



ST AMBROSE BARLOW

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



SUMMER 2025

CELEBRATING **70** YEARS OF CATHOLIC EXCELLENCE



LOVE ♦ LEARN ♦ LEAD

SCHOOL THAT MATTERS: REFLECTING ON THE SCHOOL YEAR

When we started this academic year in September 2024 we launched our 70th anniversary celebrations and with it a simple idea: School That Matters. This wasn't intended to replace our mission statement, but to sit alongside it and in doing so to communicate a simple idea: that young people deserve to feel that school is something important, compelling, a place they want to be.

You might think that this is naïve or an impossible ideal – surely no child really wants to be at school? Or you might believe that schools shouldn't have to justify their existence in this way because everyone should see the value of education. That's the way it was in the past, wasn't it? I'm not so sure. Whatever your view, there is little doubt that the last few years especially, thanks in large part to the pandemic, have made many call into question the value and importance of school as never before.

You can see this in the record absence rates, the increase in young people choosing to be educated at home and in high levels of anxiety and mental ill health in the young.

At St. Ambrose Barlow we feel that this needs to be both tackled and understood, hence 'School That Matters.' It is not something that we will be moving on from in the next academic year, in fact the more we have explored the idea, the more it grows and becomes more complex.

What is beyond doubt is our absolute commitment to being an inclusive, welcoming, warm and happy Catholic school where young people can be themselves, find their place and their voice and achieve, whatever this means for them. We're not there yet, it's a continual journey, but as you read through this newsletter, which summarises the many things that have happened in our school this year, you will get a sense of the school we are growing to be.

This is an expression of our Catholic vision and mission: love, learn, lead. It is about ensuring that we act in the service of young people so that they can

'have life to the full' and go out and change the world for the better.

As you can see from this newsletter, we recently celebrated hundreds of our pupils at the annual Awards Ceremony at Old Trafford, with certificates and prizes handed out by former pupil Sommie Ikebudu. This event recognised pupils for their skills, achievement and progress, but also for their character, their kindness and the values they express.

When I spoke at the ceremony I quoted Bishop Marshall who opened our school in 1955. At the opening ceremony, consecrating the school, he said, 'The school should produce children who will be known as good neighbours.... We want our children to be what Christ wants them to be; to be something that their fellow people will call decent. That's far more important than to boast that they have made money and this school is to prepare children that will make the world a happier place.... I do not value a school by its appearance. I value a school when I have seen its work and watched the children who go out from it with character.'

Now his words may seem a little old-fashioned, but I think what he is describing is what we mean when we say 'love, learn, lead' or 'school that matters'. We mean that our school must go beyond subjects and exams, that it must offer experiences that change young people, that bring them out of themselves and, above all it must be a place of love and hope.

As we end this year, I would like to thank all parents, carers, family members and supporters of the school for your contribution to our collective success for young people. By extension I would also like to thank the fabulous team of staff and our wonderful, inspiring young people for all that they bring to our school. Have a very happy, restful and peaceful summer.

God bless,

Ben Davis
Headteacher



| 70 YEARS

‘The school should produce children who will be known as good neighbours.... We want our children to be what Christ wants them to be; to be something that their fellow people will call decent. That’s far more important than to boast that they have made money and this school is to prepare children that will make the world a happier place.... I do not value a school by its appearance. I value a school when I have seen its work and watched the children who go out from it with character. We have not built the school to make our neighbours envious or for show. Why did we go to all this expense? It is because we set a value on our children that possible the world does not. We regard the child as something great, built to the image of God.’

Right Reverend H.V. Marshall, Bishop of Salford,

at the consecration of Blessed Ambrose Barlow RC High School, February 26th 1955

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

 I AM READY

 I AM CURIOUS

 I AM BRILLIANT

 I AM CREATIVE

 I AM BRAVE

 I AM A PROBLEM SOLVER



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.



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.**

OUR TERM IN PICTURES



MAY - JULY

1. Thank you to Lindsay Smith from Futureworks for coming into school yesterday to discuss career opportunities with some of our creative Y10 pupils. They explored their skillsets and looked at different creative sectors. Lindsay discussed how to enter each sector and the pros and cons of different further and higher education routes. All of the pupils found the talk to be really useful.
2. 15 of our students were offered the exciting opportunity to visit Salford Museum and select an object for display in an exhibition there in January. The exhibition will commemorate 100 years of the City of Salford and look back at its history, displaying 100 artefacts and artworks which reveal something about the city and its past.
3. A huge well done to our Year 7 and 8 girls' rugby squad, who delivered an outstanding performance by winning all of their matches at the Salford Reds Development Tournament for Greater Manchester schools.
4. Salford Athletics 2025 - well done to everybody for taking part!
5. A group of Y9 students took part in a Media Makeup Masterclass at Future Skills College. They learnt about different types of media makeup; watched a live makeup demonstration and also had the opportunity to put into practice what they had learnt on each other. This gave them a vital insight into creative opportunities available through higher educational pathways.
6. Well done and thank you to the students of 10C who have been donating items for local food banks during the season of Lent. We are so proud of your contributions!
7. Congratulations to Niall, Emily, Ivana and Alex who have all achieved Maths Star of the Month for May. Well done to you all, we are so proud of you!
8. Good luck to our Year 11 students as you officially begin your study leave today! You have been an amazing cohort and your teachers are incredibly proud of each and every one of you, your hard work and dedication.



