



IN THIS Feature...

Page 2 & 3

Headteacher's Message
Soli Retreat

Page 4 & 5

Year 7 Thanksgiving Mass
Additional Mathematics
Sacred Space

Prayer & Liturgy

Page 6 & 7

A day in the life of a new Year 7
World Teacher Day
CPLD Award

Page 8

Time for a Pupdate

Page 9

The Big Sleepout

Page 10 & 11

Open Evening



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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

A rich curriculum and co-curricular offer for all



As the nights draw in and an autumnal feel envelops the school site, another busy and successful half-term at The Barlow hurtles to its conclusion. I am delighted at the start that pupils have made to the new academic year; I would like to congratulate them for their high standards of behaviour and uniform and commitment to their learning, but most importantly how they have embraced the wealth of enrichment opportunities available to them in our school community.

Once again, there have been several highlights this half-term. Pupils' opportunity for spiritual reflection and development continue to grow with the introduction of 'sacred spaces' in all classrooms as an aid to prayer and liturgy. Our Year 10 pupils enjoyed a few days away at Alton Castle on retreat, where they were able to take a step back from their busy lives and reflect on their relationship with God and others. Our new Year 7 pupils invited their parents into school to take part in their 'Thanksgiving Mass'; marking the start of their five-year journey at The Barlow.

Last weekend, pupils and staff braved the cold to take part in the Salford diocesan 'Big Sleep Out'

We are very close to our target of £500.00. Please see the details of our Just Giving page in this newsletter.

Thank-a-Teacher Day was celebrated in early October and this gave me an opportunity to share the wonderful thank-you messages that parents sent to me over the summer break. My thanks to all parents and carers for taking the time to write heartfelt and very personal messages to our staff who have supported their children last academic year. Some of them brought a tear to the eye and they were very appreciated by colleagues.

My thanks to all staff who go 'above and beyond' for your children every day. All that remains is for me to wish pupils, staff, parents and governors a restful half-term break and, as always, we look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday 30th October.

***Pupils return to
The Barlow RC
Monday 30th October.
Gates open at
8.15am***

SOLI RETREAT

#LivingOurBestLives



In September, a group of thirty-three Year 10 pupils took part in a residential retreat at Soli House in the beautiful Staffordshire moorlands. This retreat was an opportunity for pupils to step back from their busy everyday lives; to connect with each other in friendship; to uncover the person they are made to be and to encounter God in nature, in each other and through moments of prayer.

During their stay, pupils took part in a variety of team building activities and workshops all around the theme 'Anchored'. This theme explored big questions about who God is and who we are to Him; giving the young people an anchor for their faith to continue to grow in confidence and live fully as themselves!

The retreat offered a wonderful balance of quiet reflection and prayer and team work and excitement. The pupils participated in morning and evening prayer and celebrated Mass together, which they had all taken a role in preparing for. We went on a trek, visiting a lovely little café and saw the gorgeous surrounding landscape. Pupils also had the opportunity to take part in a low-ropes team building course, or to go mountain biking. They fully engaged with all of the activities on the retreat and were an absolute credit to the school and their parents. We can't wait for next year!



YEAR 7 THANKSGIVING MASS

He will always make you rich enough to be generous so that many will thank God for your gifts" 2 Corinthians 9:11

On Wednesday, our wonderful Year 7 pupils gathered together for a Thanksgiving Mass. This was an opportunity for us to thank God for all members of the year group, who have become valuable members of The Barlow family. The theme of the Mass was thanking God for each and every unique individual pupil, and the contribution they make to our school community, so for this reason, we wanted pupils to play a special part in the celebration.

Members of every Family Group in Year 7 planned and delivered a part of the service; they also created a special decoration for display that highlighted just how wonderful, unique and loved they are. One group of pupils performed an emotional movement to the song "Everybody Hurts" as part of the Penitential Rite. Pupils also performed a drama of our Gospel Reading on The Parable of the Talents, as well as writing and delivering the prayers of Intercession and a post-communion



reflection. The Mass was very kindly celebrated for us by Father Gavin Landers and was attended by parents. Father's Gavin's homily, was, as always, inspirational. His message of living life to the full was a poignant one. He engaged pupils brilliantly in a visual representation of how sin separates us from God and how Jesus bridges that gap. Our pupils responded with great enthusiasm!

