

INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

#PATRICE EVRA



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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

A United Community



As the autumn term comes to a close, I reflect on what has been another very busy, successful term, with many highlights to share with you all in this newsletter. Our pupils continue to shine in all aspects of their school lives and I am proud to be their Headteacher. At the heart of our school is purposeful, vibrant classrooms, with high-quality teaching and learning. Additionally, our co-curricular provision continues to grow; with a plethora of opportunities including theatre visits, University lectures and STEM events on offer for pupils to enjoy. I am delighted this term that we have launched the Duke of Edinburgh Award and have a cohort

of Year 9 and 10 pupils who will benefit from this experience. I look forward to seeing their journey.

A highlight of this half-term is the visit of Patrice Evra, former Manchester United captain, who came to talk to our pupils about his life: from his early years to his distinguished career as a professional sportsman. Late November, we enjoyed a visit to Liverpool Cathedral as finalists of the Educate Awards in two categories: Careers and Enterprise Award and the School Governor of the Year. It was an amazing experience and we were delighted that Mrs Catherine Redford, a long-serving member of the Governing Body, was runner-up in this award; it is superb recognition of the work she does for our school.

The season of Advent is an opportunity for prayer and reflection, as well as our charity mission, which raises money for those in need in our community. With the challenges we continue to face with Covid-19, never has the sense of community been so important. Our pupils, staff and parents have once again given generously, not only in monetary terms but in terms of their time and innovation. My thanks to all parents and carers for your ongoing support of your children and our school. I wish you all a joyful and happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.

Reward Breakfast

We were delighted to host a special Christmas Rewards Breakfast in the final week of term for all our pupils who have demonstrated consistently outstanding attendance and behaviour this term.

There was much merriment and festive cheer in the dining room as the pupils feasted on a continental breakfast whilst being waited on by their respective Heads of Year. We are incredibly proud of the efforts and resilience these pupils have shown this term - well done everyone, keep up the great work!



PATRICE EVRA

Inspirational Speaker

On a very wet and windy Monday after the half-term break, The Barlow community were delighted to be joined by Patrice Evra: Sports Commentator, Football Coach, Former Professional Player & Author.

Patrice's visit was organised by the charity 'Speakers for Schools' who aim to help young people access opportunities through inspiring talks.

Patrice was born in the capital of Senegal, Dakar, and moved to France at the age of one. He grew up in the tough district of Les Ulis, an area surrounded by crime and poverty. Despite this, Patrice has an incredibly open and positive attitude to life. He was a much admired and loved captain of Manchester United and the French national side. After retiring from football, Patrice became a high-profile TV sports commentator. As well as

this, he is an influencer, successful entrepreneur and now author of his autobiography "I Love This Game".

Patrice shared his story with our Year 9 pupils, highlighting the importance of resilience and challenging their ideas about what being successful means. One Year 9 pupil commented: "Thank you so much for this today, it was the best day ever to have the chance to meet Patrice".



EDUCATE AWARDS

Finalists for the Third Year Running!

The Barlow was extremely proud to be named as finalists once again in two categories of the prestigious Educate Awards, that took place at Liverpool Cathedral at the end of November.

We were thrilled to be recognised for our work in CEIAG, being shortlisted in the Careers and Enterprise Award. Congratulations to Mrs Bowyer who does a superb job leading in this area; the school are already holders of the National Quality in Careers Standard Gold Award.

Our other nomination was for Mrs Catherine Redford, who was runner-up in the School

Governor of the Year Award. This is a well-earned recognition for her, acknowledging the fact she is a long-standing supporter of our school. We send her our warmest congratulations.



ADVENT CHARITY

Mission 2021



"In everything I have shown you that, by working hard, we must help others. In this way we remember the Lord Jesus' words: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" ACTS 20:35

We are extremely proud that at The Barlow this spirit of giving, love and care for one another underpins everything that we do. Our annual Advent Charity Mission is drawing to a close, and our staff and pupils have been working tirelessly to support those in need in our community by collecting food donations and raising funds.