9. Ten of our Year 10 students went on a day trip to Barton airfield. They got the chance to go to engineering and learn how a plane works and is maintained.

10. Local author Kimberley Whittam was voted this year's winner of the Salford Children's Book Award for her debut novel Quiet Storm at the ceremony held on 24th June at Salford University.

11. Year 7 Enjoy Outdoor and Adventurous Activities with Year 9 Leaders.

12. Highlights from DofE 2025.

13. Prom 2025 was a night to remember! Here's to the Class of 2025!

14. Every summer term sees special days for the new year 7s who will join us in September and this year was no exception.

15. This half-term we welcomed 40 pupils and five staff from Yangzhou ShuRen Middle School to St. Ambrose Barlow for two days of relationship-building that allowed them to experience an English school and fostered bonds between all participants.

16. Our annual Awards Ceremony took place at The Point, Old Trafford Cricket Ground in early July. On a beautiful summer evening it was a fabulous celebration of all the achievements of our pupils in years 7-10.

17. Wow – what a celebration! Our Culture Day 2025 was a huge success, and we couldn't be more grateful to everyone who was part of it.

18. Well done to all of our Proud Award winners for this half term. We are so proud of you living out our Lead values of being brave, a problem-solver and creative each and every day!

CULTURE DAY 2025:

Our Culture Day 2025 was a huge success, and we couldn't be more grateful to everyone who was part of it.

From the moment the day started, the energy was incredible. We had colourful and informative displays, delicious food from around the world, amazing music and assemblies, and so many beautiful traditional outfits worn by students and also on display. It was a day full of smiles and connection. Most of all, it was so special to see people coming together — learning from one another, sharing traditions, and celebrating what makes us all unique.

Highlights of the day:

- Assemblies led by students from our year 10 cohort
- Fashion shows displaying cultural dress from around the world which had everyone clapping and cheering
- A delicious variety of food and treats, cooked by our food tech department and donated from our families
- Creative activities such as henna tattoo's, African beads for bracelets and hair
- Capturing different cultures through our culture word tree where students were asked to write about a special place or country using their five senses
- DJ playing a variety of music from around the world
- A raffle with a chance to win some incredible donated gifts from staff and local companies. Money raised will be donated to a local charity.
- A fun photo booth made by our very own DT department
- One of the most inspiring parts of Culture Day was the amazing classroom presentations led by our very own students. Each student (or group) had the chance to share a piece of their culture with their classmates — through slideshows, traditional clothing, music and food samples.
- A delicious variety of food and treats including afternoon tea , made by our food tech department and students along with donated from our families.



MINESWEEPING COMPETITION:

Over the last 4 weeks, ten of our students collaborated with visiting students from University of Manchester to build, program and troubleshoot two remote control minesweeper robots.

Our students dedicated many hours of their free time to the cause, even working on some Python code over lunch time. The provided kits were far from optimised and each team took different approaches to improve the deficiencies, calibrate the sensors and tune drive performance to match the challenge courses.

The main event consisted of a presentation, precision driving course, metal detection test and mine hunting challenge against 9 other teams. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and ranked in the top 3 for all events, securing first and third place overall.

BARTON AIRFIELD:

Ten of our Year 10 students went on a day trip to Barton airfield this week. They got the chance to go to engineering and learn how a plane works and is maintained. They also went into the air traffic control tower (which is not normally accessible to the general public) to see how an airport operates. The highlight of the day was when the students got to fly a Boeing 747 simulator and land it at Liverpool airport! The cockpit and controls of this simulator have been taken from a real British airways B747 aircraft. A great experience for our budding aircraft crew!



