



'Holocaust

Memorial Day

reminds us of the
power of the first
word of our
mission: Love

School that Matters: a cracking week!

As this week's edition clearly shows it has been a full and busy week at St. Ambrose Barlow.

We have welcomed the police into school to do two presentations to Year 7 pupils about social media and other challenges of modern life - they were an excellent and thoughtful audience.

We also saw our Living Eggs arrive, which has caused more than a little flutter of excitement. This reached a bit of a fever-pitch when a dozen inanimate eggs suddenly became half-a dozen fluffy, yellow-ish chicks. As you may have seen from social media, the new arrivals are very much the stars of the week.

Our assembly and form time focus this week has been Holocaust Memorial Day which falls tomorrow. Mr Osborne, Head of History, wrote and led the assemblies. The national theme for HMD 2024 is The Fragility of Freedom.

Given that Holocaust Memorial Day doesn't just commemorate Nazi atrocities it also remembers the victims and survivors of several other genocides (some as recent as the 1990s) this theme is an important reminder to us all.

Art work completed by Maisie in Y9. She has completed an artist research page based on the work of Jean Michel Basquiat using watercolour, posca pens and fineliner.

It shows the importance and power of education as a means to develop free, critical thinkers who cannot be (or are less likely to be) manipulated by those in power who have malicious intent. It is why we encourage a love of reading, why we ensure all pupils study the arts and humanities and a language, why we foster an understanding of how knowledge in Science can change lives for the better and why team games in PE are focused on participation as much as victory.

Crucially in a diverse Catholic school where over 30 languages are spoken (we are becoming a School of Sanctuary) it is also something that reinforces our values and the importance the first word of our mission statement: Love.

Ben Davis, Headteacher

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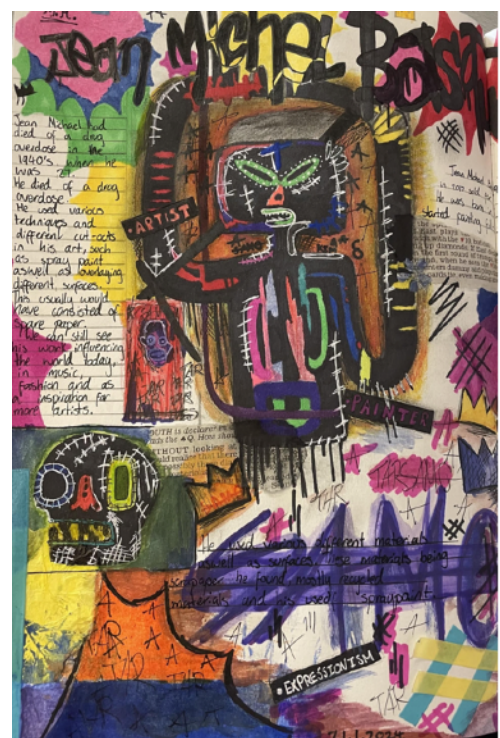
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'Modern Languages

pupils are very engaged and the quality of work is excellent'