This year our support has been needed more than ever as we tackle a second winter with all the challenges of the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic. Despite many people facing their own difficulties this year, our community has once again pulled together to carry off yet another successful Mission; we have collected over 100 food parcels for families in need! Our Family Groups have been more creative than ever this year with their fundraising ideas; hosting festive movie screenings, hot chocolate and treat stalls, penalty shoot outs and even washing cars in their efforts to raise as much money as possible! Our chosen charities this year include: Francis House, The Bolivian Orphanage, and Caritas Refugee Support. We would like to extend a huge thank you and well done to all members of The Barlow community who have supported us in this year's Advent Charity Mission.



**The Barlow RC High School**
"Learn, Achieve, Succeed"
SERVICE - PRAYER - ACHIEVE - RESPECT

Advent Charity Mission 2021
This year our students have chosen to support...



Year 11 are raising money to sponsor school starter packs for children in LEDC's

AMAZON AWS CLUB

App Design Competition

Year 8 have been given a fantastic opportunity to take part in an App Design competition with Amazon.

Earlier this half-term, they took part in an assembly launching the competition, led by our Amazon Ambassador. The App Design Club takes place every Monday afterschool and pupils have made a positive start, getting into groups, and exploring and analysing problems they can solve in school or the local community through their App. The best Apps will be presented in London to a group of industry experts.

Good luck Year 8!



SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

A number of our talented actors visited Loreto College to perform an abridged version of one of Shakespeare's much-loved comedies, Twelfth Night, as part of our 9th annual MANCEP Shakespeare Festival.

Pupils spent a long day rehearsing in the theatre, in preparation for their performance alongside other MANCEP schools and colleges. Pupils worked superbly to learn, understand, and re-tell the story, with all its humours, and were hugely successful. Well done to the cast of Year 9 and 10. A fabulous achievement!



CELLS PROJECT

Pupil Empowerment

On Wednesday 13th October, we hosted an educational workshop delivered by 'The CELLS Project', which is a Community Interest Company, specialising in the delivery of educational awareness programmes to groups of children and young people in schools and other community venues. It is CELLS' overarching aim that: 'all learners leave the workshop with a greater sense of personal power and with the skills needed to recognise and survive the many challenges ahead of them.'

During the workshops, the CELLS team worked with some of our Year 8 and 9 pupils and explored and discussed issues related to themes such as criminal involvement, gangs and exploitation, bullying and the criminal justice system.

It was an extremely informative and powerful experience for the pupils involved as they got to hear first hand from support workers with lived experience about the harsh realities of prison life and the harrowing impact this can have on extended family members. Pupils also reflected on the importance of staying safe in the community and the possible consequences associated with anti-social behaviour, including the risks and shocking realities of joint enterprise. Pupils were mature and insightful during the discussions over the course of the day and took away some important messages about the importance of positive decision making and street safety.



Didsbury Community Spirit

In October, St Catherine's Primary School reached out to pupils at The Barlow: they had been contacted by a parent alerting them to the high volume of litter on Saddleworth Road and wanted our support.

Their School Council are keen to minimise the litter and planned to write to the City Council asking them to put additional waste bins in the vicinity. They had decided to head over to the area and assess where these could be placed, and asked if members of our School Council would like to join forces with them. Of course, we jumped at the opportunity to support our local community!

Four members of The Barlow School Council met with children from St Catherine's School Council to inspect the area and to remove as much litter as possible. It was a wonderful

opportunity to get together and to discuss how we could make a collective difference to the community both our schools serve.

As 'Rights Respecting Schools', our pupils understand that they have a right to be heard, and after seeing how litter has been a persistent problem along School Lane, we are all hoping that Manchester City Council will look at the request for extra bins. The Barlow plans to set up an Eco Group next term in order to look at issues related to the environment, and how we can play an active part in caring for our environment both locally and globally.



