



ST AMBROSE BARLOW  
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
— SUMMER 2024 —





## SCHOOL THAT MATTERS: A STRONG FINISH

You'll be familiar with that phrase now, after 38 weeks of school life. We describe our vision for this year as one that ensures school 'matters' to our young people. We alighted on this because of all of the research and experience that showed young people were disengaging from school and attendance plummeting. The idea is simple: it is up to the adults to ensure that school is place where young people feel a sense of purpose, belonging, safety and affiliation. I don't think we're there yet for every pupil (I don't think any school is), but as we end the year I do think that recent events in our school are a very positive indicator that school matters.

Our attendance has been high throughout the year, above national and local averages, especially for pupils who are on the SEND register. I know that like any school there are young people at St. Ambrose Barlow RC High School who find coming in hard, that school is a difficult place to be for all sorts of reasons, but I also know that our provision for supporting young people to attend well is very good indeed. The work of teams of staff who provide extra nurture and support for young people's mental health, wellbeing, attendance is strong and is deeper and wider than ever.

The difference these staff make, along with the wider team who teach and support, is huge. You can see it in our attendance figures that place us in the Top 25% of all schools in England. None of this happens by accident and at this point I would like to pay tribute to all of the staff in our school for being such a brilliant team, for their dedication, for their humour and their expertise.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that ultimate test of school staff that we endured in late February: a visit from our friends from Ofsted. Their call could not

have been better timed and after two days that felt like two years, we were pleased with the outcome: Good and a bit of Outstanding. But that was just a point in time, confirming what we already knew and providing public reassurance of the standards in our school, as well as removing the risk of forced academisation. We quickly moved, we don't do anything for Ofsted, but it's a useful badge to have.

One of the greatest developments this years has been the opening of our Francis Centre, an Enhanced Resource Provision for Autistic pupils. Very quickly the young people and staff in that centre have become a vital and essential part of the school, even celebrating with the Year 11s when they left after their exams. The pupils in the Francis Centre spend between 40 and 100% of their time in classes around the school and we are all looking forward to centre expanding further next year.

Another big focus this year has been pupils' personal development, the wider achievement that makes school somewhere that matters more, that creates the memories that last long after our recall of verbs, algebra and equations has faded. And for this element of school life there is so much to mention.

# LOVE ♦ LEARN ♦ LEAD

Our pupils have dazzled, performed, spoken, competed, visited, created and more. All of this is driven by the staff team who have forged inspiring experiences throughout the year and there are more to come. Even more uplifting is the sheer number and range of pupils who have chosen to be involved or who have been instrumental in setting up clubs for others.

In the creative and performing arts we have been treated to the best year I can recall in terms of breadth and depth of experience. A large group of our pupils directed and performed Macbeth at the Contact Theatre in Manchester, drawing great plaudits from their audience and the critics. Our Christmas Concert and Senior Citizens dinner was an excellent event, drawing together generations from across our community and showcasing our brilliant choir who have also performed in the community and at various school events. Our Art department has inspired pupils to ever higher standards with visiting artists and trips to galleries to augment the outstanding work produced by pupils every day. And the Drama department has produced many fine examples of pupils using their oracy skills to speak in public, most recently at the National Literacy Trust conference at the Lowry.

Pupils have led various events and activities such as Black History Month and have enjoyed the enrichment supplied by visiting speakers, trips to galleries and theatres and a range of off-site experiences. Our Duke of Edinburgh participants have continued to secure Bronze and Silver Awards in ever growing numbers and the Geography department trip to Malham is now an fabulous annual fixture for nearly 100 pupils to test their fieldwork skills and enjoy some wild swimming (hopefully planned). Most recently we saw Year 10 pupils jetting off to Madrid.

