



Building on an Award-Winning Reading Culture

Our New Library Opens Its Doors

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**Rise up,
take courage,
and do it.**

REFLECTING ON A FANTASTIC START

Achievement, Opportunity and Community Spirit



THE BARLOW
RC HIGH SCHOOL



Rise up,
take courage,
and do it.

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We have, once again, navigated the first half of our autumn term, which seems to have happened at record speed! The weeks and months continue to fly by. I am delighted with the start our community has made to this academic year. Our half-termly newsletter gives us the opportunity to stop, reflect and celebrate all that has happened at The Barlow over the last seven weeks.

Our pupils continue to be our greatest asset. They continue to work diligently and achieve well and I am proud of them. This half-term they have been presented with a plethora of opportunities to broaden their horizons. Our newly refurbished library has opened for pupils this half-term and this is timely, as The Barlow pupils and staff embrace the National Year of Reading. The space has become a hub for our young readers to gather and enjoy books and their voices have been heard as we prepare to spend the recent grant from the Department of Education on new literature for them.

Our Catholic Life and Mission is as vibrant as ever. Our annual Macmillan Bake Sale was its usual success and this has been followed by World Porridge Day and The Barlow's 'Big Sleep Out' to raise funds for Caritas Salford, to support the homeless across Manchester. If you haven't seen it already, I encourage you to go onto our social media accounts to view coverage of these events. As always, our pupils, parents and staff have been generous with their time

and money to help to support the vulnerable in our community - it is heart-warming to see The Barlow living out Catholic social teaching.

Pupils have recently had opportunity to explore the arts, through theatre visits to the Shakespeare North Playhouse and The Lowry, Salford, to see Macbeth and High School Musical, respectively. September has also seen the relaunch of our Duke of Edinburgh scheme, led by Mr Anderson-Fitter. This should see a total of 56 pupils in Year 9 and 10 participate in volunteering, skills development and an outdoor expedition. We are thrilled to see a record number of applications.

Finally, we wish Elise in Year 11 good luck as she embarks on a trip to America to play football for England's U-16 girls' team. We are excited to hear all about her experience on her return to school.

My thanks to pupils, staff, parents and carers and governors for your ongoing support of our school. I wish you all a restful October break. I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 2nd November, ready to conclude the autumn term.

Ms CM Wallace
Headteacher

A DAY OF FAITH AND CELEBRATION

Celebrating St. Ambrose Barlow's Feast Day



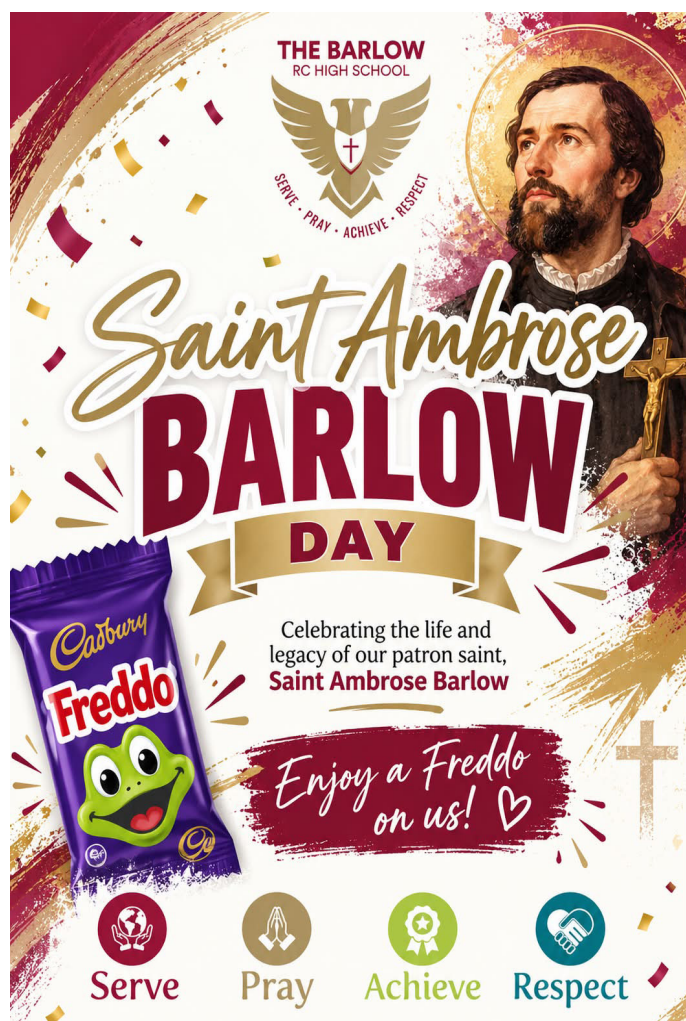
It was a wonderful day of celebration at The Barlow as our school community came together to mark the Feast Day of St. Ambrose Barlow, our patron saint. The occasion provided a lovely opportunity for pupils and staff to celebrate our shared Catholic identity, reflect on the values that bring us together and enjoy some special treats along the way!