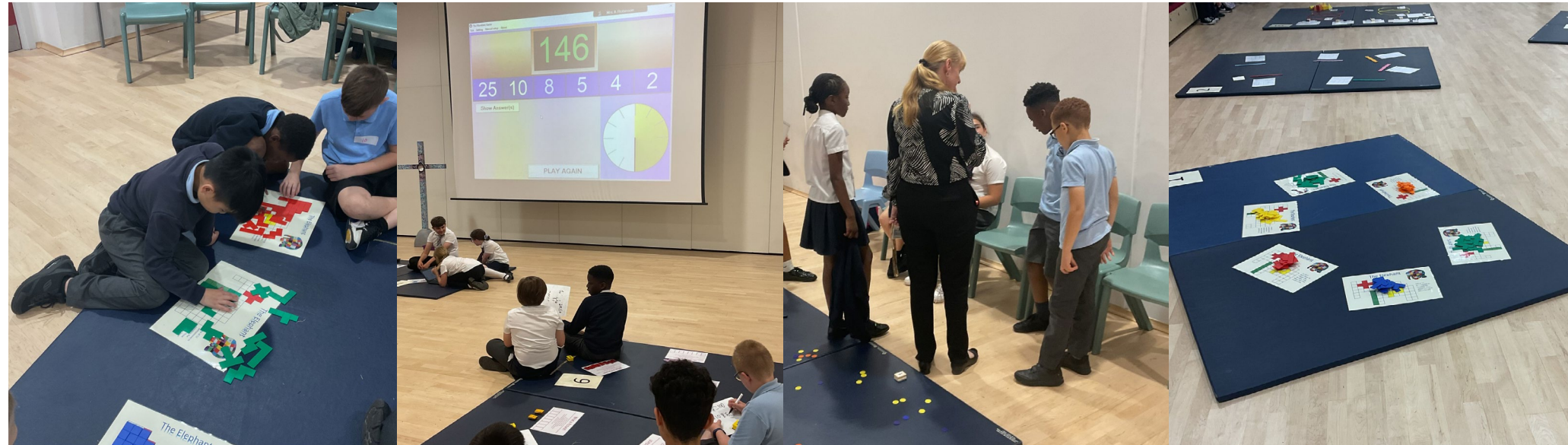
CREATIVE CAREERS EVENT:

We are delighted to share that a group of our students recently took part in an inspiring three-day trip to Aviva Studios in Manchester, a leading cultural venue known for its innovative approach to the arts and creative industries.

The experience was designed to give students a understanding of the wide range of careers available within the creative sector. Over the course of the three days, students engaged in interactive workshops based in school, behind-the-scenes tours, and hands-on sessions led by professionals working in areas such as theatre production, digital design, music technology, and arts management.

The programme not only highlighted the diversity of roles within the creative industries but also gave students a chance to develop essential skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm, curiosity, and growing confidence as they explored new possibilities for their future career paths.

We are incredibly proud of how our students represented the school, and we're grateful to Aviva Studios for providing such a rich and rewarding opportunity. Experiences like this are vital in helping young people make informed, ambitious choices about their futures—and this trip certainly sparked plenty of new ideas and inspiration.



MATHS ROADSHOW:

Primary Pupils Put Their Thinking Caps On at St Ambrose Barlow Maths Roadshow. This week, St Ambrose Barlow High School was buzzing with excitement as we welcomed Year 5 pupils from five local primary schools for a special Maths Roadshow event.

The Roadshow, held in our main hall, gave the visiting pupils a fun and interactive introduction to high school life — and a chance to stretch their brains with a range of hands-on maths challenges. Over the course of their visit, the children worked in small groups to tackle 10 different mathematical puzzles that tested their logic, reasoning, and teamwork. From number patterns and shape challenges to code-breaking and problem-solving tasks, there was something to suit every young mathematician. The activities were designed not only to engage the pupils, but also to show how maths can be both fun and useful in everyday life.

Helping to guide the primary pupils through each challenge were some of our own Year 9 students, who did a fantastic job acting as mentors and team leaders. Their patience, encouragement, and enthusiasm made a real difference and helped create a welcoming and supportive atmosphere throughout the event. Mrs Robinson, who organised the event, said, "It was wonderful to see pupils from different schools working together, thinking critically, and enjoying the problem-solving process. The Year 9 helpers were excellent ambassadors for our school — we're really proud of them."

The event was a great success, and we hope it inspired the Year 5 pupils to keep exploring the world of maths. We look forward to seeing some of those young faces again in the future — perhaps as Year 7 students here at St Ambrose Barlow! Well done to everyone who took part!

OUTDOOR AND ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES:

Year 7 Enjoy Outdoor and Adventurous Activities with Year 9 Leaders

Over the past two weeks, our Year 7 PE groups have been thoroughly enjoying their Outdoor and Adventurous Activity (OAA) mornings. These sessions, thoughtfully led by our dedicated Year 9 student leaders, have provided a fantastic opportunity for younger students to engage in a variety of problem-solving tasks and intellectually challenging games.

Activities such as The Human Knot, The Drainpipe Challenge, and The Floor is Lava have encouraged students to think creatively and work collaboratively to overcome challenges. The focus has been on developing teamwork, communication, and strategic thinking—all in a fun, energetic outdoor setting.