Our Library continues to grow as a hub for book clubs, the book fair, World Book Day, author visits and the Salford Children's Book Award. In Science huge numbers of pupils secured the CREST Award and we took part in activities for National Science Week. For yet another year running our pupils produced degree-level work with the Brilliant Club in conjunction with university staff and pupils especially in Year 10 had their horizons broadened with college trips, employer encounters and work experience.

Once again we focused even more on celebration and recognition, issuing over 3000 certificates, awards and badges, which will culminate our memorable

(outstanding) fun day and sports day in July – making more memories. In sport we saw successes for many teams and a huge medal haul in the Salford Athletics competition. The incredible work of our PE department has secured the school a Gold SportsMark award for the levels of participation in games and sport.

Just this week we have seen pupils co-ordinating the wonderful Culture Day, leading assemblies, teaching their peers about the 40 different languages spoken in our school, sharing food and stories that reflect their heritage. We also celebrated through our Fun Day and Sports Day, with every pupil taking part in the joy.

I often say that I love coming to work each day and I mean it. We have a lovely school, great pupils, supportive families and very dedicated staff, all of us bound by a strong sense of identity and shared faith. This summer we say goodbye to a small number of staff:

- Miss Evans, literacy tutor, who is training as a teacher
- Miss Tehseen, English tutor, who is also leaving to start teacher training

- Mrs Mckay, Teacher of Maths, who is leaving to pursue new opportunities in life
- Mrs Howarth, who is retiring as a teacher of Modern Languages after 36 years in teaching

They represent the culture of care and service that has come to characterise our school and on your behalf I wish them the very best for the next stage in their lives – they will be missed but are always part of our family.

My thanks to all of you for the year gone by and every good wish for the holiday ahead.

God Bless,



**Ben Davis**  
*Headteacher*



# 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 people 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

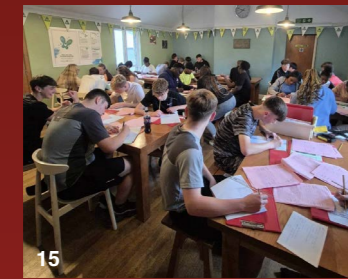
I AM A PROBLEM SOLVER

# OUR TERM IN PICTURES



## APRIL - JULY 2024

1. We started the term with an assembly focusing on our school value, Lead. Mr Davies spoke to the students about qualities that make a good leader.
2. Well done to our students who took part in the Macbeth performance at the Contact Theatre in Manchester.
3. A huge congratulations to our Year 10 football team who are now the Salford Cup Champions!
4. Year 7 students and staff enjoyed a trip to the theatre on Thursday to watch Wizard of Oz. The students were amazing.
5. Our first GCSE revision raffle winners! We hope you enjoyed your chocolate hamper Harrison and Matilda.
6. The Year 7 & 8 Book Club are excited to be reading the 6 shortlisted titles for this year's Salford Children's Book Award with Mrs Davis.
7. Back in May we had the pleasure of welcoming the Box Clever Theatre company into school to deliver a show-stopping performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth.
8. Another GCSE revision raffle winner! Well done again Brian!
9. Well done to our Maths Stars of the month. Our leading student answered a record 1500 questions on Maths Watch in May!
10. Our students having lots of fun practising putting their tents up in preparation of the DofE trip.
11. We were delighted to welcome back the wonderful Odd Arts UK who delivered an engaging and informative workshop exploring the key issues around mental health in young people.
12. As part of 'Learning with the Lords' students met with Baroness Bull last week to discuss creativity in education.
13. Our Director of Finance and Operations picked up a prestigious award at the National School Business Leaders Day. Well done Nicola, we are all so proud of you!
14. Well done to our DofE award students who enjoyed their 2 night expedition!



15. Year 10 Geography pupils went to Malham for residential fieldwork.

18. Well done to our Year 7 and 9 students who represented St Ambrose Barlow in the Salford Schools Athletic Competition yesterday.

21. Four of our Year 8 students wowed the 200 strong teacher audience at the National Literacy Trust Matters Conference with their Oracy skills yesterday.

democratic election. All parties were brilliant and inspiring throughout their campaigns.