The celebrations began during Family Time, where pupils took part in special prayers dedicated to St. Ambrose Barlow. This gave our school community an opportunity to reflect on his life, his example of faith and the importance of living out our Christian values in our everyday actions. As a saint remembered for his wisdom, courage and commitment to his faith, St. Ambrose Barlow continues to inspire us to stand up for what is right, show kindness to others and remain faithful to our beliefs.



SAINT AMBROSE BARLOW

Of course, no feast day celebration would be complete without a few treats! Every pupil received a chocolate bar to mark the occasion, and everyone enjoyed an extended break time, giving pupils an opportunity to spend a little extra time with their friends and enjoy the celebrations together. Our hardworking staff were not forgotten either, with a lovely serving of toast to start their day!



Although these were simple gestures, they helped make the day feel special and reminded us of the importance of celebrating together as one school family. It was lovely to see the whole community involved, from our youngest pupils to our staff, sharing in the joy of an occasion that holds such significance within the Catholic Life of our school.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the celebrations possible. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate our patron saint, strengthen our sense of community and share in the joy of being part of The Barlow family!

A Day of Faith, Family and Celebration.

A NIGHT OF COMPASSION

The Barlow's Caritas Big Sleepout Raises Over £500

It was a very special evening at The Barlow as our pupils came together for the Caritas Big Sleepout, raising over £500.00 while developing a greater understanding of homelessness and the challenges faced by those without a safe place to call home.



The evening was filled with laughter, friendship and a wonderful sense of community as pupils enjoyed a range of activities together. From making delicious s'mores and enjoying plenty of snacks, to showing off their best moves during Just Dance and settling down to watch films, there was something for everyone to enjoy! It was lovely to see pupils spending time together, making memories and embracing the experience with such enthusiasm, all while supporting an important cause.



However, the most meaningful part of the evening came when pupils settled down to sleep outside. Away from the warmth and comfort of their own beds, they experienced a small glimpse of the discomfort and uncertainty that can come with spending a night outdoors. Although our pupils were in a safe and supervised environment, the experience

encouraged them to reflect on the very different reality faced by people experiencing homelessness, for whom sleeping outside is not a choice but often a daily struggle.



As the evening progressed, pupils were encouraged to think about the things we can sometimes take for granted, such as having a warm bed, a safe home, access to food and somewhere to feel secure. The experience helped them develop a deeper sense of gratitude for the comforts in their own lives, while also encouraging compassion and empathy for those who may not have the same opportunities.

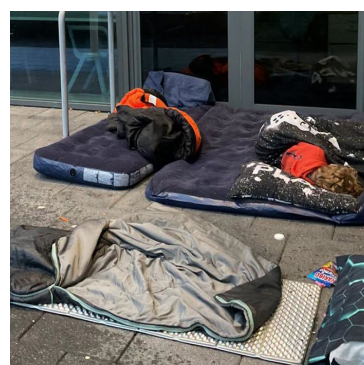
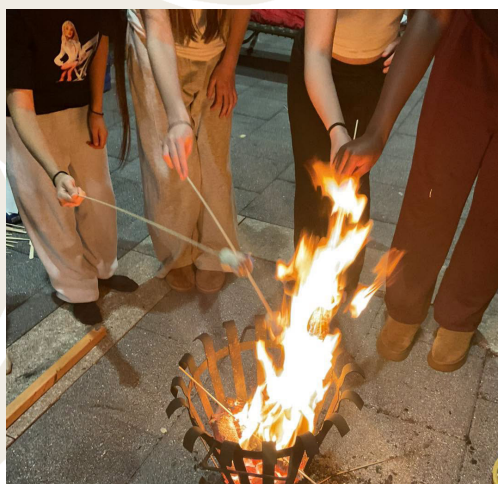
The Big Sleepout was a particularly meaningful expression of Catholic Life and Mission at The Barlow, bringing to life the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, especially Human Dignity, Solidarity and the Preferential Option for the Poor. Through taking part, pupils were reminded that every person deserves to be treated with dignity, regardless of their circumstances, and that we are all called to care for those who are vulnerable or experiencing hardship.

