



ST AMBROSE BARLOW
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2023



“

When we began this academic year, back in the sweltering heat of September, we set ourselves a school priority, an aim, to make school matter for everyone. We did this, as I said at the time, because nationally it is said that more children than ever are struggling to attend school and the faith that families once had in schools has changed.

Based on our very strong attendance data it looks like something is working, and our young people do value their experience here (which is not the same as saying that they all love coming to school!). However, we know that making school a loving, joyful place that ‘matters’ to our pupils is not straightforward and takes a great deal of time and thought.

It is always the little things or the incidental things that have the greatest impact. For example, our Christmas concert this week was a beautiful and powerful example of what our school stands for: wonderful performances, brave performers, an inclusive line-up, strong relationships. If you didn’t manage to come you missed out – look out for our next performance venture.

Before the concert we hosted a group of senior citizens for a Christmas meal and Bingo, served and led by our young people and staff. Again, this was a lovely event, characterised by warmth and joy. The Advent liturgies have been led by pupils and enhanced by our choir, helping us all to reflect on the messages of Christmas; to discern the quiet truth amidst the noise of the season.

For some of our families and members of the community the messages of celebration and joy are jarring – their reality is sadness, loss, fear or uncertainty. As a school we are here to help, to support or simply be someone who listens. Please do get in touch with us if you need us. We also collected a huge amount for charity over the last few weeks and delivered a sizable consignment of food

to the homeless on Thursday. Thank you for all your generosity in supporting our charitable endeavours this month.

This end of term newsletter allows you to look back on the last 14 weeks of school and review some of the many highs and successes – the experiences and achievements that make school matter. They happen because of the diligence, care and commitment of our staff and the enthusiasm of pupils. We should be very grateful for both – they make for a great school.

I wish you and your families, whatever you are doing, a very happy and peaceful Christmas. I hope that it is a time of joy, an opportunity to spend time with those you love and a chance to rest.

God Bless,

Ben Davis
Headteacher



LOVE ♦ LEARN ♦ LEAD
OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES



LOVE

A place of love where **everyone is welcome and respected.**

A family of faith where **everybody matters; where we are unique together;** where we plant the seed that will one day **flourish.**

A **community with Christ** at the centre where the dignity of each person is celebrated so that they can **embrace excellence.**

**I AM RESPECTFUL
I AM KIND
I AM INSPIRING**



LEARN

A place to learn that is **alive with inspiring experiences** and a curriculum rich in knowledge and wisdom.

A family of faith where together we **seek truth, celebrate endeavour and achievement.**

A community that **values curiosity and nurtures learning** into action in the service of others.

**I AM READY
I AM CURIOUS
I AM BRILLIANT**



LEAD

A place to lead where young people grow to become men and women for others, **creative and courageous, ambitious** for the higher gifts.

A family of faith where we serve with **integrity, hope and determination.**

A community that values justice for the most vulnerable so that all may have **life to the full.**

**I AM CREATIVE
I AM BRAVE
I AM A PROBLEM SOLVER**

OUR TERM IN PICTURES



AUG

AUGUST - DECEMBER 2023

1. Well done to our Year 11 students on their GCSE results! We are so proud of you all and your achievements!
2. We would like to introduce our Student Leadership Team for 2023-2024!
3. Ubuntu is an ancient African word meaning 'humanity to others'. It is often described as reminding us that 'I am what I am because of who we all are'.

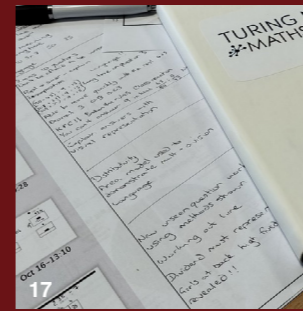
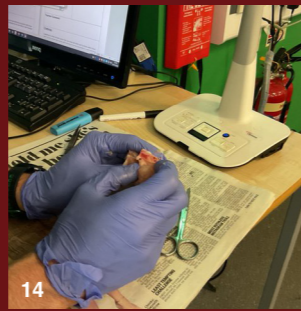
SEPT

4. Our roles as educators remind us that we have the privilege to continue the work of Jesus. We strive to be teachers who inspire and mentors who empower. In doing so, we fulfil our purpose in this faith-filled community and we honour the legacy of Jesus, our ultimate teacher.
5. Our Y10 students enjoyed bread making with Mrs McGowan this morning

6. The grand opening of our brand new enhanced resource provision. 'The Francis Centre' supports pupils with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). Our young people have made a great start to the year and settled in nicely.
7. Well done to our Stars of the Week! We are so proud of you all; keep up the hard work!

