



A brilliant experience, one the children will remember forever.

Mrs Lutman

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Rising to the Challenge



It has been another very busy half-term at The Barlow! In many ways, this half-term has been the most challenging since the start of the pandemic due to the levels of staff absence linked to the new variant.

It is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our staff that not only have we continued with a 'face to face' provision but have once again provided pupils with excellent opportunities to help shape their academic, social, physical, and spiritual development. As always, I am in awe of the achievements of pupils and the way they embrace school life.

Year 11 continue to demonstrate great maturity and dedication, working hard preparing for their examinations later this year. My congratulations go to those pupils who have recently received their results for the LAMDA examinations in speech and drama; all of them secured passes at merit or distinction level: amazing results.

I hope you enjoy reading the updates from this calendar year and I wish pupils, parents, staff, and governors a relaxing half-term break with your families.

Ms C Wallace
Headteacher

LAMDA Opportunity!

Earlier this term, 17 of our pupils spanning Years 8 to 10 completed their first LAMDA examination in acting.

This is a new and exciting time in terms of drama co-curricular provision; with the school offering the prestigious qualification to all pupils. Candidates performed Monologues and Duologues for an external examiner after intensive rehearsals and preparation.

The next cohort is now underway. If you think your child would be interested in this qualification, please contact Mrs Pilkington at h.pilkington@thebarlowrhigh.co.uk for further details.

Well done to our pupils achieving 100% pass rate, 71% with a Merit and 29% with a Distinction.



SAVIO HOUSE

#Making Memories

A group of our Year 8 and 9 pupils thoroughly enjoyed a long-awaited residential trip this half term when they visited Savio's Retreat Centre. Steeped in the beautiful Bollington countryside, pupils combined team building, reflection and relaxation during their 3 day stay.

The theme of the week was 'Building Bridges', which challenged pupils to break down the barriers, which were an unfortunate result of the pandemic, and examined ways in which we can extend our support to one another across all aspects of our everyday lives through our mutual respect, care and empathy.

Pupils enjoyed a range of activities including: a country trail to White Nancy, Team Games, Arts and Crafts, Drama, Dance, Music, Singing and Journaling. Pupils were also challenged to work outside of their comfort zones and produced some impressive content for the Celebration Mass on the final evening. This was followed by a fun packed disco, which featured karaoke and musical bumps!

All pupils were a credit to our school; we are delighted that they were able to experience the wonder of a retreat, an experience that will be etched in their memories forever.

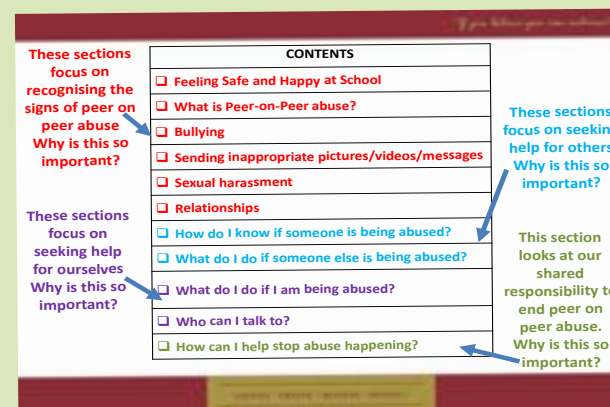
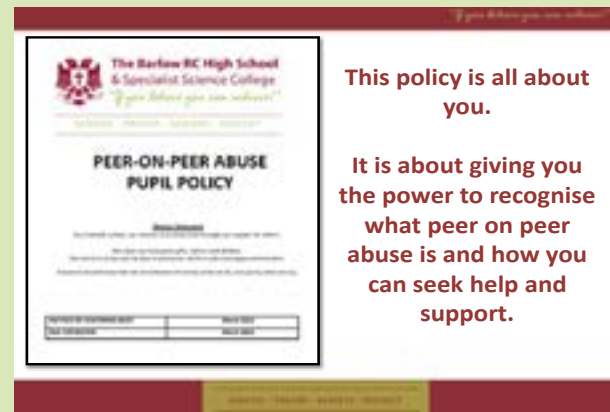


MENTAL HEALTH

Children's Mental Health Week February 2022

The theme for this year's Place 2 Be 'Children's Mental Health Week' is 'Growing Together', which has given our pupils and staff the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the journey we have navigated over the past two years. Despite all the challenges we have faced both as a nation and as a school community, we know that together we are stronger and more resilient.

Our zero tolerance to bullying at The Barlow continues to be high priority and our core Catholic value of Respect was further underpinned this half term by the launch of our **Pupil Peer on Peer Policy**. Mrs Staniforth, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, led assemblies with all year groups, which examined the different forms of peer-on-peer abuse; signs to look out for; how to report it and also what constitutes a healthy relationship. In collaboration with our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Student Council, this pupil policy was written to empower our pupils to be upstanders in their community and to work together and support one another to ensure that everyone can learn and flourish in a safe, happy and harmonious community.



Young Carers at The Barlow

Young Carers at The Barlow have been involved in an exciting new campaign called "Support Not Sympathy". This project aims to raise awareness of the valuable and transferable skills Young Carers develop in their caring roles and, importantly, help people and professionals understand some of the challenges Young Carers face and how they can support them.

As part of the campaign, 15 of our Young Carers spent the day producing a music video and poem with other Young Carers from the Manchester area. OY Poem - YouTube is the link to the piece created and produced by Young Carers in Manchester.

We are sure you will agree the poem is amazing! We are very proud of each one of our Young Carers and look forward to its release in March.



LEADERSHIP LADDER

Leadership Matters

Pupil leadership continues to grow at The Barlow and is a pivotal aspect of pupils' personal development offer.

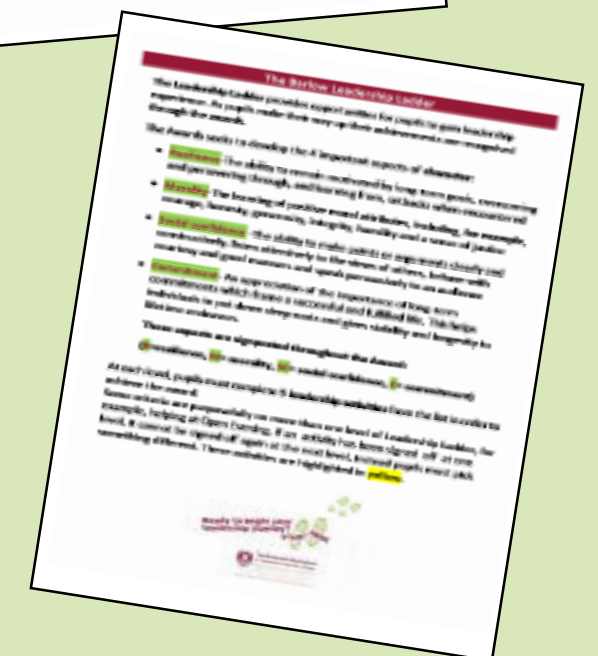
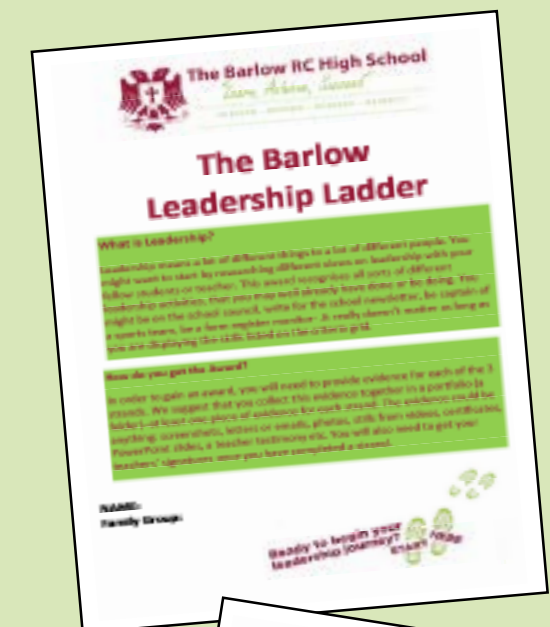
Our 78 Year 11 prefects were selected following a rigorous interview process. Their roles vary according to their strengths and interests. All prefects are expected to undertake a lunchtime duty at strategic points around school to support the smooth running of activities; as well as supporting at Parent Evenings, Open Evening and various transition events. Several prefects are involved in a mentoring programme for Key Stage 3 pupils, where prefects work alongside younger pupils discussing any concerns, setting targets and encouraging positive behaviour. The bonds that have been formed between the Year 11 mentors and the mentees are invaluable and younger pupils are enjoying and value the support.

The School Council currently has a focus on pupil well-being. They met earlier this half-term to discuss the draft Pupil Policy on Peer on Peer Abuse. Members discussed and made amendments to the policy ready for approval by governors. They have also been discussing ways to increase tolerance and awareness around LGBT+ issues. The School Council is a very powerful way for pupils to put their opinions forward and already, changes have been made as a result of their collective voice.

The Barlow Leadership Ladder is a new initiative for 2022. It encourages all pupils to engage and work from the Bronze Award up to the Platinum Award. As pupils go through their journey as a 'Barlow Leader' the idea is that they develop their character, as well as gain invaluable leadership experience. The character traits are: resilience, morality, social confidence and commitment; all vital for success in today's world. Over 100 pupils have already embarked on their Leadership Ladder journey. Year 10 are leading the way with the highest number of awards achieved as they prepare for prefect

applications in the summer term. These awards demonstrate that they are developing the exact type of skills and experience to become one of our school leaders in their final year. It is fantastic to see so many pupils involved and developing new skills, which will not only serve them well throughout their school career but beyond, when they move onto college, or employment.

