

Happy New Year 2017

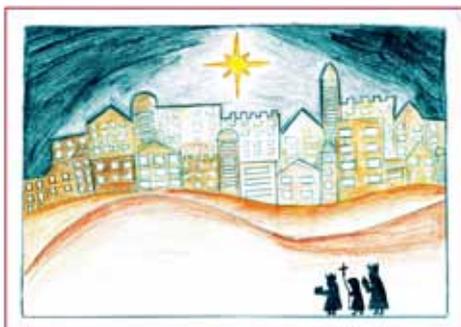
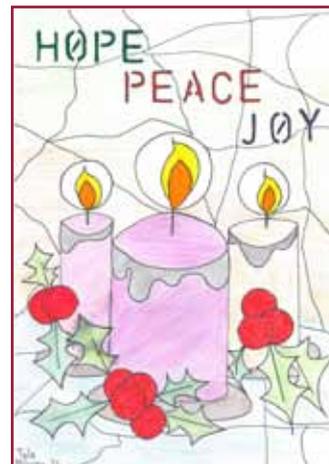
Celebrating 2016 Achievements



Christmas Card Competition Winner...

During December and November the Arts Faculty held a Christmas card competition as homework, the winning design was placed on our Christmas card which is sent out to friends and stakeholders of the school. Congratulations to Niamh Burn (left), who drew the winning design. There were many good designs drawn by the students some of which are displayed below but you can view them all on the school website:

www.thebarlowrhighschool.co.uk



In This Issue

- Christmas Card Competition
- "A Very British Christmas" Carol Concert
- Community Christmas Party
- Anti-Bullying Poster Competition Design
- School Catering Service Wins Caterer of the Year

Welcome from the Headteacher

I would like to thank staff, student's parents and governors for their hard work and support during 2016 and wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you enjoy reading about all our exciting events and students achievements from last school term.

Mrs C McCarron
Head Teacher

Sami Ullah, Year 9 who helped to decorate reception for our Christmas celebrations.



Irish Band Fundraising Concert

The school's Irish Band organised a charity fundraising concert on Thursday 24th November for year 9 student Declan McEntee. The concert showcased a wide range of music and dancing from a selection of The Barlow's students. The event was a massive success and helped raise over £500 for Declan's charity 'Declan's Decathlon'.

Declan's parents have been totally overwhelmed at the hard work, commitment and kindness shown by the school in order to raise money for 'Declan's Decathlon'. Every penny raised will go towards Declan's campaign which now stands at over £1000 and will go directly to Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. By supporting this you have helped to make a real difference to other sick children.

"I would like to say a special thank you to the staff and children at The Barlow for all the care and support we have received, it's been a real source of strength and comfort for us over these last few months."

Mrs L McEntee, parent of Declan McEntee

Language Leaders at St Catherine's

On the 16th November, our Year 9 students planned, taught a lesson and played games with the students at St Catherine's RC Primary School. They taught the Year 5 students about food and the year 4 students about Jungle animals in Spanish.

Our Language Leaders are Roisin Mulchrone, Ellie Clark, Paige McGovern, Lauren Moores, Kien Harris, Ralph Farrall, Mobo Onalaja, Eadaoin Gallagher,

Matthew Montgomery and Saskia Davis.

They did a brilliant job and were a credit to the school. The children at St Catherine's really enjoyed the lessons and games.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Language Leaders, please see Miss Phillips who can give you more information.

"A Very British Christmas" Carol Concert



The School Choir at 'A Very British Christmas' Carol Concert

The Barlow Concert Series 2016

The school's music department have completed another fantastic series of concerts during December as part of the 2016 Christmas celebrations:

Carol Concert
Community Party
Primary Cluster Concert
Abney Court Care Home

All 4 of the concerts were a huge success and gave all of our talented young musicians an opportunity to showcase their talents.