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

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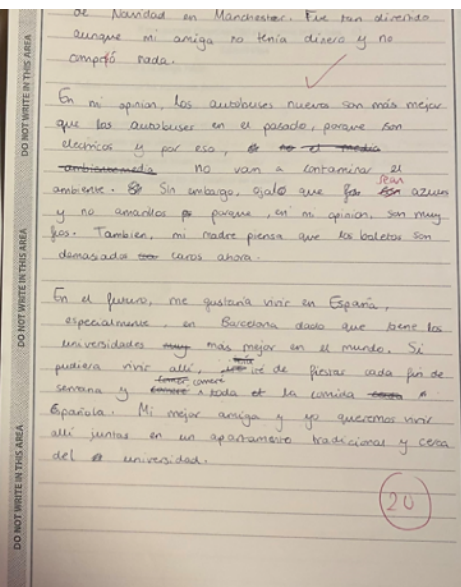
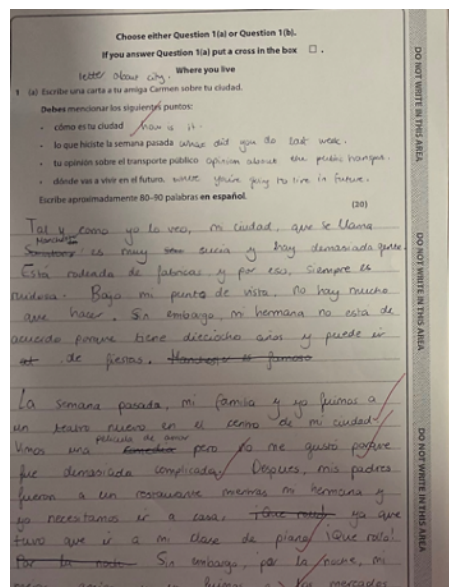
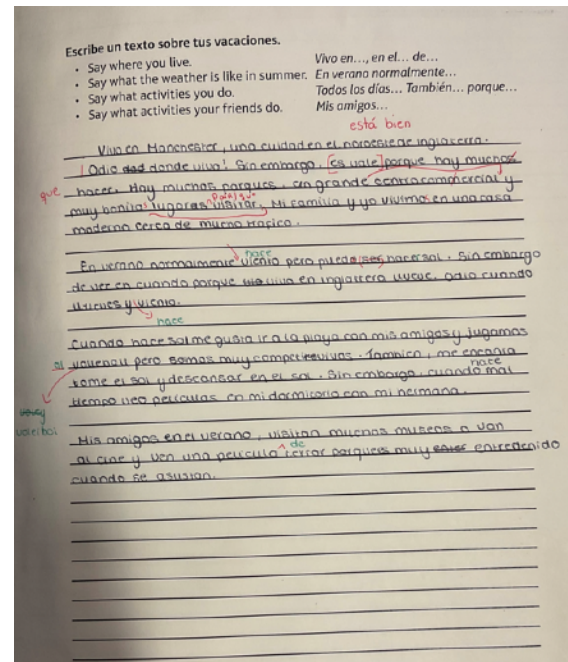
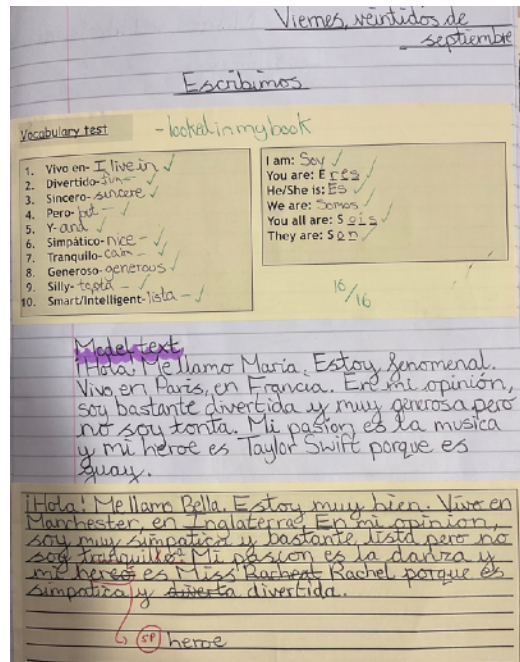
After a defeat last week the netball teams in years 7 and 8 were again in action against our old rivals St. Patrick's RC High School in Eccles. They enjoyed really challenging and closely fought contests, achieving a draw of which they (and all of us) are very proud. So, next stop is surely a crushing victory!

