

THE BARLOW TREE OF HOPE #MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



The Barlow 'Tree of Hope' which is beautifully displayed and now resides in our Reception area will continue to grow with supportive and uplifting messages.

IN THIS Feature... Page 2 Headteacher's Message BBC SNAPs Page 3-4 Mental Health Awareness Week Stock Market Challenge	Page 4-5 Year 11 Special Feature Transition & Careers Page 6-7 Black History Project Laudato Si Competition Multi-Faith Week	Page 8 World Autism Week National Numeracy Day
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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

'Farewell' to our Year 11 pupils, We are Proud of You

As we reach the mid-point of the summer term, we are delighted to share with you the latest edition of our school newsletter, which provides all members of our wider community with an update of some of the wonderful things that have happened in our school over the last six weeks. As you will see, it continues to be a very busy time for The Barlow!

Our congratulations to Abigail McCreavey on her logo design entry for the Laudato Si Centre competition which was 'highly commended' by the judges. It seems apt that last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of Pentecost, reminding us that God our Father continues to give life to the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. A letter from the Catholic Bishops of England sent to pupils asked them to consider the ways in which we can 'renew the face of the earth' by caring for and respecting our common home. This is something pupils will explore next term as part of our Personal Development curriculum.

This half-term, we have celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week and Multi-Faith Week. We have



also said 'farewell' to our Year 11 pupils whose five-year journey at The Barlow ends. We are proud of all of them; they have faced unique challenges this academic year and the endeavour and resilience they have demonstrated is a testament to their character. We will miss them, and we wish them every success as they prepare for the next stage of their education. For all other pupils, we wish them a restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming them back for the final half-term of the academic year.

Ms C Wallace
Headteacher

BBC SNAPS

One of our very talented Year 9 pupils made her first ever TV debut on BBC iPlayer last month. After an arduous and challenging audition process, Randi went to the BBC Studios in London to film for the role of Dayna in the stand-alone drama series 'Snaps'.

The episode 'Is This Camera On?' shows Randi breaking the 4th wall and directly speaking to the camera which meant learning a selection of lengthy monologues in only a short amount of time. Randi spent the day on set filming for the programme; experiencing life as an actor, behind the scenes, with costume, hair and

make-up as well as being in front of the cameras working with the Director.

Randi did a superb job and she has made us all very proud. This is just the beginning for Randi, we know she will go far!



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

'There is something to be wondered at in all of Nature' - Aristotle

To mark this year's Mental Health Awareness Week earlier this month, our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors united with our School Council Representatives to help promote the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing across our school community. This year's theme was 'nature'. Nature is so central to our psychological and emotional health that it is almost impossible for any of us to realise good mental health without a greater connection to the natural world.

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and School Council Representatives felt it was vital to promote positive mental health and wellbeing not only for pupils but for staff as well, particularly after such a challenging year for everyone. Our amazing pupil leaders worked collaboratively and creatively to put together a range of nature-themed wellbeing activities across the week. These included: an outdoor Mindfulness Monday session, a nature-themed Photography Competition, which was

launched on our social media sites, nature trails in our Rainbow Garden and litter picking challenges to ensure our school environment is kept looking clean, tidy and welcoming to all. The week culminated in 'Feel Good Friday', which included a 'pay it forward' tuck shop hosted by our pupil leaders. When pupils bought an item from the tuck shop they were encouraged to buy something for someone else too – either a peer or a member of staff. Teachers and support staff also took part in a random act of kindness during the course of the week, an initiative which certainly lifted everyone's spirits!

Once again, huge thanks to our wonderful and proactive pupil leaders in helping to drive such an important message again this year.



Stock Market Challenge

Six Year 10 Barlow Business pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in a Stock Market Challenge with Alliance Manchester School through Manchester University.

The pupils were putting their Business knowledge to the test as they were competing against other Manchester based schools and finished in 6th place. The pupils learnt how to trade stock by following stock trends and following news stories and analysing the impact of those stories. Pupils also learnt why a company trades their stock and the impact of becoming a Public Limited Company. The day was hosted on Zoom where pupils were

able to ask current University pupils about their experience, what they are studying, content of the course and campus life. Additionally, pupils had a talk with University lecturer and PHD researcher Charlotte Hoyland who was busting some myths about University life, what classes look like and how pupils are assessed.

