



*'A walk around  
our school is a  
chance to  
appreciate the  
great things  
going on*

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## School that Matters: Open Door Week!

One of the many things I get to do during a week is to walk around school. I do this several times each day as it is one of the best ways to get a sense of what is going well in school and what might need to improve. Above all, it provides many opportunities to appreciate and celebrate the great things that staff and young people do in their learning.

Some weeks in each term we run Open Door weeks, where staff invite one another into classrooms to watch teaching and learn from each other. These are very powerful experiences and they are also a chance to celebrate the great work that young people are doing in their classes.

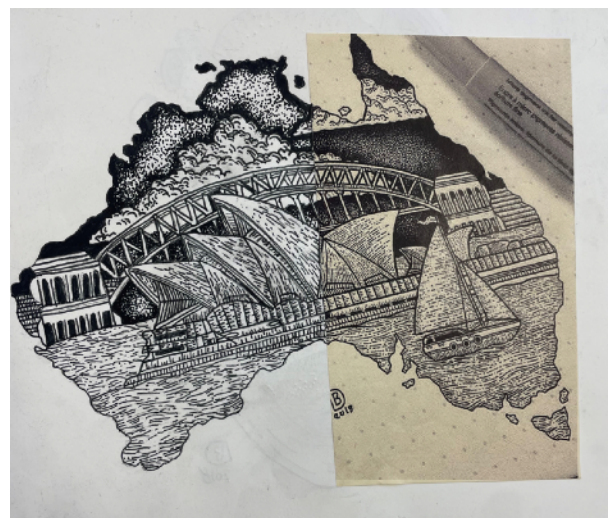
There is something really uplifting about walking around school, sometimes in the company of guests, seeing the interactions between people, the enthusiasm of staff, the engagement between staff and pupils and sense the learning that is taking place. In recent days I have been lucky enough to learn about medieval medicine in History, see pupils learning about transparency and opacity in Science, walk in to a test in Chemistry where a pupil was also celebrating her birthday, feel my heart in my mouth as pupils take part in trampolining in PE and was dazzled by year 10 learning vectors in Maths.

I am very conscious that for parents and carers of younger pupils in our school there is still a sense that they had greater access to what was happening day-to-day when their children were in primary. That is one of the reasons why we offer this newsletter: to provide insights into the daily workings of school so that families understand all that we do to make school matter to young people as a place of belonging and success.

In the same way, a walk around our school will reveal the child who is on their way back from a music lesson, buoyed by their achievement; the child who is struggling with something and receiving help from our counsellor or another member of staff; and the pupil who (as I saw this week) has finished their mock speaking test and never thought they could do it, but is allowing themselves a little celebration as they return to class.

Ben Davis, Headteacher

**Mylie, Year 10 has created a piece of work inspired by Dylan Brady, using fine liner. Basquiat using watercolour, posca pens and fineliner.**



*'Well done to the  
Key Stage 3  
Football team for  
their inspiring  
performance'*

## CALENDAR

**Children's Mental Health  
Week, February 5th –  
11th**

**Whitworth Art Gallery  
trip, February 8th**

**Year 9 Options  
Information Evening,  
February 8th**

**Year 11 Mock Exams  
February 12th – 14th**

**Ash Wednesday,  
February 14th**

**Half-term begins,  
February 16th**

**Pupils and staff return  
from half-term,  
February 26th**

## Year Group Leadership

**Year 7**  
Year Manager: Mr Healey  
(Senior Leader: Mr  
Jordan)

**Year 8**  
Year Manager: Mrs  
Vincent  
(Senior Leader: Mr Jones)

**Year 9**  
Year Manager: Miss  
Moore  
(Senior Leader: Mrs  
Johnston)

**Year 10**  
Head of Year: Mr.  
Pemberton  
(Senior Leader: Miss  
O'Leary)

**Year 11**  
Head of Year: Miss Toon  
(Senior Leader: Mrs  
Tulloch)

## Around our School this Week: Highlights

# 1

This week assemblies for Year 9 have been led by Heads of Department with each one speaking about the possibilities of their subject and the reasons why it will make a great option for Year 10 and 11. Next week we hold our Year 9 Options Evening and we strongly encourage parents and carers to attend.

