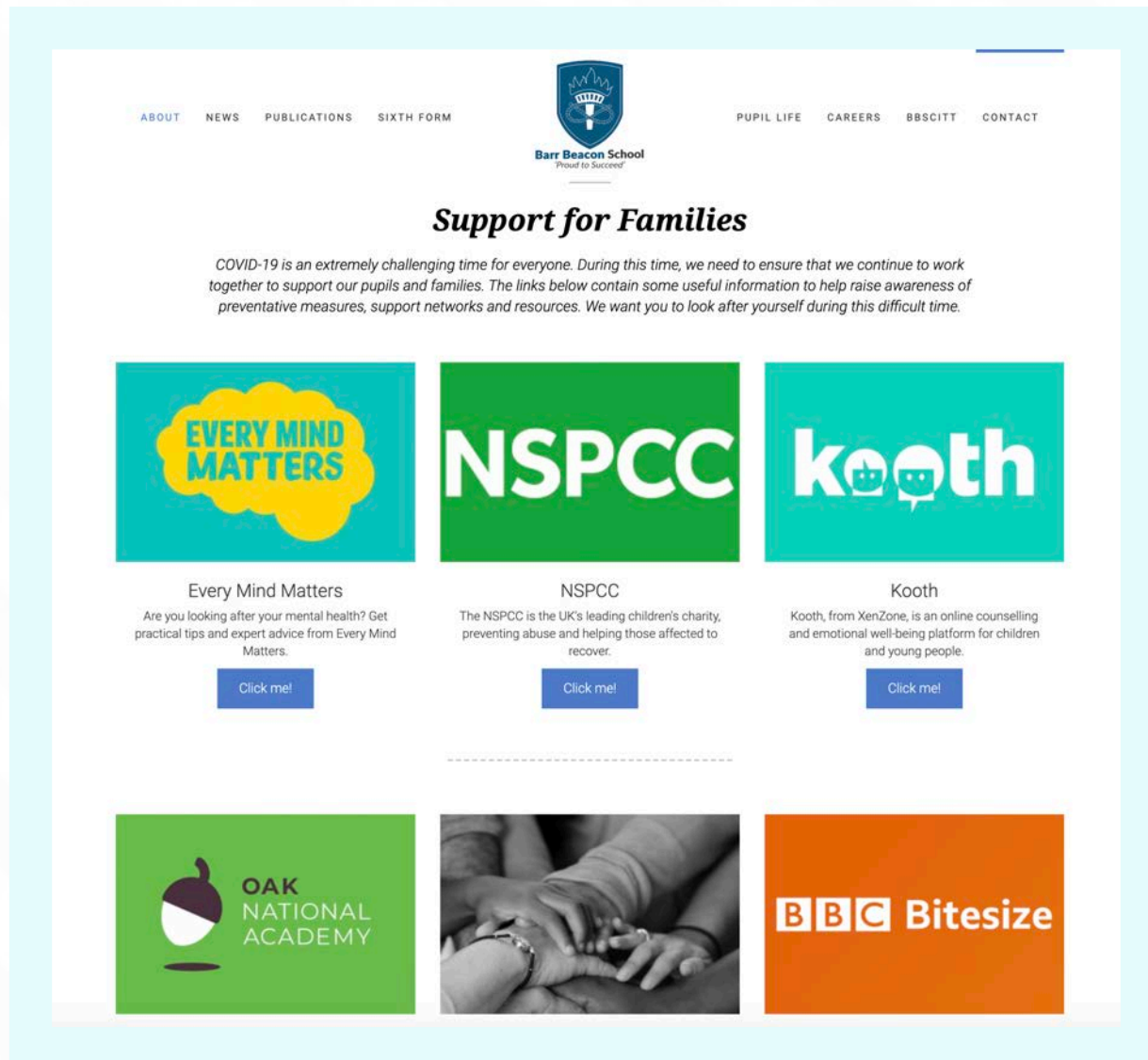
We have sent out many praise postcards (far too many to list here!) but you know who you are. I want to wish you all a safe summer and keep up with your studies so that you are ready to start back later this year and, of course, stay safe. I miss you all and cannot wait to see you in school.

