

Matilda

There is a
kind of
MAGIC in
you

Make sure
EVERYTHING you
do is
COMPLETELY
unbelievable

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Core Values: Serve. Pray. Achieve. Respect.



As we come to the end of another highly successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank pupils, staff, parents, carers and governors for your support of our school. This year has had many highlights and I am delighted with all our community has achieved.

This newsletter once again demonstrates our core values of Serve, Pray, Achieve and Respect; showing what The Barlow is about. From our Sports Day and Celebration Evening to the Year 9 Graduation and Matilda Jr; 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 not only academically but as young people. As always, I feel proud and privileged to serve as Headteacher of our school.

I would like to offer my congratulations to Ms Catchside and Mr Power who have been recognised this term by Manchester City Council for their long service to the education of young people. The staff in our school do a brilliant job and consistently go 'above and beyond' for your children.

I would ask that over the summer holidays, if you have opportunity, you email me at thankyou@thebarlowrhigh.co.uk to acknowledge and recognise what a member of staff has done for your child over the last twelve months. I would like to start the new academic year in September by sharing these with colleagues.

On behalf of staff and governors, I wish you a relaxing and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back, including our new Year 7 cohort, on 6th September, refreshed and ready to learn.

***Pupils return to
The Barlow
Wednesday 7th September
Y7: 8.30am start
Y8, Y9, Y10 & Y11
11.00am start***

THE MARVELLOUS MATILDA

Never Do Anything By Halves

On Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th of July, our wonderful and talented pupils tread The Barlow boards and amazed us with three outstanding performances of an adaptation of Roald Dahl's Matilda. The cast have worked tirelessly since October rehearsing at lunchtimes and afterschool on the production under the guidance of Mrs Pilkington, Director and Mrs Taylor, Musical Director – and all their hard work certainly paid off.

The Arts Faculty were spoiled for choice when auditioning our amazing actors and therefore decided to run two parallel casts to ensure that maximum pupils could be involved.

Our Matilda's, Lacey F and Julia G sang their hearts out for the matinee audience on Monday and the parents, carers, teachers, friends and family during the evening performances. The girls both embodied the children's classic character's mixture of humility and exuberance on stage to capture our audience's hearts. As did the beautiful soul (and voice) of Miss Honey – Cherise E and Leah B – who is certainly the kindest teacher ever known. Unlike the Trunchbull, whose wrath was felt throughout the auditorium, thanks to Kate E and Amelia G even Ms Wallace was trembling. The Trunchbull and the abhorrent Wormwoods disgusted us so convincingly that Olivia W, Harry C and the girls were booed until their last moments on stage. The supporting cast were fabulous in every performance with their beautiful voices, performances and dance moves – ultimate professionals. Finally, who could forget the bulging stomach of Bruce Bogtrotter as he ate a whole cake before our eyes – Ola E and Ollie B! Simply sensational.

A huge thank you goes to all the cast, crew, musicians, directors and artists who made the whole thing possible. We simply cannot wait for the next one!



YEAR 5: ENVIRONMENT DAY

Green Today, Clean Tomorrow

On 23rd and 26th June The Barlow was delighted to host pupils from some of our local Year 5 classes for our annual 'Environment Week' Mission. Pupils attended from St Catherine's, St Cuthbert's, St Bernard's, St Ambrose and St Winifred's.

Throughout the day they were supported by a number of our GIFT Team pupils and young leaders, who are passionate about caring for our Common Home and sharing this message with others. The groups looked at Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home in their R.E lesson, and then they tried to put some of Pope Francis' important teachings into practice by using the 5 R's throughout the day.

In Geography they learned about the danger that plastic waste poses to our oceans, and continuing this theme in Art they used repurposed plastic to create some beautiful print work of sea creatures. In Design Technology pupils again had a go at repurposing materials and reducing waste - each group either created a phone stand from off-cuts of wood that would otherwise have been disposed of, or made a wrap pizza, using ingredients that often go to waste and are thrown away.

The day concluded with a beautiful liturgy, in which the visiting pupils were the stars, sharing their advice and their successes of the day. Each school was gifted a book to take back to their school library that we hope will continue to inspire them on their mission to be good stewards. It was an excellent event that we thoroughly enjoyed hosting and we look forward to welcoming these schools again soon.