26. We were delighted to welcome award-winning author Tom Palmer to speak with our Year 7 and 8 students. Tom has written 64 books mainly about historical fiction and sports fiction.

29. Our Year 10 pupils were visited by GM Higher to discuss retail banking and how they could pursue a career in this sector.

16. Our Year 9 students attended a meeting with the Ceremonial Mayor of the City of Salford, Councillor Tanya Burch. Students were able to discuss the importance of young people's voices, pathways into politics and positions that make a difference.

19. Thank you to Salford Libraries for welcoming our students and Mrs Davis to the 2024 Salford Children's Book Award.

22. Our 2024 annual awards ceremony was a great success! Thank you to our guests of honour, Vikki Allen and Salford Mayor, Paul Dennett.

24. Our students attended the Diversity in Maths day at the University of Manchester. Students were introduced to some degree level Mathematics.

27. Well done Sahra on your amazing Oracy speech!

30. A great trip to Barton Airport for some of our Year 10 students last week. They enjoyed a visit to the tower, engineering and had the opportunity to fly a Boeing 747 simulator.

17. Our EBSA team embracing World Wellbeing Week

20. We enjoyed a successful first transition day with our Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September as our brand new Year 7 cohort!

23. St Ambrose Barlow students have had the opportunity to experience the processes of a real

25. Y9 and 10 pupils took part in a blog writing workshop. Pupils expressed their feelings about all aspects of school life.

28. Thank you to the staff of The Countess of Chester hospital who welcomed our students for a visit as part of their Health and Social Care studies.

31. AMBFEST 2024 was a great success!



## ST AMBROSE BARLOW: CULTURE DAY 2024

Tuesday 16th July was a special day for our St Ambrose Barlow family as all our students came together to display and celebrate our various cultures; exploring languages, food and clothes. Thank you to Mrs Hussain and a group of our Year 10 students who worked tirelessly to bring the event to life and to Mr Jordan and Mrs Monaghan, who supported in the final days of preparation and on the day. Student volunteers confidently led assemblies with celebrations also taking place in the hall.

Our whole school community embraced and enjoyed the day, having the opportunity to experience the different cultures that make our school a place of love where everyone is welcomed, respected and unique together.

Thank you also to the parents for their efforts and contributions that made the day a huge success.