SCHOOL GAMES AWARD:

We have been awarded the School Games Gold Mark, this is in recognition of our commitment to delivering high-quality competitive school sports and physical activities.

The Gold Mark is the highest level of this national award scheme and highlights our success in providing a wide range of inclusive sports opportunities, encouraging regular participation from all students, and promoting leadership and sportsmanship within the school community. This achievement reflects the hard work of staff and students in developing a vibrant and active sporting culture that supports health and wellbeing.

This recognition is a testament to the dedication and teamwork across the school, and it demonstrates our ongoing commitment to enhancing physical activity and competition for all pupils.

MALHAM TRIP:

Over the past 2 weeks the Geography department have taken 62 Year 10's to Malham in the Yorkshire Dales to complete their fieldwork data collection in preparation for their exam next year. Pupils had the opportunity to talk to local residents, business owners and tourists to find out about the impacts of tourism and also took measurements of Gordale Beck to analyse its characteristics. Whilst in Malham pupils got to see Janet's Foss, Gordale Scar, the Limestone Pavement and Malham Cove as well as lots of river and glacial landforms they have learnt about in the classroom. Pupils were absolutely brilliant and really enjoyed being out and about in the Yorkshire countryside.



SALFORD ART MUSEUM:

Our students were offered the exciting opportunity to visit Salford Museum and Art Gallery and select an object for display in an exhibition there in January. The exhibition will commemorate 100 years of the City of Salford and look back at its history, displaying 100 artefacts and artworks which reveal something about the city and its past.

Pupils were able to explore the museum's Victorian street (a big hit!) and have a private view of its galleries before beginning the process of selecting an object for the exhibition. Our pupils worked with museum staff to learn about what's involved in making an exhibition happen. We will re-visit the museum after the summer holiday to finalise the process.

PRIMARY TRANSITION:

Every summer term sees special days for the new year 7s who will join us in September and this year was no exception. We had a record number of applications for places and we begin the year already over-number such is the popularity of our school. On the transition days our pupils enjoyed a taste of life in classes, took part in various activities and the days culminated in Mass. We look forward to them joining us on September 3rd.



VISIT BY PUPILS FROM YANGZHOU, CHINA:

The city of Yangzhou is about two hours from Shanghai, the megacity of 24 million. Yangzhou contains around two million people and is therefore six times larger than the City of Salford with whom it is twinned. As part of the twinning process our school has entered into a partnership with Yangzhou ShuRen Middle School, a school of 7000 pupils. ShuRen is a word that captures the idea of learning being about character and motivation; it means more than learning to pass exams, and is just as much about personal growth. Rather like our idea of 'love, learn, lead'.

This half-term we welcomed 40 pupils and five staff from the school to St. Ambrose Barlow for two days of relationship-building that allowed them to experience an English school and fostered bonds between all participants. The Yangzhou pupils were buddied with our pupils and attended lessons, enjoyed lunch and break and learnt about the lives of our pupils. The buddies from our school were diligent and welcoming, showing the very best of themselves as the whole school embraced our guests as celebrities. In the future we hope to make a return trip to China and will undertake online projects and partnerships. We should all be so proud of our pupils for the welcome they offered, the respect they showed and the intelligent curiosity that was on display. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of cultural exchange in our sometimes divided world.



AWARDS CEREMONY, JULY 3RD:

Our annual Awards Ceremony took place at The Point, Old Trafford Cricket Ground in early July. On a beautiful summer evening it was a fabulous celebration of all the achievements of our pupils in years 7-10. The range of successes included sports, performance, music, all our academic subjects and more. We were entertained by the choir who performed two polished numbers and by William Szelepa who played expertly on piano.

The evening was compered by Kirsty Pone and Eve Johnson, assisted by Mr Jordan and our guest of honour was Sommie Ikebudu, who left our school in 2022. Since then she has attended Loreto College and is now undertaking a degree apprenticeship whilst working as a consultant for Cap Gemini. We also presented a number of special awards including the Pride of Ambrose, the Mission Awards and the new Pope Francis Award that was given to Year 6 pupils from our partner primary schools.

STAFF LEAVERS:

