



Barlby High Exam Ready Bulletin

Autumn Half Term 1 2026



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A warm welcome...

Welcome to our first Exam Ready Bulletin. We aim to send 2-3 bulletins home every half term with Y11 specific information and guidance on how to best support your child through such an important year. We know that supporting your child through Yr11 is not easy. But we also know that our Barlby families want their very best for the children - as do we! There will be families totally new to being a GCSE parent, and those with recent experience. Nonetheless, the educational landscape is always shifting so we hope all families will be able to find information and actionable tips and advice in these bulletins.

In a recent Y11 assembly we spoke with Y11 students about the idea of 'open doors' and future pathways being defined by the word **YES**. This current generation are so fortunate to have such a vast array of pathways and options open to them when they leave Barlby next summer. Right now the doors to **all** of these pathways remain open to **all** students. Through hard work at school and home, excellent attendance and the support of adults we want our Y11 students to keep **all** of these doorways open to them throughout the year. We want their future beyond Barlby to be defined by colleges and employers saying **YES** to them - an excellent suite of GCSE results which reflects each student's ability and potential is the starting point to this.

Thanks to the those who responded to the Google Form survey last month. If there is anything in particular you would like us to include in future bulletins then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

d.sladen@bhs.hlt.academy



Thanks in advance for your ongoing support as we work together to ensure Y11 is a successful year for your child, and for taking your time to read this bulletin - we hope you find it beneficial.

Mr D Sladen (KS4 Academic Achievement Impact Lead/Cultural Faculty Leader)

#Attendance Matters

The single most important thing your child can do to be successful this year is....turn up! Y11 attendance so far this half term has been excellent and we are so proud of how they have risen to the challenge of 97% attendance for the year.

In 2026, Y11 students who attended 95% of the time, achieved one whole average GCSE grade more than students between 90-95%. This pattern was reflected across all subjects.

Lesson resources are available on Google Classrooms to support catching up missed learning.

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MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS

ATTENDANCE



PUNCTUALITY & TIMEKEEPING



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Thursday 15th October - Y11 'Steps to Success' Evening 6-7pm

We are delighted to be hosting our '**Y11 Steps to Success**' Evening for Y11 families on Thursday 15th October. Attendance at this event is highly recommended for both parents/carers **and** students.

This will be an opportunity to hear from school leaders on how to best support your child through Yr11, revision tips and guidance, navigating the exam period etc. We will also share with you our '**Steps to Success**' Parental Guide Book, and there will be opportunities to collect a revision goody bag and purchase subject revision guides.

Refreshments and staff will be available from 5.30pm, with presentations starting at 6.00pm.

Students and Parents/Carers who attend will be entered into a prize draw to win a range of prizes!

We really hope you will be able to join us.

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Important Autumn Y11 Dates

Thu 15th Oct: Steps to Success Evening (*parents/carers **and** students welcome*)

Fri 16th Oct: Revision Tips Assembly

Tue 6th Oct: York College Taster Day Sign up opens

Mon 9th Nov-Fri 20th Nov: Y11 Mock Exam Window (*all subjects*)

Thu 3rd Dec: Mock Interviews

Thu 12th Dec: Y11 Parents/Carers Evening

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GCSE Target Grades

Over the next 2-3 weeks, each student will be receiving their **GCSE target grades** for all of their subjects. A **GCSE target grade** is specific, ambitious but achievable grade which we challenge our students to aim for in each individual subject. We have used statistical data and teacher insights to create these target grades.

GCSE target grades are personal to each student. To reinforce this message, each Y11 student will have their targets revealed to them in a 1-1 interview with a member of Senior Leadership staff in the coming weeks.

It is important to differentiate between a **target grade** and a **forecast grade**.

A **target grade** is an aspirational goal set in a student's secondary education, often based on statistical data.

A **forecast grade** is the teacher's professional estimate of the grade a student is likely to achieve in their final exam, based on their current progress, attitude, attendance and performance in classwork and assessments.

GCSE target grades represent an ambition, not a ceiling. With hard work, support of adults and determination target grades can, and are often exceeded. That said, it is important for students not to become too fixated on the single numerical target, but rather focus on learning, improvement and growth towards the target.

If you would like to discuss your child's **GCSE targets** in more detail please contact **Mr Sladen** or **Miss Day**.

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Student Progress Interventions

Please see below the weekly schedule for interventions. Subject Leaders regularly review mock exam and assessment data to identify where students may need additional support or interventions to help meet their Target Grades. Tutor Time Interventions (8.50-9.15am) run daily for Core subjects only. Please encourage good morning punctuality to maximise this time. **Period 6** runs every night 3.15-4.00pm. Students are invited to specific interventions based on reviews of target and forecast data and take place during tutor time and in 'Period 6' lessons. At this stage all interventions are 'invitation only' and we urge you to encourage your child to attend any which have been specified for them. Details will be communicated by subject teachers. Our '**45 Ahead**' option for additional student-led after school study begins Mon 5th Oct. '**45 Ahead**' is an option for students who wish to complete their own supervised independent revision/study at school, '**45 Ahead**' takes place in the school library and is open to all students to study and revise for any subjects - just turn up!

