

CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

#Barlow Community Goes From Strength to Strength



This newsletter summarises perfectly our Core Values of Service, Prayer, Achieve and Respect. From our Charity Summer Mission, Environment Week, Sports Day and Virtual Celebration Evening, The Barlow continues to be a vibrant learning community.

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Service, Prayer, Achieve, Respect

As we come to the end of a successful academic year, I would like to thank pupils, staff, parents, and governors for all the support you have given to our school community over recent months. Whilst this year has been amongst the most challenging for schools up and down the country, this has not prevented us from going from strength to strength.

This newsletter summarises perfectly our Core Values of Service, Prayer, Achieve and Respect. From our Charity Summer Mission, Environment Week, Sports Day and Virtual Celebration Evening, The Barlow continues to be a vibrant learning community. Our pupils benefit from a range of opportunities to thrive and grow as young people, and I feel proud and privileged to be Headteacher of such a fabulous school.

This half-term we have also undertaken our virtual transition programme and we are excited to welcome our new Year 7 pupils in September. In



the meantime, on behalf of staff and governors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a fun and relaxing summer holiday. Stay safe and well and I look forward to us reuniting after the break.

Ms C Wallace
Headteacher

Guest Speakers

Mrs Seddon was recently asked to present as a guest speaker at the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Conference. She explained, 'It was a great honour to have the opportunity to share the practice of our high-quality provision with other educationalists within the SEND community'. Mrs Seddon was able to share a snapshot of the fantastic work our SEND Faculty do to support our most vulnerable pupils including our Hive 3 provision, the way we support our pupils with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health difficulties and the great work our dedicated team do for our pupils with autism.

Mrs Fisher was also asked to speak as a guest speaker at the conference, which was a very exciting opportunity for her. Mrs Fisher said of the event, 'I was honoured to be able to share with other professionals in education how TAs at The Barlow deliver high-quality support when working with our most vulnerable pupils within a classroom



setting, within a small group or when delivering 1-1 interventions'. Mrs Fisher was able to speak in detail about the bespoke support provided by our Hive provision and the positive impact this has on the lives of our pupils with additional needs.

BIG HEALTH CHALLENGE

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

When the annual Manchester Healthy Schools' Big Health Challenge question was launched earlier this year, asking: 'What is your school doing to positively promote and engage the school community in healthy lifestyles?', we couldn't wait to tell them everything we have been doing as a school.

Our pupils presented all of the school's efforts in the format of a news bulletin, showcasing their amazing journalistic and presenting skills. During the broadcast, we demonstrated the wealth of work we do as a school to promote physical health through the outstanding PE curriculum and vast range of co-curricular activities as well as supporting events in the community such as litter picking in our local Didsbury park.

For healthy eating, not only do we ensure pupils bring in healthy packed lunches via our daily bag checks on the gate each morning, but we also deliver award winning food from our canteen. During our recent Multi- Faith week, Joanne Murray (our Head Chef) and her team cooked an array of foods from all around the world, which the pupils (and staff!) thoroughly enjoyed. In addition, we have also benefitted this year from the National School Breakfast Programme, which enabled our pupils and their families to receive free breakfast packs every fortnight. This has been an incredible support for our school community during such a challenging time.

During lockdown, we hosted 'screen-free' drop down afternoons where our keyworker pupils had cooking lessons in school and we also challenged our pupils and parents to take part at home by posting tasty recipes on our social media sites for them to follow! Our SEND pupils have continued these cooking sessions weekly, learning invaluable life skills. Finally, to support our school community's mental health, we have 3 members of our staff who are Mental Health First Aiders – Mrs Lutman, Mrs Fisher and Miss Roberts. We have also had assemblies from the NHS, some of our pupils designed a Wellbeing

app with Amazon, we sent cards to vulnerable members of the community to cheer them up during the national lockdown. And last but not least, we showcased the transformation of the dark cupboard in school into our new wellbeing Willow Room as well as showcasing our sacred Rainbow Bereavement Garden.

As always, we went up against some stiff competition from other Manchester high schools but are delighted to announce that The Barlow was awarded 1st place this year. We received some impressive feedback from the judges:

'The team would like to express how impressed they were with your entry and your activities you have going on in school.'

'We loved the creativity of the entry in a news report style and were overwhelmed by the commitment to developing all parts of a healthy lifestyle in your school.'

'I thought the Bereavement Garden and Willow Room were particularly lovely ideas that I think other schools should take on board!'

Well done Team Barlow!



CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Preparing Our Pupils For Their Next Destination

THE BARLOW RC HIGH *Celebration of Achievement*



Congratulations to Luca 11S3 for winning the Headteacher's Award. The highest honour the school can bestow on pupil. Luca has made a significant contribution to the life of the school and our community.

Watch online on The Barlow YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKavLr07FC->

We had hoped that last year's virtual event would be a one off but unfortunately, due to the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we were unable to meet in person at the prestigious Stockport Town Hall again this year. So, once again, we put together another virtual extravaganza to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our amazing Barlow pupils.

Our pupils have overcome the challenges of another interrupted year showing superb grit and determination as they navigated online learning with great aplomb and coped admirably

with our 'zoned school' this year. Special commendation was given to our Year 11 pupils who worked so incredibly hard preparing for their TAG assessments this year – they have proved themselves to be a true credit to our school community and excellent role models to our younger pupils.

The fact that it was another virtual celebration does not take anything away from our worthy winners this year. The commitment, resilience and dedication that all of our pupils and families have shown in what has been another exceptionally challenging year this year is a credit to all involved and we are extremely proud of each and every one of our Barlow family members.

THE DIANA AWARD

Congratulations to our winning Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Established in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, The Diana Award is the most prestigious accolade a young person can receive for their work in tackling bullying. This year two of our Year 9 pupils received this highly respected award.

Our first award winner is Lauren B, who is a dedicated member of our Anti-Bullying Ambassador team. Lauren has worked tirelessly to spread awareness of our school's zero-tolerance approach to bullying and discriminatory behaviour. For the past two years, Lauren has organised a highly successful event in school to commemorate Black History Month. As part of the annual celebration, Lauren encourages pupils to come together to 'unite against racism' in the form of a fundraiser. Her most recent event was a huge success, with a grand total of £933 raised. Through hard work and determination, Lauren and the Anti-Bullying Ambassador team have helped shine a light on important topics such as mental health, kindness and diversity as part of our mission to promote respect and tolerance at all times. Lauren's success story even made it into the Manchester Evening News, we are so proud of her achievements!

Our second award winner is Sufiyaan A. In his role as an Anti-Bullying Ambassador, Sufiyaan introduced the school's first 'Sports Day Diversity Race' three years ago. He presented it as an opportunity to highlight how, although people may differ in ethnicity, religious beliefs and sexual orientation, we should always strive to support and respect each other. The 'Diversity Race' was so successful, it has now become an annual event to celebrate this important aspect of school life. The race has allowed pupils to have a space to show who they really are and have the entire school cheering them on for it – an attitude that has made its way into the classroom and school culture.

In normal circumstances Lauren and Sufiyaan would have attended a glamorous awards ceremony in London but this year due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic, the ceremony was done virtually. The Barlow is very proud of Lauren and Sufiyaan for all the amazing work they have done as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for our school over the last three years. They are most definitely worthy winners. Congratulations and keep up the great effort!

UK MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

Gold Certificate Winners

During April, several of our Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in The Junior UK Mathematics Challenge. The challenge allows participants to utilise their mathematical reasoning and fluency by using the techniques learned in lessons to solve unique and interesting questions on the test paper. The challenge promotes critical thinking skills, often making pupils apply their knowledge in unfamiliar ways to solve a problem.

A plethora of pupils achieved Bronze and Silver Awards; however, special congratulations go to the following pupils: Ethan 7R who achieved a Silver certificate and 'Best in Year 7 Award'. Tuhin 8W who achieved a Gold Certificate and

Dennis 8L who achieved a Gold Certificate and 'Best in Year 8 Award'. Congratulations to all our winners on such a fantastic achievement. We are very proud!



UKMT Challenge GOLD WINNERS 2021
Tuhin 8W & Dennis 8L

New Prefect Team 2021 -2022

Prior to the May half term, the important application process for our school prefects, the Senior Prefect team and the Head Girl, Head Boy and their deputies began in earnest.

As always, it was an extremely rigorous process – pupils' attendance and punctuality data was scrutinised alongside SPAR and N points, culminating in an interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

We were overwhelmed by the number of applications this year and by the quality of pupils' responses at interview. 50 pupils have been appointed to the role of prefect for September and applications will open up again in October for any other Year 11 pupil who would like to apply again, or for the first time.

Following the appointment of the Prefect Team, 11 pupils were shortlisted for interviews for the role of Head Girl and Head Boy. This involved an interview

with the Headteacher, Key Stage 4 Year Co-ordinator and Associate Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Holland. Pupils were put through their paces with 5 detailed interview questions and a challenging presentation task. Staff and fellow Year 10 pupils were also asked to vote for the pupils they felt would best represent the school and their year group.