Our Year 7 Gospel choir performed some wonderful songs. Parts of the celebration can be viewed on The Barlow's social media accounts.

Ms Wallace commented: *'I am so proud of our wonderful Year 7 pupils who were impeccably behaved and respectful throughout. I am also delighted to see so many of our pupils leading collective worship for our community. A huge well-done and thank-you to all of them!'*



Additional Mathematics GCSE

The mathematics department were pleased to work with a group of pupils to help prepare them for the very challenging additional mathematics examinations in the summer. This course is designed for those pupils that are planning to commence A Level mathematics courses at sixth form college.

We achieved some excellent results with Joseph, Joel & Salvatore all securing an impressive Grade 8!

The process involved individual support at lunchtime and plenty of determination and resilience. Not only did the boys enter the examination, they achieved outstanding results with Eddie, our Head Boy, achieving the highest score in the school with a secure GRADE 9 and Sean Boysen-Lidyard close behind with a strong Grade 8. These grades are a truly magnificent achievement for two pupils at the end of Year 10.

The Barlow is working closely with Xaverian Sixth Form to ensure that their curriculum offer this year provides the necessary stretch and challenge for two gifted mathematicians.

SACRED SPACE

Do not be anxious.

In every situation by prayer and thanksgiving, present your request to God

This academic year, our community has introduced a 'sacred space' into every classroom in our school to aid pupils' prayer and reflection. It has been an exciting time planning and preparing these. This space enables every Family Group to reflect upon their unique gifts and talents and is a space where we invite the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide and enhance our collective worship.

These spaces are a focal point for our daily prayers at the start of each day during Family Time. Staff were asked to really consider what the space would mean to them and their Family Group and they have been used to create a sense of belonging for all members of the group.

Staff have been out and about shopping for trinkets, candles and plants, and pupils have been creating beautiful pieces of art that have been displayed as part of the sacred space. Meaningful quotations and posters have been central to these spaces too. Staff and pupils have worked hard to make these spaces special; they have become an important part of

our Catholic life and mission and collective worship.

Moving forward, we also plan to make them part of our assemblies and in our school reception – the GIFT Team will be creating these and we will share more with you in our next newsletter!

We are so proud of what we have created on our sacred space journey so far and wanted to share these beautiful creations with you.



Prayer and Liturgy

This half-term all our Family Groups have visited our school Chapel for a special start of the year reflection led by the GIFT Team.

The first Chapel Assembly of the year had the

theme 'Living Our Dash' and asked pupils to reflect on their hopes and dreams for the coming year and how they can use their gifts and talents to live their lives to the full. The short liturgy is based upon scripture from John 10:10: *'I come that you may have life and live it to the full.'*



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NEW YEAR 7

Loving learning at The Barlow

Since coming to The Barlow, I have loved almost every single day (other than the first few days when I only knew one person and didn't know where anything was), but Friday is definitely THE BEST DAY in school – not just because it is Friday and nearly weekend (though I do love my weekends too), but because Friday has some brilliant lessons that I love.

Friday Period 1 is maths – I never, in my whole life, thought I would ever like maths, but not only do I like maths at The Barlow, I recently got 'Book of the Week', which is amazing considering I used to count down the years until I didn't have to study maths anymore before I came to The Barlow. My maths teacher, Mrs Brennan, helps me to understand things and explains them in a clear way and I feel confident to ask if there is something I am not sure of. She also gives lots of SPAR points too, which helps!

Friday Period 2 is geography with Mr McGonigle, which is a really interesting lesson. At primary school, I didn't do much geography but since I came to The Barlow, I have learned something every geography lesson that I didn't know before like all about the four countries of the United Kingdom.

It is fair to say that Friday Period 3 is my absolute favourite lesson: My Design Technology lesson. Right now, I have Mr Frame and we are designing and making desk lamps. I have learned so much and have got to try things that I have never done before: I have used a soldering iron to make the LEDs work in my lamp and I have used a saw to make the base for my lamp too. I can't wait until I get to try all of the other topics within DT such as food, photography and textiles. Practical subjects like DT are where it is brilliant to be in high school because they are so much more exciting than when you are in primary school – the equipment you get to use and the things you get to make are really impressive and I really enjoy the new experiences.

By Florence,
7L

Alongside my absolute favourite DT, I also have music on a Friday Period 4 with Mrs Taylor, which is another subject I love. I play the piano outside of school, but Miss still makes sure I have plenty of tough things to learn in my lessons with her. I now want to learn another instrument alongside my piano – the drums!