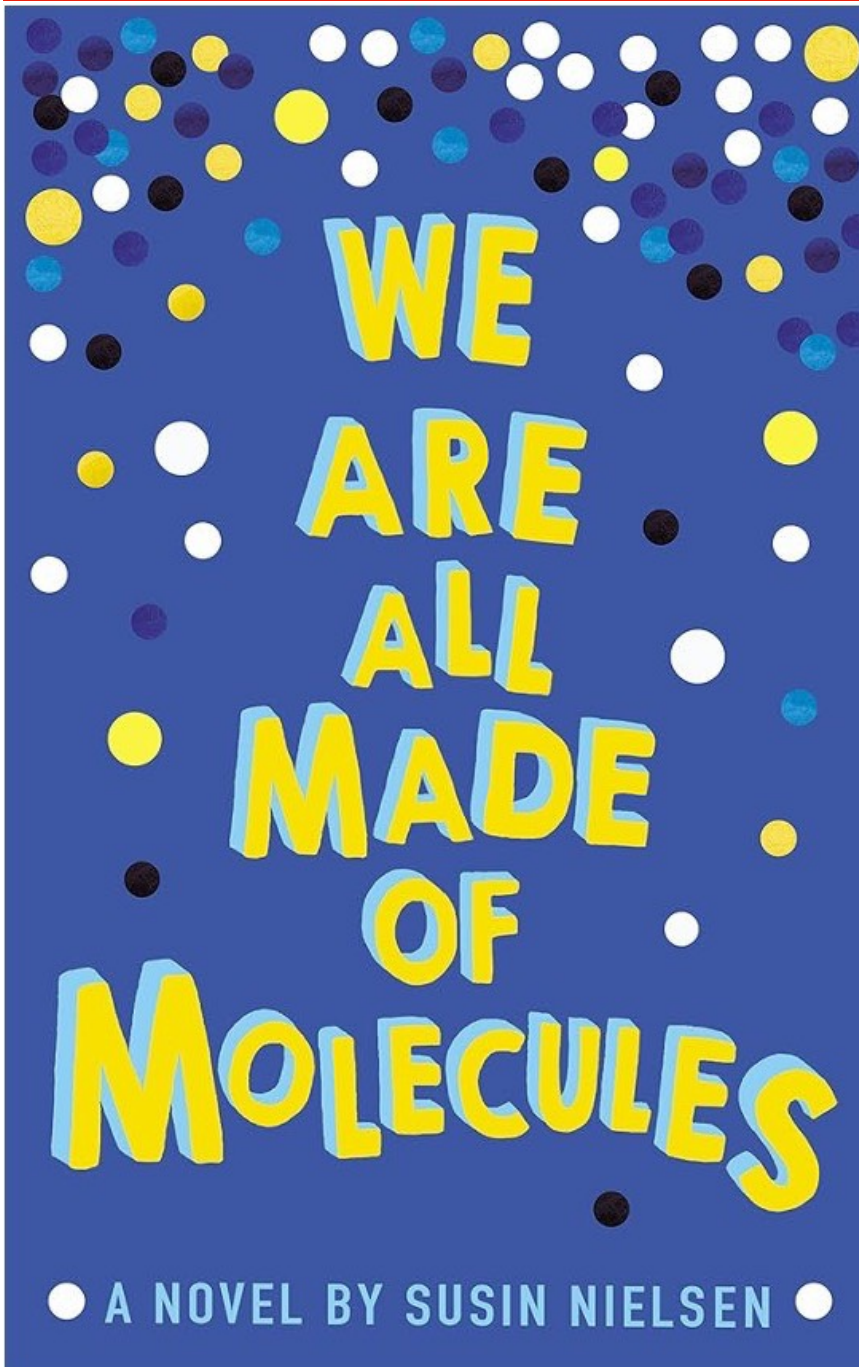
# 2

Well done to the St Ambrose indoor rowing team (below). There was some tough competition throughout the day and the team showed resilience and determination. Meanwhile, our Key Stage 3 Girls' Football team played their hearts out against Salford City Academy this week earning a 1-1 draw - we're very proud of them.

# 3

Next week the AMSP (Advanced Mathematics Support Programme) will be in school working with some of our highest achieving Year 10 students. They will be running a competition in class to see who is up for the challenge of attending the Salford Maths Feast in March. Maths Feast is a fun educational challenge for Year 10 students which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. We will be taking two teams of four students to compete against other schools in the area.





**Our book choice this week has a fabulously arresting front cover and is *We Are All Made of Molecules*, written by Susan Nielsen.**

Meet Stewart. He's geeky, gifted and sees things a bit differently to most people. His mum has died and he misses her all the more now he and Dad have moved in with Ashley and her mum.

Meet Ashley. She's popular, cool and sees things very differently to her new family. Her dad has come out and moved out – but not far enough. And now she has to live with a freakazoid step-brother.

Stewart can't quite fit in at his new school, and Ashley can't quite get used to her totally awkward home, which is now filled with some rather questionable decor. And things are about to get a whole lot more mixed up when these two very different people attract the attention of school heart-throb Jared. . .

## BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

We are establishing a collection of foreign language texts in our school library and wondered if any of our families might have books written in their home language that they wouldn't mind donating.

It can be expensive and difficult to get hold of foreign language books appropriate for our 11-16 age group, but we'd love to offer our pupils (especially those for whom English is an additional language), a selection of books in their first language.

The languages we could particularly make use of are as follows:

Arabic; Cantonese; Farsi; French; Italian; Polish; Portuguese; Russian; Spanish

Any donations can be dropped off with Mrs Davis at the school library.

### Key Stage 3 Book Club

Our book club meets at 3:15pm - 4:00pm in the Library every Tuesday.

Our current read is 'There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom' by Louis Sachar. It has short chapters and so is easy to catch-up on if you're new to the club.

Next we'll be reading the Salford Children's Book Awards short-list.

