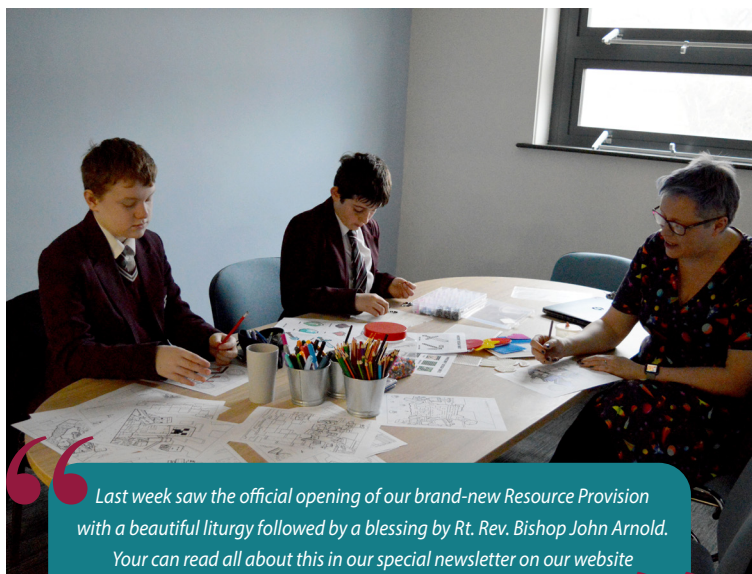


## The New Resource Provision



*God created the world with a great variety of flowers of every colour. Each flower has its beauty, which is unique. And each one of us is beautiful in the eyes of God and He loves us. Pope Francis*



Last week saw the official opening of our brand-new Resource Provision with a beautiful liturgy followed by a blessing by Rt. Rev. Bishop John Arnold. You can read all about this in our special newsletter on our website [www.thebarlowrchigh.co.uk](http://www.thebarlowrchigh.co.uk)



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# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

## Rising to the Challenge



**As another very busy and successful half-term ends, I am delighted to share with you the latest edition of our newsletter, so you can once again have a flavour of all the wonderful things that happen in our school every day.**

Last week saw the official opening of our brand-new Resource Provision with a beautiful liturgy followed by a blessing by Rt. Rev. Bishop John Arnold, and later in the day the ribbon cutting ceremony by Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education. We are pleased to have benefitted from almost a million pounds worth of investment from Manchester City Council and the Diocese of Salford resulting in an upgrade of facilities for our pupils.

We will continue to work closely with the diocese to get the best possible investment for our building and facilities so that all pupils are able to benefit.

As well as this, the half-term has seen a plethora of trips and visits, including to the Jewish museum and to the Palace Theatre, Manchester, to see Disney's The Lion King. Year 11 pupils have spent the weekend in the Lake District at Ghyll Head on a fun-filled and purposeful revision and outdoor activities weekend. My personal thanks to those staff who gave up their weekend to ensure our pupils benefitted from this invaluable experience.

As always, I wish pupils, staff and parents a restful February half-term break and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 27th February.

**Ms Wallace**  
**Headteacher**

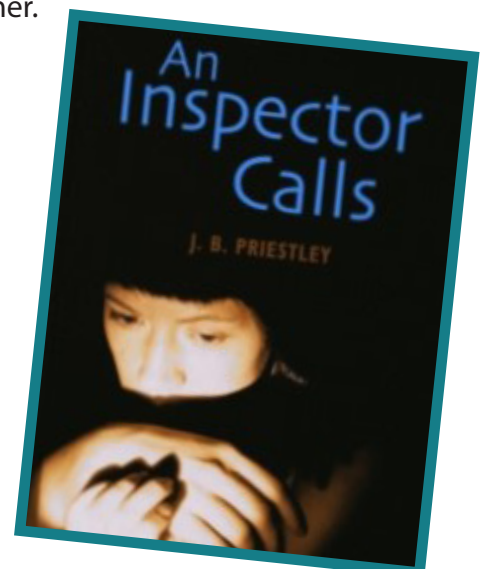
## An Inspector Calls

**Last month saw a special live performance of 'An Inspector Calls' for all Year 11 pupils.**

Spectators enjoyed a retelling of Priestley's 1945 play performed in our school Lecture Theatre, in which actors from the Manchester Actors Company played multiple roles using costumes, props and dialogue.

The actors allowed time after the performance for a question and answer session, where pupils were able to engage with the text, characters and themes of the play.