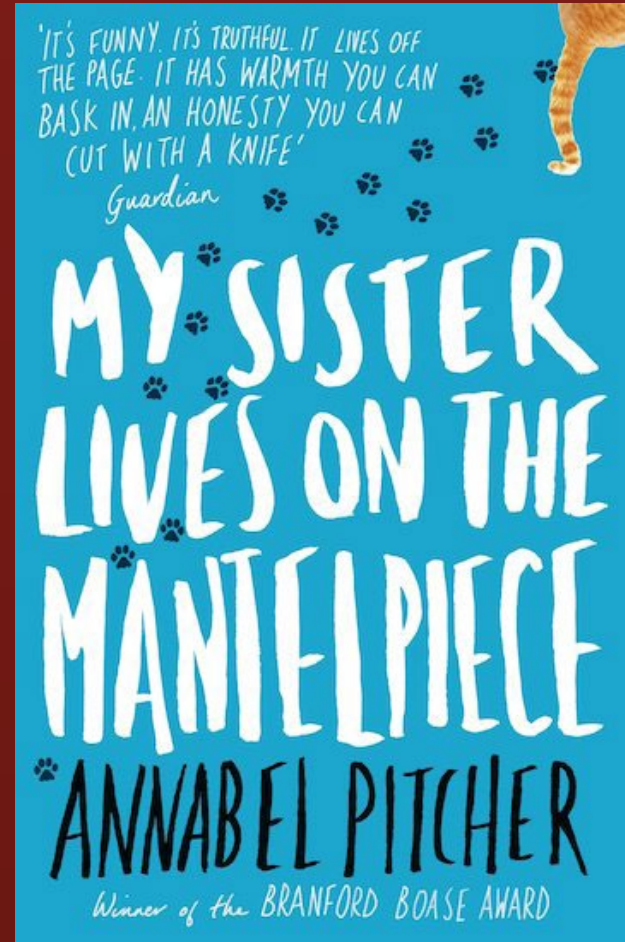
As is always the case at this time of year there are staff who are leaving us to move on to new things and opportunities. They go with our best wishes, carrying with them the mark of Love, Learn, Lead and with our thanks for their service to the school. In particular this year two members of staff are leaving having given many years to the school.

The first is Mrs. McGowan, Food Technology Teacher, Head of Year and Pastoral Lead, who has worked at St. Ambrose Barlow for 25 years. In that time she has touched so many lives, cooked literally thousands of brownies and passed on a love of food, nutrition and cooking to countless pupils. Above all she will be remembered by so many for her deep sense of care and the welcome and warmth that she has shown our pupils. She is leaving to take up a post at another school.

The second is Mrs. Dwyer- Moores, Teacher of RE, who retires after 35 years in teaching. She has worked at St. Ambrose Barlow for 12 years and prior to that was a member of staff at St. George's. She is held in very high regard by her pupils and colleagues and has implanted a love of RE in own inimitable way in thousands of pupils.

Together these staff represent a life time of loving and careful service to our school. They will both be missed and will always be part of the Ambrose family. The other staff leaving are a combination of Early Career Teachers and staff who have been with us on a short term basis. Each has made a great contribution to their areas of the school and they go with our best wishes. They are: Mrs. Patel (Maths), Mr. Coburn (Art), Miss McDonnell (English), Miss Houston (Science) and Miss Osbaldestein (History). All are going on to take up teaching posts elsewhere.

At the end of June our Director of Finance and Operations, Nicola Johnson, left after five wonderful years during which she made a huge difference to our school. Nicola's determination, skill, shrewd strategic leadership and positive, solution-focused attitude have brought so much to our team, our school and, ultimately, our pupils. Her leadership has brought us many improvements to the school estate, investment in new staff and a new provision and a very forward-thinking approach to organisational development. On top of that, she has been a wonderful colleague and we shall miss her very much indeed, but wish her well in her new role as. Chief Finance and Operations Officer.



BOOK OF THE WEEK

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher.

Ten-year-old Jamie hasn't cried since it happened. He knows he should have—Jasmine cried, Mum cried, Dad still cries. Roger didn't, but then he is just a cat and didn't know Rose that well, really.

Everyone kept saying it would get better with time, but that's just one of those lies that grown-ups tell in awkward situations. Five years on, it's worse than ever: Dad drinks, Mum's gone and Jamie's left with questions that he must answer for himself.

This is his story, an unflinchingly real yet heart-warming account of a young boy's struggle to make sense of the loss that tore his family apart.



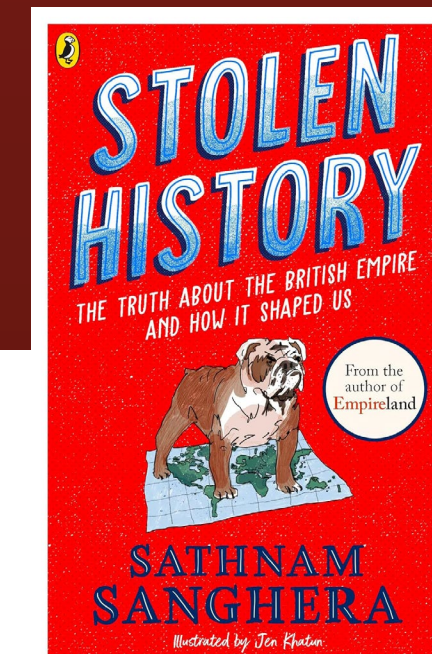
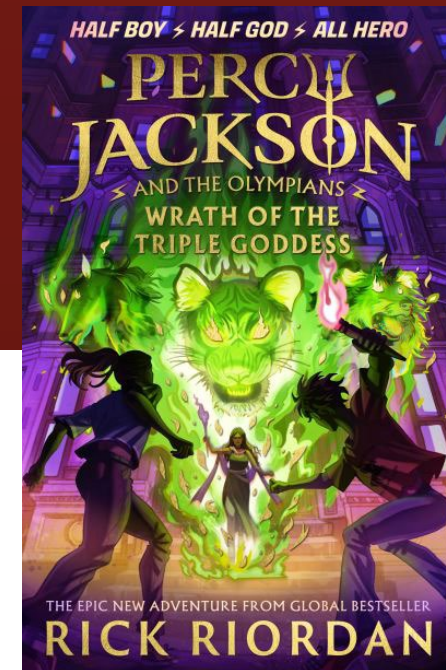
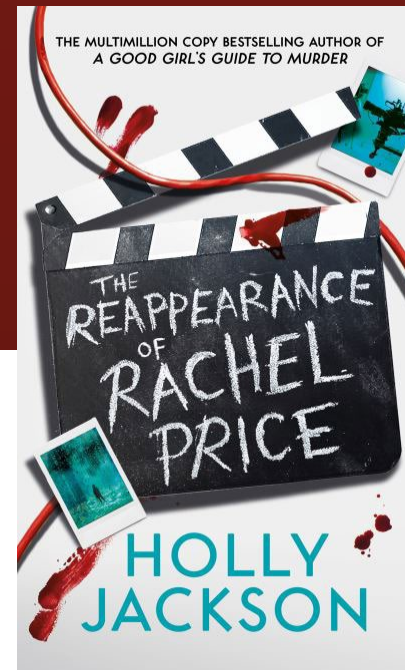
SALFORD CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

Local author Kimberley Whittam was voted this year's winner of the Salford Children's Book Award for her debut novel *Quiet Storm* at the ceremony held on 24th June at Salford University.

Our students joined the other 10 secondary schools taking part in the program and were in the audience to hear the shortlisted authors speak about the inspiration behind each story and their different experiences of being a writer. The event was compered expertly by children's author James Campbell who carried out this role with great enthusiasm and humour, but even amongst all the frivolity he managed to impart some impactful words of wisdom about the importance of reading and writing and the key role that libraries play in society.

Our pupils got to choose a book for themselves to keep from the book shop at the event and they were able to have their books signed by the authors. Many of our pupils took selfies with the authors as well as collecting their autographs and came back to school absolutely fizzing with excitement about the whole morning.

BOOKS THIS TERM...