Overall it was an excellent experience for all pupils participating and we aim to maintain our links with the Alliance Business School in future!



YEAR 11 TRANSITION

Preparing Our Pupils For Their Next Destination

Our Year 11 pupils have worked incredibly hard during this academic year, and particularly over the last few months since they returned from the 'National Lockdown'. They have responded superbly to the cancelling of their external examinations and instead have been preparing diligently for TAGS: Teacher Assessed Grades.

Pupils have recently undertaken a series of 'mini-assessments' that will contribute to their final TAG, and teachers have been impressed with their mature approach to what is a unique situation for schools up and down the country.

We look forward to welcoming pupils into school on 12th August where they will receive their results. Well-done Class of 2021!



We have said a 'goodbye' to our Year 11 pupils with a special farewell assembly this week. Our pupils have faced many challenges this school year and have met them all with resilience, determination and with a smile on their face. The Barlow is incredibly proud of you! The Head of Year 11, Mrs Lutman, has a personal message to all pupils about their five years as part of The Barlow community.

"You have come to the end of an important stage of your journey. No doubt it has had its up and downs, twists and turns. No doubt you have experienced many emotions: joy and sorrow, success and failure, boredom and surprise. No doubt your learning has taken place both inside and outside the classroom. No doubt you have made mistakes, not just on paper but in your relationships with others; no doubt there has been pain and healing too. No doubt you have made deep friendships. No doubt you have learned as much from your teachers as the people they are as you have from the content of their lessons. **YOU HAVE REACHED A CROSSROADS – WHICH WAY FROM HERE?**

Perhaps the road ahead seems clear; perhaps uncertain. Whatever your new road ahead maybe stop and reflect for a moment and know this... **YOU WILL NEVER TRAVEL ALONE."**

**Barlow Leavers
2016 – 2021
Goodbye and Good Luck!**



Act as if everything you do is making a difference... because it is!

YEAR 11 TRANSITION

Preparing Our Pupils For Their Next Destination

During this half-term we have continued to prepare our Year 11 pupils for life after The Barlow; whether that is college, apprenticeships, or employment.

All Year 11 pupils have benefitted from a 1:1 careers interview with our independent Careers Advisor, Jacque Dawson, to enable them to discuss their aspirations and post-16 choices. To support our pupils, we have a dedicated Year 11 transition page on our school website that has links to all our feeder colleges, The National Apprenticeship website, and other useful resources such as virtual work experience and CV building. More recently, The National Citizenship Service visited the school and delivered a session to pupils explaining to them how to get involved with their summer programme. This is an excellent opportunity available to all our pupils.

To support those pupils seeking an apprenticeship, we are holding a workshop in school on 16th June so that they are equipped to find an apprenticeship vacancy and submit an application. The session will enable participants to gain valuable employability and interview skills.

As we come towards the end of the academic year, we will continue to support pupils through the transition process. Our Careers Advisor is available should any pupils or parents require any further support. She will also be available on results day. We encourage you to follow our social media accounts for regular updates from our local colleges and other careers related partners.



**YEAR 11
SUPPORT**

Transition Area:
https://thebarlowrhigh.co.uk/?page_id=5164

**GCSE Examination Results
Thursday 12th August at 10am**

Visit the Year 11 Transition Area on the school website to access college, apprenticeship and employment information and much more. There is a Year 11 Transition programme throughout June & July.

BLACK HISTORY PROJECT

Creative Writing Workshop

At the end of April, Manchester Libraries offered The Barlow an amazing opportunity to work with Big People Music, an organisation providing creative writing workshops for young people.

During the workshops, two groups of Year 7 pupils were encouraged to engage with a legacy of writers, past and present, gaining knowledge of some of the inspirational black authors and linguists who have shaped modern-day storytelling as we know it. Pupils were treated to performance poetry from artists living in Manchester, enabling them to explore aspects of Pan-African experience and culture.

A masterclass in writing poems about Manchester followed, where pupils were able to expand their skills in writing whilst gaining more understanding of important Pan-African histories. Pupils performed their written work

BPM
BIG PEOPLE MUSIC®



@bigppmusic



to their peers in unique and interesting ways, giving them confidence and the opportunity to express their creative sides.

Laudato Si - Highly Commended Logo Design

Congratulations to, Abigail 8A, whose Laudato Si logo design was 'Highly Commended' from over 500 entries. Judges were astounded by the quality of the design and passed on their congratulations to Abigail. Abigail received a prize and her logo will be displayed in the school reception area.

The Laudato Si Logo Competition was featured in our February newsletter. The Diocese of Salford competition was for the Laudato Si Centre which, when open, will welcome visitors to learn about the importance of protecting our planet, and will encourage us all to share actions and ideas to 'protect our common home'.



MULTI-FAITH WEEK

A Celebration of All Faiths

This week we have been celebrating 'Multi Faith Week'! Our pupils have been taking part in amazing lessons across the curriculum linked to different world faiths. As part of our celebrations, pupils have joined in a 5Ws reflection in Family Time, sampled new and exciting religious foods in the canteen as well as having special assemblies for all year groups.

On Tuesday, Year 8 pupils took part in a 'Drop Down Day' as part of their Personal Development curriculum. This is part of a Programme of Study delivering aspects of PSCE, SMSC, British Values, Character Education and Catholic Social Teaching: all part of the RICH curriculum at The Barlow. Pupils attended five workshops in the morning, each led by a faith leader from the Jewish, Catholic, Sikh, Muslim, and Church of England communities.

In the afternoon, there was a Question-and-Answer Session with each of the faith leaders in a 'Question Time' setting in the Lecture Theatre. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to listen to, and learn about, contemporary issues from the different world faith's perspectives. Our Year 8 pupils were impeccably behaved throughout and fully engaged. They were respectful and interested and gained fantastic knowledge of other beliefs and how their followers behave. We hope this experience is something that the pupils will remember for many years to come. Our thanks to the faith leaders for giving up their time to help broaden the horizons of our pupils and encouraging them to grow in understanding of the varied beliefs in our society. A brilliant day!



The Multi-Faith Leaders held an amazing Q&A with Year 8 pupils...

Q: Is there anything about your faith that you don't like or agree with?

Q: Have you ever received any discrimination for being a follower of your faith?



WORLD AUTISM WEEK

Raising Awareness for Autism

This year's World Autism Awareness Week felt more important than ever. It was an opportunity to think about the society we want to live in when we leave lockdown – and the small things we can all do to make it work better for autistic children, adults and their families.

Here at The Barlow, our SEND Hive provision arranged lots of different activities with pupils to celebrate autism. The pupils baked some amazing cupcakes and decorated wooden jigsaw pieces with glitter, paint and sparkly decorations. Pupils had discussions with SEND staff about autism and celebrated the uniqueness of our pupils. The pupils were also able to raise awareness within the school, which is really important.

Ms Wallace, along with other senior members of staff, came to see some of the fun activities taking place in The Hive. Pupils were able to discuss what they had learnt about autism and show the work that had been created from the activities that had taken place.

To end a very special week, Hive pupils were treated to a party to celebrate the uniqueness

and diversity of The Barlow. It was a great week enjoyed by all the staff and pupils alike.

After the events, some of our pupils presented the Headteacher with a piece of artwork that they had created and it is now displayed proudly in the Headteacher's office.



National Numeracy Day

Year 7 took part in National Numeracy Day this year by engaging in a series of sessions where they puzzle solved AND created and performed their own Mathematics rap!

Inspired by Mr Wall, our resident rapper who set the bar high, pupils rose to the challenge and performed magnificently. Congratulations to Liam 7O, Evan 7O, Maya 8L, Ryland 8W, Charlotte 8W and Lana 8O for their superb efforts. For those of you who haven't seen Mr Wall's performance, please head over to our social media accounts for a viewing. It cannot be missed!



GETTING
ON WITH
NUMBERS

National Numeracy Website:
<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/>



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