

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE AWARDS!

DOUBLE AWARD WINNERS! WELLBEING AT THE HEART OF THE BARLOW!  
A CELEBRATION OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT!



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# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

## A Highly Successful Academic Year



**As we come to the end of another highly successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank pupils, staff, parents, and governors for your support of our school. Once again, this year has brought its challenges, however, I am thrilled with all our community has achieved.**

This newsletter captures beautifully our ethos and values and what The Barlow is about. From our Sports Day and Celebration Evening to the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Arts Showcase; there are a plethora of opportunities for pupils to shine.

The Barlow continues to be a vibrant learning community. Our pupils benefit from a wealth of opportunities to develop personally. As always, I feel proud and privileged to be Headteacher of our fabulous school. We are particularly pleased that our work on wellbeing has been recognised nationally and locally, by securing the Wellbeing in Schools' Award, as well as winners of the Manchester Evening News Schools Award 2022.

This half-term we are delighted to have returned to a traditional 'face-to-face' transition programme and we are excited to be welcoming 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 relaxing and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back on 5th September, refreshed and ready to learn.

**Ms C Wallace  
Headteacher**

## Barlow IT Support in the Community

**This half-term, our Year 9 pupils, along with Mr Enright, have been involved in supporting the elderly in the local community with their computer-based, digital literacy.**

This has taken place at Didsbury Library, with the support of local charity, Didsbury Good Neighbours. Pupils started by focussing on WhatsApp and building skills, so members of the group are able to effectively communicate with friends and family.

Pupils have shown great enthusiasm and

problem-solving skills in order to help with other concerns, such as uploading pictures to social media, use of QR codes and helping with reading the news online. Year 9 have loved giving something back to their local community at the same time as developing their experiences and skills. They are looking forward to continuing this next year.



# WAS AWARD SUCCESS

## Wellbeing at The Heart of The Barlow

**We are delighted to announce in our final newsletter of 2021-22, that The Barlow has been awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools. This is a national award, developed by the National Children's Bureau in recognition of outstanding work being done to promote health and wellbeing across school communities in the UK.**

As a Catholic school, wellbeing is at heart of everything we do and so the WAS award was a natural progression for us. It has also afforded us the opportunity to benchmark our practice as well as guide us to ensure that we have a high-quality support offer in place for all members of our school community.

The WAS journey has been a robust process spanning almost two years, which has been timely to support us in navigating the Covid pandemic and subsequent response to ensure that we have been equipped to meet the emerging needs of our school community during this challenging time.

The project was led by our 'Change Team', which comprised: Mrs Redford - our Mental Health and Wellbeing Link Governor, Mrs Staniforth, our Designated Safeguarding Lead and WAS Co-ordinator, Mrs Lutman our HOY 7 and joint Chaplaincy Co-ordinator, Mrs Wilcox, our PSHCE Co-ordinator, Mrs Seddon, our SENDCo, Mrs Holland, our Pupil Leadership Lead, Mrs Fisher, our HLTA and one of our school's Mental Health First Aid team and two of our pupil leaders.

It's fair to say that the group have been a real tour de force throughout this journey demonstrating great commitment, creativity and resilience to ensure that all aspects of the award criteria have been addressed and evidenced, which has served as a platform to celebrate the extensive good practice throughout the school.

Once again, unsurprisingly, it was our pupils that shone bright during this process; our WAS Award Assessor commented after her final verification visit: 'I would like to reiterate how much I enjoyed visiting your school. The pastoral offer that I observed, alongside the stakeholder feedback, was positive and demonstrated effective working. In particular, the pupils I met with were very impressive; showcasing confidence, leadership skills and an articulate manner.'

We are immensely proud to have received this prestigious award and are more determined than ever to ensure that this important aspect of our work in school remains high profile and that our whole school community continue to benefit from a high-quality mental health and wellbeing support offer.



**The school demonstrated an extensive and effective pastoral offer to support wellbeing and mental health for all stakeholders including pupils, staff, parents and governors.**

**Pupils and staff were knowledgeable and aware of the importance of wellbeing as well as how it can impact themselves and others.**



# CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

## Return to Stockport Town Hall

After the past two years of virtual celebrations, it was wonderful to finally be back at the prestigious Stockport Town Hall on Thursday 23rd June to celebrate in style with our 'Barlow family'. This event is the highlight of our school calendar; when we gather as a community to celebrate the hard work, dedication, talents, and achievements of our amazing pupils.