These performances are not only enjoyable but will be hugely beneficial ahead of our pupils' GCSE English Literature examination in the summer.



# SAVIO HOUSE

## #Making Memories

A group of our Year 8 pupils attended a residential trip this half term when they visited Savio House Retreat Centre. Steeped in the beautiful Bollington countryside, pupils combined team building activities, reflection and relaxation during their 3 day stay. They were lucky enough to visit whilst the beautiful countryside was covered in snow, this made their experience even more memorable as they enjoyed the beautiful scenery on a long walk and started their second day with an epic snowball fight.

The theme of the week was 'Water', and pupils were given the opportunity to reflect upon their own lives; the things they are most grateful for, the things that can be challenging and the mistakes that they wished could be washed away. Pupils enjoyed a range of activities including: Team Games, Arts and Crafts, Drama, Dance, Music, Singing and Journaling. Pupils were also challenged to work outside of their comfort zones, many choosing to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation, and all produced some impressive content for the Celebration Mass on the final evening. This was followed by a disco, which featured karaoke, some old school dance routines and lots of snacks! The 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.



# SCHOOL COUNCIL

## Year 11 Bee Hive Project

Over the autumn term, the School Council members were tasked with creating an eco-project that reflected the school's mission to care for the natural environment in our community. The Year 11 School Council decided to make their own bee hives, painting them with themes related to the school's values, such as 'community' and 'respect'.

The Year 11 team felt it was appropriate to focus on beehives given the bee's symbolism for Manchester and teamwork. After creatively decorating the beehives, the School Council tied them to the tree branches in the Rainbow Garden, where our Headteacher, Ms Wallace, came to congratulate the winning Year 11 team.

The Year 11 School Council cannot wait to see the

Keara, Year 11 prefect, commented: "I chose to paint a bee and a rainbow pattern on my beehive, as for me they both equally represent the significance of treating our community fairly"

Jimmy B, Deputy Head Boy



## Year 7 Parent Voice

**This year has thankfully seen the return of face-to-face Parents' Evenings at The Barlow and we were happy to welcome so many parents and carers of our wonderful Year 7 pupils to their first Parents' Evening in January.**

We used the opportunity to collect Parent Voice on our transition process. Staff recognise that this can be a stressful time for both pupils and parents and we endeavour to make this transition from primary school to secondary school, as smooth and as worry-free as possible. We were very grateful that over 130 parents gave up their time to complete the survey. The Barlow always use information from Parent and Pupil Voice to drive our school forward and make positive change, and we will use this information to help us to strive to make our transition process even better for our new intake in September 2023.

We asked a range of questions about our Taster Day and Transition Evening including how welcoming the environment felt for parents and pupils. We are excited to share with you that 99%

who responded, said that their child enjoyed the Taster Day and that the evening was both informative and welcoming. 93% of our parents of SEND pupils also felt that the support offered during transition was informative and helpful. When parents were asked if their child had settled well into Year 7 an overwhelming 95% responded positively and added to this, 93% said that their child felt happy at The Barlow. Happy children learn best and we work hard to create a happy and safe environment where children thrive and deep learning takes place.

Parents were also given the opportunity to suggest improvements and also to tell us the **'best bits'** about their child's life at The Barlow so far. Some of the comments included: **'I am impressed by the warm and welcoming environment fostered at The Barlow.'** **'I love the warm welcome of all the teachers and pupils.'** **'I am very impressed with the progress my daughter has made in a short space of time.'**

We are always appreciative of parent feedback and encourage you to contact us with any concerns, or to let us know that we are getting it right!

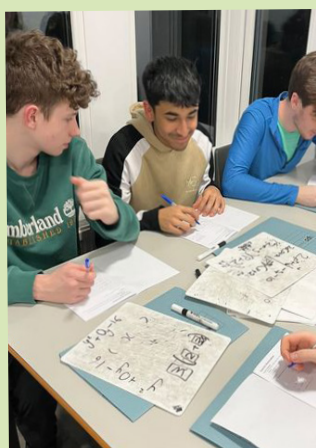
# GHYLL HEAD

## Making Revision Fun!

On Friday 3rd February, 42 pupils and 9 staff set off for the annual Year 11 Ghyll Head Revision weekend in the Lake District. The weekend was a roaring success, packed with nine English and mathematics revision sessions, alongside outdoor activities and games. Pupils immersed themselves as soon as we arrived, making their beds and settling immediately into their first revision session. After dinner and the first washing up duty, pupils got kitted out ready for the 'Nightline' night-time walk in the wilderness and later warming campfire.