The quality of applications this year was incredibly high and much deliberation went into our final decisions. Pupils demonstrated great composure, maturity, and integrity throughout the process. They are excellent role models for our younger pupils and are an asset to our community.



Head Boy Gabriel 10A &
Head Girl Matilde 10A

YOUNG CARERS' WEEK

Making Carers Visible & Valued

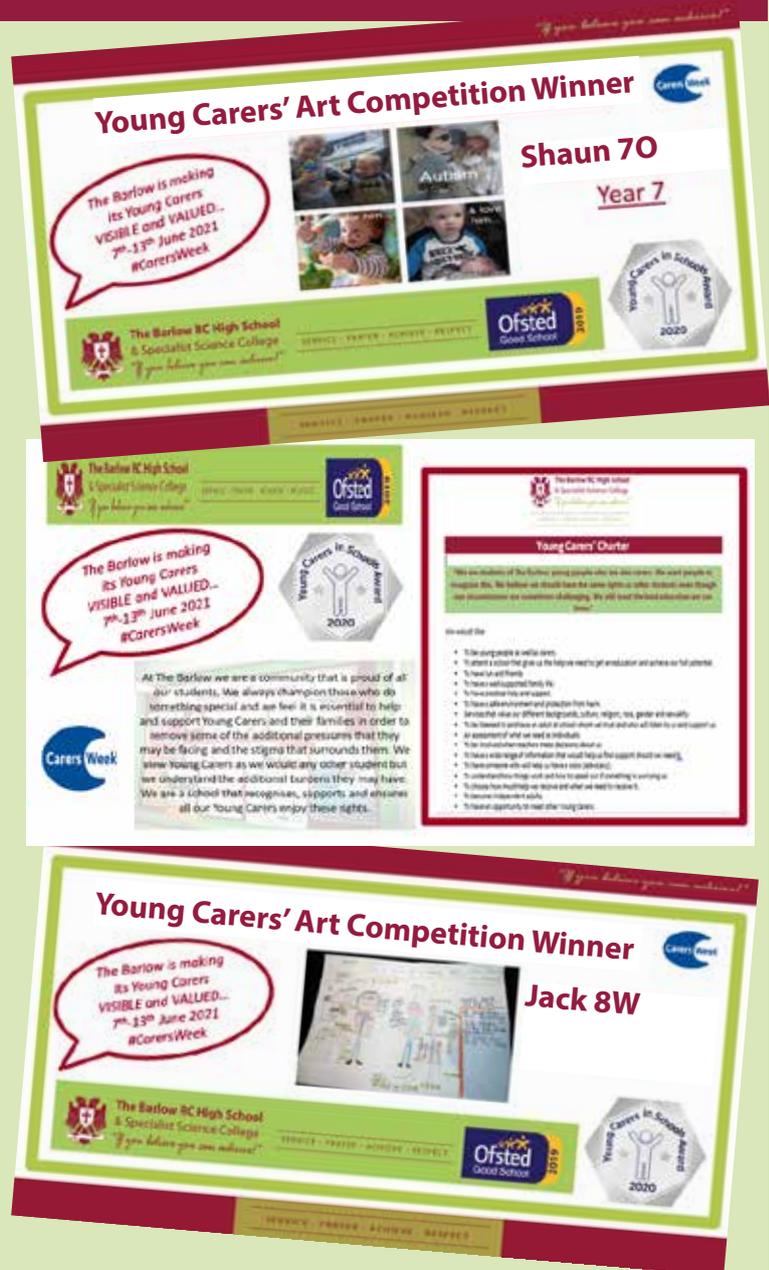
Young Carers' Week 2021 took place in June. All year groups attended a special assembly where we explored what it means to be a Young Carer and how it can impact upon your day-to-day life. The theme was 'Making Carers Visible and Valued' as a way of reminding our school community about the significant and positive contribution Young Carers make to our society.

In addition, there was a week of information giving posts on our website and social media pages, where we celebrated our Young Carers and what they do, as well as signposting where they can find support should they need it.

Our Young Carers were offered the opportunity to take part in an Art competition where they could use different mediums to present their caring roles. We had lots of entries and the standard was high, but our winners were Shaun 7O and Jack 8W! Well done to both of you and enjoy spending your vouchers!

This year has been particularly challenging for our Young Carers as the usual programme of events has been restricted by Covid-19, however, next year we are planning to recommence our clubs, breakfasts, training, and trips and visits. From September, Mrs Sutton is the new Young Carer Champion and Operational Lead as Mrs Lutman takes up the role of Head of Year 7, however, she will still be championing our Young Carers every step of the way!

