

## SHORTLISTED FOR 5 AWARDS! #EDUCATE AWARDS 2020



### IN THIS Feature...

#### Page 1 & 2

Headteacher's Message  
Educate Awards Finalists  
Advent Charity Mission

#### Page 3 & 4

Virtual Carol Concert  
Remembrance  
National Youth Sunday

Student Leadership  
The Barlow Christmas Card  
Prefect Training Event

#### Page 6 & 7

Anti-Bullying Week  
Year 8 Drop Down Day  
Cards to the Community  
Student Voice

#### Page 8

Transition Competitions & Lessons  
Mental Health Apps  
Student Council



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# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

## A Vibrant Community



**As we approach the end of the autumn term, my first as Headteacher of our amazing school, I want to share with you how incredibly proud I am of everything our community has achieved over the past few months.**

We are operating, as all schools are, in extremely challenging circumstances, however, this has not prevented us from going from strength to

strength as a Catholic school. Our Students have worked incredibly hard this term; they have enjoyed being back in school and experiencing 'face to face' learning.

Our curriculum offer continues to challenge and engage learners. I am delighted that we have been shortlisted in no less than **FIVE** awards at the Educate Awards, including **'Inspirational Secondary School of the Year'** as well as the prestigious **'WOW'** Award in recognition of our work with our Young Carers.

In keeping with tradition at The Barlow, our Students have risen to the challenge with our Advent Charity Mission, finding innovative and creative ways to raise money for those in need. We are very proud of everything they have achieved. May I take this opportunity to thank all staff, parents and governors for your continued loyalty and support and wish all members of our community a joyful and peaceful Christmas with your families.



## EDUCATE AWARDS Nominated for 5 Awards!



**The Barlow has been named as finalists for no less than 5 Educate Awards. Educate Awards celebrate the excellence of schools in Merseyside, Cheshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. Below is a list of what we have been shortlisted for:**

- **Support Staff of the Year..**
- **Teacher of the Year.**
- **SEND Provision.**
- **'WOW' Award.**
- **Most Inspirational Secondary School of the Year.**

We are thrilled to reach the final shortlist of 'Most Inspirational Secondary School' which is a recognition of the quality of education we provide for all our students, and for the many successes we have achieved during the last 12 months. Our

nomination for the 'WOW' Award recognises The Barlow as a truly inspirational and 'stand out' school.

Additionally, we have been shortlisted for the second year in a row for our excellent SEND provision and we have everything crossed that we come out winners this time! Mrs Lutman, who is a pillar of our school community, has been shortlisted for 'Teacher of the Year', in recognition of the work she does with our Student Chaplaincy Team and our Young Carers. Both Mrs Fisher and Mrs Onslow have been shortlisted for 'Support Staff of the Year' for the outstanding support they provide for the students at The Barlow.

We are delighted that all our hard work has been recognised and we could not be any prouder of our amazing school. We are eagerly awaiting the award ceremony on the 29th January at 6.15pm, so watch this space!

# ADVENT CHARITY

## Mission 2020



**The Barlow Advent Charity Mission has just drawn to a close and, once again, has been a huge success. Our charity work is something that we place real importance upon, as not only does it support those in need in our community by providing much needed funds and food parcels to those less fortunate, but it underpins everything we are about as a Catholic community. This year, our support was needed more than ever due to the Covid crisis and students and staff have rallied together to provide over 100 food parcels for our community, as well as raising money for our chosen charities that include Ronald McDonald House, Cornerstone and St. Vincent de Paul.**

Each Family Group was tasked with the responsibility of coming up with a fundraising idea and carrying it out in order to raise maximum funds for our chosen charities. This year, students chose to raise money for Ronald Macdonald House in tribute to the support given to one of our teachers, Ms Quartey-Papafio, whose daughter Olive was born prematurely at 25 weeks and spent the first 130 days of her life in hospital. Our community wanted to raise enough money for a plaque in one of the rooms that families stay in when they have a child in hospital, telling Olive's story and offering hope and inspiration to other families in a similar situation. Students' fundraising efforts were supported by staff who during the recent national lockdown took part in 'Olive's Run for a Room', contributing to a total of over £13,050 raised.

Fundraising activities included 'soak the teacher', penalty shootouts, bake sales, tuck shops, movie lunchtimes and hot chocolate stalls to name but a few! A massive thank-you to all members of our community for their dedication and commitment to our Advent Charity Mission.



# 'A VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS'

## CAROL CONCERT

This year The Barlow annual Christmas Concert was brought to you virtually, live through our YouTube channel. Our talented students showcased musical and performance talents through 'A Virtual Christmas' celebration that you can watch here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKavLr07FCskLIpr3F92a2Q>

Well done to all the students involved in preparing this special virtual celebration.



