



Prospectus | 2016-2017



The Barlow RC High School  
& Specialist Science College

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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The Barlow RC High School is first and foremost a Catholic school, aiming to provide a first class Catholic education for all our students. We believe that a successful Catholic education develops students academically, socially, spiritually and morally, giving them the skills to be successful in life.

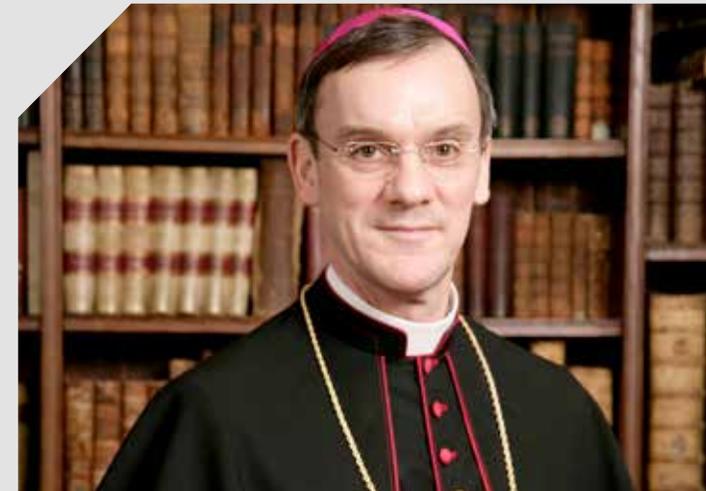


## CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

As a Catholic school we recognise the equal value of each individual student and we aim to provide the best possible opportunities for your child. Our Chaplaincy contributes to the development of the school as a Christian community by offering opportunities for putting faith in action and spiritual guidance to students and staff. Through the Chaplaincy, we provide help, support, encouragement and care to help ensure that The Barlow is a happy, spiritual place in which to learn and grow in faith.

The Chaplaincy provides a unique opportunity to promote the teachings of Christ in a relevant and meaningful way, encouraging the involvement and participation of staff and students in charity work and liturgical life of the school work.

All our students attend Family Group (Tutor Group) time at the end of the school day where they learn to become responsible, independent, Christian, human beings. The meeting of Family Groups in the afternoon gives students chance to reflect on their



experiences and raise any concerns before they go home. It is an inventive way of sharing and distributing information, focusing on pastoral topics and ensuring students receive excellent guidance and support.

# A NEW BEGINNING

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Our daughter, who is now in her final year, has enjoyed four very happy years at The Barlow High School. During this time she has experienced many varied opportunities and has always been supported by the staff at the school.

The pastoral care of the students is second to none, with staff always there to ensure the well-being and happiness of the children. Due to the excellent quality of the teaching our daughter has also achieved much more academically than we ever anticipated. And because of the positive experience of our daughter, our son has been looking forward to becoming a student at the school. He has just become a Year 7 student and has found the whole transition process an enjoyable experience.

Lesley Usher, parent of a student at The Barlow High School.



**On behalf of the Barlow RC High School Community I would like to extend you a very warm welcome.**

The Barlow RC High School provides an excellent Catholic education for young people. We are a school which embraces traditional values, demands high standards and ensures the highest quality of teaching and learning. We have created a well-ordered, respectful, caring environment where Christ is at the heart of our community. We help our students succeed academically and gain in confidence so that they contribute to society as skillful, happy and respectful young people. Our vision is to create a school community based on Catholic principles where everyone works together to ensure a safe, supportive and productive learning environment.

**Our school values are: service, prayer, achievement and respect.**

As a Catholic school, our mission is to show love through our respect for others. We all have God-given gifts, talents and abilities and we work together to bring out the best in everyone. Everyone should know that we are followers of God by what we do, not just by what we say.

**Our School Motto - "If you believe you can achieve!"**

Our most recent Ofsted Inspection in 2012 judged us to be 'Good' in every category with some outstanding features, and a subsequent Section 48 Inspection of the religious life of the school judged the school's leadership and management of catholic provision to be 'outstanding'.

This prospectus will give you a flavour of school life but we invite you to visit us to discover what outstanding opportunities we can offer your child. Please contact the school to book a tour. I look forward to meeting you.

**Mrs C McCarron**  
Head Teacher



# THE BARLOW PURPOSE & VALUES

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## SERVE

The Barlow is a happy and safe school in which students learn and grow in faith. We incorporate service projects into the curriculum; teaching students the value of helping others as an expression of faith and good citizenship. We are proud of our excellent pastoral care, strong relationships and the caring nature of our students who actively support and serve each other. Our students are encouraged to put their faith into action through charity and community work, which is reflected through their enthusiastic fundraising and involvement in voluntary projects.