What made the event even more special was the incredible generosity shown by our pupils, families and wider school community. Together, we raised over £500, a fantastic achievement that reflects the kindness and determination of our young people to make a positive difference. Every donation, no matter how small, contributed to this wonderful total and demonstrated what can be achieved when our school community comes together with a shared purpose. A huge thank you and well-done to our staff and pupils who participated.

The Barlow's Big Sleep Out Brings Hope!

Making a Difference Beyond the Classroom

Pupils, staff and families came together to support Caritas Salford, showing incredible generosity and living out our Catholic values in action.



A BOWL OF KINDNESS

Year 7 Celebrate World Porridge Day



It was a lovely morning at The Barlow as our Year 7 pupils came together to celebrate World Porridge Day, supporting the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and showing how even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference.



Ahead of the event, we were delighted to welcome Anna Houghton from Mary's Meals, who visited us to speak to our Year 7 pupils about the charity's incredible work. Anna shared how Mary's Meals provides nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest communities, helping them access education and giving them hope for a brighter future. Her talk encouraged pupils to think about the things we often take for granted, particularly having a meal before school, and how we can help children who may not have the same opportunities.

Inspired by Anna's visit, approximately 90 Year 7 pupils joined us on Friday, 9th October for a special World Porridge Day breakfast, each donating £1 to support the charity. It was wonderful to see so many pupils getting involved, enjoying breakfast together and knowing that their contributions would help support children in need. While £1 might seem like a small amount, our pupils discovered that when we come together as a community, our individual acts of generosity can make a much greater difference.

The morning was also a lovely example of Catholic Life in action at The Barlow. Through their participation, pupils brought the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to life, particularly Human Dignity, Solidarity and the Preferential Option for the Poor. Having learnt about the challenges faced by children around the world, our Year 7 pupils chose to respond with kindness and generosity, showing that caring for others is something we can all put into practice in our everyday lives.

A special mention must also go to our fantastic Caritas Ambassadors, who generously gave up their time to help organise and support the breakfast. From welcoming pupils to helping everything run smoothly, they showed wonderful teamwork, responsibility and a real willingness to serve others. They were a brilliant example of young people living out their faith through their actions, and we are incredibly proud of their contribution.



What made the event so special was seeing our pupils take something they had learnt about and turn it into something positive. Rather than simply hearing about the work of Mary's Meals, they became part of that mission themselves. Their enthusiasm, generosity and willingness to help others were a wonderful reminder that our young people have the power to make a difference, both within our school community and beyond.

A huge thank you to Anna Houghton for visiting us, to our Caritas Ambassadors and staff for their support, and, most importantly, to our wonderful Year 7 pupils for embracing the event with such enthusiasm.

We are incredibly proud of the kindness and generosity shown by our pupils, who reminded us that living out our Catholic faith can begin with something as simple as sharing a bowl of porridge and helping someone else.

***Porridge has the power to
change lives!***



BAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Barlow Supports Macmillan Cancer Support



There was a wonderful sense of generosity and community spirit at The Barlow recently, as pupils and staff came together for our Macmillan Bake Sale, raising money and awareness for the incredible work of Macmillan Cancer Support.



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



The event was a lovely opportunity for our school community to come together in support of a charity that makes such a difference to individuals and families affected by cancer. From delicious homemade cakes and beautifully decorated cupcakes to a fantastic selection of shop-bought treats, the generosity of our pupils was truly heart-warming. It was wonderful to see so many young people getting involved, whether they had spent time baking at home with their families, brought in their favourite treats to share or supported the event by purchasing something sweet!

A particularly special thank you must go to all the pupils and families who generously donated cakes and treats. Every contribution, whether homemade or shop-bought, played an important part in making the event possible. The kindness and enthusiasm shown by our pupils were a lovely reminder that making a difference does not always require a grand gesture. Sometimes, something as simple as bringing in a cake can help bring a

whole community together for a meaningful cause.

Our Macmillan Bake Sale was about much more than enjoying a slice of cake. It was an opportunity to show kindness, raise awareness and remind ourselves that, when we come together as a school family, even the smallest contributions can have a positive impact on the lives of others.



The Barlow pupils going over and above for this truly worthy cause.

REAL VOICES, REAL CHANGE

#HelloYellow

#HelloYellow

YOUNGMINDS

To celebrate this year's World Mental Health Day, The Barlow joined schools, organisations and communities across the UK in recognising the importance of mental health and wellbeing. This year's theme, Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change, highlights the importance of ensuring that everyone's experiences are listened to, valued and understood. By creating opportunities for people to share their stories and seek support, we can help reduce stigma and inspire positive change.