## Rememberance

A special service was held in our Rainbow Garden to mark Remembrance Day. Students placed red roses in the flower beds, said individual prayers and laid a wreath of poppies. This beautiful service was led by Mrs Lutman and Father Michael Deas from St. Catherine's parish.

Students also took part in a special RICH activity in Family Time, where they learned about the importance of remembrance and took part in a series of reflections for those who lost their lives fighting for peace.



## Youth Sunday

The Barlow students took part in a virtual Offertory Procession in the Sunday Mass at St. Catherine's for National Youth Sunday. This was a fantastic opportunity to recognise young people as a gift in the Church and their parish, celebrating their contribution to our Catholic community. Their stunning artwork was displayed on the altar for parishioners to appreciate. Well-done also to Ericka in 70 who read as part of the Liturgy of the Word.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

## AWARD

**Year 8 students have been working towards achieving their Student Leadership Award. In order to be successful, students have to evidence contribution to school, the community and working well with others.**

In the award ceremony, students were congratulated on the resilience they have demonstrated in completing the award during a global pandemic.

Pupils were inspired by the story of the athlete Derek Redmond, who in the Barcelona Olympics was expected to gain a medal in the 400m track event. Despite having a torn hamstring he showed huge commitment and determination by crossing the finish line. Ms Wallace took the opportunity to explain to

students how proud she is of their achievements, and told the cohort she expects them to be the future Senior Prefects of The Barlow!



## The Barlow Christmas Card

**Year 7 and 8 took part in our annual Christmas Card Competition, once again submitting some superb artwork! The theme this year was 'religious' and a selection of the best designs were placed on our Facebook page for The Barlow community to vote for the winning design.**

The designs with the most 'likes' were featured on the front and inside of our card. This year, the artwork that we posted on Facebook was of such a high quality that all of it was included in our Christmas card.

Our clear winner was Milosz, 8B, whose design featured the Magi and their gifts, receiving a whopping 96 'likes'! Letizia, 8B, is our runner up for the design of the inside of the card. Her message of hope is particularly pertinent at this time. Two beautiful Christmas card designs, a huge well-done to both of you.

## Prefect Training

**Year 11 prefects attended a team building training event. Students have been learning how to work together as a team. They had multiple activities to complete, either individually or in a group.**



# ANTI-BULLYING

## 'United Against Bullying'

We have continued to drive our anti-bullying campaign in school this term. Our annual Red Card Against Racism Day on Friday the 16th October was a huge success and another opportunity for us to come together as a school community to discuss and celebrate our differences. Each Family Group worked together to create an impressive whole-school display to remind us all that 'diversity makes the world beautiful'. This year's theme for the National Anti-bullying Week in November was 'United Against Bullying' and we have a number of pupils who have entered into the annual Manchester Healthy School's poster competition – we are so proud of their entries.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors worked hard to complete a video clip in the style of a 'Barlow News Report' to share with pupils this year in assemblies, as a COVID safe way

of communicating our zero tolerance to bullying in school. This also featured Mrs Redford, our Anti-Bullying School Governor, as well as top tips for how best to tackle bullying. They did an amazing job!

We have also launched the new Wellbeing section of our school's website to pupils this term, which contains a wealth of information, advice and guidance for parents and carers, including the 'Bully-Free Zone' section, which signposts parents, carers and pupils to a range of support and outlines clearly to pupils how they can best report any concerns they have in school, be that in person to a peer or trusted adult, or via our online anonymous reporting toolkit – The SHARP System.



## Year 8 Drop Down Day

At The Barlow online safety is extremely important to us so as part of our personal development curriculum, we organised a 'Drop Down Day' for all Year 8 pupils on the theme 'Living in the Wider World'. Pupils came to school as normal but instead of taking part in their usual lessons, they participated in a series of workshops on various themes relating to online safety.

Activities included: pupils learning about fake news, how best to keep themselves safe and effectively manage their time online as well as a session which tackled cyberbullying and the internet and body image. It was an extremely valuable and thought-provoking day for all involved.