Our Arts Faculty entertained us brilliantly throughout the evening with some impressive musical ensembles as well as two powerful performances from our LAMDA pupils.

We were especially honoured to have the renowned BMX Olympic Silver medallist, Kye Whyte, join us as our Guest Speaker on the evening. Kye shared some inspirational words with us about his own journey to success and presented The Barlow prize-winners with their awards. Pupils, staff, parents, and governors even got to see his Silver medal from the Tokyo Olympic Games! It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for everyone involved and particularly our 2022 prize-winners: we are so proud of their achievements.



We were honoured to have the renowned BMX Olympic Silver medallist, Kye Whyte, join us as our Guest Speaker!



Featured: Orla, Year 11, receiving The Barlow's highest honour, the Headteacher's Award. Joseph, Year 10, receiving the Paddy Barrett Award, for outstanding contribution to our Catholic Ethos.



# MEN SCHOOLS' AWARDS 2022

## Double Award Winners!

**We did it! Not one but TWO wins for The Barlow at the MEN Schools' Awards 2022. This was the first time the MEN Schools' Awards had taken place since 2019. The Barlow were delighted to be finalists in 3 categories: High School Teacher of the Year - Mrs Turner, High School Class Team of the Year and Wellbeing Award.**

The awards ceremony, hosted by the Manchester Evening News and sponsored by One Education, was held at the Macdonald Manchester Hotel on Friday 8th July. Each year, the MEN take the opportunity to highlight the impressive work being done in schools across Greater Manchester.

They make it their mission to recognise that teachers, pupils and schools alike demonstrate an outstanding dedication to education, to improving the quality of learning and making schools an environment in which everyone can reach their full potential.

We are thrilled to announce that not only were we finalists but WINNERS in two of the eleven categories: High School Class Team of the Year in recognition of the work of our Anti-bullying Ambassadors and the Wellbeing Award.



Our school community could not be prouder of our Anti-bullying Ambassadors for all the hard work they put in to create a safe environment for all pupils. Our thanks to Mrs Staniforth for her

drive and determination to make mental health and wellbeing a priority for all pupils and staff and to Miss Seggie for her work on anti-bullying in the school. Congratulations to you all.





# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

## Bronze Qualifying Expedition

In a weekend in early July, our Duke of Edinburgh cohort finally put all their newly developed skills to the test as it was time for them to be assessed for the expedition section of the award. In gruelling heat, they succeeded in walking over 26km of hilly terrain with extremely heavy backpacks.

Candidates productively set up camp, cooked and demonstrated their ability to be self-sufficient in an outdoor environment that they had previously never visited.

Needless to say, they all passed the expedition section with flying colours. Assessors commented that The Barlow group was one of the loveliest they had ever worked with and that they were particularly impressed with their teamwork and resilience.

Mr Wall, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator, explained how proud this made him, particularly because this is the first year running the award scheme in our school. We are all eagerly anticipating building on this year's successes and cannot wait for next year.



# SPORTS DAY 2022

## Return to Sports City

Sports Day 2022 was a very special event in The Barlow calendar. It was the first time we have been able to hold our annual Sports Day at Sports City since 2019.

Many of our Year 8 pupils had never had the opportunity to visit and compete at this world class facility which hosts many national and international competitions. It was great to be back.

The philosophy behind Sports Day is to give as many pupils as possible the opportunity to participate in, and enjoy, the event. This certainly came to fruition as over 400 pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a range of running races and field events such as high jump, javelin, discus and tug of war.

The core values of teamwork, co-operation, commitment, and resilience shone through in all the pupil performances. As the pupils nervously awaited the results of the inter-form competition, we held a series of 'Diversity Races': our special races which celebrate the rich, diverse culture which we are so proud of at The Barlow.

We witnessed some outstanding sporting performances on the day and were exhilarated to see some school records broken:

**Imogen Scott – Year 7 long jump**  
**Charles Grospe – Year 8 long jump**  
**Isaac Malek – Year 9 high jump**

**Our congratulations to all competitors.**





# PUPIL LEADERSHIP

## Recruitment & Selection of Pupil Leaders

**The application process for the prestigious positions of Head Girl, Head Boy and their Deputies for the academic year 2022-2023 was more rigorous than ever before.**

Following their written application, pupils had an interview with a senior member of staff to secure their position as a prefect. Shortlisting for senior roles then took place, where twenty candidates' applications were discussed in detail.