To mark the occasion, on Friday, 9th October, pupils and staff were invited to wear something yellow and make a small donation to YoungMinds, supporting the invaluable work the charity undertakes to empower young people, provide mental health support and ensure that no young person feels alone in their struggles.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Prayer and Worship Leaders worked tirelessly behind the scenes to promote the event. They designed eye-catching posters, created yellow ribbons which quickly sold out, and played a key role in planning this year's Celebration of the Word. Most importantly, they helped ensure that the content reflected the issues that matter most to our pupils. Drawing on pupil voice, the celebration explored topics including stress and pressure related to school, bullying and friendship difficulties, social media, feelings of loneliness, and body image and self-confidence. Pupils also shared practical advice and strategies for accessing support, highlighting the importance of knowing how and where to ask for help.

Shining a Light on Mental Health.

Throughout the week, our Celebration of the Word was delivered by members of the Anti-Bullying Ambassador team. Pupils were encouraged to reflect on the power of listening with empathy, recognising that every individual has a unique story and that small acts of understanding can make a significant difference. The anti-bullying ambassadors also explored the signs that someone may be struggling with their mental health and reminded pupils that seeking support is a sign of strength, not weakness.

At The Barlow, we are committed to ensuring that every member of our community feels heard, supported and valued. This year's theme reminds us that real change begins when people feel safe to share their experiences and confident that their voices matter. By listening to one another with compassion and understanding, we can continue to build a stronger, kinder and more inclusive school community.

Together, when real voices are heard, real change becomes possible.



Our Anti-Bullying Ambassador Team took the lead in organising a range of activities throughout the day to engage pupils and raise awareness of the importance of challenging discrimination whenever it occurs. Highlights included a popular penalty shoot-out competition and a red-themed tuck shop, both of

At The Barlow, we believe that racism has no place in our school, our community or society. By working together to challenge prejudice, celebrate difference and promote understanding, we can help create a more inclusive future for all.

Thank you to all pupils, staff and families who supported this year's event and helped make the day such a meaningful success. Together, we continue to show racism the red card.

YOUNG CARERS' CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

Growing with Hope, Reaching for the Stars

A Young Carer is a young person who helps care for someone in their family. This may be a parent, sibling, grandparent, or another relative who has a long-term illness, disability, mental health difficulty, or other additional needs.

On Thursday, 15th October 2026, we were delighted to welcome our cohort of Young Carers to this half-term's Young Carers' Breakfast. Pupils enjoyed a delicious selection of pastries, fresh fruit, and refreshments in the school canteen while spending time together in a relaxed and supportive environment. The breakfast provides a valuable opportunity for pupils to take a well-deserved break, make new friendships, and connect with others who understand the unique experiences of being a Young Carer.

During the event, Miss Whelan introduced herself as the school's new Young Carer Champion and spoke to pupils about the support available at The Barlow. The morning was filled with conversation, laughter, and the opportunity for pupils to share their experiences, helping them to feel part of a caring and understanding community.

We are incredibly proud of our Young Carers and the kindness, resilience, and maturity they demonstrate every day. The Young Carers' Breakfast is a chance to recognise and celebrate the vital role they play within their families, while reminding them that they are valued members of our school community. It was wonderful to see so many pupils enjoying the morning together, and we look forward to continuing to support and celebrate our Young Carers throughout the year.

"The Young Carers' Club is where I met some of my closest friends. When my brother was at The Barlow, I could speak to him at the club. Everyone sits together and gets along, even if you don't usually speak to them. You get to talk to people, enjoy a delicious breakfast, and celebrate being a Young Carer" Joe.



"The club has helped me because it allows me to share my story with others who may be having the same experience. I can give advice to people who need it, and it gives me a place to talk where I don't feel judged and where I feel heard." Miriam.

"I enjoy the breakfasts because you get to meet new people that you wouldn't normally branch out to. I get to talk to people and sometimes it takes the stress of home and school away. Having a break with your mates is a great distraction." Ivy.

YEAR 7 TRANSITION DAYS AT ST. CATHERINE'S

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' *Jeremiah 29:11*



Our Year 7 Transition Days at St Catherine's were a wonderful success, providing an exciting opportunity for our new pupils to take their first steps into life at The Barlow. Over the course of the days, pupils spent time with their new teaching groups, met members of staff and began forming the friendships that will support them throughout their secondary school journey.

The programme began with the celebration of Mass, led by Fr John alongside the parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena. Pupils also took part in inspiring workshops delivered by Sister Anne from the Marist Centre and Ann Tipper, helping them reflect on the values that underpin our Catholic community.