Mrs Saunders  
**HEAD OF MALVERN HOUSE**





# SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES



COVID-19 is an extremely challenging time for everyone. During this time, we need to ensure that we continue to work together to support our pupils and families.

Take a look at our school website for some useful resources and information to help raise awareness of preventative measures, support networks and resources. We want you to look after yourself during this difficult time.

## Beware of Scams

We will **NOT** email or phone you to ask for your bank details.

This scam has been linked to payments for free school meals.

This is a Covid19 scam, please be vigilant.



You can find the 'Parents & Carers guide to home learning' on the school website.





## IS YOUR CHILD ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

If you receive any of the following benefits, your child/children may be entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment & Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have a gross annual income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit if you apply on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who receive these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get a free school meal.

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



### Barr Beacon School 'Proud to Succeed'



## APPLY NOW!

Please apply for free school meals, as we receive additional money for every child who is entitled.

We use this to buy additional equipment, resources, trips and support. If you do not apply and are entitled, we cannot receive extra funding for such things.

Application is quick and simple. Visit the school website and follow the link to apply online.



# CLIVE MARK

ESTABLISHED 1985

Your official quality uniform provider in partnership with **TRUTEX**

## Get ready for BACK TO SCHOOL!

### Helping you get the best uniform service safely

Dear Parents/Carers, we truly hope you and your families are all safe and well in these uncertain times. The Covid-19 Pandemic has created unprecedented circumstances for everyone across the UK and Clive Mark is no different.

This summer we will operate our stores very differently to ensure the safety of all our customers and staff. Our primary objective is your safety coupled with the need to provide you with the best possible service, to that end we will be offering you various options to purchase your uniform this year.

All parents and carers can access our services once our stores re-open as per governments guidelines. Your local store manager will then contact the school and get the process rolling.

1. **Mandatory appointment system for all new intakes either in school or at our store dependant on the schools request once lock down measures are eased.**
2. **Appointment system for all years.**
3. **Specific allocated school days in our store.**
4. **Online ordering facility, this should be encouraged for all parents and carers.**
5. **Telephone orders.**
6. **Extended opening hours.**
7. **Induction evenings in school with strict social distancing measures enforced for everyone's safety.**
8. **Social distancing measures and queue controls deployed in all our stores.**

**15% off\***  
**ALL ITEMS**  
**IN-STORE**  
MUST END  
**1ST AUG 2020**  
**NEW IN-TAKE ONLY**



**15% off\* all School Uniform**  
& accessories, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows & Beavers Uniforms in all our Clive Mark stores

\*Terms & Conditions: Valid until 1st August 2020  
Only valid for new-in-take year students. Only available to redeem in store on presentation of this voucher. Vouchers can only be redeemed once. Not available to redeem online. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

#### Walsall

19 Park Place Shopping Centre  
Park Street  
Walsall W51 1NP  
Tel: 01922 622 556

#### Bearwood

4-5 Three Shires Oak Road  
Bearwood, Warley  
West Midlands B67 5AX  
Tel: 0121 429 4244

#### Kings Heath

38-40 Poplar Road  
Kings Heath  
Birmingham B14 7AD  
Tel: 0121 728 6860

#### WALSALL

#### BEARWOOD

#### KINGS HEATH

#### BOLDMERE

#### SHELDON

#### Newcastle-under-Lyme

25 High Street  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
ST5 1QZ  
Tel: 01782 621 721

#### Boldmere

11-13 Boldmere Road  
Sutton Coldfield B73 5UY  
Tel: 0121 728 4452

#### Sheldon

2286 Coventry Road  
Sheldon  
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