The successful interviewees were then set their first challenge! They were asked to deliver a short speech in a Year 10 assembly, explaining why they would be an impactful Head Girl or Boy. It is very nerve racking to stand up and deliver a speech to 170 peers. The pupils did superbly well; their passion for The Barlow shone through.

They were confident and articulate and a real credit to our school community and to themselves. Following the speeches, Year 10 were asked to vote via Microsoft Teams for who they thought would best represent the year group in this very important role. Staff were also given an opportunity to vote.

Finally, the candidates attended a three-stage interview with the Headteacher, the Key Stage Leader and the Associate Assistant Headteacher responsible for Pupil Leadership. This involved reading a passage, delivering a pre-prepared speech and answering some demanding questions.

All the pupils performed to a very high standard and all showcased their unique characteristics and qualities.

Choosing Head Boy and Head Girl is one of the most difficult jobs in the school year but also one of the most pleasurable. A long time was spent deliberating.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Head Girl for 2022-23 is Isabella and Head Boy is Joseph. We also have four Deputies: Caoimhe Burn, Jimmy Butler, Mast Kwestani and Sufiyaan Aziz, alongside an excellent team of Senior Prefects.



Head Boy  
Joseph



Head Girl  
Isabella

**RNCM** ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE of MUSIC

Places at the college are in high demand with an extremely competitive audition process. Many congratulations to Kayla, who has a place on the RNCM Young Artists Programme and Zofia, in gaining her place at the RNCM's Junior School. We look forward to following their progress.

# CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## Curriculum Enrichment

### Rewards Trip 2022

**Having missed out on end of year rewards trips for the past two years, the Pastoral Team were determined to make this a year to remember for our pupils. The heat wave most certainly did make it a memorable one - it was sun hats, sunscreen and water bottles all the way.**

All pupils who had demonstrated consistently outstanding attendance and behaviour and had received at least a Bronze Award for the number of SPAR points achieved this academic year were invited to a day out at either Alton Towers theme park or the Parrs Wood Entertainment Centre for a fun day of cinema and bowling action.

We were thrilled to have 300 pupils fill the coaches to Alton Towers and over 40 pupils head off to the local Parrs Wood Complex with Miss Seggie and Mrs Lutman who were keen to avoid the rides this year. It was a fun and sun-filled day all round - we're already looking forward to next year's.



### Formby Field Trip

**Fifty Year 8 geography pupils spent a sunny Friday learning about geography field work techniques in two very different locations in Merseyside.**

They started the day looking at coastal processes and sand dune succession on Formby beach. It was brilliant to see pupils relishing the opportunity to learn outside the classroom in such a stunning location. Pupils were lucky to have the technical assistance of Mr Hodges, our science technician, who assisted them in surveying vegetation changes along three different sand dune transects.

In the afternoon, pupils headed into the bustling, popular tourist destination of Southport. They completed land use surveys and used questionnaires to collect qualitative data about the perception of tourism around Southport Pier. Pupils also found time to sample the ice-cream! As you might expect, pupils had a superb day and gave staff really positive feedback about the experiences they had.



## Breaking News! Musical Success!

**It gives us great pleasure to share the fantastic news that two of our Year 10 GCSE Music pupils have been successful in gaining a place at the Royal Northern College of Music.**



# CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## London Calling!

**On 11th July 2022, the English team took fifty excited Year 9 pupils to spend 3 days in London and a splendid time was had by all!**

On arrival, pupils headed straight for Buckingham Palace and Green Park where they, and the staff, absorbed the atmosphere amongst the royals: they even saw the Queen herself passing in motorcade! Next, they went to the National Gallery in the beautiful Trafalgar Square where they were able to view and appreciate artistic greats, such as De Vinci and Van Gogh.

In the evening, they visited the Noel Coward Theatre to watch 'Dear Evan Hansen' which was very well-received.

On day two, pupils were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go The Globe Theatre for a tour, followed by a sightseeing walk down the south bank of the Thames, towards Covent Garden.

At Covent Garden, pupils enjoyed the delights of the markets and the street performers before heading to Apollo Victoria for 'Wicked', which everybody agreed was a sensational performance.



On the way home, pupils visited the fabulous Harry Potter World where they were enthralled as they entered through Hogwarts' Great Hall, strolled through the forbidden forest, explored Gringotts Bank and wandered through Diagon Alley.

A fantastic time was had by staff and pupils alike and the English Department are already looking forward to running the trip again next year.



