



Volume 2 | Issue 16

February 14th, 2025

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SCHOOL THAT MATTERS: DIGNITY, FAITH AND HISTORY

A busy couple of weeks have seen us up to the half-term break and the dark dawns of early January seem a long time ago. For Year 11 the last week has been dominated by the mock exams and they are very deserving of our congratulations for the way that they have approached them.

Year 9 meanwhile have continued to venture deeper into the Options process with Taster sessions in unfamiliar subjects and an information evening that was very well attended. Some of our Year 9 art pupils took part in a workshop at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester, producing wonderful works and getting excellent feedback from the artist who led it: 'Really enjoyed working with year 9 students today. Their attitude and behaviour was exemplary. Their approach to the drawing exercise was first class with every student producing brilliant images transcribed into print'.

Another talented group of pupils have continued their rehearsals for a forthcoming production of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' which will be performed at the Contact Theatre, Manchester at the end of March.

In our assemblies over the past two weeks we have celebrated LGBT+ History Month, looking at the achievements of previously marginalised figures; we also talked to pupils about wellbeing in our assemblies regarding Children's Mental Health week. In both cases our messages were tied closely to our school values and virtues and to Gospel readings, particularly our foundational

value of Love and the idea that all our pupils are safe, healthy and included. We talked especially about the importance of the Golden Rule and treating one another with dignity, or as we would like to be treated, reinforcing the central message of our faith and our school.

After what I hope will be a restful half-term break for you all, there is a celebration worth looking forward to: our 70th Anniversary Mass at St. Luke's Church in Irlam o' th' Height. I am pleased to say that a great many former staff and pupils from St. Ambrose Barlow and St. George's have committed to attend – please do pass the word around as it would be great to see as many people as possible there. I would also be very grateful for any old photographs, memories and artefacts from the history of the two schools so that we can display these and make them part of the centrepiece of our celebrations.

My thanks, on behalf of the staff, to all families for their support this half-term and to the staff and pupils for their continued hard work and for making our school a special place to come to work each day.

God bless.

Ben Davis
Headteacher

CALENDAR

Year 9 Options Information Evening

Thursday 13th February

Close for Half-Term Break

Friday 14th February at 3:15pm

Re-open for Staff and Pupils

Monday 24th February at 8:39am

70th Anniversary Mass

Wednesday 26th February 6:00pm

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 5th March

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)

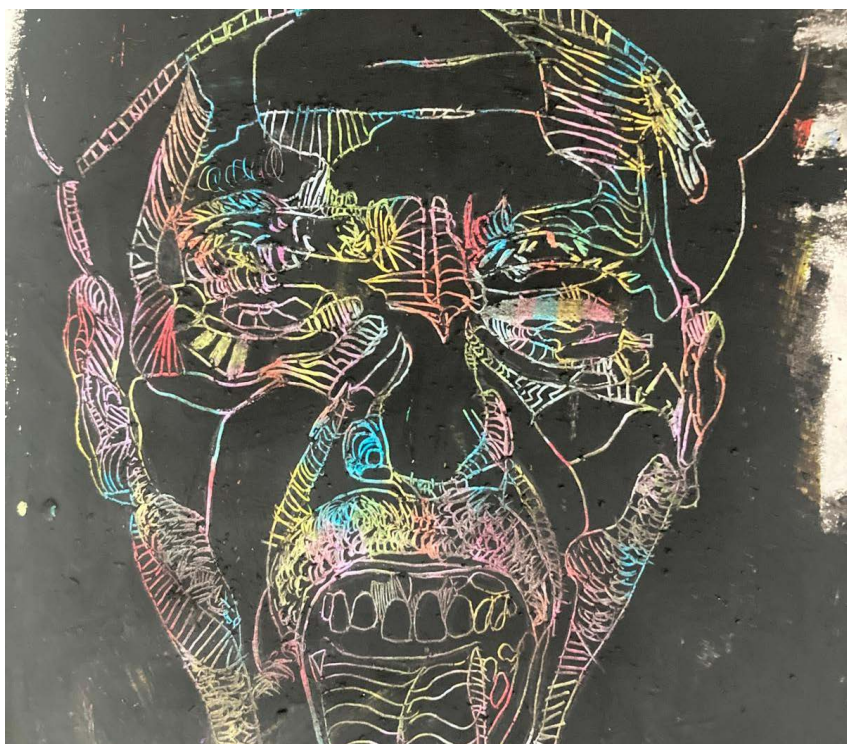
70

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

Sgraffito portrait by Calan Year 9.



PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP:

Year 11 pupils had a brilliant time braving the cold in Blackpool to capture photographs for their exam unit!



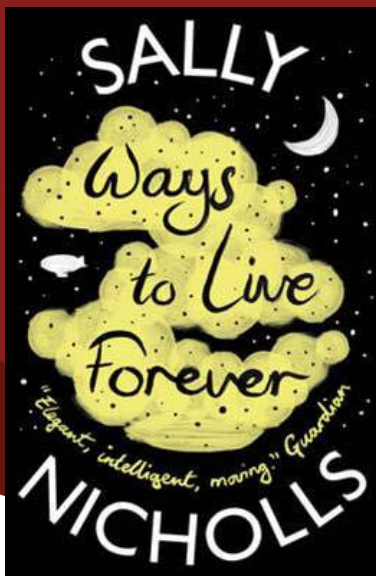
WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

This week a group of Year 9 pupils visited the Whitworth Art Gallery to take part in a workshop with artist Alan Birch.

Starting off in the gallery, they made drawings inspired by exhibitions of textiles. In the workshop they were introduced to print making and collage techniques and developed their drawings into a series etched prints.

Alan was extremely impressed with our student's excellent attitudes and behaviour and emailed Miss West to say, *"I really enjoyed working with your Year 9 students today. Their attitude and behaviour were exemplary. Their approach to the drawing exercise was first class with every student producing brilliant images transcribed into print. Some excellent prints were produced which hopefully will enhance their coursework. I hope lots of them chose to take up art, they are more than capable!"*





BOOK OF THE WEEK

Ways to Live Forever by Sally Nicholls.

My name is Sam. I am eleven years old. I collect stories and fantastic facts. By the time you read this, I will probably be dead.

Sam has leukaemia. He knows he will die soon. Annie, the nurse, comes to his house twice a week to give him platelets and Mrs Willis comes most days to 'do school' which mainly involves making things explode in the kitchen. At her suggestion, Sam starts to write a book - not a story or an autobiography but a collection of thoughts, experiences and questions which will live on when he is gone.

This is Sam's book: funny, angry, thoughtful and uplifting.

This novel is striking in its simplicity, but tackles a traumatic and extraordinarily difficult subject with warmth, humour, sensitivity and brutal honesty.



SCIENCE FOCUS:

Exploring the wonders of Science through hands-on learning. From Van der Graaff sparks to strawberry DNA extraction, the reduction of copper oxide with carbon to make copper metal, heart dissections to fizzy bath bomb creations – our science practical sessions were a blast last week!





ST AMBROSE BARLOW
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN
CELEBRATING OUR

70TH

ANNIVERSARY MASS
CELEBRATED BY BISHOP JOHN ARNOLD

◆
WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6:00PM
◆

ST LUKE'S RC CHURCH, SALFORD M6 7WR
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS