



SCHOOL THAT MATTERS: GIVING THANKS IN OUR ACTIONS AS WELL AS OUR WORDS

This week may have ended with the unwelcome and salutary reminder of our over-reliance on technology when the internet went down for most of Friday, but it started simply with Thanksgiving. Those of you who experienced Catholic primary education will remember fondly no doubt the Harvest festival and the collection of items of food at this time of the year – we did similar last September. It is a worthy and important source of charity, but is more importantly a way of remembering the debt we owe Creation, our deep relationship with soil, water and light, the presence in our lives of nourishment that comes from the world around us.

All too often we take this life for granted, even when know such food and drink does not appear form nowhere, it is nurtured into existence by our fellow humans in collaboration with what many now refer to as the 'more-than-human' world: animals, plants, water, land. Around the world nature is under greater threat than ever from human activity and choices.

Part of our education at St. Ambrose Barlow is concerned with encouraging an appreciation for

and a sense of shared existence with the natural world. We do this through specific subjects, through prayer and worship and through acts that include recycling, charity and the maintenance of our school garden and the development of what will grow to become our prayer garden.

Ultimately, it is the acts themselves that are important, turning giving thanks into doing thanks. This week's assemblies, inspired by St. Anthony of Padua and St. Francis of Assisi, challenged pupils to let their words teach and actions speak, particularly in how we treat the poor, vulnerable and marginalised, including the living waters and lands around us. The Catholic poet Gerald Manley Hopkins described the autumn as a sad time of 'unleaving' even while we enjoy the fruits. As this time of year reminds us life is transitory, we are not permanent creatures, but that should make us all the more grateful for what we have.

This week also saw the first of our twice-yearly book fairs and what a success it was. A huge thanks must go to the very many pupils who purchased from it and to the parents and carers who supported it with their wallets. As a result

of the purchases made we will receive £300 of additional books for our library. The past few weeks have also seen a number of sporting events and inside this newsletter you can read the results of some of these.

Finally, on Thursday I met with the fledgling Parent Council for the first time, so if you have not yet put your name forward for this please get in touch using the details in the Monday letter and you too can join the Council. I was especially grateful for the excellent turnout of parents for our regular SEND forum with the Salford Parent Forum representative earlier in the week – your feedback is very useful.

Ben Davis,
Headteacher



CONTACTS

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Mrs. Gillian Saldanha De Magalhaes

YEAR GROUP LEADERSHIP



Year 7
Year Manager: Mrs E Pollard
(Senior Leader: Mr G Jones)



Year 8
Year Manager: Mr G Healey
(Senior Leader: Mrs K O'Leary)



Year 9
Year Manager: Mrs E Jones
(Senior Leader: Mrs B Tulloch)



Year 10
Year Manager:
(Senior Leaders: Mr R Jordan)



Year 11
Head of Year: Mrs C Vincent
(Senior Leader: Mr N Irwin)

PE FIXTURES:

Year 10 Netball - 28th Sept 2026		
St Ambrose Barlow	6-10	Coop Walkden
Year 7 Netball - 29th Sept 2026		
Coop Walkden	7-17	St Ambrose Barlow
Year 8 Netball - 29th Sept 2026		
Coop Walkden	10-2	St Ambrose Barlow
Year 9 Football - 29th Sept 2026		
All Hallows	5-2	St Ambrose Barlow
Year 10 Football - 30th Sept 2026		
St Ambrose Barlow	3-2	All Hallows

Rugby: **Year 8** - Salford Reds' Tournament - Played 4, won 3 and lost 1.
Irlam - Won, St Joseph's Draw. **Year 11** - Played 3, won 2 and lost 1.

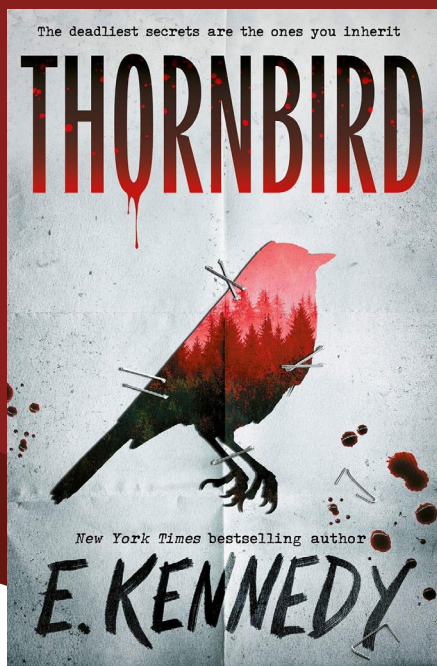


ART FOCUS: Observational Drawing and Tone - Eva Year 8



FOOD TECHNOLOGY:

This week during Food Technology lessons, year 7 students made their own bread rolls while learning about the role of yeast in bread making. They explored how yeast is a living microorganism that feeds on sugars and produces carbon dioxide gas through fermentation. The carbon dioxide becomes trapped in the dough, causing it to rise and giving bread its light, airy texture. Students enjoyed developing practical skills including measuring ingredients, mixing, kneading, shaping and proving dough. They were able to observe how the dough changes during fermentation and consider how factors such as warmth and time affect the activity of yeast. Well done Year 7, you have been star bakers this week!



BOOK OF THE WEEK:

Thornbird by E Kennedy

The world is hunting for answers. But what if the truth leads straight to you? Ryan Shipley is back in Starling, Tennessee. It's been ten years since her father, the infamous serial killer Gabriel Thorn, was caught. No one can know who Ryan really is. No one can know the truth about her past.

But as fresh eyes dig deeper into the case, old secrets refuse to stay buried. Cryptic texts, eerie coincidences, and a chilling note leave everyone wondering – does Ryan know more than she's letting on? As the truth unravels, one thing becomes clear: in a town full of secrets, Ryan might be the biggest mystery of them all.

Perfect for fans of Holly Jackson and Karin Slaughter – get ready for a thriller packed with twists you won't see coming.

XAVERIAN COLLEGE VISIT:

From September to December, our Year 11 students are focusing on what their next steps might look like after leaving St Ambrose. This is an important part of their school journey, and we hope our students are beginning to feel excited about the opportunities and destinations that lie ahead.

This week, we were delighted to welcome Xaverian College, who delivered an informative presentation to our students, followed by an application workshop. These sessions are an excellent opportunity for our students to explore their options and gain a better understanding of the application process.

Behind the scenes, we are continuing to work hard to ensure that all of our Year 11 students have the information, guidance and support they need to make informed decisions about their future plans.





ST AMBROSE BARLOW RC HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

6TH OCTOBER 2026 ♦ 6:00PM - 8:00PM

YOUR FUTURE. OUR MISSION.



LOVE ♦ LEARN ♦ LEAD

THE WAGON TRAIN FINALE

Sunday
25th Oct • 6pm
Seedley Park
(part of Bule Hill Park)
FREE

As the clocks change, we look to Salford's future...
An unmissable outdoor spectacular celebrating
Salford's 100th Birthday, created by Walk the Plank.
Visit salford100.org.uk or @walktheplankarts to find out more.