SPECIAL CARDS

Annual Christmas Card Competition



The Barlow Competition

The Barlow, once again, held our annual competition where we invite Year 7 pupils to design our school Christmas card. The best designs are showcased on social media for parents and carers to vote for their favourite.

The design with the most 'likes' becomes the front of our Christmas card. The Christmas card is then sent out to all our stakeholders, members of the local community and friends of The Barlow. This year, there were lots of excellent designs to choose from, so a huge well-done to all our entries. We selected ten to be shared on social media and the winning entry was Danna, 7B. Congratulations Danna on your excellent illustration.

The quality of entries was so impressive we featured a number of them on our Christmas card! Well-done to all our 2021 entries.



Primary Competition

We were delighted that this year, St Mary's and St Cuthbert's joined in our competition to design our Christmas card.

Designs were showcased on our social media platforms, with the primary schools 'tagged in', so that parents and carers could vote for the best entries. Both primary schools entered some fabulous designs: we were very impressed!

Congratulations to Jonah from St Mary's and Lacey from St Cuthbert's, whose winning designs graced the front of our Christmas Cards. Their artwork can be seen below. Congratulations to both of you!



BGT (Barlow's Got Talent)

The Auditions!

This term auditions for our prestigious 'Barlow's Got Talent' have taken place where pupils have performed for our very own 'In house Barlow Judges'!

We have had the honour of seeing a multitude of performances from a variety of performing arts disciplines including: gymnasts, comedians, musicians and dancers. It clearly is evident that Barlow certainly does have talent!

Due to the numbers of applicants the final will

now be held next term – successful acts will be announced this week! Good luck!



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

One Kind Word

In order to reinforce and support Barlow's zero-tolerance policy towards bullying, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors organised an assembly to celebrate national Anti-Bullying Week.

We wanted to use this opportunity to introduce ourselves and promote our important work to the younger year groups and encourage them to join our amazing team. Made up of different people from different backgrounds and with different qualities, we stood before each year group to reiterate the key message of this year's national anti-bullying theme of 'One Kind Word,' encouraging all our whole school community to always be kind and respectful to one another.

Our main aim as a group is to highlight to our peers that we will always be available whenever they need any guidance or support. As always, we have asked all pupils and staff to sign up to our school's anti-bullying pledge so that we can continue to unite against all forms of bullying and discrimination.

**Matilde A - Head Girl
Anti-Bullying Ambassador**

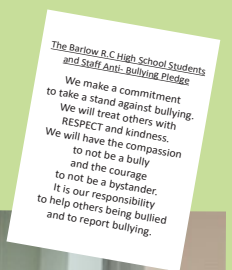


In addition this year, we were invited to one of our key feeder primary schools, St Bernard's, to witness the work they are doing to combat bullying in their school community.

It was such a privilege to talk to the Year 5 and Year 6 pupils at St Bernard's and tell them all about the important work our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors carry out at The Barlow. They were a very attentive audience and asked us some great questions, as well as telling us all about how they have celebrated this year's Anti-Bullying Week by exploring the power of kindness, as well as considering bullying through the eyes of Jesus.

We were delighted also to receive a very special gift from St Bernard's - some amazing artwork that had been done by their Year 5 pupils, which depicts how Jesus was subjected to bullying in the lead up to his crucifixion. A very touching tribute and we will treasure this artwork.

**Sufiyaan A - Year 10
Lead Anti-Bullying Ambassador**



Bikeability

At the start of a very rainy November, over 40 Year 7 pupils took part in 'Bikeability'. This is a government funded training programme giving pupils the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills and understanding to cycle safely on the roads.

Pupils completed their Level 1 and 2 training,

despite the cold and wet weather! Level one training tested pupils on their basic cycling skills in a controlled traffic free environment.

Level 2 training was trickier! This gave pupils the opportunity to plan out safe routes on minor roads, offering a real cycling experience with fully qualified instructors.

The attitude of pupils was amazing and all of them fed back how confident they felt on the roads. Well-done Year 7.



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