**"Together we pledge
our commitment to raising
awareness about the stewardship
of creation"**

Pope Francis



Year 10 College Taster Day

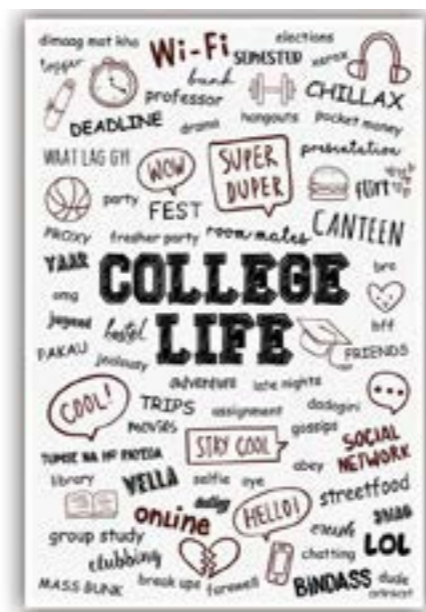
This half term the Year 10 pupils have been exploring post 16 pathways in preparation for leaving us in 2024. We are extremely lucky to have several outstanding colleges in our local area. Over 100 of our Year 10 pupils visited 3 of our local colleges: Stockport, Loreto and Xaverian on a "taster day".

Pupils had the opportunity to take part in A-Level and BTEC sessions in a variety of subjects of their choices.

The sessions were a mixture of practical activities and theory work led by the teachers and staff from the colleges.

Our pupils worked with other Year 10 pupils from schools across Manchester to complete the various activities and challenges set.

Pupils also had the chance to explore the campus and experience the wealth of facilities on offer whilst also enjoying a complimentary lunch! Our pupils had a wonderful time and came back inspired and motivated for their final year at The Barlow.



LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Introducing Our Team

The application process for the prestigious positions of Head Girl, Head Boy and their Deputies was more rigorous than ever before. All applicants had an interview with a senior member of staff to secure their position as a prefect for the academic year 2023-2024. Following this interview, shortlisting took place where the 15 candidates' applications were discussed in detail.

The successful interviewees were then set their first challenge. They were asked to deliver a short speech in the Year 10 assembly explaining why they would be a successful Head Girl or Boy. It is very nerve racking to stand up and deliver a speech to 170 peers. The pupils did so well. They were confident and articulate and a real credit to the school and to themselves. Following the speeches Year 10 were asked to vote via Microsoft Teams for whom 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 3-stage interview with the Head Teacher, Key Stage 4 Leader, Mrs Bowyer, and Associate Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Holland. 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. We spent a long time deliberating! It gives us great pleasure to announce that Head Girl for 2023-24 is Ellen T and Boy is Eddie G. We have 2 deputies - Lara A and Kievan D-G and a very strong team of Senior Prefects.



Our newly appointed prefects were commissioned alongside our GIFT Team Leaders on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul - the first great leaders of our Church.

The Prefects and GIFT Team Leaders of our school, like St Peter and St Paul, have a responsibility to be inspiring leaders and role models for the rest of our pupils. It is their duty now to ensure that they set an example, are a guiding light and disciple of our faith in all that they do.

We thank Father John Hitchen for celebrating this special Mass for us and Seminarian Luke Bradbury for his inspiring homily.



JODRELL BANK

A Voyage of Discovery

On Tuesday 11th July, 41 year 7 and 8 students attended a trip to Jodrell Bank Observatory, which has UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

They took part in a number of Science related activities, complementing their studies in the classroom. Students attended a Space talk where our students vast knowledge shone through. They also got to investigate the Observatory and spent time using the hand on exhibits.

The new light pavilion was a real hit, with students attending the Space Dome which gave them an immersive auditorium. They watched history of the Big Bang and the Expansion of the Universe, which filled them with awe and amazement. A great day out was had by all!



Maths City

30 Year 7 pupils visited Maths City in Leeds at the start of July, the only Maths Discovery centre in the country.

Maths City has over 30 hands on mathematical exhibits which the pupils loved exploring and trying to solve.



The highlights were climbing inside the giant kaleidoscope and having a go at coding to crack the secret messages.

The pupils also showed great team work building a Leonardo's dome which they then enjoyed climbing inside!



