

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

#Mental Health Awareness #Mental Health Matters



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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Our Christian values of Service, Prayer, Achieve and Respect Shine Through

As another successful half-term in our school draws to a close I am pleased to share some of the highlights of the last eight weeks with you. Pupils have continued to enjoy their learning; it is a delight to go into classrooms and see them engaged and grappling with the challenges of the curriculum.

In this edition of the newsletter we have focused on the learning in Year 7 History. This half-term we have further enhanced our Personal Development offer through the introduction of a weekly timetabled lesson for pupils delivered by their Family Tutor; the focus has been on our physical and mental health. Pupils' physical health has, of course, been supported by the new, state of the art 3G Astro-turf that was laid over the summer. It is a joy to see pupils making the most of this improved facility, both in lessons and during recreational time. As well as this we have celebrated #HelloYellow day and Show Racism the Red Card; these have both been an opportunity for pupils to reflect upon how, as global citizens, they can make our communities better places to live. Given the turmoil that we have seen in our world over recent weeks and months,



it is so refreshing to see our Christian values being lived out in our school; never have service, prayer and respect been more important in our world than they are today. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate pupils on all their achievements this half-term; they are well-deserved. I hope that pupils and staff have a restful half-term break and I look forward to seeing you all on our return to school on 31st October.

Ms C Wallace
Headteacher

The Barlow STILL has Talent!

**"Even if you're little you can do a lot."
Matilda Wormwood.**

Auditions for Roald Dahl's 'Matilda JR' are underway this half-term! Pupils have shown off their dancing skills, before preparing individual monologues and a performing a section of a song from one of the many numbers in the show.

Pupils from Year 7 to 10 have begun rehearsing after school and are having lots of fun being a little bit N A U G H T Y!

Please look out for more information, tickets will be available soon to purchase!



OPEN EVENING

Extravaganza 2022

On Thursday 6th October we held our annual Open Evening where the 'best of The Barlow' was on show. We were thrilled to invite Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from schools in the local area to find out more about the wealth of opportunities our school has to offer.

The night began with a speech from our Headteacher, Ms Wallace, who shared why our school stands out from the rest, talking about our values, high expectations and academic excellence. Parents and pupils then toured the school, guided by our Year 11 Prefects and selected pupils from Years 10 to 8. The tours gave a candid and authentic insight into what student life at The Barlow is like and offered Year 5 and Year 6 pupils the opportunity to join in with activities hosted by our teaching staff and current pupils.

Tours began in Block D, where activities included learning about the interesting eras of History, coding and building games in Computer Science, as well as exploring foods from different faiths and cultures in RE. In Modern Languages visitors were able to taste foods from around the world such as pain au chocolat, paella and patatas bravas. Science saw Mr Hodges calmly conducting the burning of methane bubbles on his hands, an impressive sight for all! Faculty Leader, Mr Sirett, also demonstrated the shock and awe experiment, which excited many of our visitors. And the Arts department showcased intriguing drama performances, electronic music composition techniques and Day of the Dead masks.

The final destination on the tour was the Maths and English Faculty. In English, guests became Sherlock Holmes and solved murder mysteries with rewards up for grabs solving who was responsible for Ms Wallace's demise! Upstairs in maths, the most popular activity was the 'Racehorse' game, where visitors competed against each other for prizes, learning about probability.



“Whether you are already a part of The Barlow family; or are looking to join our amazing school, I'm sure you will all agree, there was something for everyone! Onaedo, Sufiyaan and Jimmy (Year 11)”

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Making Mental Health Support a Global Priority

Unfortunately, the number of young people in need of mental health support is growing faster than ever: with a record breaking 420,000 young people being treated for mental health problems every month. Most young people aren't getting the help they need as quickly as they need it, and we agree with mental health professionals that this can't go on!

On Monday 10th October, The Barlow community joined thousands of other schools around the country to support the renowned mental health charity, Young Minds, by taking part in the #HelloYellow campaign. Pupils and staff alike wore a yellow accessory for a small donation to show our appreciation for, and further support the important work the charity does to support young people with their mental health.

Our Gift Team and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors were extremely industrious and made lots of yellow ribbons, which were a sell out on the day!

Our #HelloYellow event was a great success - pupils were extremely creative and stylish with their accessorising! We raised £150 for the Young Minds charity and highlighted to our pupils that no one is ever alone with their mental health. Together, we can create a brighter future for children and young people.

#HelloYellow



**TOGETHER
WE'VE GOT THIS**

We're saying #HelloYellow in our school to show young people they're not alone with their mental health.

ASTRO-NOMICAL SUCCESS!

Brand New All Weather Pitch

Back in 2010 when 'Building Schools for the Future' funding transformed The Barlow's PE facilities by building a brand-new all-weather pitch, we were delighted at the impact it had on both our PE curriculum and co-curriculum offer. For the first time we had somewhere to deliver sports activities when the field was too wet and muddy! Not only could we expand our football programme for girls and boys throughout the football season but we were able to use it for cricket, lacrosse, team building, rounders and much more. At lunchtimes, pupils accessed it to play recreational football and after school, we hold clubs and inter-school matches on it. This provision is enhanced by floodlights which allows us to play long after we have lost the light in the evenings. Our local primary schools have also held their Sports Days on it and many local clubs have accessed it during the evenings.

In late 2021 we were aware that the pitch surface and netting had become a little tired and in desperate need of an upgrade. In the intervening years, thousands of pupils and members of our wider community had benefitted from using it but signs of wear and tear were starting to show!

We were thrilled, therefore, when we learned that the pitch was to be re-laid with a vastly better surface and in addition, the School Business Manager had secured funding for all the damaged netting to be replaced too. This was not the only fantastic piece of news: we were also informed that it would be ready for our return to school in September 2022.

After the summer holidays, we were amazed to see that our newly surfaced pitch was ready

for use. Since the start of term, we have used it every day; in lessons, at lunchtimes and in co-curricular activities. Pupils are really enjoying playing sport on the new slip free, high grade surface, safe in the knowledge that when the rain comes they will still be able to play. St Catherine's Primary School football team are also using our facilities as their home ground.



If you are interested in letting our all-weather pitch please contact Edu-Letting on 0333 102 0303 or visit their website:

<https://bookings.edu-lettings.org/manchester/barlow-rc-high-school>



HISTORY MATTERS!

Pupils Are Transported Back to Ancient Rome

This half-term our Year 7 pupils have been transported back to Ancient Rome during their History lessons. Their enquiry of "Who were the Romans and in what ways did they change the British Isles?" has seen them challenged to make inferences from primary sources about Roman beliefs and diversity. They have also analysed the different governments of Rome and drawn comparisons with our own political systems in modern Britain. Most recently, pupils have turned their hand to some journalism, investigating the brutal assassination of Julius Caesar and producing some fabulous news reports exploring why this was such a turning point for Rome. We are so proud of the beautiful and thoughtful work they have produced!

Moving forward, those parents with children in Year 7, be sure to ask them about what you could expect from a visit to Ancient Rome. They will be experts on this following their current project producing a tour brochure on all of the key sights in Rome 2000 years ago. We are confident that they will be able to explain the significance of the Pantheon, the Colosseum, the Circus Maximus, Aqueducts, The Roman Forum and much more!



Parent Voice 2022

We believe that it is vital to gather the views of one of the most important parts of The Barlow Family; our parents and carers. You are the experts of your own children. We believe that by seeking your voice and working together, we can learn from you to ensure the best support for your child. Strong relationships between school and home can also positively impact and shape your child's view of school and of the importance and value of education.

We already ask our pupils for their opinions on many aspects of school life, through whole-school pupil voice questionnaires which focus on areas which we feel are a priority. For example, in 2021, we asked our pupils about their well-being and they responded with a whole host of suggestions, one being to increase the choice of activities available at lunchtimes. We responded by purchasing equipment

ranging from balls to hoops to skipping ropes as well as setting up clubs where pupils could spend their lunchtimes pursuing an interest. Coming soon is a lunchtime club, which will be run by our Year 11 prefects. This will offer younger pupils a place to go to see a friendly face, have a chat, play games or air any worries or concerns they may have.

As a school, we are not complacent and are always looking to improve. Your viewpoints matter to us and we are striving to develop our lines of communication. You are, of course, very welcome to contact school at any time to discuss any issue you want to, no matter how small you may feel it is. However, at certain points in the year we would love to ask you some questions so we can gather important feedback on how you think we are doing.

We would be very grateful if you could spend a short amount of time completing the survey:

<https://forms.gle/sgkHPBxtQwuPrZ8W7>

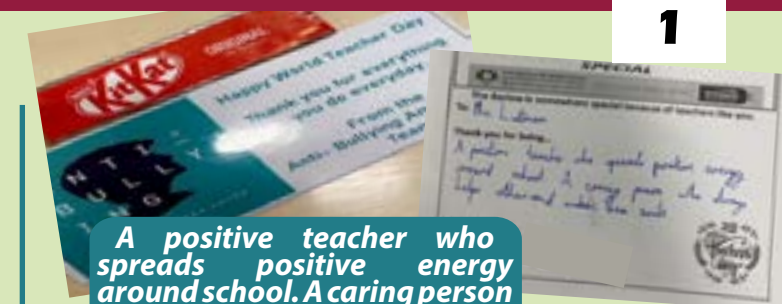
WORLD TEACHER DAY

Celebrating Our Hard Working Teachers

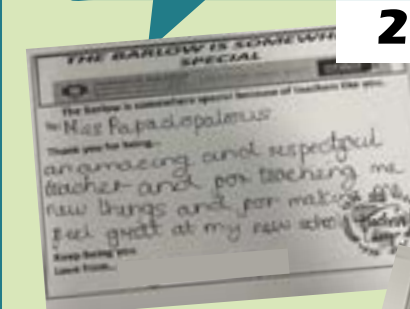


There were smiles all around on World Teacher Day as staff received a lovely – and well-deserved – treat as a 'thank you for everything they do every day!' The Anti-Bullying Ambassador Team made sure every member of staff was provided with a thoughtful card to say 'thank you' and a chocolate treat, which was very welcome during another busy day in the life of The Barlow. One new member of staff to The Barlow, was absolutely thrilled with her KitKat, explaining that it had 'made her day'.

