



“Our pupils gained a real sense of the Blitz spirit that was alive in our local community during the Second World War - it really highlighted how human beings pull together with such kindness and compassion in some of the darkest moments.”

Mrs Woodward

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Rising to the Challenge



As another busy and productive half-term ends, our thoughts are with our Year 11 pupils who are currently undertaking their external terminal examinations. They have worked hard, under challenging circumstances, and we wish them every success over the coming weeks. The examination season is well underway and other year groups are currently preparing for their end of year assessments.

This week, our community has remembered the twenty-two victims of the Manchester bombing on its 5-year anniversary. Pupils and staff have taken part in a beautiful Family Time reflection, as well as a 'Prayer Chain' in our Rainbow Bereavement Garden.

We are delighted to share that we are once again finalists in the Times Educational Supplement Awards: Mrs Turner has been shortlisted for Subject Leader of the Year and Mrs Onslow for Teaching Assistant of the Year. This recognition is fully deserved for them, and for all teachers and support staff at The Barlow who do a superb job for pupils. We wish them every success in the ceremony on 17th June in London.

May I take this opportunity to thank staff, parents, and governors for their continued support of our school this half-term. Enjoy the break, recharge, and refresh, and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on 6th June.

Ms C Wallace
Headteacher

Athletics Success

The athletics season is in now in full flow and we are delighted that pupils are able to take part in these events for the first time in two years.

This season began with the Year 10 City Wide Athletics Championships on Wednesday 27th April at Sports City. Notable successes were Amber, 10R, who won a gold medal in the Long Jump, clearing a phenomenal 4m 95cm; Chiefona, 9B, who won a silver medal in the high jump and Umer, 10B, who won a silver medal in the javelin. Many more pupils achieved fourth place. Athletics continues with a number of events that can be found on our website.

The season will culminate with The Barlow Sports Day 2022 at Sports City on 6th July.

Reward Breakfast

Our Heads of Year hosted another highly successful Reward breakfast at the end of last term to celebrate with pupils from their respective year groups who had demonstrated consistently outstanding behaviour and attendance throughout the Spring term.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their continental breakfast and were joined by one of our school Governors, Mrs Redford, who commended them for their fantastic achievements. Well done everyone and keep up the amazing work!

STOCKPORT AIR RAID SHELTERS

Looking into the Past

Earlier this half-term, a number of our Year 8 pupils visited the Stockport Air Raid Shelters. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to further develop their historical understanding of the Second World War and the impact of the Blitz on the Home Front.

Pupils were extremely excited to explore the underground labyrinth of tunnels. These were built into sandstone cliff (40ft deep under Stockport City Centre) and are nearly a mile long! Opened in 1939, the shelters were the largest purpose-built civilian air raid shelters in the country during World War Two. They could shelter thousands of people! In 1996, the shelters opened as a visitor attraction. They have been imaginatively restored to give visitors the feel of the era and struggle that Britain was facing.

Our pupils were lucky enough to have a guided tour which provided them with an unparalleled insight into life in 1940's wartime Britain and the experiences of local people during the war. They were able to wander past the warden's office, experience a total blackout, sing wartime songs, investigate the first aid post and even cram into an Anderson shelter. It was wonderful to see their learning come to life!

After the guided tour of the tunnels, pupils were taken to the Stockport Museum where they were able to handle artefacts and dress up in wartime clothing. They were challenged

to put on a gas mask in six seconds, ring the air raid sirens and examine incendiary bombs. Pupils really appreciated the knowledgeable team at Stockport museum who provided us with such an excellent tour and experience.

If you have never visited yourselves then it is well worth a visit – highly recommended!



GCSE ART & DESIGN

Creativity at its Best

Year 11 GCSE Art and Design and Graphic Communication candidates have, once again, produced outstanding portfolio work this year. Art and Design projects have included a focus on Natural Form: pupils have created detailed observational studies of different natural forms in a range of media. They have shown a high level of skill working in pencil, biro, fine-liner, colour, and paint producing some stunning work. In African Art, pupils have researched Tribal African artefacts, shields, masks, African traditions, symbols, colour symbolism and the work of artists Picasso and Modigliani. From their research pupils have created their own designs and 3-Dimensional work inspired by African art and traditions, linked with their own cultural background.