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor	Intervention for <u>English</u> , <u>Maths</u> and <u>Science</u> will take place in small groups throughout the week.				
Lunch	Year 11 students have a priority queue in the canteen to enable them to go to lunchtime revision held by class teachers.				
Period 6	Maths	English	Independent study due to staff training	History / Geography	Science
Period 6	Art / Drama / Music	Sociology / BTec Sport / French		Food / DT	Business / Computer Science
45 Ahead	Staff supervised Independent study	Staff supervised Independent stud		Staff supervised Independent stud	

If your child is not currently involved an intervention, it might just be that they haven't been involved....yet, and their time may come next Half Term. It is also vitally important that they are still beginning their own independent programme of study and revision to be exam ready.

Maths SPARX and Google Classroom

SPARX homework is set every week for Maths and Science (due Wednesday at 4pm). **SPARX** tasks are personalised to each individual student. Students can also complete their own independent practise and revision through **SPARX**.

Teaching staff regularly upload learning resources and revision onto **Google Classrooms** . If your child is absent, then catch-up resources can often be found here. Logging onto Google Classrooms with your child can also be a great starting point for when the you hear the inevitable: “I haven’t got anything to revise with!” or “I don’t know what to revise!”. Please get in touch with subject teachers if you or your child requires support with Google Classrooms.

The logo for Sparx Science, featuring the words "Sparx" and "Science" in white, stacked vertically, on a teal background with a subtle pattern of overlapping circles.

Sparx
Science

The logo for Sparx Maths, featuring the words "Sparx Maths" in white on a dark blue background. There is a small dotted pattern in the top right corner and an orange triangle in the bottom right corner.

Sparx Maths

The Google Classroom logo, which is a stylized icon of a person inside a square frame, set against a green background. Below the icon, the words "Google Classroom" are written in white.

Google Classroom

Subject Exam Boards and Revision Guides

Please find below subject specific information regarding exam boards and recommended revision guides. Full topic lists, past papers etc can be found with a quick Google search of these specifications. **Many** of these revision guides are available through ParentPay, and with available stock in school. Any orders made through ParentPay will be delivered to the student in school as soon as possible (a short wait may sometimes be necessary).

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Exam Board</u>	<u>Recommended Revision/Study Book</u>
English Language	EDUQAS/WJEC	Not Recommended
English Literature	AQA	GCSE CGP AQA Poetry Guide-Love & Relationship/Workbook GCSE CGP AQA Unseen Poetry GCSE CGP A Christmas Carol / Workbook GCSE CGP AQA Macbeth / Workbook GCSE CGP AQA An Inspector Calls / Workbook
Maths	PEARSON (EDEXCEL)	CGP GCSE Maths Edexcel Revision Guide: Foundation CGP GCSE Maths Edexcel Revision Guide: Higher
Combined Science	AQA	CGP Combined Science Revision Book
Triple Science	AQA	CGP Separate Bio/Chem/Phys Revision Books

Subject Exam Boards and Revision Guides (cont.)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Exam Board</u>	<u>Recommended Revision/Study Book</u>
Computer Science	AQA	ClearRevise AQA GCSE Computer Science
iMEDIA	OCR	ClearRevise OCR Creative iMedia
Food	EDUQAS/WJEC	CGP Revision Guide and Exam Practice Books
Sociology	EDUQAS/WJEC	GCSE Sociology WJEC Eduqas Revision Guide (Illuminate Publishing)
Geography	AQA	Oxford Revise AQA GCSE Geography Complete Revision and Practise
History	EDUQAS/WJEC	My Revision Notes: WJEC Eduqas GCSE History Revision
French	AQA	CGP GCSE AQA French Revision Guide
Business Studies	PEARSON (EDEXCEL)	Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE Business Revision Guide
Drama	AQA	AQA GCSE Drama: Revised Edition by Annie Fox (Illuminate Publishing)
DT	AQA	CGP AQA 8552W revision guide (blue book) CGP AQA 8552W Exam questions and answer book
Art	AQA	Not recommended

Prom Points

We can hardly believe that Y11 students have less than 30 school weeks before their GCSE exams begin! Thoughts also naturally turn to the final celebration for our Y11 Leavers which is the school **Prom**. This is a wonderful occasion, and it is an opportunity for students to celebrate, not only the end of all their hard work throughout their GCSEs, but also to say goodbye as they look forward to the next steps in their education.

It is a privilege to attend the **Prom** and there are qualifying criteria linked to participation in school life and preparation for GCSE examinations. In addition, students' attendance and behaviour will be considered on an individual basis during the year ahead. We want to recognise the dedication and commitment of our students and as such the Pathway to Prom reward initiative began in the final weeks of Y10.

