



*'We value
everyone's success,
but that starts with
valuing their dignity
and common
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School that Matters: Citizenship

Black History Month 2023: Saluting our Sisters

It is all too easy for schools to become bubbles, focused only on results and forgetting the world beyond the school gates. At St. Ambrose Barlow it is very important to us that young people know that they matter as individuals and that school matters as a place where they can be themselves, be safe and thrive.

We value the success of everyone, whatever that success may be, but that starts with valuing their dignity and common humanity. This week we launched Black History Month in form time with more celebration and education around the theme of the achievements of black women to follow later in the month. As Pope Francis reminds us: 'diversity is necessary; it is indispensable.'

Alison Cope: Anti-Violence Campaigner speaks to Years 9 and 10

This is a message we reinforce to pupils every day, but sometimes it helps for them to hear from guests to the school. This week we were lucky enough to welcome the incredible Alison Cope to speak to years 9 and 10.

Alison is an inspiring campaigner whose son Joshua was murdered in 2013. She now works tirelessly to help prevent youth violence by sharing her son's unique life and death story to help educate young people on the realities and consequences of youth violence. Her powerful presentations convey: the importance of prevention, the emotive realisation of how choices affect loved ones and how young people retain hope for the future.

The reaction of our pupils was both uplifting and sobering. As well as being a respectful and engaged audience for Alison so many of them stayed behind to speak with her and express their sadness at her loss as well as tell her how inspiring she was to them.

Events like this help to nurture the young citizens we need for a more peaceful and just world - be proud of your child if they were in the audience. We look forward to working with Alison again soon.

Ben Davis, Headteacher

*Image: our awesome Year 10
netball team*



'Great news that our recent book fair raised over £200 to buy books for the library'

CALENDAR

- Book Fair all week in the library, begins Monday, October 2nd – details to follow
- Open Morning, October 4th – bookings via school website
- Awards Evening, October 9th, 7:00pm
- School closes for half-term 3:15pm, October 21st

*Change to Year 10 Parent's Evening from October 12th to November 9th

SYNERGY – action needed

If you have not yet done so please get the Synergy app and log-in .

Codes for log-ins were sent out to all families last year. If you have lost your code you can contact reception for new one.

The app gives you access to all the information you need about your child's education and care at school: timetables, achievement and behaviour points, attendance data and more.

You can also inform us of your child's absence via Synergy eliminating the need for a phone call.

Around our School this Week: Highlights

1

It was great to welcome the team from Loreto College to our Year 11 assembly this week to talk about the wide range of opportunities available there. Throughout this half-term we are welcoming colleges and post-16 providers to speak to Year 11 about future opportunities.

2

There was an excellent turn-out for our Open Mornings this week on Wednesday. It was a delight to give tours around the school to parents, carers and family members of future pupils and to show off the excellent, calm learning environment. Top marks to Sophie and Leonel from Year 7 for showing our guests around.

3

Our second Scholastic Book Fair (the first was in March) was a great success. Most English classes were able to attend the fair and many pupils chose to purchase books. This has raised over £200 to spend on our library. Well done to the many pupils who assisted with the fair throughout the week.



Images: the Year 8 boys rugby team; books from the Book fair; the Year 7 Boys Rugby team



OASIS PACS (Parent and Carer Support)

Are you worried about your child because of changes in their behaviour, risk taking, involvement in violence or similar. If so OASIS PACS may be able to help. You can learning more here: <https://oasis-gm.org/pacs>

OASIS PACS (Parent and carer support) is a project run by the charity OASIS and funded by the Violence Reduction Unit. They are here to expand upon and compliment the existing OASIS Navigators to aid a full, well-rounded approach to family care.

PACS work with parents and carers whose children/young adults (aged 10-25) are showing early stages of challenging behaviour, poor decision making, violent outbursts etc.

Parents/Carers can self-refer through the website or by using the QR code on the leaflet, or can be referred by ourselves as staff/professionals. We can help with counselling, delivery of OASIS encounter training which is based on non-violent resistance training, signposting and above all listening and helping them to deal with life and their issues. Everybody's issues will be different so our visits and help will take many different directions.

Once a referral is made, contact will be made by our Triage team, who are amazing. They will then look if they can help or if indeed they need to be allocated to one of our team. The same happens with OASIS Navigators. They work with the children/young adults and are also based in 4 main A&E departments in Greater Manchester and work closely with the NHS.

There are leaflets in school and further help and advice on this is available from Miss Goddard, Director of Safeguarding. Contact OASIS PACS here: <https://oasis-gm.org/pacs>

Year 11 College Visits

We have shared with Year 11 the dates (and start times) of college open days over the next few weeks. The remaining ones are as follows:

College	Open Event Date	College	Open Event Date
Bury College	October 12th 5:30pm	Bolton 6th Form College	November 22nd 5:00pm
Manchester College	October 12th 5:00pm	Machester College	November 23rd
Xaverian College	October 15th 10:30am	Pendelton College	December 5th 5:00pm
Loreto College	October 15th 10:00am	Eccles 6th Form	December 9th 10:00am
Holy Cross 6th Form	October 16th 5:00pm	Bolton College	December 14th 5;00pm
Bolton College	October 17th 5:00pm	Bolton 6th Form College	January 23rd 5:30pm
City Skills	October 30th 5:00pm	Bolton College	February 6th 5:00pm
Future Skills	November 4th 10:00am	City Skills	March 2nd 10:00am
Worsley College	November 6th 5:00pm	Future Skills	March 2nd 10:00am
Eccles 6th Form	November 7th 5:00pm	Worsley	March 4th 5:00pm
Pendleton College	November 9th 5:00pm	Eccles 6th Form	March 5th 5:00pm
Bolton College	November 15th 5:00pm	Future Skills	March 6th 5:00pm