These concerts included performances from the Barlow Choir, Irish Band, String Group, Guitar Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble and some solo and duet performances by our GCSE Music students.

The students were also able to showcase their talents within the local community by performing for some of the residents at Abney Court Care Home in Cheadle.

"Wow, what can I say. That was my first concert at The Barlow RC High School and I was blown away by all of the talented young musicians. I can't wait for next year's Christmas concert!"

A parent attending the school Carol Concert

Community Christmas Party



“It was really nice for us as students to talk to the seniors in our community. It was an enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone who attended”.

Mary Crawshaw, Year 11, Student Leader - Director of Events



Community Party for the Parishes

This year Barlow students supported their Parishes with their annual Community Party which aims to bring together senior citizens from our local community to celebrate Christmas.

The Community Party this year was a Christmas Afternoon Tea celebration with entertainment from the music students and Mr Power who hosted a raffle and bingo.

Preparations were carried out by Mrs Verity's class wrapping 50 presents for the seniors and Miss Denton's class carrying out the food preparation for the party. Mary Crawshaw, Year 11 who is a

Student Leader and Director of Events got a team together to assist with setting up the gym and providing hospitality at the event with Mrs Verity's class.

Students socialised with the seniors throughout the party and were a credit to the school and made it a fun, memorable Christmas party for all seniors in attendance.

A special thank you to local businesses for providing prizes for the raffle; Booth & Howarth Wheildon's Family Butchers, Tesco, Urban Angels, Face & Figure, Little Pigs Butchers.

Holy Door of Mercy

Last year all students learnt about the Year of Mercy. This is a Holy Year that Pope Francis has called so that we can celebrate the mercy of God, something we must experience and practise in our lives, in our communities and in a world much in need of mercy and reconciliation.

One of the most important parts of a Holy Year is to walk through the Holy Door, as a symbol of faith and pilgrimage, Pope Francis has said "...the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy, through which anyone who enter will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instils

hope."

Since not everyone will be able to go on pilgrimage to Rome to walk through the Holy Door in Saint Peter's Basilica, The Pope has given permission for each Diocese in the world to have its own Holy Doors. In our diocese there is a holy door that has been especially made for schools. The Barlow received this holy door so that all students and staff had an opportunity to walk through it. This is an opportunity for us to experience God's love and mercy and a visual sign that we are committing ourselves to trying to make the world a more merciful place.



Hannah Conway, Year 11 prefect walking through the Holy Door

Get Coding

Coding Club has begun! Pupils have been using the Microbit to create personalised digital badges and building Minecraft servers using the Raspberry Pi. The pupils loved using their problem solving and creative skills to create games and wearable technology.

"Do I have to go!!!!"

"Can I come back next week."

"Wow, this is cool."

Students at Code Club

Code Club will resume in the New Year.



Martial Arts Achievement

Luke Hopkins in year 10 qualified for Team GB last year and won one world championship and was a finalist in a higher weight class in Mixed Martial Arts.

Congratulations Luke, The Barlow is proud of you.

Manchester Healthy Schools' 'Voicebox'

Some of our Year 9 students have been nominated to represent the school in the Manchester Healthy Schools' 'Voicebox' project, which is Manchester's secondary school council network

Mason Hurst Kilmartin, Danny Roberts, Nosa Elemah and Shekinnah Wilberforce have attended meetings to address a number of different health related topics or issues, presenting students with the ideas and inspiration to take these back to their schools for

further discussion and action. 'Voicebox' meetings will also highlight local and global issues in order to raise awareness and empathy amongst young people and to help drive action from within their own schools.

The aim of this project is to empower Manchester's students to use their voices in meaningful and effective ways.

Condover Hall

On the 17th and 18th October 2016 our new Year 7 travelled to Condover Hall in Shrewsbury for a 2 Day Residential Retreat, it was very exciting!