# OUR OUTSTANDING ARTISTS

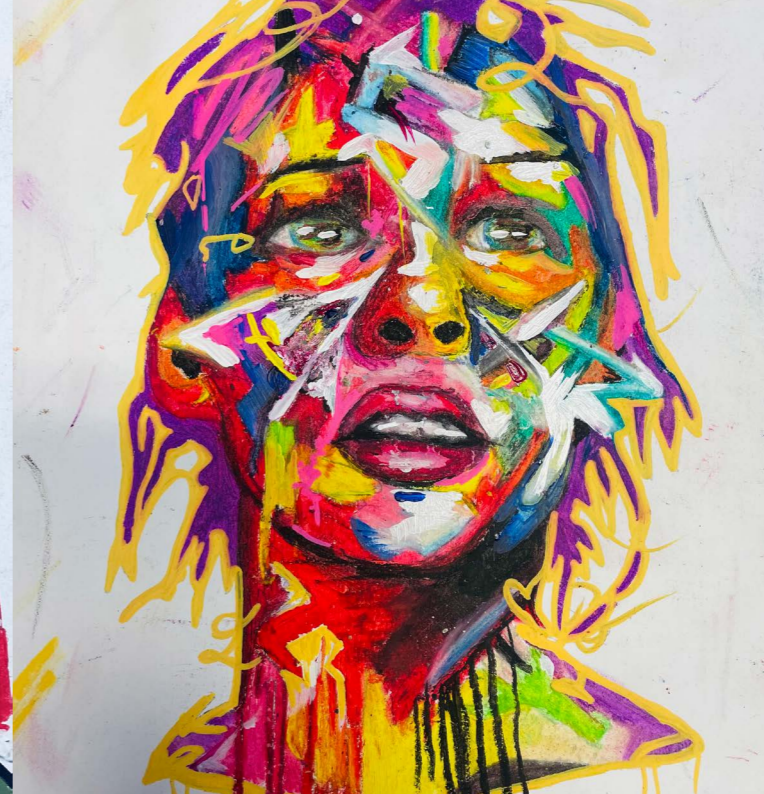
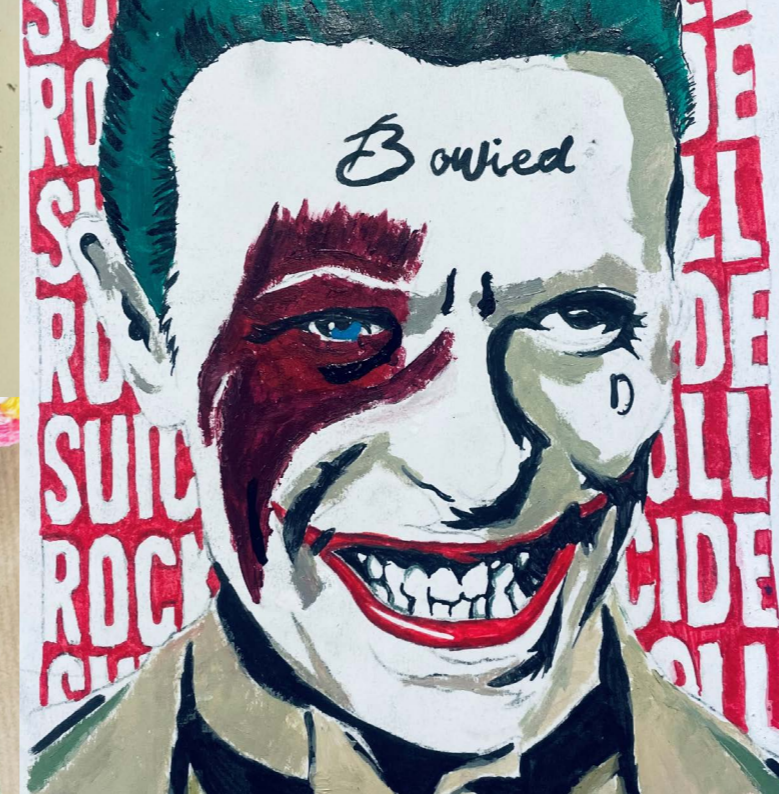
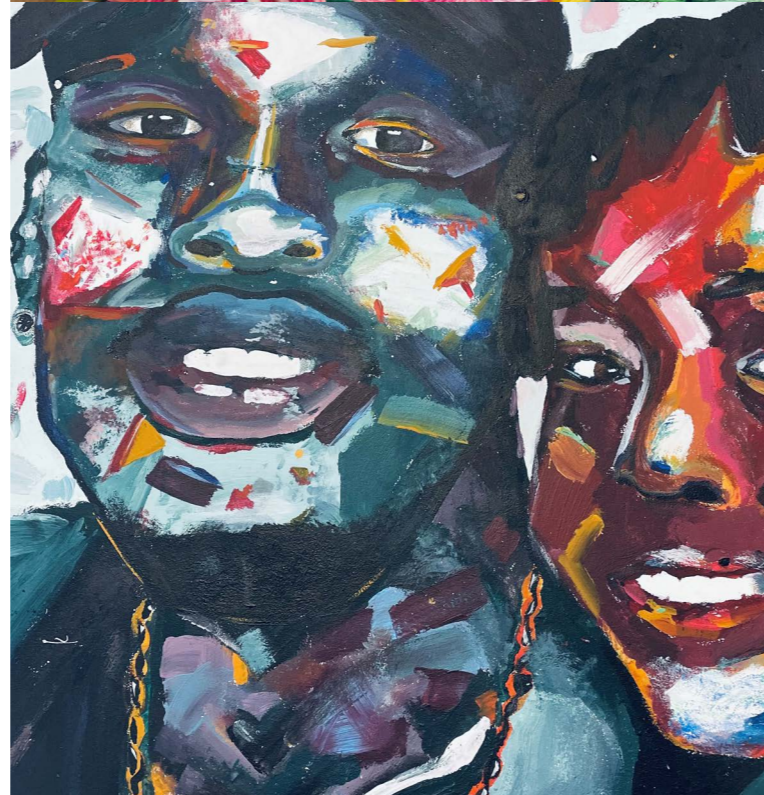
