



Volume 2 | Issue 13

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SCHOOL THAT MATTERS: HAPPY NEW YEAR, THE JUBILEE BEGINS

It has been a far from straightforward return to school thanks to the Arctic blast that made its chilly presence felt at the start of the week. A little bit of snow and ice might have delayed the buses, but it hasn't deterred us from getting back into the swing of the Spring term.

In assemblies this week we have focused with all year groups on the second of our three values, Learn, and its associated virtues: ready, curious and brilliant. Monday's Feast of the Epiphany may for many mark the day when the decorations come down, but its central characters of the three Kings, remind us all of the journey towards wisdom and truth that is part of all our lives.

In the Year of Jubilee the Church calls us, like the Magi, to be Pilgrims of Hope. The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. Looking around our world this January there is every reason to think that hope is what we need more than ever. And it can be found in our school each day.

Looking forward to the year ahead we will be marking formally the 70th anniversary of the founding of St. Ambrose Barlow RC High School with a special Mass at St. Luke's church on February 26th. Throughout the remainder of the year there will be number of events and celebrations designed to allow as many people who have past and present connections with our school to participate. As has been said, we are keen to hear from former pupils and staff of St. George's RC High School so that the illustrious history of that school is also celebrated.

In this week's newsletter we focus on the English trip to see An Inspector Calls at the Lowry Theatre and also showcase the exceptional achievements of one of our Year 10 pupils. It is also important to thank all parents and carers for your support in ensuring that your children got to school this week in what were undoubtedly very challenging conditions – your persistence is appreciated.

God bless to all our families for the year ahead.

Ben Davis

Headteacher



www.stambrosebarlowswinton.org



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CALENDAR

70th Anniversary Mass

Wednesday, 26th February 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)

70 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

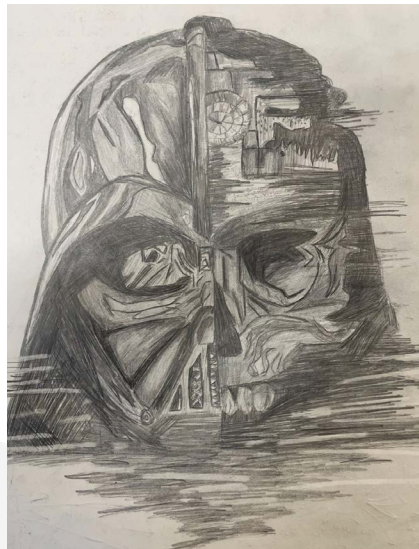
As part of our **70th anniversary celebrations** and to raise the profile of the school further in the community, please can you help us to get in touch with former pupils?

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.**

We look forward to hearing from you for our 70th anniversary celebrations.

CELEBRATING **70** YEARS OF EXCELLENT CATHOLIC EDUCATION



ART FOCUS

Charlotte from Year 10 Paul Jackson artist study.

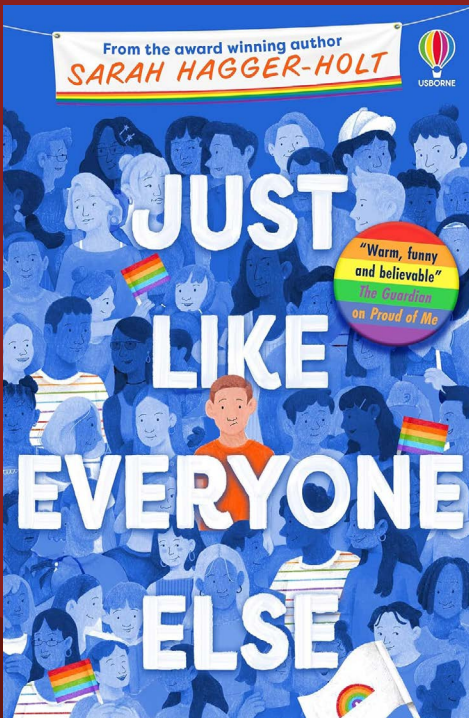
EXTRA-CURRICULAR FOCUS:

Charlotte had auditioned and was selected for the top 50 dancers (Age 14-16, she was only 13 at the time), in the All England Young Dancer awards and was invited to London to the Trinity Laban to learn choreography with someone from the cast of Newsies. Dame Arlene Phillips watched and adjudicated them too.

She had also spent a year taking part in the All England Local Dance Festivals and got through to regional finals dancing against 60 others from the North West & Midlands and was selected in the top 3 again to compete in the national UK Finals that she took part at the end of the summer in Wolverhampton. Again these are such high achievements that she should be super proud of.

Charlotte is also appearing in a Netflix Drama coming out in March. She was an extra for Stephen Graham in a programme which is called Adolescence. Stars really do walk among us every day!





BOOK OF THE WEEK

Just Like Everybody Else by Sarah Hagger-Holt

Aiden sometimes wonders if he's adopted. He isn't, of course – he has the sticky-out ears that run in the family. But how come the rest of Team Taylor are so loud and crazy when all he wants to do is stay quiet and blend into the background?

As if his family weren't embarrassing enough, his mum announces she's going to have another baby but not for herself; she's going to be a surrogate for a gay couple, Justin and Atif.

Aiden is furious. Not only does he dread the unwanted attention, he's scared it might somehow expose his most troubling secret; he thinks he may be gay and he has no idea what to do about it.

This funny, thought-provoking story challenges gender stereotypes, explores different ideas of family and acknowledges the difficulty that can be experienced by a young man coming to terms with his sexuality.

With the help of good friends, a few unfortunate mistakes and a leap of faith, Aiden comes to realise he is exactly who he was meant to be. And that's something he should be very proud of.

DRAMA FOCUS

On Thursday 9th January, we took our Year 10 and 11 students to the Lowry Theatre to watch an incredible production of JB Priestley's, "An Inspector Calls." It was a fantastic opportunity to develop and master our understanding of the play ahead of the English Literature exam on 12th May. As expected, our students were superb and represented the school proudly!