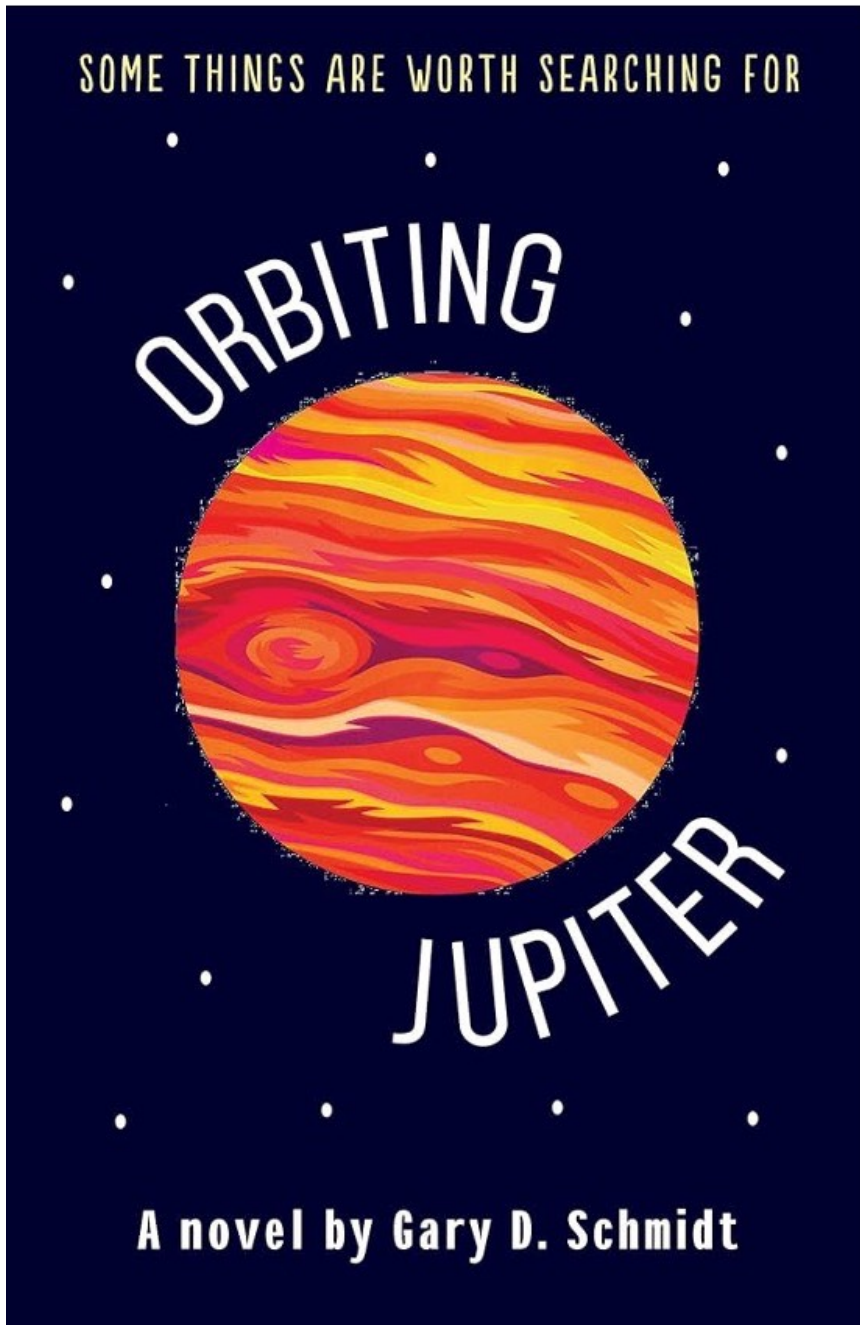
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This week a focus of our coverage has been the Modern Languages department. Over the last few years under the leadership of Miss Ruiz, this has grown into a very high performing department. Pupils are very engaged and uptake of languages is growing. The department have announced a very exciting trip to Madrid - letters have been issued.

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Featured below are some examples of written work from the Modern Languages department that show the depth of learning that takes place and the high quality of teaching. Please note that the Madrid trip is open to Year 10 pupils and takes place in July 2024 over four very culture-packed days.





Our book choice this week is the challenging and thought-provoking 'Orbiting Jupiter' by Gary D. Schmidt.

In this riveting novel, two boys discover the true meaning of family and the sacrifices it requires.

Gary D. Schmidt delivers the shattering story of Joseph, a father at thirteen, who has never seen his daughter, Jupiter. After spending time in a juvenile facility, he's placed with a foster family on a farm in rural Maine. Here Joseph, damaged and withdrawn, meets twelve-year-old Jack, who narrates the account of the troubled, passionate teen who wants to find his baby at any cost.

When Jack meets his new foster brother, he knows three things about him: Joseph almost killed a teacher. He was incarcerated at a place called Stone Mountain. He has a daughter. Her name is Jupiter. And he has never seen her.

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.

