



*It was so inspiring to see The Barlow pupils working together as a team to achieve some really challenging end goals!*

Mr Wall

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# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

**Believe to Achieve**



**Welcome to the latest edition of The Barlow Newsletter, which will give you a flavour of all that has gone on within our school community over the last six weeks. At times, it has been another challenging term, with high levels of Covid-19 infections in school. However, this has not stopped us from having a wealth of different activities and events in which our pupils have had**

**the opportunity to participate. From the Duke of Edinburgh expedition last weekend to 'The Barlow Stands with Ukraine Day', there has been a plethora of achievements once again by pupils this half-term. I am proud to be Headteacher of this fabulous school!**

The sunshine of the last week or two reminds us that the Lenten season is coming to an end, and we will soon be celebrating Easter. Pope Francis' Lenten message reflects on St Paul's letter to the Galatians: 'Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.' This seems particularly apt in our world today and summarises our ethos beautifully. I would like to take this opportunity to thank pupils, staff, parents, and governors for all your contributions to our school community this term. Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Easter break, we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school at the end of April.

**Ms C Wallace  
Headteacher**

## Malham Cove Field Trip

**At the end of March, the Year 11 GCSE Geography cohort visited Malham Cove in the Yorkshire Dales.**

This was a fantastic experience for our pupils who had the opportunity to visit a distinctive landscape that they have been studying as part of the curriculum. Pupils completed a range of surveys during the day, investigating the impact of tourism on Malham Village and collecting data that they will later analyse as part of their studies.

Luckily, the weather was on our side and the trip was a great success!



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

## Training Expedition

**Our Duke of Edinburgh cohort completed a gruelling expedition this weekend, pushing them to the limits of their endurance.**

Over the course of the two days they successfully navigated a route across countryside in the Marple area: completing a combined 12 hours of hiking and camping overnight in sub-zero temperatures (with some of their food bags raided by rogue badgers!)

The expedition leaders commented on how well pupils worked together as a team and we are extremely proud that all participants successfully completed the expedition, despite the challenging conditions.

We are delighted to have the scheme up and running and fully intend to grow the award over the coming years. Pupils' qualifying expedition in Rivington in July will hopefully be much warmer!

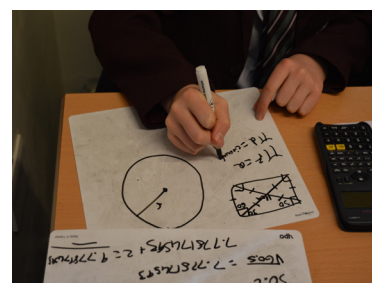


## Pi Day

**On Monday 14th March The Barlow celebrated Pi Day! Pupils learned about why we celebrate on this date (3.14) and about the relationship between  $\pi$  and circles.**

Family Groups took part in a 'dingbats' quiz and all Mathematics lessons that day were pi-related: pupils were discovering the relations of pi, competing in pi-problem relay races as well as challenging problem solving  $\pi$  puzzles.

At the end of the week we held a pi-memory competition. Lots of pupils made an impressive attempt, with several remembering up to 100 digits! Congratulations to Imogen, 7R who earned first place with a very impressive 115 decimal places!





# LEADERSHIP MATTERS!

## Gold Award Winners

**The Barlow Leadership Ladder is a new initiative for this academic year. It provides opportunities for pupils to gain leadership experience, and for their achievements to be recognised by incremental awards. The Leadership Ladder also seeks to develop four important aspects of character: resilience, morality, social confidence and commitment.**

Since September, hundreds of pupils have embarked on the challenge of completing the awards and we are delighted that this term we have our first successful 'Gold Award' winners. To achieve the 'Gold' standard pupils are required to complete five challenging leadership activities. Examples include: 'lead a group activity to raise a significant amount of money for charity'; 'present information to staff and pupils to summarise key learning' and 'work to support pupils in lower year groups'.

Well done to the following Year 10 pupils: Jacey 10R, Randi 10R, Sufiyann 10L, Amber 10R, Leah Rose 10R, Molly 10W, Molly 10R, Joseph 10B, Patrycja 10W and Lily 10R who are the first pupils to achieve the 'Gold Award'. They will have the opportunity to progress to the 'Platinum Award' after Easter.

All pupils are encouraged to engage in leadership activities and all stages of the Leadership Ladder are available for completion from Mrs Holland.



## The Barlow Reading Initiative

**Part of our mission at The Barlow is to ensure that every pupil develops a love of reading. The ability to read successfully is integral to pupils' futures and for that reason it is a priority in our curriculum provision.**

This term, we have launched our 'Barlow Reading Initiative' where pupils have begun reading a book with their Family Tutor. The selected texts represent the diverse world we live in, tackling issues that will be relevant to our pupils for years to come.

Our aim is that these books will prompt pupil discussions and raise their engagement with the world around them.





