



Volume 2 | Issue 1

September 13th, 2024

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SCHOOL THAT MATTERS: THE START OF OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The centrepiece of our first full week back with pupils was the celebration of the Feast of St. Ambrose Barlow. We marked this, for the first time, by taking Years 7 & 8 to Mass at the church of St Charles' Borromeo, in the new parish of St. Ambrose Barlow. There Mass was said by Father Ernest and we reminded ourselves of the link between each of us, and between our school's present and its past. In assemblies and as staff we said the school prayer, written in 1992 by two pupils, containing the powerful line reminding us of our duty to love others, even those who do not love us.

St. Ambrose Barlow, a Lancastrian martyr who is patron of many institutions and whose family name graces a number of areas and roads in Greater Manchester, was born in 1585 and executed on September 10th 1641. He was a Benedictine monk who spent his life as a priest ministering to the oppressed and understandably secretive Catholic population of south Lancashire, apparently deeply loved by the poor and respected by all for his life of quiet mission and devotion. There is something quietly inspiring about him, a person who felt his sense of purpose deeply and who committed to living out his mission despite the great personal risk it presented to him. He was arrested on Easter Sunday 1641 saying Mass (a treasonable offence) at Morleys Hall in Astley and was thereafter imprisoned and sentenced at Lancaster Castle.

Our school opened in 1954 in the centre of Swinton and took the name of the then Blessed Ambrose Barlow, becoming Saint when he was canonised in 1970. In the intervening 70 years the school has grown, moved, come close to closure in 1994, merged with St. George's in 2013 and now finds itself well-established in Wardley, a few hundred metres from the Bishop's house where the skull of St. Ambrose Barlow resides. This year we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of school, its history and the people who made it (and continue to make it) a special place: our staff, our pupils and their families. I hope that as we go through the year you are able to join us and participate in these celebrations and pass the word around to former pupils so that we can expand our fledgling alumni. The story of St. Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic High School is also that of Salford and a changing city and society. It is something we should cherish and value; I look forward to the year ahead and the chances to do just that.

Ben Davis
Headteacher



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@sabsalford

CALENDAR

School Photographs

Monday, September 16th
(Further information to follow)

Open Evening

Wednesday, September 25th
(6:00pm - 8:00pm)

Year 11 Presentation Evening

Wednesday, October 9th

School Closes for Half-term Holiday

Friday, October 18th

Year 10 Parents and Carers Evening

Wednesday, November 6th
(4:00pm - 6:00pm)

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)

AROUND OUR SCHOOL THIS WEEK: HIGHLIGHTS

Over the summer holiday a number of our pupils were involved in impressive achievements.

1

Well done to Brendan in Year 9 for being kept on by Bolton Academy for another year!



2

Eve Johnson, Year 9, spent 2 weeks at Roehampton University with British Youth Music Theatre rehearsing for the punk rock show over summer which culminated in 4 performances in Central London. More information below.

3

Finlay Grant, Year 10, is amongst the newest recruits to Wigan Warriors, as one of 41 players joining their scholarship programme. Finlay plays in the loose prop position.



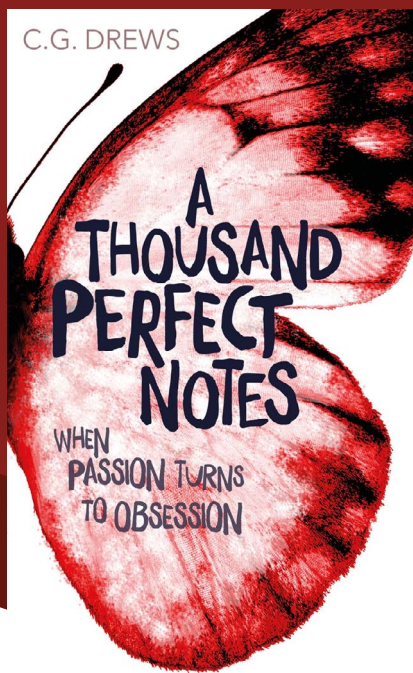
BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

Eve Johnson, Year 9, spent 2 weeks at Roehampton University with British Youth Music Theatre rehearsing for the punk rock show over summer which culminated in 4 performances in Central London. The show was based on the match girls strike of 1888 and Eve played one of the lead roles, Mary Driscoll who loses her sister to 'Phossy Jaw' in the show which prompts the strike, a union and eventually the labour movement. Eve's experience was made even more special by meeting the great granddaughter of the actual character who has campaigned for a statue to commemorate the event and they would like Eve to attend the unveiling.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

These take place on Monday, September 16th and we are intending to photograph all of the pupils in the school. Please make especially sure that your child is in full school uniform and well-presented. Our photographers John Hunt will be running the day and all year groups will have an allocated time slot in the assembly hall.



BOOK OF THE WEEK

A Thousand Perfect Notes by C.G. Drews

An emotionally charged story about the power of dreams, and how passion can turn to obsession.

Beck hates his life. He hates his violent mother. He hates his home. Most of all, he hates the piano that his mother forces him to play hour after hour, day after day. He will never play as she did before illness ended her career and left her bitter and broken. But Beck is too scared to stand up to his mother, and tell her his true passion, which is composing his own music - because the least suggestion of rebellion on his part ends in violence.

When Beck meets August, a girl full of life, energy and laughter, love begins to awaken within him and he glimpses a way to escape his painful existence. But dare he reach for it?

Thrilling and powerfully written, this is an explosive debut for YA readers which tackles the dark topic of domestic abuse in an ultimately hopeful tale.

FEAST OF ST AMBROSE BARLOW

On Tuesday, a group of year 8 pupils visited Wardley Hall, and the Laudato Si centre, to celebrate the feast of our patron Saint, Saint Ambrose Barlow. Whilst there, pupils had a tour of Wardley Hall, which included seeing the relic of Saint Ambrose, his skull.

Pupils learnt about his life by gathering information in the woodland area and then reflected on how Saint Ambrose lived by our school values of love, learn and lead. To finish the day pupils learnt how to light fires and then used those skills to create a fire and toast marshmallows.