YEAR 9 GRADUATION

Celebrating in Style

In late June, Year 9 celebrated their Graduation to Key Stage 4 in style. The day started with a celebratory breakfast, where pupils were able to relax and socialise with their peers. There was then opportunity for photographs complete with graduation glitz and banners before pupils experienced an assembly showing highlights of their time at The Barlow so far: the fun and for some, the embarrassing!

During the assembly pupils received either Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum certificates dependent on their SPAR point achievements and overall contribution to wider school life during their time in Key Stage 3.

Pupils watched a film in The Barlow's very own cinema whilst feasting on popcorn followed by a great party disco to end the celebration on a high. The day was a great success, and pupils loved every minute of it, including dancing to the YMCA and Justin Bieber.

Well done Year 9! It was wonderful to recognise your hard work and academic progress – we are so very proud of each and every one of you. We look forward to seeing you flourish in Key Stage 4.



CHESTER ZOO

Protecting Our Species

On the 7th of June, our Science Curriculum Leader, Mr Sirett took a group of Year 10 pupils to Chester Zoo, for a day of exploration and learning. As well as visiting all of the incredible species, the group took part in a thought-provoking workshop where they learned all about Conservation, and the reasons this work is so essential for many species across the planet.

As part of the GCSE specification the pupils learn about conservation of endangered species in Biology units 6 & 7, so it was brilliant to give them an opportunity to see this in the flesh.

The workshop started by looking at what Conservation is, and why some species require support. Dan, the workshop lead, was amazing at explaining how species are classified according to their EDGE rank, and how vulnerable they are. A number of pupils were genuinely shocked as to how threatened many of their favourite species actually are.

Dan then went on to direct us towards what can be done about this dire situation, and what the impact of active programmes has been to date. The pupils finished by looking at items which have been attempted to be smuggled into the UK illegally, all of which have resulted in the death of an endangered animal.

After the workshop, pupils had time to explore the park, and with such a plethora of different species to see, it was wonderful at the end of the visit to hear their discussions about what they had been to see and why. Mr Sirett said he always makes sure to visit the big cats at Chester Zoo, but sometimes they can be elusive. This time the Jaguar was sat in plain sight, and can be seen from the picture, it's absolutely beautiful.

We look forward to taking future cohorts back to the Zoo so they can have the same awe inspiring experience.



PROM 2023

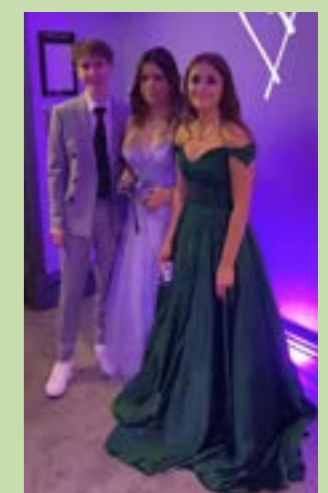
Strike A Pose

The Class of 2023 sparkled and shone for their well-deserved celebration Prom after a long, gruelling 6-weeks of GCSE examinations. Pupils, staff, parents and carers were in excellent spirits as our fantastic young people arrived in style to the Village Hotel, featuring some stunning classic cars and, of course, the 'Lamb Van'!

They all looked spectacular. After soaking up the atmosphere, pupils made their way down the red carpet into the venue, taking plenty of selfies to cherish their special day. They behaved impeccably, and Miss Isaac and Mrs Bowyer could not have been prouder!

After enjoying some great food, it was time to announce our Prom Royalty and Best Dressed. These were chosen by both pupils and staff and were awarded to Danae D and David M respectively for Prom Royalty and our Head Boy, Joseph N, and Head Girl, Isabella O for Best Dressed. The party really was in full swing from here on, dancing the night away to some great tunes requested by our pupils. Mr Wall and Mr Enright showed off some of their moves, alongside Mr Tilbury, who had to unfortunately retire from dancing due to a wardrobe malfunction.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening all round. A huge thank you from Miss Isaac to all Year 11 pupils for being so amazing, to their parents and carers for all of their support and to all staff for supporting the evening. Definitely one to remember forever!



LGBT+ YOUTH SUMMIT

#Proud

The Friends of Dorothy LGBT+ club attended the first Proud Trust LGBT+ Youth Summit in June. Five pupils and Mx Roberts took a day out to the Kimpton Hotel to meet with 36 other schools, some from as far away as South Wales and London.

First, we had a Q&A session with some LGBT+ role models, including drag queen Cheddar Gorgeous, YouTuber Rowan Ellis, theatre maker Kenya Sterling and HIV activist Nathaniel Hall, which was fascinating to listen to as all four panellists had very different viewpoints.

Next, we had a session where the Proud Trust asked us to move from table to table answering questions they had about being an LGBT young person today on a piece of flip chart paper. Not only did everyone write amazing answers, but some people expressed their ideas through drawings, and then other schools wrote notes praising their art work.

The last thing we did was talk about what we could do to make schools better. Each school made a protest sign to say how they wanted schools to change and then we had our own mini protest march. The Barlow's sign says "Make Inclusivity a Teaching Standard" meaning that our pupils would like trainee teachers to show they can incorporate BAME, LGBT+ and Disability inclusion in their lessons in order to qualify. The atmosphere for the whole day was so warm and supportive and everyone was complimenting other groups on their work. In breaks between activities we had dance breaks where everyone stood up and partied to songs like The Macarena and Cha Cha Slide, which got the energy in the room even higher.

"It was amazing! I met new friends, got gifts and overall people were nice. We can't wait to go back next year" JJ, Year 8



LONG SERVICE AWARD 2023

A Moment of Appreciation

On 14th July, we were delighted to have two of our long-serving teachers invited to attend a special award ceremony at Gorton Monastery to celebrate their extraordinary commitment and dedication to our school.

Mr Power has been a teacher at The Barlow for 30 years, since 1993, and Miss Catcheside has been with us for 27 years, since 1997.



We are immensely proud to have them as members of our Barlow community. Their hard work and loyalty over the years has been invaluable. Huge congratulations to them both!



Transition to Year 11

As Year 11 looms for our lovely Year 10 pupils, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them and wish them a fabulous summer holiday. Next year will be challenging for all our pupils but none more than Year 11. Often the transition from Year 10 to Year 11 is difficult but we are always here to support the pupils.

The year ended with a review meeting between each Year 10 pupil and their Family Tutor for Year 11 where manageable targets were put in place for the start of the year. We hope that this will make pupils feel more supported and able to engage fully with their final year at The Barlow.

With this in mind, the recent Year 10 drop down day was planned to help with this important transition.

We had a visit from the motivational Elevate group to inspire our pupils to 'reach for the stars'. After this, we had a prom themed team building activity where our pupils made some weird and wonderful prom outfits out of an assortment of discarded materials. We hope their outfits for their own end of year celebration next year are as stylish!

In the afternoon, pupils got to choose an activity to take part in. We had a host of outside tutors in school inspiring our young people with activities from graffiti to nail art. Feedback from the day was glowing - Year 10 had a joyful and inspirational day, which will hopefully help them to start Year 11 on a positive footing.

All that is left to do now, is wish them a happy and restful summer break and remind them that the earlier they start their revision the easier next year will be!

SPORTS DAY

Passion and Pride On Show



The Barlow was bathed in sunshine (and clouds), on the most exuberant of sports days. The crowd, enthusiastically supporting their teams, created a carnival atmosphere, determined to enjoy the moments of athletic prowess on show and to make the party go on and on.

The school day is that much more enjoyable when your team have just achieved the greatest victory yet whether by a Barlow athletic or tug of war team. The chants of "7H, 7H, 7H" and "Barlow! Barlow! Barlow!" resound convincingly all the way through the school and into Brosie, the school dog and mascot's, little fluffy ears. Even the least enthusiastic of fans having witnessed the hectic excitement of many unique performances revelled in the essential meaning of the event including titanic relay battles and thrilling diversity races.

7W, 8A and 9B rejoiced at the magnificent style in which their team had taken the overall gold medals for what is The Barlow equivalent of The Olympics. Spectators were in awe at every athlete who gave their all across the gamut of track and field events.

All performers displayed a sporting spirit to be lauded and indeed applauded: "playing the game" the fair way.



Win or lose, pupils showed they wanted to make Sports Day 2023 a day worth remembering. Just to be involved in an occasion like this was a tremendous honour, pupils competed hard but with a sense of fun and encouragement. They wanted to win in fair spirit and style to make even the neutrals glad they'd been there, glad to remember how they did it.