# HARRY POTTER STUDIO TOUR

## Wizarding Magic!

**As a part of Arts Faculty Co-curricular Programme, Year 8 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Warner Brothers Studio Tour, London - The Making of Harry Potter.**

After a luxury coach journey, pupils and staff were greeted with a warm welcome before beginning a guided tour of the studios, where they had the opportunity to go behind the scenes to discover the film making magic; walking in the footsteps of Harry Potter and exploring the wonders of the Wizarding World.

They were able to see first-hand live sets, costume design, mask making, and animation as well as the opportunity to take part in green screen action; giving them an insight into possible careers in the Arts industry. Highlights of the trip included stepping into The Great Hall and the Forgotten Forrest, onto The Hogwarts Express on Platform 9 3/4 and coming face to face with Gringotts Dragon. Needless to say, some pupils needed a butter beer following this experience!

We are already looking forward our visit next year.

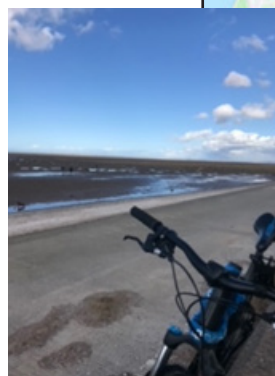
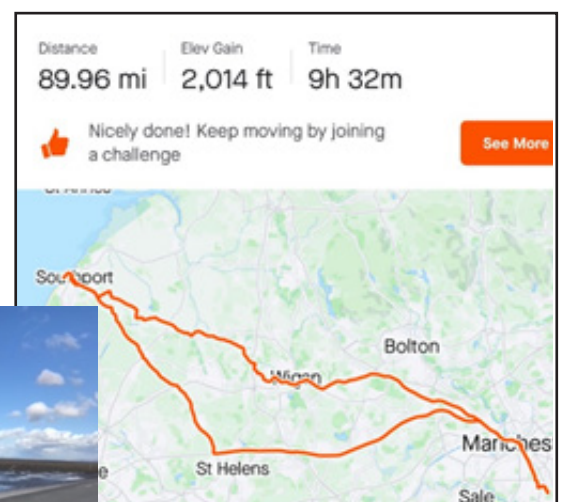


## Fundraising for Ukraine

**Our warmest congratulations to Cody, 10R, who, on seeing the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ukraine felt compelled to do something to help.**

On Saturday 22nd March, Cody completed a bike ride from Manchester to Southport and back again. The journey is 90 miles long and it took Cody 8 hours in total.

Cody has raised an amazing £320 and the total is still climbing. The Barlow is incredibly proud of Cody's success: another example of members of our community living out our Core Values of Service and Achieve.





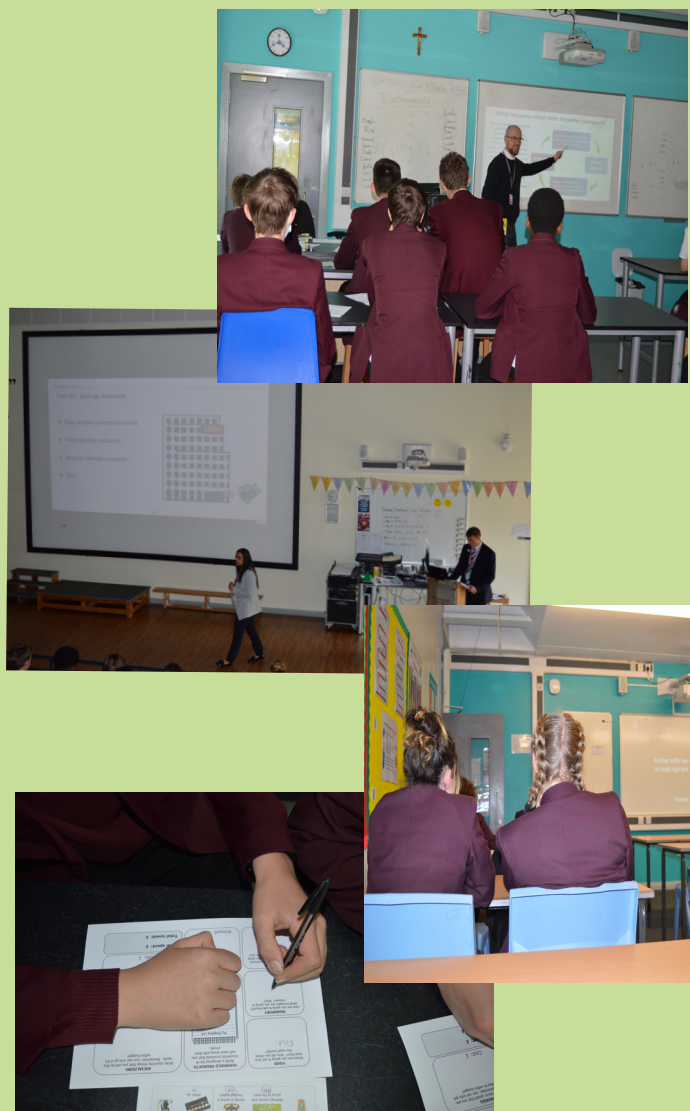
# DROP DOWN DAY

## Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education

**'Personal Finance' was the theme for the recent Year 9 Drop Down Day. Pupils spent the day focusing on how they can be a financially responsible citizen in today's world.**

We were fortunate to have some fantastic speakers in from HSBC who navigated pupils through the basics of banking and how they can have confidence that their money will always be safe and protected. HSBC also offered some excellent knowledge and advice surrounding online fraud and money scams. Pupils fed back that they felt really empowered in knowing how to protect themselves and their families from online fraud in the future.