Students can earn Prom Points in the following ways:

Activity	Amount
Merit	1 point per merit
Intervention, 45 Ahead, Period 6	5 points per session
Careers' Events	10 points per activity
Respect, Kindness and Teamwork cards	10 points per card exchanged in the Library
Attendance	10 points per week for 100% attendance



As a reward for the vast majority of students who always give 100% to every aspect of school life, there will be a prize draw, including the following prizes:

- Prom Rewards such as a free Prom ticket, buffet queue jump, priority vehicle parking and more!
- Amazon vouchers
- Sweet treats

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Post-16 Pathways

This Half Term we are extremely fortunate to have had guest speakers from a range of **post-16 education** providers (see below) in school to deliver weekly assemblies to Y11. Do visit their websites for more details of their courses and open events.

All Y11 students receive at least one interview with an independent Careers Advisor during Y11. Any students seeking more careers information, advice or guidance should speak to **Mrs Lister** or **Mr McNaught-Roberts** .

- Bishop Burton College (Open Day Sat 10th Oct, Sat 21st Nov, Sat 30th Jan)
- York College (Open Evening Tues 6th Oct, Open Event Sat 7th Nov, Open Evening Thu 19th Nov)
- Selby College (Open Day Sat 17th Oct, Open Evening Wed 18th Nov)
- Askham Bryan College (Open Mornings Sat 17th Oct, Sat 28th Nov)
- Fulford Sixth Form (Open Evening Thu 20th Nov)

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Post-16 Pathways

The table provides a rough illustration of the types/levels of courses available to students. More detailed information specific to individual courses and colleges will be available through their websites and prospectus.

Course Level	Types of course available:	Ability ideally suited for:	Typical requirements:	Additional information:
<u>Level 1</u>	Vocational Courses	GCSE Grades 1-3	3 GCSE Grades at 2/3+ *	
<u>Level 2</u>	Vocational Subjects Foundation T Levels Apprenticeships Some A Levels	GCSE Grades 3-4	4 GCSE Grades at 4 *	Subject specific requirements may also be needed
<u>Level 3</u>	A Levels T Levels Advanced Apprenticeships Advanced BTECs	GCSE Grades 5+	5 GCSE Grade 4/5+ including Eng and Maths	Subject specific requirements may also be needed

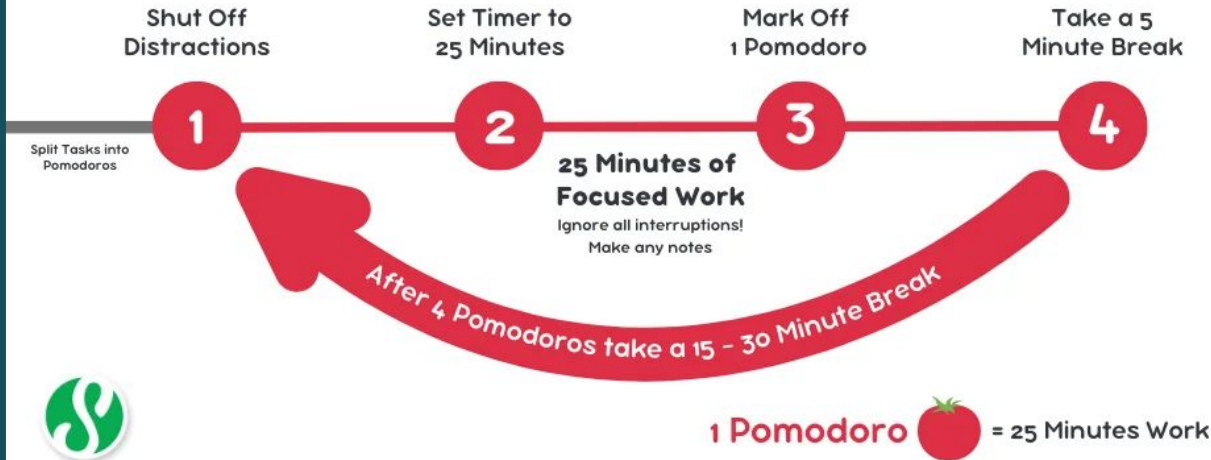
*students who are do not pass (Grade 4) English and Maths GCSE are required to continue studying and resit these subjects at College.

Recommended Revision Technique

#1 In our Y11 bulletin, we will be sharing one example of a recommended revision technique. Our first revision technique is the **Pomodoro Technique**. There will be more advice on revision and recommended revision techniques shared at our **Steps to Success** evening (Thu 16th Oct).



The Pomodoro Technique



Revise Smart

It is vital that time spent revising, is time spent revising effectively. Passive revision (e.g. simply reading a revision guide or watching a YouTube revision video), may create an impression of hard work, but is often ineffective.

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