We have emailed all our Young Carer parents information about the events available to them during summer break. We wish all our Young Carer families a relaxing and restful holiday.



“

Congratulations to our Young Carers' Art Competition Winners

Shaun 7O and Jack 8W.
Well done to both of you and enjoy spending your vouchers!

”

TRANSITION 2021

Welcoming our new Year 7 pupils

Unfortunately, due to the high numbers of the Delta COVID-19 variant in Greater Manchester, 'face to face' transition days across Manchester were unable to go ahead again this year.

This news came as a huge disappointment to us; however, it came as no surprise given the precarious position the country sees itself in with the latest variant. We recognise that the transition day is a really important day for our prospective pupils and parents, as well as our school community, and it is with sadness and frustration that we were not able to host our new Year 7 cohort at The Barlow this term.

However, similar to last year, we delivered a series of virtual transition events so that parents and pupils were able to get a 'feel' for our school and find out more about what things will be like when they start with us in September. We also provided a virtual Transition Evening on Thursday 15th July, where key staff presented to parents and pupils about The Barlow and what to expect when pupils do eventually cross our school gates in September. The programme included:

- ✓ A virtual tour of the school led by pupils, and a brief introduction to each Faculty Leader.
- ✓ A welcome video from Family Tutors, Head of Year, Mrs Lutman and Key Stage 3 Year Co-ordinator, Mrs Iddon.
- ✓ A PowerPoint Presentation showcasing the school's curriculum and co-curricular activities.
- ✓ A Question and Answer session from current Year 7 pupils.
- ✓ A Headteacher's Presentation.

We can't wait to meet you in September!



Mrs Lutman – Head of Year 7



Mrs Iddon Key Stage 3 Year Co-ordinator



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Barlow pupils becoming good citizens

This half term both Year 7 and 8 have taken part in Drop Down Days to support their personal development at The Barlow.

In June, the focus of the Year 7 Drop Down Day was teamwork and teambuilding skills. Pupils took part in a whole host of fun and engaging teambuilding exercises including a very challenging obstacle course put together by Mr Fitter, which really put the year group through their paces! The pupils also explored how they can be kinder to each other online in our informative, digital workshops. Pupils concluded the day working together on a trading game team challenge which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. All pupils had an excellent day and really honed their communication and teamwork skills. Well done Year 7 - a great way to show how much we have grown and developed together this year.



In July, the focus of the Year 8 Drop Down Day was Citizenship. Pupils once again developed their communication and teamwork skills and spent the day exploring how to be a good citizen and positive role model. It was an action-packed and highly thought-provoking day, which included interactive workshops on criminal activity and the law. The workshops covered a range of hard-hitting and important themes including: knife crime, gangs, hate crime, county lines and child criminal exploitation. Pupils investigated how the law works to protect them and the most vulnerable members of society.

Pupils were also able to experience a session with Matthew Norford from 1 Message, who shared his own personal experiences with crime. Having spent time in gangs and in prisons in his earlier life, Matthew decided, in adulthood, that he wanted to work with young people to help them recognise the consequences of crime and gang culture. Pupils found Matthew's personal story a moving and powerful insight into the consequences of crime.



ENVIRONMENT WEEK

June saw The Barlow celebrate Environment Week. The week started with whole-school Family Group liturgies where pupils reflected on God as the Creator and why we have the responsibility to care for God's creation.

Everyone made an environmental pledge to make a change that will support improving the environment. All pledges will be used to create some artwork, reminding pupils of the role they have to care for God's creation.

In all lessons, pupils explored environmental issues ranging from e-waste to fast fashion and the wider impact this has on our environment.



SPORTS DAY 2021

Sporting extravaganza

The weather Gods looked kindly on The Barlow last Wednesday with an 80% chance of rain only coming into fruition 15 minutes from the end of the day! Covid-19 had forced the PE Faculty to rethink the format of our annual Sports Day extravaganza and so all competitors participated within their individual Year Group Bubble.

An early start meant the venue was all set up by 9am, mainly thanks to Mr Berisford, our superhuman Facilities Manager. With burgers sizzling on the BBQ and goodies in the tuck shop, Sports Day commenced with the HOY judging the Family Group Poster competition. The designs were all exceptional, however, the runaway winners were 8R and 7A, respectively.

The track events started with the 100m sprints, whilst the long jump was the only field event to take place on Sports Day itself. All other field events had all taken place in PE lessons leading up to the 7th July. In every event, the competing athletes were duly cheered on by their fellow classmates, the noise was stupendous, only matched by the Wembley scenes later that evening. With the beat box booming and the Fitter-Mexican wave going round the track, the atmosphere was set for a great day.