Science on a Friday Period 5 can be really exciting, especially when we get to do experiments and use the Bunsen Burners like we did last week. On the Friday when we were doing our experiment, I literally, woke up looking forward to school because we were doing our practical, which was a good job really, as it helped me to remember my bobble so that I could take part in the experiment safely.

Maybe best of all about Friday, is the fact that it is chip day! The canteen food is so much better than the food at my primary school – I always used to take a packed lunch there but at The Barlow, I have lunch from the canteen everyday: pizza, pasta and then chips on a Friday too, which are yum! I also love the hashbrowns that are served at breaktime too, as well as the bagels and the waffles (as well as sausage rolls on a Thursday breaktime). Thank goodness I go to netball after school on a Tuesday and trampolining after school on a Wednesday to keep me fit and healthy!

I am really glad I chose to come to The Barlow because if I hadn't, I wouldn't have met all of my new amazing friends and teachers. I feel really settled and happy here.



WORLD TEACHER DAY

Your Influence goes beyond books



Early October marks World Teacher Day and this year's theme was: 'The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage.' It is widely recognised that teaching is not for the faint hearted but despite the challenges, it is one of the single most rewarding jobs that there is.

At The Barlow we are blessed to have a team of teachers and support staff for whom the pupils come first; their commitment, passion and dedication to ensuring that every pupil can achieve their individual potential is awe inspiring. As a token of thanks for all that they do, staff received an inspirational quote with a sweet treat on the day, which was very well received by all.

In addition, at the end of last academic year, parents and carers were invited to email into school with any thank you messages that they wanted to extend to individual staff members. We were delighted and extremely touched when the messages came flooding in; a further testimony to the incredible work that our teachers and support staff do in our school on a daily basis.



CPLD Bronze Award

The Barlow are excited and proud to share the news that we have recently been accredited with the Continued Professional Learning and Development Quality Mark at bronze standard. This involved a rigorous two-day assessment process and the school had to provide a wealth of evidence to demonstrate what we do to support the continued professional development of all staff; both teaching and support.

The assessor was very impressed with what he saw and heard, and feedback included that our application was one of the strongest he had seen in fifteen years. His summary statement about our school read:

'a community of like-minded and committed people, passionate about learners' progress; who feel invested in, through their professional lives and their wellbeing'

On his advice, The Barlow will be applying for the silver standard early in the new year. Congratulations to Mrs Lamb who led #TeamBarlow in securing the award.

TIME FOR A PUPDATE

Puppy Love

Our handsome school puppy, Brosie, has unfortunately been absent from school for the last couple of weeks as he has been having his operation to ensure that he can make no more mini Brosies!

Brosie did respond very well to the operation, though he did not like the special blue coat he had to wear to stop him getting to his stitches (he did prefer his special coat to the cone that we tried to put on him initially though).



The operation didn't really slow Brosie down at all and he was as excited and happy as ever throughout the process... He did enjoy having to eat chicken for his meal times instead of his usual kibble whilst he recovered from the general anaesthetic and he has now learned the word 'chicken' and will run over to the fridge for some as soon as he hears the word! He will also beg for chicken as you can see from the photograph.



Brosie was back in school last Friday and was, as always, a hit with pupils, spending time with Miss Wright, our Safeguarding Coordinator, who works with some of our more vulnerable pupils, and in the Resource Provision with our pupils who receive support from there due to their social communication needs. He did do lunch duty outside with Ms Wallace on this day and so was able to get a fuss from lots of pupils and staff alike, which he always loves. Brosie continues to get used to his days in The Barlow and is always really excited when he knows he is coming into school (sometimes a little too excited and he gets in trouble with Mrs Seddon for jumping up and pulling on his lead).

The plan is for a team of staff now to receive training from Brosie's puppy trainer, so that we have a consistent approach for looking after Brosie in school. Once Brosie has slowed down a bit and had more 1-1 training, the plan will be for him to have a timetable that he will follow, where he works with certain staff and identified pupils so that he can do what he does best – bringing joy to people's lives. Research has proven that input from a therapy dog can be transformative for pupils, particularly those who are struggling in school, and our intention is to make this Brosie's life work – he just needs to mature a little bit first (and stop stealing carrots)!



