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SCHOOL THAT MATTERS: LENT BEGINS; BOOKS RULE

It's been a very busy week at St. Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School. We started the week by welcoming the fabulous Box Clever Theatre company who presented their version of Macbeth to year 11, bringing the Shakespeare play to life with brilliant performances and engaging workshops. This was the ideal way for Year 11 to enhance their examination preparation and everyone left the hall with a real buzz around the show that they had seen.

On Wednesday we marked the start of the most holy and important season in the Church calendar, Lent. Throughout the day pupils and staff were able to receive ashes and a group of students represented the school at St. Charles' church alongside pupils from the primary school. In the afternoon, Father Ernest said Mass for Year 8 in the assembly hall. We also introduced our St. Joseph's Penny Lenten appeal, issuing collection boxes to all pupils in form time. Through St. Joseph's Penny Appeal we support the diocesan charity, Caritas Salford.

Thursday saw us celebrate World Book Day with an annual festival of dressing up, form door decorating and our now infamous film of staff reading our chosen text, Kate Di Camillo's The Puppets of Spelhorst – not to be missed. This year our staff really went for high quality costumes, with the Maths, RE, SEND and Modern Languages departments all co-

ordinating their outfits around well-known books. Mr. Jones, Assistant Head, needs a very special mention for sustaining his role as Harry Potter all day, complete with the lightning bolt on his forehead.

Ultimately, World Book Day is intended to promote reading, but it is also a great way of spreading joy. There is no doubt that the colourful and creative form doors and the costumes worn by many staff added quite a dose of fun and light-heartedness to the day. I certainly enjoyed patrolling the corridors dressed as Sherlock Holmes, complete with (pretend) pipe and magnifying glass for catching international criminals.

As we start Lent, it is worth remembering that Pope Francis, for whom we have been praying, reminds us that the season is not simply one of giving up material things. It is also a chance to give up on those ways of thinking that hold us and other people back, replacing that negativity with the choice to be joyful, optimistic, kind or understanding. World Book Day with its emphasis on celebrating the power and imagination of the written word is a way of doing just that.

God bless.

Ben Davis
Headteacher

CALENDAR

Alumni Event

Tuesday 1st April

Alumni Event

Wednesday 7th May

YEAR GROUP LEADERSHIP



Year 7

Year Manager: Mr Healey

(Senior Leader: Mrs Johnston)



Year 8

Year Manager: Mr Marshall

(Senior Leader: Mr Jordan)



Year 9

Year Manager: Mrs Vincent

(Senior Leader: Mr Jones)



Year 10

Head of Year: Miss Moore

(Senior Leader: Mrs Tulloch)



Year 11

Head of Year: Mr. Pemberton

(Senior Leader: Miss O'Leary)

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70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

As part of our **70th anniversary celebrations** and to raise the profile of the school further in the community, please can you help us to get in touch with former pupils?

Were you, or do you know anyone who was a pupil of St Ambrose Barlow or St George's?

If you know someone, or if you are that person please contact us via email on

office@stambrosebarlowswinton.org.



ART FOCUS:

Pop art study by Moyin,
Year 7 exploring colour and
Ben day dots.



MATHS STAR OF THE MONTH

Well done to students, Christine, Nathan, Viky, Furtuna and Vilius who are our Maths Stars of the month, achieving the most Maths Watch points for their year groups in February!

YEAR 7 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM

Well done to the Year 7 girls' football team for their outstanding performance in this week's Salford Schools Tournament. The team fielded 20 players and entered 3 teams, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and determination. We are incredibly proud of the effort, hard work, and sportsmanship shown by all the players. Their commitment and dedication are truly commendable. Keep up the fantastic work!



DRAMA MACBETH PRODUCTION

On Tuesday, the English department were delighted to welcome back the Box Clever Theatre company for a lively and engaging production of Macbeth. After rave reviews and feedback from last year's cohort, they simply had to return to delight and entertain our Year 11 students with a staging of their GCSE Shakespeare text.

The scene was set, the lights were dimmed... and then the witches appeared! Shrieks and cries were heard, and amidst a show of colour, sounds and movement, the students watched as the tragic Scottish play unfolded.

Plenty of students were on their feet and involved in a range of roles- from King Duncan, to Banquo, to the witches themselves at the very end, we were very proud to see the willingness and confidence from our pupils to get on the stage themselves.

Thanks to our students for the respect they showed our visitors, and to the actors for a brilliant showcase!



MATCH REPORT: Y8 AND Y9 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAMS VS ST PAT'S

This week, both the Year 8 and Year 9 girls' football teams showcased exceptional performances in their matches against St. Pat's. The Year 8 team secured a fantastic 3-1 victory, displaying impressive teamwork and skill throughout the game. They dominated possession and created numerous chances, with each goal a testament to their hard work and precision. The girls' determination paid off as they fought hard to ensure the win, leaving St. Pat's with little opportunity to mount a serious challenge.

Meanwhile, the Year 9 team battled fiercely to a goalless 0-0 draw. Despite several near-misses and a number of quality opportunities to score, the girls showed remarkable grit and resilience in defense, ensuring that St. Pats could not break the deadlock. The team's determination and refusal to give up was commendable, and they should be proud of their efforts.

Well done to both teams for their commitment, skill, and sportsmanship in these exciting matches!



BOOK OF THE WEEK

Neither Poppy nor Cam want it to work. Poppy is known for her high standards. Why bother with relationships when boys don't ever seem to live up to her expectations?

One red flag and she's out. Cam is known for quickly developing the ick. He's never dated anyone for long – a week here, a month there, but he always spooks.

When Poppy's friends challenge her to give someone a chance for two whole months, Poppy decides that Cam (her mysterious bus crush) could be the best of an underwhelming bunch. But Cam's been set his own challenge: he's banned from ending things in his next relationship ... and that means he's ready to do whatever he can to put Poppy off.

Two skeptics. Two months. And this time, neither of them can disappear the moment they spot something they don't like... Perfect for fans of Holly Bourne, Jenny Han and Dolly Alderton.

An entertaining escapist romance that's also a topical and nuanced look at healthy relationships. Deftly exploring the difference between what makes a legitimate red flag and what is simply being flawed and human, with shades of all the best romcom movies!

WORLD BOOK DAY AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

World Book Day is a celebration of books and reading, which aims to encourage children and families to find the fun and enjoyment in reading, because, as research has shown, reading for pleasure changes lives.

Our pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 are being given their £1 World Book Day tokens when they visit the library for their fortnightly library session. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 (or any pupils who may have missed their library session) can pick one up from Mrs Davis in the library.

The tokens can be redeemed in supermarkets Sainsbury's, Asda, Tesco and Lidl. They can also be used in Waterstones, WHSmith, The Works and in independent book shops. All of these stores will have limited copies of the special £1 WBD books, which are shown on the reverse of the tokens. Salford Libraries should also have £1 [WBD books](#) available too. Alternatively, tokens can be used to get £1 off the cost of any book costing £2.99 or more. Or pupils could choose to use the token at our next **Scholastic Book Fair** which will be held from **17th - 20th March** in our school library, to get £1 off the cost of any qualifying book they buy. There is more information about World Book Day for parents and carers [here](#).

Information about some of the titles on sale at our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair can be found [here](#).