In Graphic communication, pupils have completed a project entitled 'I Love MCR'. Pupils have chosen different starting points - The Arts, Sport or Politics or Science and Industry to create a promotional poster or piece of artwork which advertises our amazing city: Manchester. Pupils have created responses based on the suffragettes, Manchester's iconic music scene, the 'Manchester Bee' logo and MUFC. The second project is entitled 'In the News' and pupils have researched propaganda posters from WW1, Russian constructivism and contemporary artists Banksy and Shepard Fairey. From their research they have created a piece of artwork that communicates a relevant topic that is in the news. Pupils have created work based on Black Lives Matter, knife crime and LGBTQ+.

In addition, the Arts Faculty are delighted to announce the return of our Arts Showcase which will take place on Thursday 7th July. This event was extremely successful prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and this year promises to offer more than ever, including a showcase of a variety of performances from pupils of all ages including

drama, music, an exhibition of GCSE Art and Graphics work, and performances by past pupils.



EXAMINATION SEASON UNDERWAY

Believe to Achieve!

It's a busy time of year again, with our pupils working hard to prepare for their formal End of Year examinations. Year 9 undertook theirs at the beginning of May in the Sports Hall. The purpose of this venue is to train pupils into the necessary routines and behaviour required when completing their terminal examinations in Year 11.

Year 7 and 8 examinations will take place after May half-term and pupils will sit these examinations in classrooms. Before breaking up for half-term, teachers will outline the curriculum content to be tested and there is a wealth of resources to support your child with their revision; some are listed to the right.

- Knowledge Organisers are located on the school website under the curriculum area. These outline the foundations of the curriculum content covered within lessons.
- Revision guides can be purchased at Key Stage 3 for most subjects.
- Revision websites, for example, BBC Bitesize can be helpful with mini quizzes and revision games.

If you have any more questions regarding the End of Year Examination content being assessed, please contact the school office who will direct your query to the appropriate Faculty Leader.

Year 8 Parent Partnership Project

As a school community we are acutely aware that the Covid-19 pandemic has been difficult for a number of our pupils, particularly Year 7 and 8, as they have transitioned into secondary school life without the usual 'face to face' provision. As a way of offering some additional support to pupils, The Barlow has initiated a 6-week cooking project for pupils and their parents.

Led by Mr Richardson, and ably supported by Mr Anderson-Fitter and Mrs Norton, this initiative is designed to encourage pupils to learn more about the benefits of healthy eating and give them opportunity to develop their practical skills.

We are delighted with how the project is going, with both pupils and parents engaging enthusiastically. Thanks to Mr Richardson, our resident chef and expert, for helping pupils

to develop a repertoire of homemade dishes they are confident in preparing, including spaghetti bolognaise and fish pie. A healthy body is a healthy mind!

This week, pupils are making a pasta sauce from scratch, and have been challenged to source a vegetable they either don't know very well or one they don't usually eat!



AWARD WINNING FINALISTS AGAIN!

Recognition for The Barlow Staff

The Barlow has done it again! Congratulations to Mrs Turner and Mrs Onslow who are finalists in this year's TES Awards. They will be attending the awards ceremony on Friday 17th June in London.

The TES Schools Awards 2022 simultaneously celebrates the work of teachers and schools across the UK's state school and independent sectors. The event - one of the biggest occasions in the education calendar - will be the first in-person TES schools' awards ceremony of any type since February 2020, with the winners announced on Friday 17th June at a gala ceremony at London's Grosvenor Park Hotel.

A panel of expert judges - including school leaders, inspectors and education researchers - has been through this year's entries and produced a shortlist. TES editor and chair of judges Jon Severs said: "This year has seen an incredibly high standard of entries to the TES Schools Awards. Every teacher and school who has been nominated should be incredibly proud - it's a fantastic achievement. We are looking forward to showcasing, as we do every year, just how vital our education professionals are to every facet of this country."

Stephanie Turner is a finalist for Subject Leader of the Year. She has found an innovative way to teach, that helps pupils to enjoy and be successful in English. Mrs Turner makes children excited about studying the subject and colleagues excited about teaching it - and she has delivered excellent results.