**"It was fun. It really made me think about my screen time."**

**"I was shocked to learn what people do with your data, I will try to be more careful now!"**

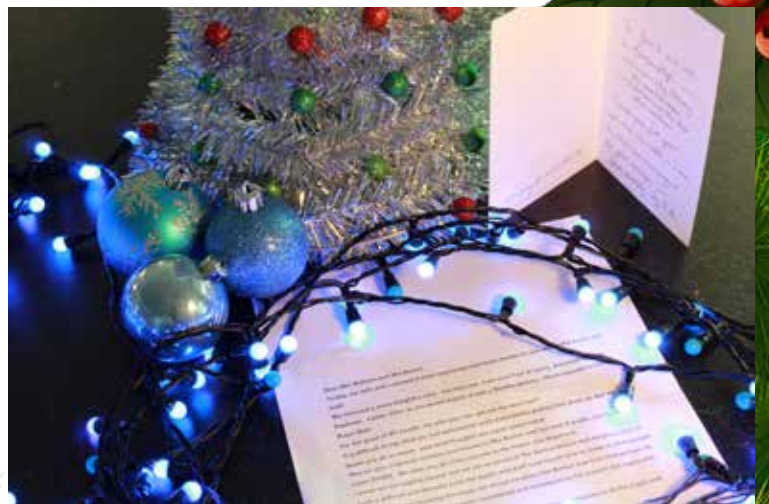
# SPECIAL CARDS

## TO THE COMMUNITY



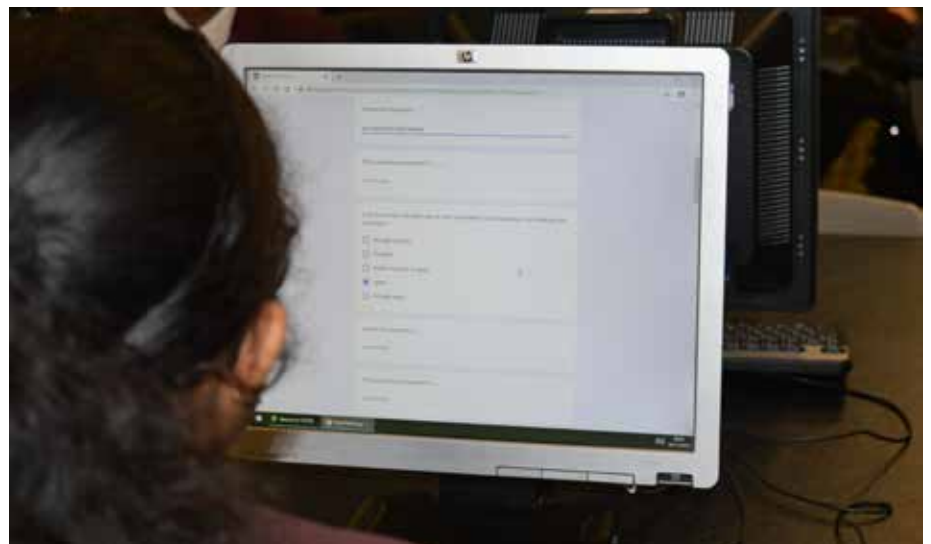
Year 8 students have had a brilliant response to the cards they made and sent, with special messages for those who are shielding or isolating during the second lockdown. Students spent time writing beautifully uplifting and inspiring messages to support the vulnerable, during what has been an extremely difficult year. These were delivered by Father John Hitchen to the parishioners of St. Catherine's, along with a little chocolate treat!

The school has received a wealth of cards, letters and messages from those in receipt of the cards, thanking the students for their kindness. You can see a range of the responses we have received here, and further replies can be found on social media. Well done to Year 8 who have had a really positive impact upon the Didsbury community.



## Student Voice

The Barlow Student Voice that took place this term had the specific focus of wellbeing. Student voice is extremely important to us and our Students' wellbeing continues to be a top priority during these challenging times.



# MENTAL HEALTH

## APP DEVELOPMENT

Year 8 have been developing apps for mental health and wellbeing in the community. They took part in a Zoom meeting with the Amazon Ambassador for the school, to showcase their app ideas, receiving feedback on how to expand ideas and implement them.

Students have developed some great apps including an app to monitor mental health, with resources for support, and a walking app promoting staying active and the mental health benefits.

Students presented their ideas in a professional manner and received fantastic feedback from the Amazon Ambassador. Well done to you all!



## Student Council

The Barlow Student Council are an elected group of representatives who are passionate about making a difference in school and in our community. This term, they have met in their year group bubbles to discuss ideas about what the school can do to support their mental health and well-being. Students were keen to see activities at lunch-time developed and so, as a result of their input, we have introduced a plethora of activities including football, basketball, badminton, hula-hooping and skipping! In addition, we have facilitated a Year 11 Study Club supported by Mr Hancock, Mrs Brennan and Ms McGhee. Year 7 students are pictured discussing their ideas with Mrs Wilcox.

Keep following us on social media for more updates on the Student Council activities.



## Transition @The Barlow RC

The Barlow's comprehensive Transition Programmes are the first steps in building the close relationship between school and home that is essential for the wellbeing, personal development and academic progress of our students.

As pupils from our associate primary schools have been unable to visit The Barlow in person this term, we have been bringing Transition into their schools virtually. Various competitions have taken place, including creative writing and designing a stained glass window! Our teachers are currently in the process of creating a range of virtual sample lessons for those pupils in Key Stage 2, so that they can experience what is special about our school community.

Visit our website Transition Zone to view the virtual lessons we have available. There are more to follow in the New Year!



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