For further information about pupils' leadership opportunities please contact; e.holland@thebarlowrchigh.co.uk.



SCIENCE LIVE

STEM Opportunities

A group of Year 10 and 11 pupils were lucky enough to attend the GCSE Science Live! Conference at Manchester Opera House last week.

They had the chance to see and hear five of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms. The Scientists included well known faces such as Professor Robert Winston, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock and Professor Alice Roberts.

Pupils also got to hear top tips on examination success from an experienced, senior science examiner in order to help prepare them for their GCSE examinations.



UK Maths Challenge

The Mathematics Faculty continued their traditional involvement in the 'UK Maths Challenge' by taking part in an online national mathematics competition to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the UK Maths Trust.

A significant number of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils took part in the event which was a great success. Well-done to all pupils who demonstrated their knowledge, skills and resilience by attempting some very difficult questions!

Our particular congratulations goes to the highest performing pupils in Year 7 and Year 8: Wiktoria 7R, Nathan 7H, Raheeg 8L Matthew 8O and Kylo 8R. The Best in School award went to Mati 7W.



YEAR 11 PROM PREPARATION

'Prom-drobe' Ready for Launch

One of the highlights of Year 11 is the celebration of the Prom, however, The Barlow are mindful of how expensive this can be for pupils and their parents. Not wanting anyone to miss out on the experience for financial reasons, thrifty Ambrose Teacher, Miss Hughes, has launched a 'Prom-drobe': recycling donated Prom outfits and championing sustainable and affordable fashion!

Miss Hughes explained: "The response has been outstanding and really overwhelming. Generosity and support from the local community and those further afield has been incredible". The BBC caught wind of the scheme and contacted school asking if they could run a story on the project as part of their 'Make a Difference' Campaign. It has been a work in progress which went from a tiny idea to 'Prom-drobe', in a matter of weeks. Miss Hughes has spent long days into evenings collecting and sorting the attire and is delighted with the result.

She commented: "I have full faith that this is a project that will have a positive impact for our pupils and school long-term. It supports our pupils and their families financially, which was our overall aim. In addition, the Prom Project upholds the concept that 'Every Child Matters' and supports our inclusive ethos, ensuring that all our learners and their families have access to help and support".

The wardrobe is now ready and has been launched to Year 11. Those pupils who wish to do so can come and pick their outfit for Prom!

Watch the BBC report here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=249205080713755>



The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award scheme is now up and running at The Barlow! This is an exciting opportunity for Year 9 and 10 pupils, as it will help them to develop as individuals and gives them a real advantage when applying for colleges and employment.

We have selected a cohort of 25 pupils who now have funded places on the scheme. Pupils have been busy selecting activities for the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections, ready to discuss with the regional Duke of Edinburgh Manager. We have also teamed up with 'Venture Out': an outward-bound provider based at Burnage Rugby Club. They will provide us with expert professional training so that we can properly prepare for our forthcoming expeditions in April and July.

ATTEND TODAY...ACHIEVE TOMORROW

SEND Attendance Drive

At The Barlow, we recognise the importance of excellent attendance and we challenge pupils to aim for 100% attendance each half-term. We recognise and work with pupils to help them to understand that every day missed from school is a day's worth of lessons missed and this impacts on their learning and progress.

This half-term, some of our pupils with additional needs have been taking part in our SEND Attendance Drive. This is an exciting opportunity for pupils to win all kinds of fabulous rewards for working hard to improve their attendance. Each week, those pupils invited to participate meet with their very own attendance mentor, who discusses their attendance with them, what improvements are being made and then, they are rewarded when we see improvements. The incentives increase with every full week of attendance. Prizes include: chocolate bars and boxes of chocolates, pizza, hot chocolate and bagels,

cooking sessions and even a surprise treat from pupils who go above and beyond to reach the targets set for them! We are very proud of the hard work that many of our pupils have put in to improve their attendance... they have been amazing!

We would also like to put on record our thanks to parents for the support we have received from them in helping us to encourage their children into school each day.



Holocaust Memorial Day

On 27th January, The Barlow commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day remembering all those affected by the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

In 2020, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and Senior Imam Qari Asim came together to write a special prayer that could be used by people of any faith on Holocaust Memorial Day. All members of our school community were united in saying the prayer during their Family Time at the start of the day. As a Rights Respecting

school, pupils considered the ways in which we should stand up to discrimination. Throughout the day, pupils and staff took part in a 'Prayer Chain' in our Rainbow Bereavement Garden.

Our particular thanks to Leah 10R, Keara 10R, Lily 10R and Randi 10R for leading our community in this period of reflection.



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