This is now an important part of our transition programme given the number of pupils coming to The Barlow from across the city (as we are so popular!). The trip started with our two hour coach journey and when we arrived at Condover we had a workshop on SPAR (Service, Prayer, Achievement, Respect) values and teamworking from Mr Rae and Mrs Verity in the cinema room.

The aim of the trip was to allow our Year 7 to form new friendships and develop their team work and communication skills.

Activities included Lazer Tag in a giant inflatable maze in the sports hall, a tour of the amazing grounds and mansion, Gladiator Wall, rock climbing, a run around quiz.



Students returned to dorms and slept after a fun packed day and were up early for breakfast. Our final activity of the day was problem exercises that developed our team work and communication skills.

We then returned to our dorms and packed. We went back to the cinema room for our packed lunch and our final reflection and prayers. Student's on the trip had the BEST TIME!

Sport at The Barlow

Over this first term there has been loads of sporting events going on at The Barlow! There have been some great victories in netball especially the Year 9's, who won 21-1 against Manchester Academy!

Also, a special mention to the Year 7's who have not been beaten in netball yet, great effort girls! A massive well done to all the girls who have played and come to training every week! Not to forget the great efforts of all the cross country runners, the footballers and the indoor athletics girls who have competed this term!

We have also had a taster

session of yoga to entice students to get involved with fitness, the uptake of that was amazing! 40 students came down to have a go and we had great reviews.

Overall, there have been some great sporting achievements over this term, let's keep this up!

"We had a good time and would like to see many more volunteering for extra-curricular activities; we were the only school who took two teams and think this is a huge achievement"

Holly Bryan, 9R



Sports Credit Trip

The PE Department organised a Sports Credit trip on the 19th December.

The Sports Credit Trip was for students who regularly attend after school clubs. The trip happens twice a year and previous

trips have included- paintballing, ice skating, laser quest, rafting, sailing and climbing.

If you missed it this time around, it all starts again in January. Perfect for any New Year's resolutions!

Anti Bullying Competition

ANTI-BULLYING POSTER COMPETITION WINNERS

Niall Quinn,
Year 9



BARLOW WINNER
3rd PLACE
in Manchester

Right:
Maui De-Bellis,
Year 10

Left:
Anie Thomas,
Year 8



Barlow
competition
runners-up

Manchester Healthy Schools launched the "Design a T-Shirt" Competition to celebrate Anti-bullying Week 2016. This year's theme was "Power for Good". Students from schools in Manchester to get involved in this competition by sending us their entries based on the theme of using their power to stop bullying.

Congratulations to Niall Quinn featured left for being chosen as 3rd from all secondary schools!

As a runner up Niall received a T-shirt with the winning design as well as an A1 poster of his entry and gift vouchers.

Niall's design was selected in school to be put forward for the competition winner from other high quality designs. Runners-up are displayed on the left.

Secondary School Caterer of the Year



Joanne Murray Catering Manager, accepting her award at the EDUcatering Excellence Awards.

Joanne Murray, Catering Manager at The Barlow RC High School won 'Secondary School Caterer of the Year' at the 2016 EDUcatering Excellence Awards.

Joanne runs the catering team at the school in Didsbury; she attended the awards held at the Royal Garden Hotel, London on 17th October 2016. The winners were revealed during the evening. This is not the first award that the school catering service has been nominated for, the team were nominated by Manchester City Council for 'Team of the Year' and Joanne was nominated for 'Behind the Scenes Hero'.

The Barlow RC High is very proud of the service that Joanne manages, motivating her team through continuous improvement and training, including enrolling and supporting her team on to training programmes in NVQ's

in Food Preparation and Cooking. Under Joanne's management the school canteen has seen an increase in the uptake of school meals. Students at the Barlow particularly enjoy the breakfast service and the new noodle and rice boxes which are packed with vegetables and come in recyclable containers.

"I'm really delighted to receive this award and feel very proud. Everything I do here is for the benefit of the children."

Joanne Murray, Catering Manager.