8. Our Year 8 students are developing their design and hand building skills using clay to create ceramic cupcakes.
9. Our Year 10 Product Design students are using reclaimed wood to create their very own stationary caddies for use during their projects

10. Well done to our Stars of the Week. It was lovely to see the amount of students chosen this week due to showing kindness to others in various ways. You are great ambassadors of our school values and we are so proud of you all!



OCT

11. Well done to our Year 7,8,9 and 10 amazing netball teams who played in the tournament against Moorside. We are so proud of you all!

12. Well done to our Year 8 rugby league team! We are so proud of you!

13. Our Scholastic book fair is in full swing!

14. Year 7 practising their dissection skills! During their chicken wing dissection lesson this week, our students enjoyed learning about how the wing is divided into three parts, muscle action and joint movement - what a fantastic lesson!

15. Congratulations to our Year 10 football team for winning 3-1 in the Manchester cup!

16. Well done to our stars of the week this week! Lots of students recognised this week for their mature attitude and helpfulness and our awards ceremony and recent open evening. We are so proud of you all!

17. Mrs Ward and Mr Montgomery are training with North West maths hub, to develop mastery and ensure even more first-class teaching in our classrooms

18. Our herb garden is growing nicely thanks to our Year 9 students!

19. Well done to our amazing netball teams. 3 wins out of 4 games! Year 10 secured a comfortable win of 18-1. They played so well and Year 9 remained consistent even with two players down, securing a win of 8-2!

20. Well done to our incredible Year 8 football team! A top performance resulting in a 5-2 win against a very strong Albion team. We are so proud of you all!

21. We have been celebrating Black History Month 2023 with assemblies being delivered by our Year 10 students. Today we welcomed award-winning fashion brand Cultureville to share their passion for African fashion and their journey of running a successful business as African women.

22. Well done to our final stars of the week for this first half term Lots of achievement points given this week for our students with positive attitudes and resilience in their learning. We are so proud of you all!



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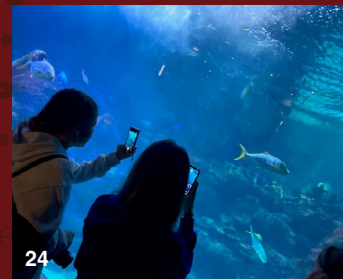
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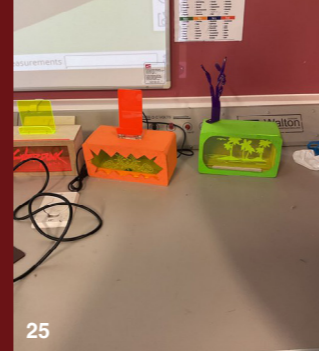
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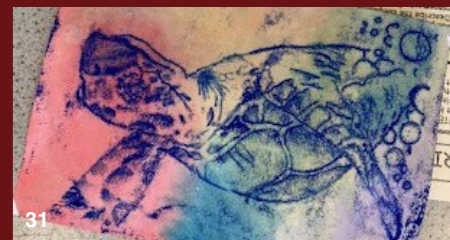
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NOV

23. Well done to our Year 8 and 9 rugby league teams in their competitions yesterday with Year 9 winning their competition! Year 8 put a fantastic display against a very strong Walkden team. We are so proud of you all

24. Our Year 10 Art and Photography pupils visited the Blue Planet Aquarium to collect first-hand photographs and studies for their 'Under The Sea' project.

25. Our science department enjoyed a visit from a former St Ambrose Barlow pupil, who is now working as a cancer research scientist at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre. She spoke about their exciting research in radiobiology and their work with the Proton Therapy Centre.

26. Our Year 9 students applied their workshop skills and had access to CAD/CAM to manufacture their individually designed mdf and acrylic mood lamps for their identified client.

27. Well done to our Year 8 football team winning 4-3 in a close and very tense game. The boys remained resilient to the final whistle. A hattrick from one and Man of the Match performances from two of our players, securing the victory!

28. Our Year 10 Photography students are working hard in their close up photoshoots for their still life projects.

29. This week we welcomed Professional Magician Sam from GM Higher, who delivered an innovative and engaging workshop to our students, sharing with them tricks and tips for public speaking, building confidence and resilience through performance skills.

30. Our Star of the Week students this week were recognised for their positive and conscientious attitudes. Well done everybody we are so proud of you all!

31. Our Year 10 students enjoyed their mono printing lesson exploring under the sea images for their first project.



DEC

32. Well done to our teams at their bowling competitions yesterday. Success for the boys who came away with bronze medals and the girls secured 5th place overall. Well done everyone!

33. A fantastic start for our Year 9 football team who won their first game last Thursday and were successful again last night, winning their match 4-3! Well done boys!

34. Year 8 are using slab building techniques to create a cake slice

35. Earlier this week we welcomed Sister Anna Yeo and Lorraine Leonard from the salforddiocese who led a listening exercise with our young people reflecting on the place faith has in their lives.

36. Well done to our Year 7 students for living out our school values each and every day! They have loved, learnt and led their way to a well-deserved, celebration breakfast with Mr Davis!

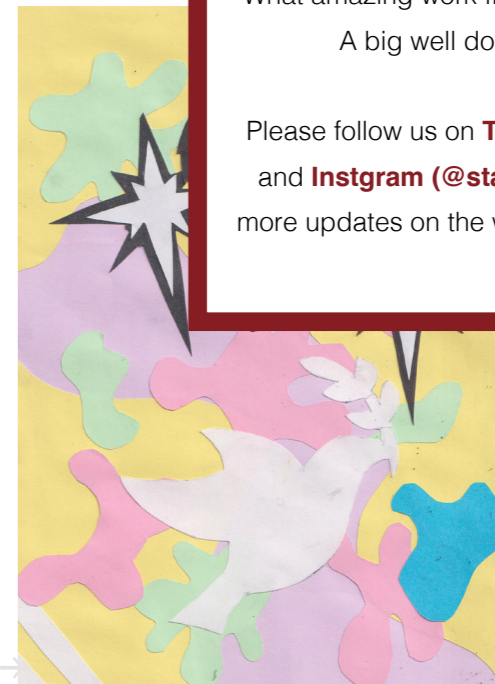
37. Thank you to all of our families who came our our Year 7 Welcome Mass yesterday. A lovely evening had by all.

38. Well done to our stars of the week this week! We are so proud of you all!

39. Well done to our final Stars of the Week for 2023! We are so proud of you all!

40. Well done to our Year 8 award winners for this half term. We are so proud of you all for displaying kindness, being respectful and inspiring each and everyday!

41. The Annual St Ambrose Barlow Senior Citizen's Christmas Party and Christmas Concert.



OUR OUTSTANDING ARTISTS

What amazing work from our incredible pupils!
A big well done to all featured.

Please follow us on **Twitter (@SABartdesign)**
and **Instagram (@stambrosebarlow_art)** for
more updates on the work of our brilliant pupils.

UPCOMING DATES

SCHOOL RE-OPENS

MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2024

YEAR 9 DTP/MENACWY

THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2024

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMINATIONS

MONDAY 5TH - FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2024

YEAR 9 DTP/MENACWY CATCH-UP SESSION

TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2024

YEAR 8-11 CATCH UP IMMUNISATIONS

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 2024



Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

From
Ben Davis, Governors, Staff and Pupils of
St Ambrose Barlow RC High School



ST AMBROSE BARLOW
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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