Throughout the transition experience, pupils engaged in a variety of fun and interactive activities designed to build confidence, encourage teamwork and help them feel at home in their new environment. There was a real buzz of excitement as pupils worked together to solve challenges, explored our school values and discovered what life in Year 7 at The Barlow has to offer.

It was particularly encouraging to see pupils embracing our SPAR values through their enthusiasm, participation and respect for one another. The positivity, energy and willingness to get involved

shown by our incoming Year 7 cohort gives us every reason to be excited about the year ahead.



A huge thank you goes to Sister and Ann, who helped make these days such a memorable and successful experience, and a special thanks to the teachers and support staff from The Barlow who made this possible! We cannot wait to see our new Year 7 pupils grow, flourish and thrive as valued members of our school community. With faith, friendship and a shared commitment to our core values of serve, pray, achieve and respect, they are already showing the enthusiasm and potential that will make them a wonderful part of The Barlow family.



**ST CATHERINE
OF SIENA**

A Journey of Faith, Friendship and New Beginnings.

OPEN EVENING 2026

A Fantastic Showcase of The Barlow Family



On Thursday, 1st October, The Barlow proudly welcomed over 340 families from Years 5 and 6 to our annual Open Evening. It was a wonderful opportunity for prospective pupils and their families/carers to experience life at The Barlow first-hand and discover what makes our school such a special place to learn, grow and thrive.



The evening was a true team effort, with every member of staff contributing to the success of the event. We were also incredibly proud of the more than 250 pupil volunteers who gave their time to support the evening. From greeting visitors at the entrance and leading tours around the school to helping with activities in classrooms, our pupils were exceptional ambassadors and perfectly demonstrated our values of Serve, Pray, Achieve and Respect.



Families enjoyed a welcome from Headteacher, Ms Wallace, alongside presentations from our Head Boy and Head Girl, before setting off on pupil-led tours to explore the school. Throughout the evening, visitors experienced the breadth of opportunities available in our school through a wide range of engaging and interactive activities across every curriculum area.

In English, visitors tested their detective skills in a murder mystery room, tackled Countdown challenges and unleashed their creativity through story-writing activities. Mathematics offered hands-on challenges including horse-racing probability games, Hit the Button, tetrahedron building and mocktail ratio investigations. We had a brilliant evening showcasing all our school has to offer and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort to their transition activities later on this academic year.



CAREERS FAIR

Inspiring Pupils to Think About their Future



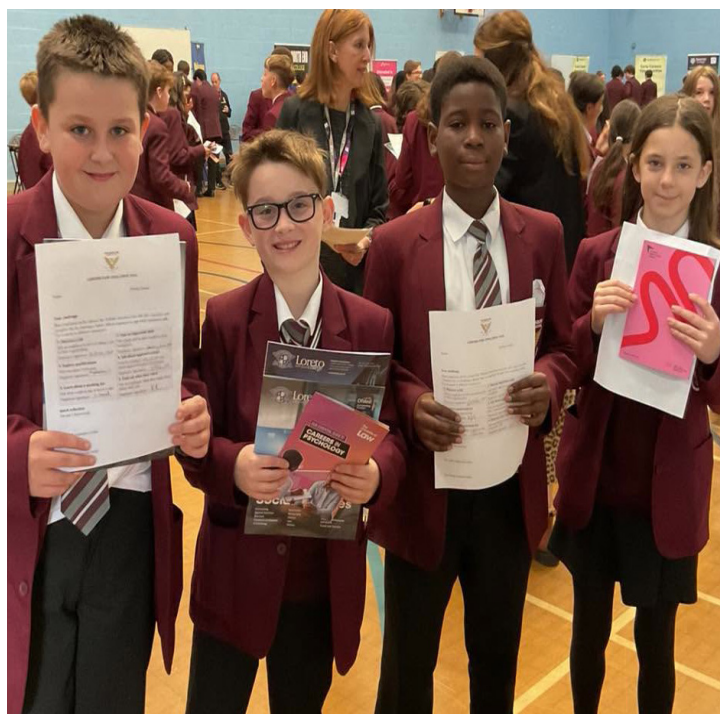
We were delighted to host our annual Careers Fair, providing pupils with a fantastic opportunity to explore the wide range of pathways available to them after school.

The event brought together representatives from local colleges, universities, the Army, the NHS, and a variety of local businesses, all keen to share their experiences and inspire the next generation. Pupils had the chance to speak directly with professionals from different sectors, ask questions about career journeys, and learn about the qualifications, skills and personal qualities needed for success in a range of industries.

