St Ambrose Barlow RC High School
Weekly Newsletter

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School That Matters: The Month of Remembrance

In this first week of the new half-term we find ourselves in the month of remembrance. It begins with the twin feasts of All Hallows and All Souls and the Gospel of the Beatitudes. Taken together these remind us that within us all is the power to be saint-like, to be extraordinary in the ordinary things. More than that, we are encouraged to celebrate the many qualities that make us human and that connect us to others. Pope Francis reminded us to find great joy in the ordinary and mundane things of life. The greatest joy comes from good relationships, from appreciating those around us. And the greatest sorrow and suffering comes not from losing property or wealth or power, but from broken relationships because all relationships are rooted in love, which is itself extraordinary and necessary.

The month of November helps us to focus on these relationships by remembering those we have lost, recalling the difference they made to our lives, the impact of their presence and way they helped us to understand ourselves. Just as nature changes around us with the passing of the seasons, we are reminded that even in loss there is hope, new life and renewal. With so much around us in the world that causes us anxiety, it is worth remembering that the resilience we are being asked to show relies on our bonds with others, knowing and caring for our neighbour as we wish to be cared for.

Remembering Mr. Magee

This week we learnt of the passing of a former member of staff, Charles Magee. Mr. Magee was born in 1956 and was Head of Art at St. Ambrose Barlow in the 1990s. He left in the early 2000s to take up a promotion at St. Patrick's RC High School, one of our partner schools in Salford. Some of you reading this newsletter may remember him or have been taught by him; you may have known him as a parishioner of St. Charles' Borromeo. Former colleagues remember Mr. Magee as a great teacher, a talented artist who inspired his pupils and practiced his art, producing a painting each year as a gift for the guest speakers at Prize Night.

He established a hugely successful and vibrant Art department that persists to this day. Latterly he was promoted to Senior Teacher before leaving to join St. Patrick's as an Assistant Headteacher – like us they mourn his loss and remember his life. The consistency and warmth of the tributes to Mr. Magee is striking. So many former pupils and staff recall his kindness, humour, decency and gentleness. He remains an inspiration to those of us who work in schools and he exemplifies the vocation to which we are called. Rest in Peace Mr. Magee, good and faithful servant.

Ben Davis,
Headteacher

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Year Group Leadership

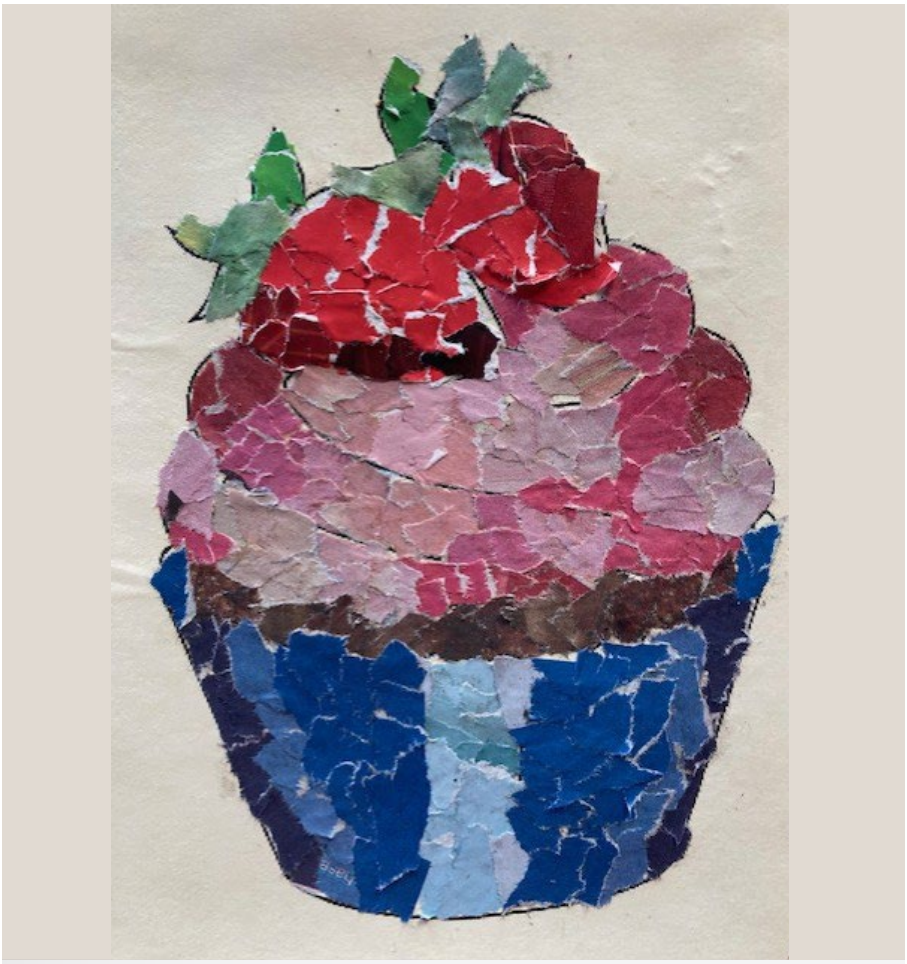
Year 7
Year Manager: Mrs E Pollard
(Senior Leader: Mr G Jones)

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)



Art Focus: Collage by Manw Year 8 for key skills project.





Shakespeare School Festival:

Our students did an amazing job performing Romeo and Juliet at the Shakespeare School Festival, held at Contact Theatre in Manchester! For some of our performers, this was their very first experience of being on stage, making their achievement even more special. They showed incredible confidence, enthusiasm and commitment, working brilliantly together as a team to bring this classic story to life. Their hard work and dedication really shone through, resulting in a fantastic performance that we are all extremely proud of. Well done to everyone involved!



Book of the Week:

Domain by Rohan Gavin

A fast-paced thriller to thoroughly engage tech savvy readers and give them plenty to think about.

Always online . . . until they want you off. Permanently.

Just imagine . . . Hundreds of apps available at the blink of an eye: skills ranging from martial artist to concert pianist, streamed directly to your brain - also known as your 'Domain'.

Orphaned teen Porter Simms agrees to test an experimental technology developed by his late parents. But there's a major catch. He is permanently online, a device of the government, and every time he uses the skills, it takes a toll on his mind.

To make matters worse, an unseen enemy wants him taken offline - for good.

Porter must race to prevent a deadly catastrophe before he loses the most important thing - himself.

Sports Focus:

The football season is well underway with our teams showcasing their skills, talent and hard work. Our Year 11 and Year 10 teams are sat in poll position, topping their groups with the Year 8 team currently in a close 2nd place. Our Year 9 team has shown consistent dedication and hard work, and our Year 7 team are set to represent Ambrose at a tournament hosted by Liverpool FC! Well done boys, we are proud of you all!



Blue Planet Trip:

On Tuesday Year 10 Art and Photography pupils attended a trip to the Blue Planet Aquarium. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to gather first hand observational photography for their first GCSE project “Natural Forms”.

Pupils had a fantastic day capturing photographs of the wildlife and captured some fantastic photographs. Well done year 10!