OUR OUTSTANDING ARTISTS

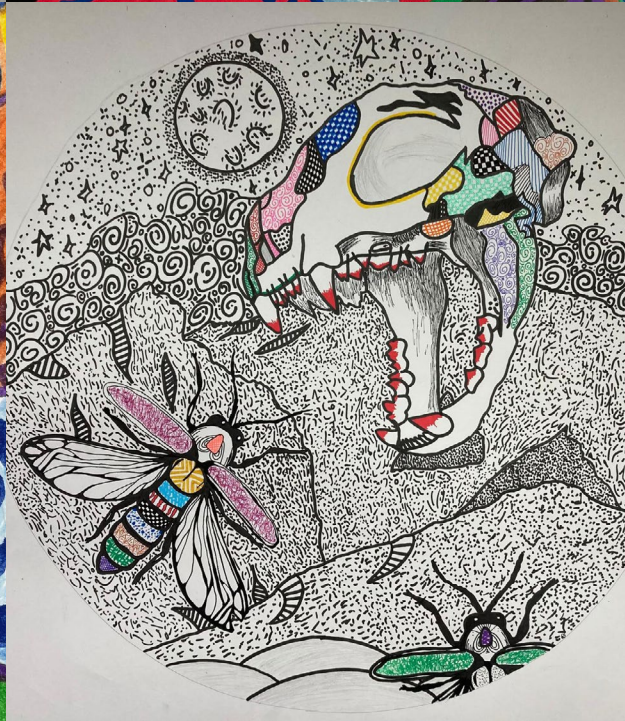
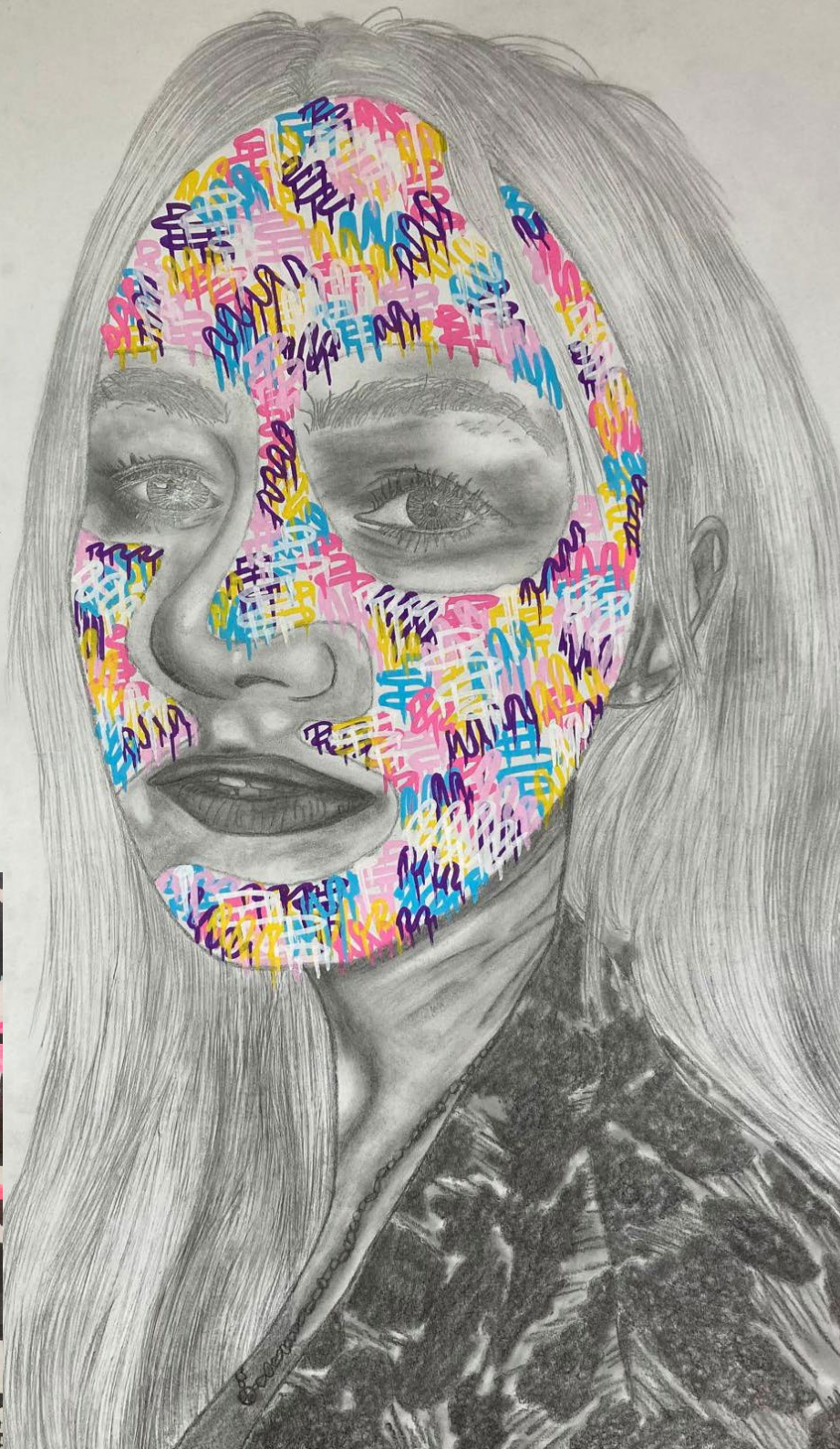
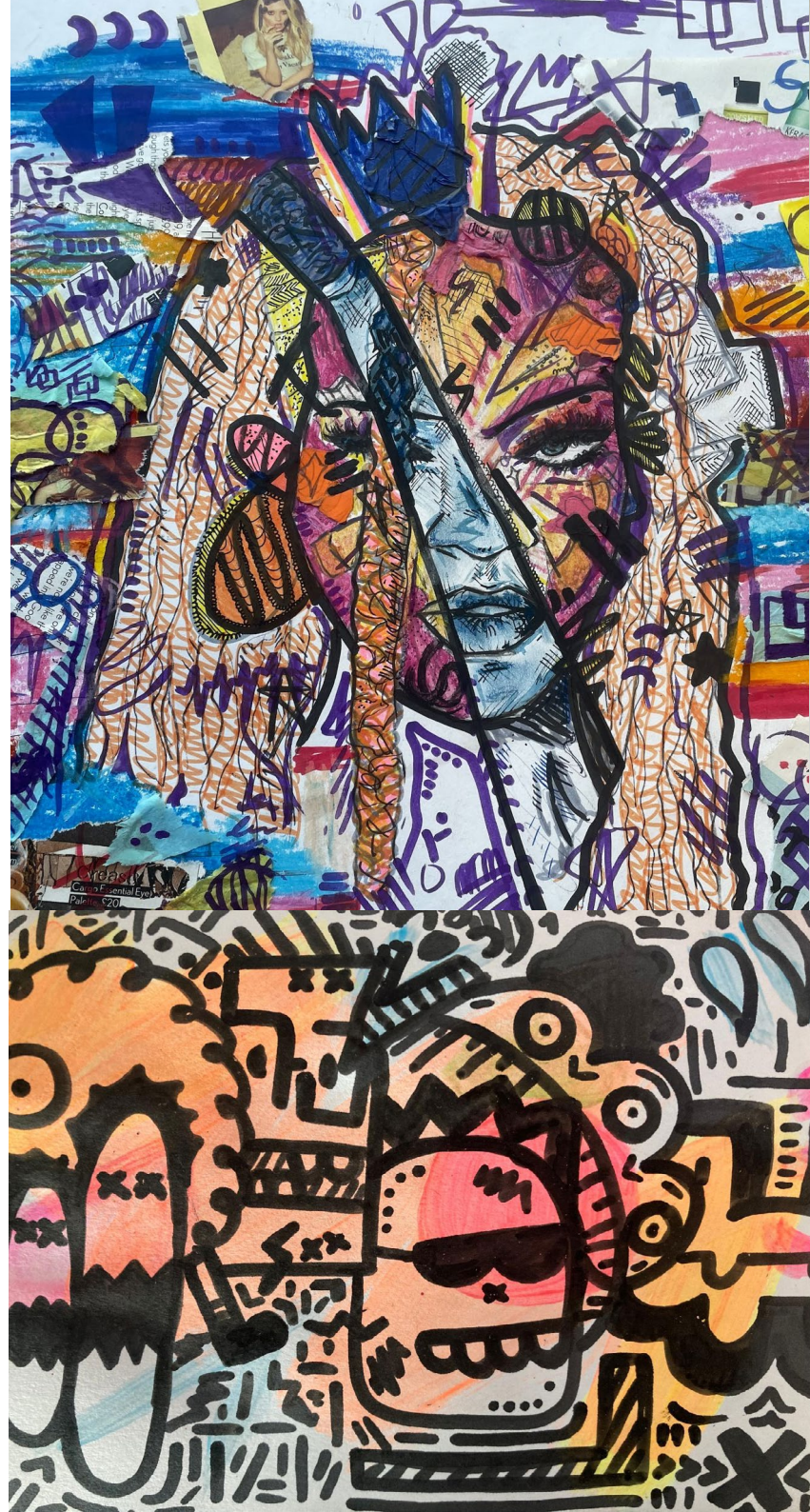
What amazing work from our incredible pupils this term! A big well done to all featured.