Throughout the fair, pupils discovered opportunities in further and higher education, healthcare, public service, engineering, business, and many other career areas. The event encouraged them to think about their own aspirations, consider future pathways, and gain a better understanding of the world of work.

A particular highlight was hearing from employers and education providers about the many routes available after school, including A-Levels, vocational qualifications, apprenticeships, university study and employment. Pupils were encouraged to reflect on their strengths, interests and ambitions, helping them to make informed decisions about their future.

We would like to thank all of our visitors for giving their time and sharing their expertise with our pupils. Their support helped make the day a valuable and inspiring experience. We hope the Careers Fair has encouraged our pupils to aim high, explore new possibilities and begin thinking positively about the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.



Bringing the World of Work to The Barlow.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Empowering Young People to Achieve More



The excitement surrounding the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) was clear to see at the recent relaunch event held on Monday, 28th September, with the school's Lecture Theatre packed to capacity. The event attracted a large number of enthusiastic parents, carers and pupils from Years 9 and 10, all keen to learn more about the opportunities available this academic year through the prestigious award scheme.

The evening provided an excellent introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the many benefits it offers young people. Pupils and families heard about the opportunities to develop important life skills, build confidence, participate in volunteering and physical activities, and take part in adventurous expeditions.

The high level of interest demonstrated just how popular the programme continues to be. This year, there are only 28 places available for Year 9 pupils and 28 places available for Year 10 pupils, making the selection process highly competitive.

Presentations were delivered by Vicky Doyle, DofE Manager for the North West, and Kevin Beattie from Adventurous Horizons. Both speakers

highlighted the value of the award and explained the commitment required from participants. They also emphasised that places are limited and that pupils will need to demonstrate why they are suitable candidates for the programme.

Pupils wishing to be considered for one of the coveted places must submit a letter of application to Mr Fitter by Friday, 16th October. In their application, pupils should explain why they would like to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and what qualities they can bring to the scheme. The cost of participating in the programme for successful applicants will be £120, which covers the support, training and opportunities provided throughout the award.

With so much enthusiasm already shown by pupils and families, the relaunch event has set the stage for another successful year of Duke of Edinburgh participation. We look forward to receiving applications and seeing the next group of pupils take on the challenge, develop new skills and create lasting memories through this rewarding experience.



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

FOOTBALL TALENT

From The Barlow to the Three Lions

This is Elise Campbell, one of our sporting superstars here at The Barlow. Elise has been a dedicated footballer since the age of seven. She has been signed to Manchester City Football Club for the past six seasons and has gone from strength to strength.

Football is Elise's number one passion; her dedication has shone brightly from the day she joined us here at The Barlow in 2022. However, as of late, her talent and dedication has really paid off. Elise was in China this summer playing against teams such as Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and the Chinese national team. On Friday, 2nd of October her dreams came true; Elise found out that she had made the under-16s England team. This phenomenal achievement will see Elise represent England in

Kansas this October. England will compete against America and our girl will be leading from the front.

Elise, we are beyond proud of you. Take this opportunity with two hands; you have worked so very hard and are so very deserving.

Good luck from everybody at The Barlow.



YEAR 8 DROP DOWN DAY

Is It Safe to Be Online?



Our Year 8 pupils recently took part in an engaging and thought-provoking Drop-Down Day focused on online safety and digital citizenship. Throughout the day, pupils explored our Big Question: "Is it safe to be online?"

The day featured a range of interactive workshops designed to help pupils understand both the opportunities and risks that come with living in a digital world. Sessions included:

- Digital Piracy – exploring the legal and ethical implications of accessing and sharing content online.
- Online Bullying – understanding the impact of cyberbullying and how to seek help and support.
- Body Image in a Digital World – examining how social media can influence self-esteem, body image and wellbeing.
- Keeping Yourself and Your Data Safe Online – learning practical strategies to protect personal information, recognise scams and create secure online accounts.
- Digital Footprints and the Workplace – considering how online actions can leave a lasting impression and affect future education and employment opportunities.

Pupils also explored the Online Safety Bill and discussed how laws and technology companies can help to make online spaces safer for young people. Through debates, discussions and real-life case studies, pupils developed a deeper understanding of digital responsibility and the importance of making informed choices online.

By the end of the day, pupils had reflected on the benefits and challenges of using the internet and worked towards answering our Big Question. While many concluded that the online world offers fantastic opportunities for learning, connection and entertainment, they also recognised that staying safe online requires awareness, responsibility and critical thinking.