Vital Performances

The Barlow RC High has wonderful athletes, and a sense of team spirit to be proud of. Nothing symbolised this more vividly than the incredible sight of Samson A and Ollie B bringing back memories of the great 1980 Olympic Coe/Ovett rivalry in the 800m. After 4 laps of the 200m track the Year 9 boys could not be separated: two gold medals please!



In the Year 7 girls race Sienna T, rallied on by Mr Sirett, found the courage to go on, dredging up the strength to continue and finish the race. Summoning the Olympic spirit of Derek Redmond and his father from the 1992 Barcelona games, the crowd gave them a standing ovation. A real moment to celebrate and be proud of.



In the shorter disciplines Mehkhi B caught the eye with an electric 100m display '**he was so fast he could play tag with a fox and never get caught**'. The long jump eventually won by Raheeg A ahead of Iklas A by the smallest of margins – marking only 1cm ahead in the sand!



Barlow Heart

Back in classrooms at the end of the day, as the other athletes sang their supporters' songs, 8A held aloft the huge cup victorious and sang "Champion! Champion! Ole Ole Ole!".

"They've all got great heart," said competition organiser Mr Greenlees, as Miss Q-P proclaimed: **"There's a bit of passion and pride in all of them."**

Certainly, the planning and preparation for this year's sport's day along with the support of all staff are to be congratulated. The impact of The Barlow RC Sports Day 2023 will be felt well into the new school year - once of course these fine athletes and their team managers have enjoyed a well-deserved summer holiday.



SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE

A Community Full Of Joy

It's been another busy year with so much to celebrate for our amazing Barlow pupils. Every week our Family Tutors nominate their Barlow Star of the Week to recognise and celebrate their family group member who has gone 'above and beyond' in some way during the course of that week.

Every term, pupils who have consistently demonstrated outstanding behaviour, attendance and obtained at least a Bronze SPAR award certificate in the termly Rewards Assemblies have celebrated with a Rewards Breakfast led by their Head of Year and Key Stage Leader.

The same criteria is required to secure a place onto the annual Rewards Trip - on Monday 17th July over 400 pupils enjoyed an action-packed day at Alton Towers theme park whilst another 60 pupils opted to stay more local and went off to the Parrswood Complex instead, where they enjoyed a fun-filled day of cinema and bowling action. It was a thoroughly well-earned and enjoyable day all round for pupils and staff alike.

Our celebrations culminated this year back in the prestigious Stockport Town Hall on Tuesday 18th July where our school community came together to celebrate the hard work, dedication, talents and achievements of our brilliant Barlow pupils.

We were delighted to be joined this year by Charlotte O'Neill, Academy Director from Manchester City Football Club, who shared words of inspiration with our pupils as this year's Guest Speaker and presented our Barlow Prize-winners with **their** awards.

Charlotte reminded us all that **'success isn't always in a straight line'** and urged our pupils to **'find what (they) love doing and to go for it!'**

It was a truly entertaining evening complete with impressive musical excerpts from this year's school musical, 'Matilda Jr,' as well as powerful performances from some of our hugely talented musicians, singers and LAMDA pupils. We are so proud of all our 2022-23 Prize Winners.

We look forward to welcoming even more winners to the stage again next year!



SUMMER SAVINGS

Kids Eat Free



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE 6 WEEKS SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2023

COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL



ASDA Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.	MORRISONS Spend £4.49 & get one free kids meal all day, every day.
TESCO Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from Mon 24th July - Fri 1st September 2023	GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants
SAINSBURY'S CAFES Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.	PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms
BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!	BILLS 2 kids eat FREE all day, every day from Monday 24th July - Friday 1st Sept 2023
THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult	BELLA ITALIA Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.
TABLE TABLE Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!	WHITBREAD INNS Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased
TRAVELODGE Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free	SA BRAINS PUBS Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays
HUNGRY HORSE Kids eat for £1 on Mondays & up to 2 Kids get free breakfast with 1 adult breakfast	FUTURE INNS Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays
PREMIER INN Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free	PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm
SIZZLING PUBS Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.	YO! SUSHI From Mon 17th of July until Fri 11th of Aug kids eat free with every £10 adult spend
IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am	TO BE CONFIRMED... M&S and Farmhouse Inns



Courtesy of 'Money Saving Central'

Have a *'happy and safe'* summer break.
We look forward to welcoming you back in September.



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