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



THIS WEEK

Mikail Y8 - Jon Burgerman customised bag final outcome.



SPORTS NEWS

Year 7 and 8 Rugby Squad Shine at National 9's Tournament in Warrington - Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 rugby squad for their outstanding performance at the National 9's tournament held in Warrington. The team earned their place in this prestigious competition thanks to their impressive displays in the Salford Reds tournaments of 2024 and 2025.

The tournament brought together top talent from across the country, with teams travelling from as far as Hull and towns near the Scottish border. The standard was high, with well-drilled squads competing fiercely for a place in the next stage.

Our girls faced a tough opener against the reigning champions, Brighouse. It was a testing match, but the team showed incredible grit and determination, pushing the top side all the way in what proved to be a closely fought contest. In the second round, the squad played with real confidence and flair. Eva Oni was a standout performer, weaving through defenders and scoring an incredible eight tries across the final three matches. Thanks to a strong team effort, the girls emerged as winners of their second-round group — an incredible achievement for a developing side.

Adding to the excitement of the day, the team had the chance to meet Super League stars, including Ruby Enright from Leeds Rhinos. The girls were thrilled to chat with the players and even snapped some memorable photos — an inspiring moment that added to an already unforgettable experience. Well done to all the players for representing the school with pride, passion, and professionalism!



UPCOMING DATES

SCHOOL RE-OPENS
WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR HALF TERM
FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER, 3.15PM

SCHOOL RE-OPENS
MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

OCCASIONAL HOLIDAY
MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER

SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR CHRISTMAS
FRIDAY 19TH DECEMEBER, 1:00PM

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Headteacher: Mr. Ben Davis

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. Victoria Knipe

Director of Safeguarding: Mrs. Anna Goddard

Email Pupil Absence: Attendance@stambrosebarlowswinton.org

Finance Office: Finance@stambrosebarlowswinton.org

PA to the Headteacher: Mrs. Gillian Saldanha De Magalhaes

SENDCo & SEND enquiries: Mr. Gareth Jones

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: (*Senior Leaders: Mrs Tullock/ Mrs Johnston*)

Year 11 Head of Year: Mr. Pemberton (*Senior Leader: Miss O'Leary*)





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