# TRANSITION DAYS

## Year 6 & Year 10 Transition

**On 14th July we welcomed our prospective Year 7 who will be joining the 'Barlow Family' in a few short weeks.**

Mrs Lutman, Head of Year, and Mrs Iddon, Key Stage Leader, along with their Family Tutors, were there to welcome pupils as they arrived. The day proved to be a great success.

Pupils sampled a number of lessons in the 'core' subjects as well as a number of practical curriculum areas. They also enjoyed the food on offer in the canteen at break and lunchtime. The day ended with pupils experiencing a celebratory assembly together, to mark their first day at The Barlow.

In the evening, the Lecture Theatre was filled to capacity with our new Year 7 and their parents. Pupils and parents listened to speeches from our new Head Girl and Head Boy, as well as Mrs Scott, Mr Pickerill and Mrs Seddon. Pupils also had the opportunity to spend time in their Family Groups, getting to know their Family Tutor and one another by doing various ice-breaker activities.

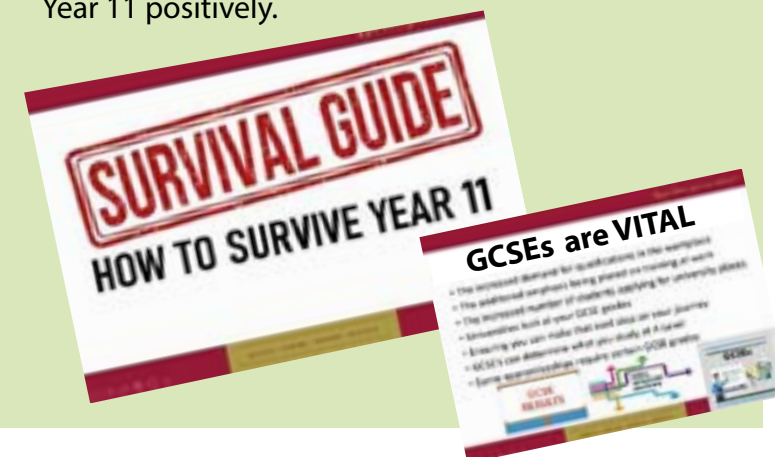
We cannot wait to see you all again in September.

**Our recent Year 10 Transition Day got underway with a celebratory breakfast to recognise everything pupils have achieved during the course of this academic year.**

Following an assembly, pupils then took part in a range of sessions throughout the day, for example, writing personal statements for college applications, as well as a 'Not going to Uni?' presentation by Greater Manchester Higher.

After lunch, pupils were given a choice of activity: fifty of them took part in a football tournament with Football Beyond Borders, a number of girls chose to visit 'Winners Strength and Well-being' in Cheadle and Manchester College delivered a session on health and beauty.

Feedback was positive and Year 10 received a plethora of information to enable them to start Year 11 positively.



## Prom 2022

**Earlier this month, our Year 11 leavers celebrated their Prom at the Village Hotel in Cheadle, and a brilliant time was had by all.**

They enjoyed good food, dancing and saying farewell to their peers in style.

Pupils voted for their Prom Queen and King and we were delighted to crown Rebecca and Daniel as the 2022 winners.

Both staff and pupils alike had a great night; it was a fabulous occasion.

We wish our amazing Year 11 leavers all the best in their future endeavours.





# PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

## Barlow has Talent!

**The Arts Faculty were delighted to see the return of our Performing Arts Showcase, which took place on Thursday 7th July.**

The evening also incorporated the grand finale of 'Barlow's Got Talent' and an exhibition of Art and Design and Graphics work from the Year 11 leavers.

Throughout the evening, we were lucky enough to see a variety of performances in the showcase, with pupils from all year groups: instrumentalists and vocalists performing solos and in ensembles – ranging from Bach to Pink Floyd.

LAMDA candidates performed monologues and duologues, demonstrating material in preparation for their recent examinations.

The first half of the evening was set aside for the grand finale of 'Barlow's Got Talent'.

Successful finalists displayed a wide range of skills including dance, song, instrumental classical performance, comedy and rapping.

**Huge congratulations to the winners:**

**3rd place – our very own resident rapper 'Wally' Mr A Wall and Joe S;**

**2nd place, and runners up, were the amazing musicians Randi and Zeph**

**1st place and our winner of 'Barlow's Got Talent 2022' as voted for by the audience was James F who recited, from memory, all the London underground stations in song form.**

The evening was a great success, it was lovely to see so many of our talented pupils performing; even the weather remained dry, allowing performers and audience members to enjoy the Barbecue.

Many thanks to all pupils, parents and staff who contributed to such a special and memorable evening.