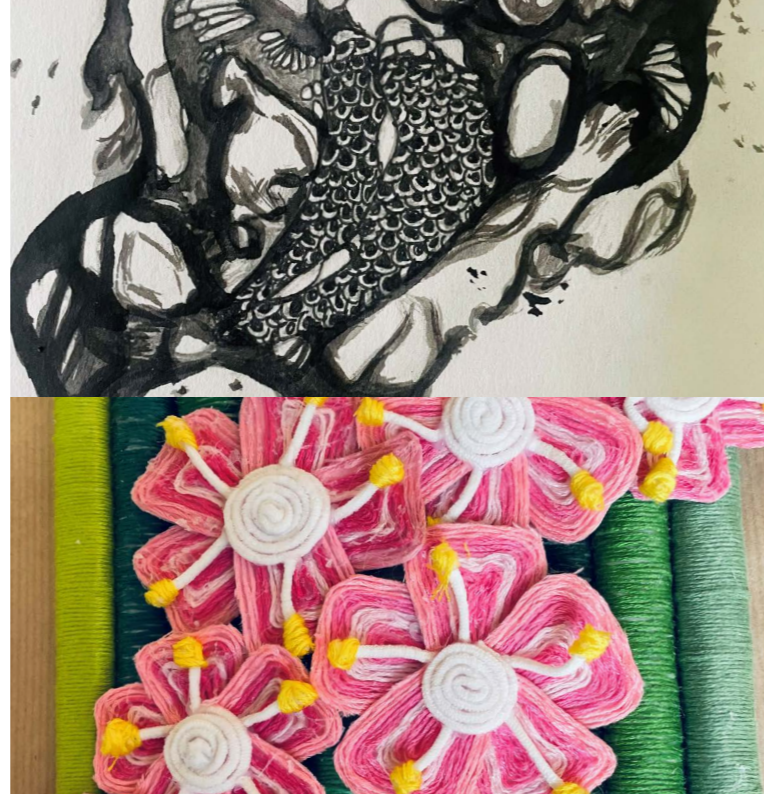
What amazing work from our incredible pupils this term! A big well done to all featured.

