



The Barlow RC High School & Specialist Science College

"If you believe you can achieve!"

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Dear Parents and Carers

Once again, as we near the end of the Autumn Term and commence our final preparations for Christmas, I am writing to thank you for the fantastic support that you have given us so far in what has been a very successful start to the 2018/19 school year.

Year 7 Transition

Congratulations to our new Year 7 students who have now settled in to The Barlow RC High School. They have quickly adapted to life in our secondary school and to the high expectations we have of them in terms of their uniform, equipment, work ethic, behaviour and attendance! I am delighted to say that Year 7 is currently the highest attending year group in the school and we are all very proud of them! I am sure that they will all go on to achieve great success.

Year 7 Progress - Parents Evening

Well done and a big thank you to the parents of Year 7 students who attended their first parents evening at The Barlow and successfully navigated the "interview" system and queues to see your child's class teachers. An excellent 80% turnout!

Advent Charities

A very important part of our mission as a Roman Catholic school is to support those less fortunate than ourselves. During Advent I can only say that our students have been nothing short of amazing, in giving up hours of their own time to raise as much money as possible for our chosen charities and to provide groceries for our food parcels, which will be sent to the St Vincent de Paul Society in each of our four feeder parishes. My heartfelt thanks to all students who have been so generous with their time, efforts and donations.

Our charities this year:

- Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
- CLIC Sargent
- MIND
- CICRA
- Bolivia

Christmas Carol Concert

Congratulations to all staff and students who organised such an enjoyable and festive occasion where we were reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. We enjoyed a feast of traditional mulled wine and mince pies and were entertained by our school choir, orchestra and drama department. The blessing was done by Fr. Hitchen Parish Priest of St Catherine's. A wonderful evening was had by all!



Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Once again our Gift team, RE, Music and Drama departments have hosted our annual Senior Citizens Party, where elderly members of our local community are invited to an afternoon's entertainment, Bingo and festivities by our students. As ever our children demonstrated their kindness, support and excellent manners and in return our visitors have shared their entertaining stories of their experience of school lifeas you can imagine, very different to schools today!

Cash for Kids Appeal

Our thanks to the Key 103 Cash for Kids Appeal who have supported us once again in providing us with appropriate and much needed gifts for children in our community who might otherwise be unlikely to receive a Christmas gift this year.

Emmeline Pankhurst

Students joined Mrs Wilcox in St Peter's Square last week to witness history in the making attending the unveiling of the new Emmeline Pankhurst statue in Manchester – only the second statue of a female to be erected in Manchester to date!

Sports Rewards Day

Students who have represented the school in sports this term were rewarded this week by being introduced to a new sport – 'Fencing' as part of their rewards day. Much fun was had by students and staff!

Rainbow Garden

Many thanks to Alison Holland and to Dan Crowther of Pavedway Limited and his team who helped us set up our Rainbow's Bereavement Garden, where students can go to remember loved ones. Our thanks also to one of our ex-students, Tyrell Morrison, who was kind enough to come along to school last week to do an after school music concert for our KS4 students, to raise money for the up keep of the garden. The students really enjoyed the concert and having photographs taken with Tyrell – a rising star in the music world!

The visit of Bishop John Arnold

We are all delighted and very honoured that on **Friday, 21st December** we will receive a visit from Bishop John Arnold. The Bishop will bless and name our school chapel (Our Lady's Chapel) and our Rainbows Garden. He will also lead on our Year 10 and 11 Liturgies and join us in packing food parcels for the needy in our local community. He will then celebrate Mass with staff, some KS4 students and Governors.

Some reminders:

First Aid

We have a team of trained first aiders at school to support students who need first aid in school. Please be advised that their training is in basic first aid and while our staff will always do all they can to support our students, please be mindful that they are not expert in all medical conditions.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their full potential. All students must be on the school premises by 8.20am each day. Please support your child by ensuring all medical and dental appointments are made out of school hours.

Piercings and jewellery

Once again I must remind parents that we have a strict 'no Jewellery' rule. Students are advised to avoid disappointment and not get 'piercings' done during the school year, since they will not be allowed to wear studs during the school day as advised by the jewellers/ hairdressers.

Nails/Make-up

Students must not return to school in make-up or acrylic nails.



Year 11 GCSE Preparations

Please be aware that there are only 17 school weeks to the beginning of the commencement of the public GCSE examinations. While we urge students to relax and have a good rest during the Christmas holidays, it is essential that they are also doing an appropriate amount of personal examination revision, since the new style GCSE's require students to memorize and recall substantial amounts of knowledge.

From January onwards after-school revision classes will begin in earnest and all Year 11 students are expected to attend. This is an essential part of their GCSE provision.

Thank you to staff

Finally my thanks to all staff at The Barlow RC High for the outstanding job they do each and every day to provide the highest quality of provision and support for all our students. It is very much appreciated.

We also thank and wish staff leaving us at the end of this term the very best of luck for the future:

- Mrs Wood – ICT dept - replaced by Mrs N Ahmed
- Miss Hunter- SEND dept - replaced by Mrs R Seddon
- Mr J Nassiff - History dept - replaced by Mr N Carr
- Miss Morris - Science dept - replaced by Ms M Ijaz

Our thanks also to Mrs Overend our Pastoral Manager who has been a tremendous support to both students and parents over the last 12 years and to Mrs P Lloyd our Examination Officer. We wish them both well in their future ventures.

Parents Forum

It was good to see a number of parents attending our first Parents Forum of the school year earlier this month. All parents are reminded that they are more than welcome to attend our next meeting, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 13th March 2019.

OFSTED Parent view

Many thanks to the numerous parents who have taken the time out of what I am sure must be a very busy schedule, to write or phone me or my staff thanking them for their support and hard work this term. It really is very encouraging and much appreciated.

We are always very keen to hear and to act on Parent Voice where appropriate and to this end we would encourage all parents to complete the Parental questionnaires issued at Parents' Evenings and to complete the on-line OFSTED survey called 'Parent View', which can be access at: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Important dates:

Date	Event
Thursday, 17 th January 2019	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday, 29 th January 2019	Headteacher's Surgery
Thursday, 7 th February 2019	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Friday, 15 th February 2018	MANCEP Inset Day - Students not in school



Arrangements for end of Autumn Term and start of Spring Term

School will close for Christmas on **Friday, 21st December 2018 at NOON**. Students will be allowed to remain in school to have lunch if required. The local bus services have been informed of the early finish. School will re-open on **Monday, 7th January 2019 at 8.20am**.

Finally can I take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued loyalty and ongoing support for our Catholic School and wish you all a Joyful and Peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs CP McCarron
Headteacher**