The athletes did not let us down and they put on one heck of a show! But the striking thing about Barlow is that the crowd cheered just as loudly for the pupil bringing up the rear of the race as the medalists themselves. A lovely touch! The records show that 8L and 7S became the eventual overall winners, however, as Mr Greenless said: 'I can't help but think we were all winners that day. After a year of turmoil and uncertainty everyone left with a smile on their face!'

Our thanks go to all the staff who put in a real team effort to make The Barlow Sports Day one of the highlights of the school year. A special thanks go to Mr Greenless for his seamless organisation, Mr Richardson and Noah who manned the BBQ all day providing quality food for all to enjoy and Mr Reid who took on the role of both medal maker and sports photographer.



SPAR CHALLENGE

Round-up for this year

Once again, it has been another highly successful year for our amazing Barlow pupils who, collectively, have earned an extraordinary 460,617 SPAR points this academic year. What an incredible achievement – well done Team Barlow!

The inter-form and inter – year group competition has been fierce this year, as always, with our Year 9 pupils coming out on top for 2020-21. Well done to Miss Seggie and Team Year 9.

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1st Place | Year 9: 136,378 |
| 2nd Place | Year 7: 132,855 |
| 3rd Place | Year 8: 101,094 |
| 4th Place | Year 10: 90,290 |



Year 9 Athlete

Amber is a member of Trafford Athletics Club and competes in a variety of events in athletics competitions across the country. She won The Barlow RC High Sports Day Year 9 competition with a jump of 1.50m. At the Manchester City wide Championships she cleared 1.55m.

At the Greater Manchester Schools County competition on June 12th Amber jumped a phenomenal 1.57m which led to selection for the English Schools competition where she came 9th in the country at U15 level. She since has gone on to improve her PB to 1.58m on Saturday at Stretford in the Youth Development League.

She has qualified for the England Athletics Championships on 7th and 8th August in both long jump and triple jump at Sports City.

Huge congratulations too to our Top 5 achieving SPAR Point Winners in each year group for 2020-21:

| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1st | Perfect 7W 1526 | Tameka 8W 1174 | Brendan 9W 1582 | Aaron 10R 1144 |
| 2nd | Tamim 7W / Elliot 7W 1427 | Rebecca 8A 1111 | Thimeesha 9W 1446 | Gabriel 10A 1045 |
| 3rd | Ailish 7W 1400 | Kate 8W 1028 | Molly 9W 400 | Jeremi 10R 1044 |
| 4th | Kirstyn 7W 1393 | Ryland 8W 1021 | Kian 9A 1341 | Lily 10R 1023 |
| 5th | James 7W 1337 | Alex 8W 986 | Amber 9A 1328 | Ellen 10A 994 |

Keep up the fantastic efforts everyone!

Finally, we have some extra-special, new SPAR point awards launching in September linked to Attendance and Punctuality. All pupils achieving 100% attendance for a given week will receive 10 SPAR points and additionally, a further 5 SPAR points will be awarded for 100% punctuality for the week.

Amber is a very dedicated athlete who trains 4 times a week. Her key to success is that she tries to focus on her own performance and not on what other athletes are doing. She always goes out to improve her technique and if she gets a new PB, that is a bonus.



SUMMER CHARITY DRIVE

Catholic Community

At the Barlow, charity work is a pivotal part of our school, not only does it support those in need in our community, but it underpins everything we are about as a Catholic community. This year, our support has been more important than ever, due to the Covid crisis and as always, our pupils and staff have rallied together in raising money for our chosen charities that include Ronald McDonald House, Cornerstone and St. Vincent de Paul.

Our Summer charity drive has just drawn to a close. It has not been easy with COVID restrictions and year group closures, but we are proud of the efforts that everyone has made in trying to overcome these difficulties and continue with the fundraising.

Our Summer Charity Mission is known as 'The £10 Challenge'; each Family Group was given £10 and tasked with the responsibility of using this to raise as much money as possible for their chosen charities. Pupils' enterprising efforts were supported by staff who gave up their breaks and lunch times to supervise events or even to brave pupils who lined up to pay to 'soak the teacher'. Events included: bake sales, ice-pop stalls, movie lunchtimes and tuck shops, to name but a few!

We empathise with those pupils who had planned exciting events that had to be cancelled and would like to reassure them that they will have plenty of opportunities next year to put their plans into action. A massive thank-you to all members of our community for their dedication and commitment to all our charity missions and fundraising events this year.



See you all in September!



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