Please follow us on **X (@SABartdesign)** and **Instagram (@stambrosebarlow\_art)** for more updates on the work of our brilliant pupils.



## THIS WEEK

Eve Johnson, Year 8. 'Colouring in and Drawing' lesson inspired by the work of Jon Burgerman.







## SCHOOL GAMES GOLD MARK AWARD

We are delighted to announce that we, St Ambrose Barlow RC High School, have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year include:

- Duke of Edinburgh 2024- 42 students. 12 silver and 40 bronze.
- Outdoor and Adventurous afternoon for SEND students
- Cheerleading
- Inter form dodgeball and badminton.
- Indoor Rowing- SEND KS3 and 4 event.
- Ten pin Bowling- SEND KS3 and KS4 event.
- Penathlon- Inclusive SEND event.

- Rugby- girls- Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 teams evented the Salford Reds festivals and 9 a side National competition.
- Badminton year 11 Salford competition.
- Netball Salford League- Year 7A and B teams, year 8 A and B teams, year 9 and Year 10 teams.
- Girls Football Salford League- Junior team- with over 40 girls involved
- Rounders-Year 7, 8 and 9 teams
- Football- Salford League- Year 7,8,9,10 and 11 teams and year 10 playing in the Manchester cup.
- Rugby-boys- Year 7, 8,9,- Salford Schools league, year 8 - National competition.

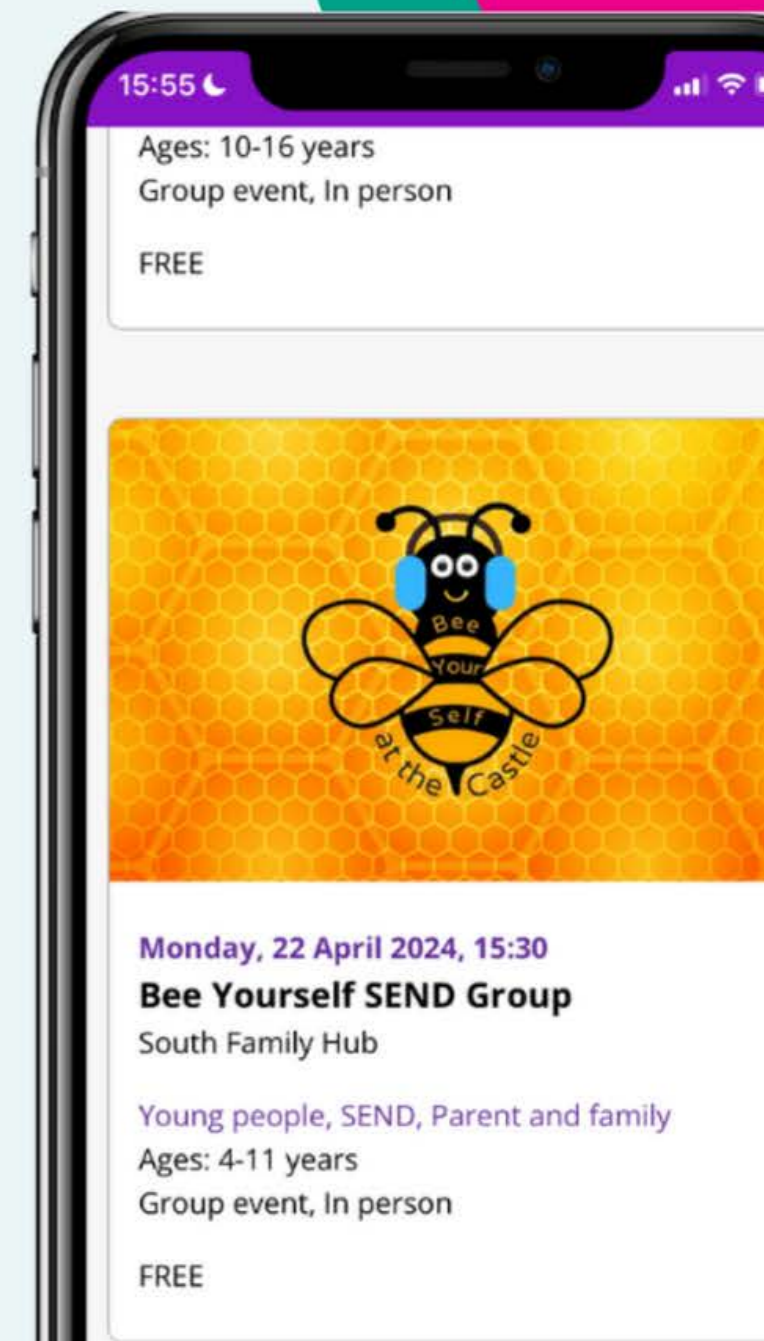
With so many of our young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

## MY BEST LIFE

This website shows all activities and groups going on across all localities and can be filtered to age, cost and area.



### NOW AVAILABLE IN SALFORD





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