Pupils also spent time with their Family Group to explore the power and importance of budgeting. Everyone worked together to recognise the challenges of creating a family budget: it gave pupils an invaluable insight into how important a budget is. Pupils also reflected on how financial problems can impact our mental health and learned that help is available to support people in more challenging times. They felt the experience gave them the necessary and vital tools to be more financially responsible in the future.



## Manchester Inclusion Games

**The month of March saw a group of pupils take part in the Inclusion athletics event at Sports City. It was a wonderful day and the pupils were a credit to the school, with many of them putting in excellent performances that saw them win a plethora of medals. Well done to all participants for all their efforts; their success was fully deserved.**

Winners included: Micah, gold medal in high

jump and 400m. Alex P, gold medal in 60m. Matas, silver medal in 60m. Junior, gold medal in shot put. James, bronze medal in shot put. Khalid, bronze medal in long jump. **Congratulations!**





# THE BARLOW SCIENCE WEEK

## Promoting Curiosity

The final week of this term has seen the Science Faculty celebrating our very own "Barlow Science Week". As part of the festivities pupils have had the opportunity to explore the world of science beyond their curriculum, whilst having the chance to really dive into the topics that most intrigue them.

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 were challenged to 'Wow us with Science'. This challenge has required them to visit our Science Faculty Library and select a book on a topic that takes their interest. Pupils were given 50 minutes to share with us something that has 'wowed' them from their book. Some of the topics chosen have been fascinating, and it's been wonderful to see such a wide range of areas of science selected!

In addition to being tasked with wowing us, pupils have also been asked to see whether they can better nature. Celebrating some of the incredible work from the recent Green Planet BBC series, pupils in Years 7 to 9 have been tasked to partake in a seed dispersal challenge.

After exploring the wide range of strategies that the plant kingdom deploys to disperse their seeds, pupils have been challenged to see if they can design a seed shape that can go one better. Competing against each other, pupils have been provided a limited number of resources, and a finite amount of time, to design, test, and finally compete to see which team's seeds will travel the furthest. This task is designed to develop key skills within the STEM subjects, and relies on pupils fully utilising these skills in order to complete the challenge.

Add to this the recent visit from the Cancer Research Team; it has been a busy spell for the Science Team! After Easter we look forward to continuing to promote curiosity amongst learners, and are excited for pupils to continue exploring those topics that fascinate them the most.

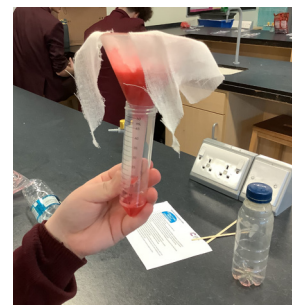


## STEM

The Research Engagement steering group at the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute (<https://www.cruk.manchester.ac.uk/>) visited school and ran a day of workshops for pupils. They were keen to promote scientific research in schools, with the aim of enthusing children about STEM subjects and also prompting them to consider a career in science.

They started each session with a short talk about working in cancer research and their route into the role. Pupils then engaged in some hands-on activities; extracting DNA from strawberries and completing a DNA coding activity.

It was a very positive experience for all involved and feedback from pupils was excellent!





# THE BARLOW STANDS WITH UKRAINE

## Catholic Social Teaching in Action

In light of the rapidly worsening humanitarian situation in Ukraine and the amount of concern amongst staff and pupils, on Friday 1st April 2022 the GIFT Team hosted a 'We Stand with Ukraine' Day.

Staff and pupils wore blue and yellow and took part in a number of events to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine and raise much needed funds. Each year group began their day by joining together outside for a short prayer and minute's silence. Throughout the day the GIFT Team sold blue and yellow ribbons and at lunch time there was a very popular bake sale! The bake sale was supported by Mrs Fisher and some of our pupils who were promoting Autism Acceptance Week; they spent the morning baking beautiful cakes to sell!



All money raised will be donated to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) to ensure the funds will help those in need.

## Francis House Easter Chicks

This half-term 100 little woolly chicks flocked into The Barlow from Francis House. The adorable little creatures had been lovingly knitted by crafty supporters of the hospice from across the world and filled with a chocolate egg.

Our Year 7 GIFT Team gave up their time to sell these – and they literally flew out of their basket, raising over £100 for Francis House. We are proud to support the wonderful work of Francis House Children's Hospice, who are one of this year's chosen charities, as voted for by our pupils. A big well-done and thank you to Muna, 7R and Jacek, 7W who took the lead on this.