Lindsay Onslow, is a finalist for Teaching Assistant of the Year. She is someone who gives the very best support within the classroom and the Mathematics Faculty. Mrs Onslow inspires pupils to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding of Mathematics.

Mrs Turner and Mrs Onslow, along with all our teachers, leaders and support staff have all played an enormous role as schools have battled with immense challenges over the past few years; this is our chance to say thank you for all that they do.



Mrs S Turner - Finalist for Subject Leader of the Year



Miss L Onslow - Finalist for Teaching Assistant of the Year



Tes Schools Awards 2022

**Subject Leader of the Year
Teaching Assistant of the Year**



MULTI-CULTURAL WEEK

Unity in Diversity

The City of Manchester is one of the most multi-cultural in the UK, with nearly 200 languages spoken. This week, The Barlow reflected on the fact that our community shares in Manchester's wonderful multi-cultural nature by taking the opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity.

Throughout the week, pupils participated in a beautiful assembly where they reflected on what culture is, and pupils from different cultures shared information about their heritage. For example Muna, 7R explained the meaning of her Nigerian name and why it was given to her, Melissa, 8L talked about her love of Irish dancing, Abiah, 7S spoke about Indian cultural dress, Jacek, 7W informed us about the Polish tradition of Wigilia, Mulatiwa, 7O expressed how important Zambian wildlife is to her, Sufiyaan, 10L shared some lovely images and descriptions of Pakistani weddings and finally Andrea, 7S reflected on the importance of food within her family and how this has been influenced by her Spanish and Brazilian culture.

In addition, the Canteen served a plethora of foods throughout the week from a variety of different cultures including Jamaica, Italy, and Mexico.

On Thursday, a Jewish guest speaker visited our school to talk to pupils about his faith. Frederick Naftel delivered an interesting revision session to our Year 11 pupils about Jewish beliefs and rituals, in preparation for their GCSE exam which was taking place that afternoon. He also spoke to groups of Year 7 and 9 pupils where he gave an honest and insightful talk about the history of his family and his personal faith.

The week culminated on Friday with a charity bake sale that the GIFT team worked hard to coordinate and was a wonderful way to end

cultural diversity week together; sharing a range of baked treats from around the world, all generously donated by members of our school community. As always, our Barlow pupils did themselves proud!

**The Barlow R.C. High School:
Cultural Diversity Week 2022**



Our Mission Statement: "If you believe, you can achieve"
Core Values: Serve, Pray, Achieve, Respect



YEAR 7 PLAY FORWARD PROGRAMME

Building Resilience & Confidence

We are pleased to announce that 12 Year 7 students have been selected to be part of the 'Play Forward Programme'. Play Forward is a new programme in collaboration with Nike and Marcus Rashford aimed at transforming the lives of young people across the UK. The Play Forward Programme aims to support young people to learn through play, realise their brilliance, build their confidence, stay active, and fulfil their potential. We believe it will have a positive impact on our pupils.

A 12-week initiative, the programme involves working closely with a cohort of Year 7 on their passions, influences and aspirations for later in life as well as improving them as football players. Sessions are weekly: the first 60 minutes is in the classroom in the form of a football based learning curriculum to improve literacy and social and emotional skills. The second session is out on the football pitch delivered by FA qualified football coaches from Play Forward. Play Forward is delivered in partnership with Football Beyond Borders

which is a registered charity, which uses football to enable young people to achieve their goals and make their voices heard. It has a track record of supporting young people who are passionate about football with their learning and personal development.



The Barlow Remembers

On Monday 23rd May The Barlow remembered the 22 victims of the Manchester bombing on the 5-year anniversary of their deaths.

The day began with a special reflection in Family Time, where pupils explored what has happened to families in the intervening period since the attack. They also discussed the importance of community cohesion and the positive impact of finding common ground with others of different faiths and cultures.

Throughout the day there was a 'Prayer Chain' in our Rainbow Bereavement Garden, led by members of our GIFT team, that was well-supported by both pupils and staff. The Chapel was opened at lunchtime and members of our community were given the opportunity to sign a book of condolence, five years on.



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