## PRAY

Our students are actively encouraged to take part in a full programme of collective worship including special masses, prayer groups and liturgies. Weekly assemblies are instrumental in helping to develop the aims, attitudes and values of our school. Our Chaplaincy is a central part of school life and contributes to the development of the school as a Christian community by offering spiritual guidance to students and staff. Through the Chaplaincy, we provide help, support, encouragement and care to help ensure that The Barlow is a happy, spiritual place in which to learn and grow in faith.

## ACHIEVE

At The Barlow our aim is to develop the whole child; academically, morally, socially, spiritually and physically.

We foster a positive attitude to learning and provide a broad balanced curriculum which provides our students with a range of opportunities to discover and develop their talents and abilities.

Our outstanding and dedicated staff are totally committed to working to ensure the highest quality of teaching and learning to ensure each child enjoys their education and achieves their full potential.

Our students are inspired and challenged to achieve and surpass their academic targets in an encouraging and supportive environment. We want all our students to strive to be the very best that they can be.

## RESPECT

We have created an atmosphere of mutual respect and co-operation; providing the foundation for a happy and successful school life. Our friendly and focused learning atmosphere is often remarked upon by visitors. Our students maintain a high level of respect for everyone around them including staff, other students, themselves and God. We see our students flourish and move on as confident, respectful young people, certain that we have worked with them to develop the virtues and values of the Catholic Church.

# TEACHING & LEARNING

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I never thought that I had the ability to do well in Science but with help and encouragement of my teacher, one to one coursework sessions, revision resources and the great teaching I receive in class I now believe I will definitely achieve the grades I need or better.

Michael Lyons, Year 11



## Teaching and learning is at the core of what we do.

Lessons are differentiated, challenging, engaging and designed to support students to make good progress and achieve their maximum potential. Teachers work with students each lesson to embed and extend good reading, writing, communication and numeracy skills. Our curriculum is broad, balanced and designed to inspire students to learn and to prepare students for public examinations and for life in modern Britain. We offer a two year Key Stage 3 programme and a three year Key Stage 4 programme.

Teachers promote both Catholic values of service, prayer, achievement and respect as

well as British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect.

The school also offers a wide range of after school extra-curricular opportunities to students. Assessment of students' progress is reported to parents three times per academic year and parents are invited to attend annual parents evenings where they can discuss their child's achievements with subject specialist teachers. Teachers set challenging homework weekly in line with the schools policy that consolidates learning and deepens understanding.



# A SAFE, SECURE PLACE IN WHICH TO LEARN

The school has effective safe-guarding and child protection procedures in place. The school is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all our children. We believe that students have a right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment. Our staff are vigilant and are trained to spot signs that suggest a student may be in distress and are confident in following the procedures to avert and alleviate problems. The school nurtures partnerships at both academic and pastoral levels, ensuring that students' needs

are met. The good levels of care, guidance and support are based firmly on the school's basic principle that everyone is a unique creation of God. Systems to collate and act upon pastoral information ensure swift and effective intervention and support whenever identified. From the transition programmes and activities that help students settle into school life to the support structures and initiatives that nurture their development, students at The Barlow benefit from outstanding pastoral care and support.

“The school has exemplary methods of safeguarding students and ‘goes the extra mile’ in ensuring that they are safe and happy.”

Ofsted 2012





## FOCUSING ON INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND SUCCESS

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Care, support and guidance are organised through the Year Group structure. Each school year is split into Family Groups and each group is allocated a Family Tutor. Students constantly tell us how their school families offer support and help to create a community spirit in school. The Family Groups meet up at the end of each school day, at a time when they are able to reflect on their experiences and raise any concerns. The Family Tutor is often regarded as their main source of support. Each Year Group has a Head of Year who helps individual teachers facilitate pastoral activities and give support.

The school provides support to all students with additional educational needs and those who are experiencing barriers to learning. This is achieved through a variety of support provision and programmes coordinated by our SENCO. We work with all members of staff in the school as well as a range of outside agencies to enable all identified students to achieve their full potential. We work closely with parents and carers to develop personalised learning



programmes for their children. The Learning Support Faculty plays a major part in the school's aim to be a fully inclusive school. We operate a system of in-class support and withdrawal which enables all students to access the curriculum. Students are supported by the learning support faculty on a full or part-time basis according to their identified needs.

# SPECIALIST SCIENCE PROVISION

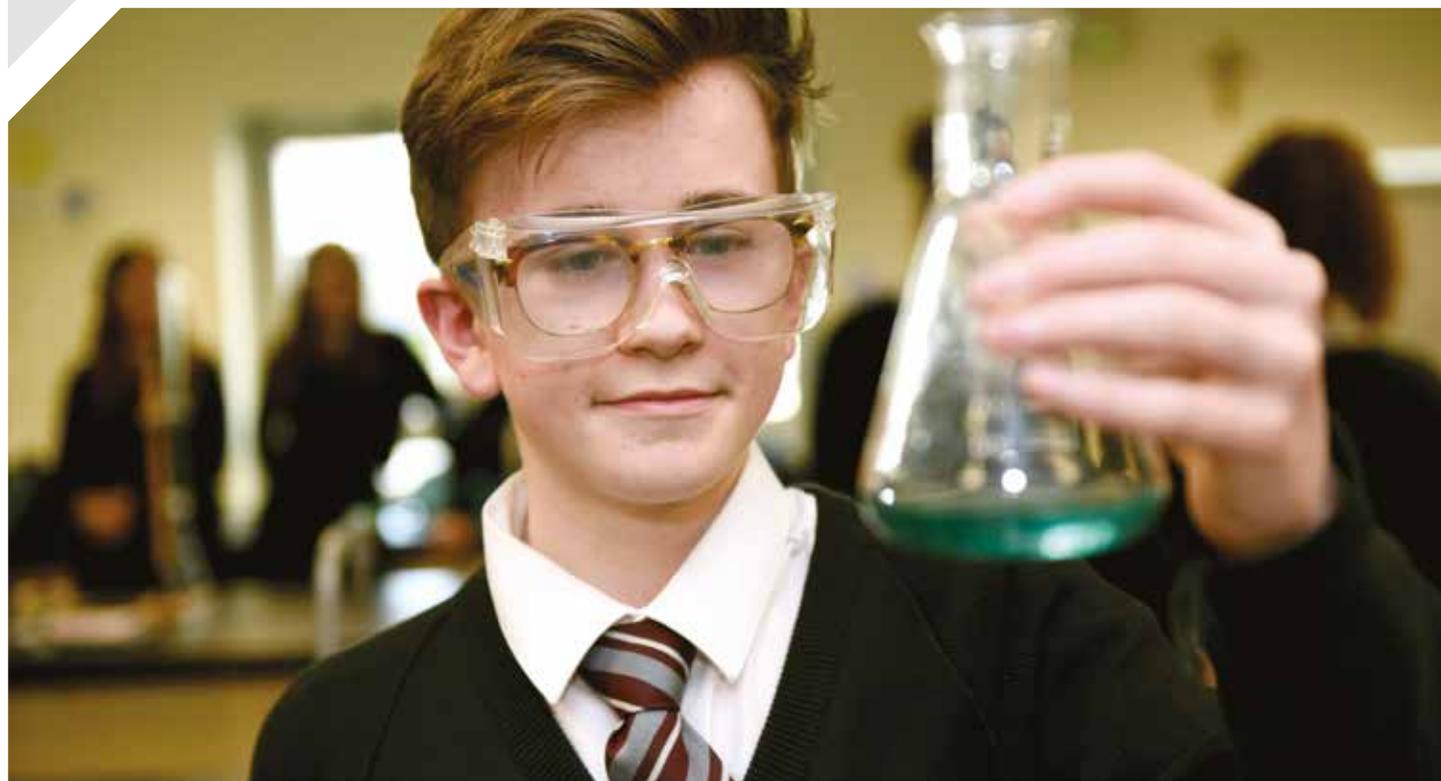
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Within Science great importance is placed on practical work, links with universities, engagement in STEM programmes and activities to enhance and refine the skills necessary to be successful in life. The faculty is supported by two highly trained technicians. The results highlight the dedication of the Science staff with results historically over 90% A\*-C in GCSE courses.

“The outstanding commitment shown by students and staff make teaching at The Barlow a pleasure. The results students achieve at GCSE is a testament to their hard work. I am very proud that historically students leave with over 90% achieving A\*-C, many of whom are going on to study Science in higher education.”

Mrs S Teare, Faculty Leader of Science





# COMMUNICATION

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We firmly believe in building strong relationships between the school and the families to ensure the success of our students. We are committed to keeping you regularly informed about your child's progress throughout their time at The Barlow High School. We work closely with our associate primary schools, parents and students to ensure that the transition from primary to secondary is a smooth and exciting one. As well as our open evening for prospective parents, we host a number of opportunities for you

to visit the school and speak face to face with our teaching staff. Ensuring you know how your son or daughter is progressing in school is particularly important and helps you to support their learning. The Head Teacher encourages parents to come to school to discuss any issues or concerns that they may have during the half termly Head Teacher's Surgeries. There is also an opportunity for parents to join our very proactive Parents Forum meetings which also occur on a half termly basis.





**The Barlow RC High School  
& Specialist Science College**

Our spirit makes us more than a school; we're a partnership; a Catholic community; a family. Come and find out how you can be part of all three.

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