We were extremely impressed by the maturity, enthusiasm and thoughtful contributions shown by Year 8 throughout the day. The skills and knowledge gained will help our pupils become safer, more confident and responsible digital citizens.

Think Before You Click...



GREEN FLAG

Growing a Greener Future

We are delighted to announce we have now received our Green Flag Award with Merit! This is a fantastic achievement and recognises the hard work and commitment of our school community, in particular the Eco Warriors, to becoming more environmentally friendly. Our Green Flag plaque will be proudly displayed in reception for everyone to see.

To help us recycle more, we now have four bottle recycling bins around the school - two in the courtyard and two in the playground. These are available for pupils to use during break and lunchtime, helping us to reduce the amount of plastic waste that goes into general rubbish. In addition to this, we also have new bottle recycling bins in our classrooms, making it even easier for everyone to recycle throughout the school day.

Our Eco Warriors have been meeting every Wednesday, during Family Time, in Science 3 and have already started our classroom bottle collections. It has been fantastic to see pupils getting involved and taking responsibility for making our school a greener place. We are especially pleased to have some of our Year 7 pupils joining the Eco Warriors and helping to make a difference.

One of the easiest ways we can all help to reduce the amount of single-use plastic we are recycling is by bringing a reusable water bottle to school. Rather than buying a new plastic bottle from the canteen every day, pupils are encouraged to bring their own reusable bottle.

Eco Excellence!

MACBETH

A Tale of Prophecy and Power



On Wednesday, 30th September, thirty Year 10 pupils travelled to the Shakespeare North Playhouse to watch a performance of Macbeth. The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to experience Shakespeare's famous tragedy live on stage and to deepen their understanding of the text they will be studying in English as part of their GCSE English Literature course.

The production was both engaging and thought-provoking, bringing Shakespeare's characters and themes vividly to life. Pupils were particularly impressed by the powerful performance of Lady Macbeth, while the simple staging lit only by candles and featuring a solo cello player, created a dramatic and memorable atmosphere. Seeing the play performed live gave pupils a deeper appreciation of Shakespeare's craft and sparked plenty of discussion on the journey home.

The pupils were a credit to the school throughout the visit. Their behaviour was exemplary, and many members of the public took the time to comment on how focused they were during the performance.

and how respectful and well behaved they were throughout the visit. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented the school and would like to thank them for making the trip such a success.



DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

An Afternoon of Music, Dance and Drama

On Thursday, 17th September, a group of Year 9 and 10 pupils enjoyed an exciting visit to The Lowry Theatre to watch a production of Disney's High School Musical.

The pupils had the opportunity to experience the popular musical live on stage, enjoying its energetic performances, catchy songs and impressive choreography. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils and staff alike to experience live theatre and appreciate the talent and creativity involved in bringing a musical production to life.

It was an enjoyable and memorable experience for all, and a great day out for both pupils and staff!



A NEW CHAPTER FOR READING AT THE BARLOW

A New Space Designed To Inspire Every Learner



The National Year of Reading is in full swing at The Barlow, with an exciting range of developments and activities taking place across the school to inspire our pupils to discover the joy of reading.

Our recently refurbished library continues to be a popular hub for pupils, with its newest additions proving a real talking point. Alongside a growing collection of books, the library is now home to a fish tank, featuring fish named after much-loved literary characters - making quite a splash with our young readers! We were also delighted to receive a grant from the Department for Education, which has enabled us to add hundreds of new titles to our collection. These books are already proving popular, with our manga collection in particularly high demand and flying off the shelves.

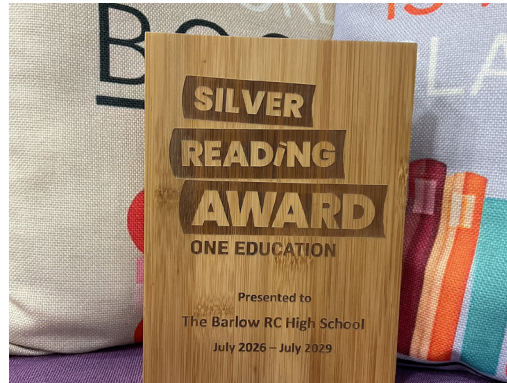
At our recent Open Evening, prospective pupils were invited to explore their own 'new chapter' through a variety of reading-themed games and activities. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our library and give visitors a glimpse of the many exciting opportunities available to them at The Barlow.

To mark World Mental Health Day, our Year 7 pupils joined the National Literacy Trust's Guinness World

Record attempt in association with Take 10 to Read. By taking part alongside readers from across the country, pupils celebrated the importance of making time to read and explored the positive role reading can play in supporting mental health and wellbeing.