Day two began bright and early with a revision morning, where pupils covered key topic areas to build their confidence, knowledge and skills ahead of their summer examinations. After lunch, pupils were rewarded with a plethora of outdoor activities, ranging from zip-wiring and rock-climbing, to kayaking and rafting on Lake Windermere. Alongside dinner and more revision, all pupils competed in the 'Ghyll Head Games' and an array of competitive team challenges and tasks.

Sunday morning started with the final revision breakfast and more outdoor activities, before boarding the coach back home. It was a fantastic weekend, and a huge thanks goes to the staff who attended the trip and supported our Year 11 pupils. We look forward to next year!



# SCIENCE CAREERS DAY

## Chemistry at Work

**30 Year 9 pupils took part in a Chemistry at Work, Science Careers Day at Catalyst Science Discovery Centre in Widnes last week. The experience enabled pupils to meet and engage with six local scientific industries.**

They found out about different careers available in the STEM field, what a typical day looks like in one of these jobs, pathways to securing a similar job and they took part in practical science activities related to each company.

Some of the activities included finding out about the day in the life of a Scientist at AstraZeneca, how sunscreen is developed and the use of Hydrogen in powering vehicles. They also had the opportunity to spend time in the excellent facilities at Catalyst.

The event was funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry and a local company, Lanxess.

The event was funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry and a local company, Lanxess.

It was an excellent chance for our pupils to be inspired by current employees from a variety of different industries and be informed of the openings available in these fields.



## Making Music

**In the music department we continue to be very busy nurturing our pupils' talents and desire to perform. At both lunch-time and after school, the music rooms are a hive of activity with rehearsals for choir, Gospel choir, band and Matilda junior band. In addition to this, there is Year 11 Big Push and controlled assessment intervention as well as a whole host of less formal organic jam sessions. The informal sessions enable pupils to have the freedom and creativity to explore their musical ideas.**

Our dedicated team of specialist instrumental teachers work with pupils to prepare them for external Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), Trinity and Rock School examinations. Furthermore, this body of staff work with our pupils in preparation for their GCSE examinations and nurturing their personal musical passions and interests.

We are incredibly proud of the music curriculum and co-curriculum offer, which allows pupils to express their musical interests and, in turn, develops social opportunities across all year groups.

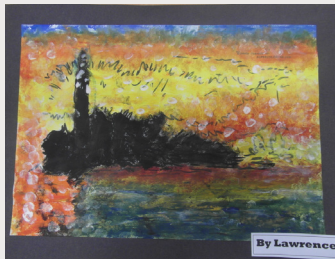
# HIVE 3 PUPILS ARE ON THE 'MONET'

## The Art of Calm

Our Year 7 and Year 8 Hive 3 pupils have been practising strategies for developing their self-regulation skills, with the focus being on the art of calm. In their Hive 3 sessions, pupils have spent time looking at the work of Claude Monet and used oil paints for the first time in Hive 3 intervention time, to try recreating some of his most famous paintings. The pupils were asked to think about how the use of colour could help them to recognise and communicate their own emotions to others and to practise explaining emotions before they are overwhelmed by them.

Hive 3 Teaching Assistant, Mrs Gilbert said, "it was lovely to see our pupils developing, not only their artistic skills but also, their ability to use mindfulness techniques to promote self-regulation and self-awareness." After the pupils had worked hard on their Monet pieces, staff were invited up to the Hive 3 intervention room to see the amazing art work produced by pupils and to celebrate our Hive 3 pupils' achievements.

Ms Wallace said, "a massive well-done to Isabella, Aidan, Bentley, Lawrence and Ethan for their commitment and creativity; we are proud of your achievements."



By Lawrence



By Bentley



By Ethan



By Aidan



By Bella

# JEWISH MUSEUM

## Rituals & Traditions

In January, 34 Year 9 pupils and 3 staff were fortunate enough to visit the Jewish Museum in Manchester. Pupils spent the morning learning about Jewish festivals and focusing on how these are primarily celebrated through the lens of food! Pupils enjoyed the opportunity to knead, shape and plait their own Challah bread, which they were able to bring back to school to share with their family and friends.

During the visit, pupils learned all about Jewish rituals and traditions within the festivals of Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah and Passover through food tasting and board games. Everyone enjoyed learning how to play the dreidel game and this quickly became very competitive with nobody wanting to lose! A lovely morning was enjoyed by all, and we look forward to returning in the future.



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