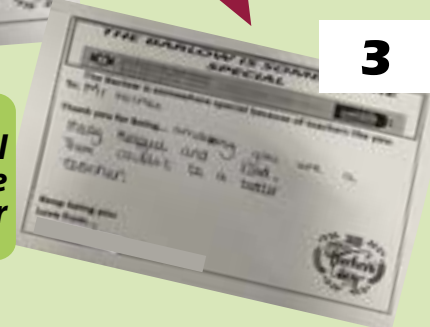
Pupils also wrote thoughtful postcards for members of staff that they wanted to write a personal 'thank you' to. These postcards were a lovely way for pupils to communicate their gratitude to staff at The Barlow and it is clear how much staff appreciated this gesture as many postcards have been proudly displayed in classrooms and offices for all to see. Pupils thanked staff with a lovely range of comments from 'thank you for believing in me' to 'thank you for making your lessons so interesting and exciting'. It was wonderful to see such positive relationships between staff and pupils on display for all to see.



A positive teacher who spreads positive energy around school. A caring person who always helps others and makes them smile.



For being amazing, you are really helpful and kind. There couldn't be a better



Educate Award Finalists Again!

Miss Seggie, Head of Year 11 has been shortlisted for 'Teacher of the Year' at the prestigious Educate Awards on November 18th.



Miss Seggie is a passionate, inspirational and committed pastoral lead and cares deeply for every pupil in her year group. She goes above and beyond for her year group building lasting relationships with both pupils and parents to ensure all pupils know they have her support.

To support Miss Seggie's nomination, please follow us on social media and like and share our posts.

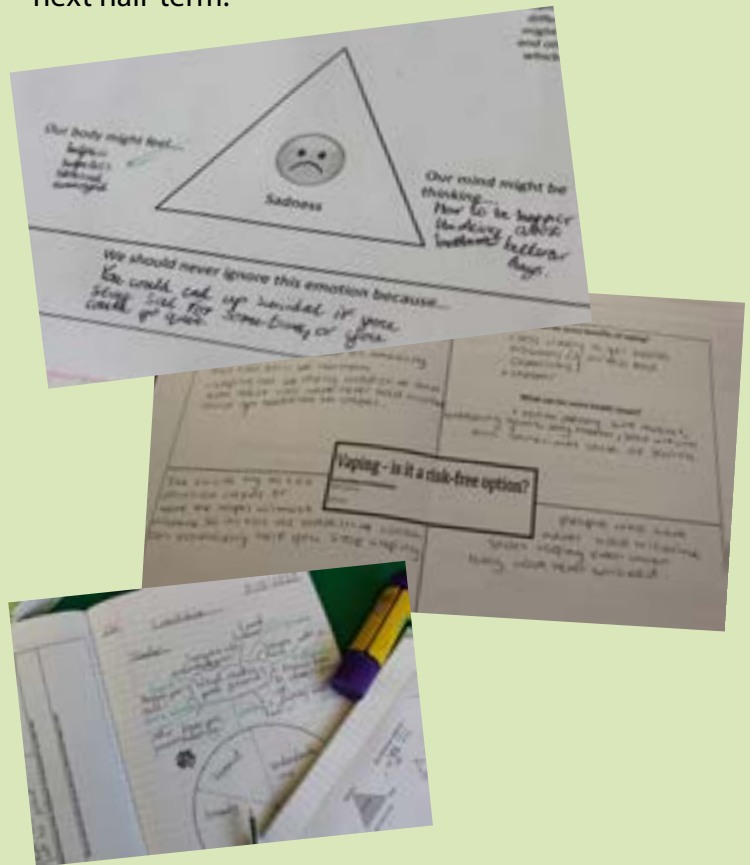
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Responsible, Respectful Citizens

Personal development is at the heart of everything we do at The Barlow. We place a huge emphasis on developing the 'whole-person', so that as well as achieving academic success, pupils grow to become compassionate, courageous and confident young people, ready to go and take their place in society. Our curriculum supports pupils so they are able to adapt and grow in a way that prepares them for the ever-changing world that we live in.

Pupils now have a weekly timetabled Personal Development lesson with their Family Tutor. Over the course of the academic year, learning will focus on the themes of 'health and wellbeing', 'relationships' and 'living in the wider world'. This half-term, pupils have focussed on how to keep safe, as well as their physical and mental health. Lessons have ranged from friendship, consent and conflict resolution to recreational drugs, child criminal exploitation and stigma around mental health.

Staff and pupils have responded brilliantly. We can't wait to see how pupils embrace the programme next half-term!



Show Racism the RED CARD

Friday 21st October was 'Show Racism the Red Card' non-uniform day where staff and pupils were asked to wear a red item of clothing to show our commitment to stamping out racism. By wearing red and showing support, our community is a part of a movement that aims to change lives and promote anti-racism throughout the world.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors sold red themed refreshments at lunchtime as well as raffle tickets for football memorabilia donated by Football Beyond Borders. The day was a great success!



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