On Friday, our Reading Ambassadors led another of our much-loved library pop-ups in the courtyard. It was wonderful to see them encouraging their peers to get involved and helping to nurture a reading culture throughout the school. We also hosted our very first Reading Retreat, providing pupils with a calm and welcoming space to unwind with a good book. Complete with hot chocolate, mood lighting and a peaceful atmosphere, the retreat offered a welcome opportunity to pause, relax and enjoy some quiet reading time away from the busy school day.

With plenty more library events and activities planned for the next half term, there is much to look forward to. We are excited to continue celebrating the power of reading, bringing our school community together through books and inspiring even more pupils to discover their next favourite read.



BARLOW ALUMNI

Volunteer Spotlight: Milo



Milo is a much-loved and valued member of our community here at Didsbury Good Neighbours. I first met him at a Coffee Morning, where he is part of the Digital Drop-In team, helping older members with all manner of IT difficulties on phones, tablets, laptops, etc. If Milo doesn't know the answer, he always knows where to find it!

Sometime last year, we began to chat about what I do at the Centre (I'm known as Jan, the gardener), and together we decided that he would enjoy Gardening Club as an additional volunteering role. Since then, he has gone from strength to strength. He is always with us, no matter the weather, during summer and winter, and is always such a positive addition to the team. During bird-feeding months, Milo is in charge of maintaining and filling our numerous birdfeeders - there is never a job he refuses!

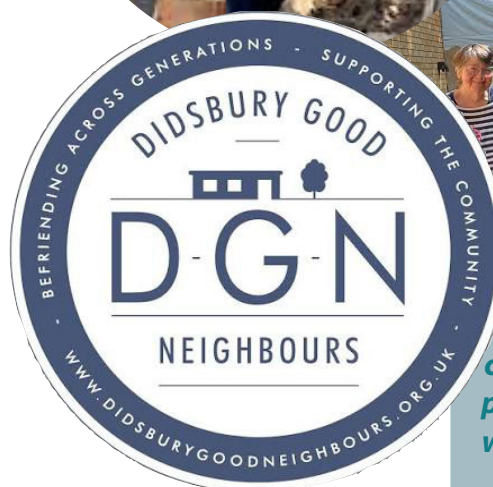
He is so keen that he now comes in on the following day as well; he helps our strong-arm brigade with the tougher jobs that some of us older volunteers find challenging. He is also in charge of keeping our weekly register of volunteers up to date - very important as

the Centre's funding from Manchester City Council depends on the number of people using the Centre.

Just as I'm sure he has been from the beginning of his days at St Catherine's and The Barlow, Milo is keen to learn, and he has been especially interested in the birds attracted to our birdfeeders - quietly photographing the delightful baby birds hopping around this spring.

Volunteering at Didsbury Good Neighbours becomes such an important part of someone's life. It is for Milo, myself and all our other lovely volunteers. Come and visit us! We will make sure we have lots of cake and biscuits! Ask Milo - he will tell you they are needed, as we all work so hard here.

By Alison Holland, Volunteer Gardener



***Milo's
commitment,
positivity and
willingness to
help inspire
everyone
around him.***

HALF TERM TREATS

Delicious Deals



KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) OCTOBER HALF TERM 2026

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN

Kids Eat Free October 9th - 31st via Perks App

BANANA TREE

Kids eat free this october with an adult

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main

BILLS

Kids Eat Free Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

BREWDOG

Kids eat free this Oct with KIDS EAT FREE bookings

CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

CHIQUITO

Kids eat FREE during all school holidays

COCONUT TREE

Kids eat free Sun 18th Oct - Sun 1st Nov 2026

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FARMHOUSE INNS

2 Kids eat free during the October Half Term

FLAMING GRILL

1 Kid eats free weekdays this October half term

FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids eat FREE during school holidays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

HARVESTER

Kids eat for £1 until November 1st 2026 via App

HUNGRY HORSE

2 Kids eat for £1 this October Half Term

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MARSTON PUBS

kids eat for £1 during the october half term

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult mea

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TESCO

Kids Eat free weekdays with an adult purchase

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TOBY CARVERY

Kids eat for £1 until November 1st 2026 via App

TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

TURTLE BAY

Kids eat free with a £15 adult spend via app

VILLAGE HOTELS

Kids eat free via the village app

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holiday

ZIZZI

Kids eat free weekdays in school holidays

TIME TO UNWIND

Rest, Recharge and Enjoy



thebarlowrchigh



TheBarlowRC



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