THE BIG SLEEPOUT

**'It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving'
Saint Mother Teresa**

On Friday 13th October, thirty pupils from Years 7-11 and eight members of staff volunteered to take part in the 'Big Sleep Out', where they bravely stayed overnight in the school grounds to raise awareness and money for those people who are homeless and sleeping on the streets. The event was taking place across the Salford Diocese and is an annual event that fundraises for the local Catholic charity, Caritas. Caritas, meaning unconditional love, work alongside people who are experiencing poverty, disadvantage and homelessness.

Pupils arrived at around 9pm, the fire pit was lit and they tucked into s'mores (toasted marshmallows and chocolate digestive biscuits) and sang songs around the fire. Next, Year 9 led pupils and staff in different dance routines; it was great to see both the independence and support of one another that our pupils showed.

After a film, it was lights out. Twenty participants slept outside under the stars (well, clouds) and the other eighteen slept in the Lecture Theatre. Pupils started to wake about 6am; and they definitely enjoyed their hot chocolate and muffins for breakfast, before they were collected by parents and carers at 8am.

On asking one of the Year 7 pupils at midnight whether she was enjoying the evening she replied 'It's the best night of my whole life.'

Not only was fun had by everyone involved, we also managed to raise nearly £500.00 for Caritas. We have opened a 'Just Giving' page. If you would like to donate, please go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CaritasBigSleepOut2023>



<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CaritasBigSleepOut2023>

Open Evening 2023

Showcasing our Wonderful Community

#WeAreTheBarlow



Open Evening 2023 was a huge success with record numbers of prospective parents and pupils walking through the doors of The Barlow. More than 150 of our exceptional pupils acted as 'Tour Guides' for all those who visited our school on the evening, helping us to showcase the excellent work of both staff and pupils.

Our Headteacher, Ms Wallace, along with our Head Boy, Eddie, and Head Girl, Ellen, led the formal introduction to all the parents and children. Our Head Boy and Head Girl presented professionally and powerfully about their school. Both used words like 'community' and 'family' to highlight how special The Barlow has become to them. They, and their Year 11 Leadership Team, are a credit to our school.

During the tour, the core subjects showcased their areas in a variety of entertaining ways. With Catholicity being central to The Barlow, the religious education team, with the help of the GIFT Team, promoted prayer and reflection in the chapel, the Rainbow Garden and in their curriculum space. Science was full of fantasy, fire and whizz bangs as the children got to play at being magical and created fire balls, rainbows and explosions under the careful supervision of The Barlow wizards: our very own science department.

Forensic science was also introduced and experimented with on the evening. These skills were needed later on the tour when our guests visited English where a terrible crime had taken place that one of the English teachers was responsible for. The children had to work out who the culprit was by reading clues and using their inference skills to ascertain who was accountable. Once they had shown off their detective skills, it was time to head to the races in our Maths area to show off their probability knowledge, along with other mathematical challenges.

Modern languages wowed the crowds with cuisine from across the world and both music and drama entertained all with fabulous performances from our very talented pupils. The creativity continued with badge making and sensory testing in Design

and Technology, not to mention the challenge in Computing of programming and Minecraft Coding. Amongst all this, let us not forget our special guests! Budding historians got to measure themselves against famous monarchs of the past and Sir David Attenborough was available for selfies in Geography.

The overall highlight of the evening though, has to be our talented and gifted former pupils who returned to help run their own Art Exhibition in the dedicated arts space. Not only did our guests see the marvellous original work of our pupils but we all got to listen to the musical talent of past and present pupils. Simply fabulous.

The evening was a colourful, fun and exciting one with our wonderfully enthusiastic pupils at the centre of it all. Eddie Goodwin, our Head Boy, stated in his speech that The Barlow has always encouraged him 'to strive for excellence.' Excellence was certainly present for all to see during our annual Open Evening. We look forward to the next generation of The Barlow family achieving their excellence.



#KidsEatFree



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE OCTOBER HALF TERM 2023

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

M&S CAFES

Spend £5 & get one free kid's meal Mon - Fri during the Oct Half term (various dates)

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

YO! SUSHI

From Monday 16th October - Friday 27th 2023 kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

BILLS

2 kids eat FREE Monday - Friday from Monday 23rd October - Friday 3rd November 2023

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

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Enjoy the October half term break.
Please stay safe and look out for each other.



thebarlowrchigh

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