



ST AMBROSE BARLOW RC HIGH SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 | Issue 04

October 16th, 2026



SCHOOL THAT MATTERS: INVITATION AND OPENING OUR DOORS

St. Teresa of Calcutta, one of the great modern-day saints, famously observed 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.' In doing so she was recognising that we are invited to participate in the world in whatever way we can. Whilst many people might make demands of us, God's message is one that tells us we are good enough as we are and that all of us have something unique, important and special to offer the world and other people.

This message is especially apparent at our annual Open Evening and in the tours that follow it, all of which take place during the school day. Our message to parents and carers is similarly clear and straightforward: your child is welcome here and, by extension, so are you. This year our Open Evening was attended

in unprecedented numbers. We had printed 500 information packs – all had been given out within 20 minutes of the event starting and still the queue was huge. For me, the most important people at Open Evening are the youngsters who have come to look around and the young people who are showing them. The honest questions, the utter enthusiasm, the total dedication to telling the story of the school are all uplifting to see and hear.

This week's newsletter showcases a small number of things that drive the enthusiasm guests will have seen in our pupils on Open Evening. As the first half-term of year heads towards its close, it is great to see that so much is underway and pupils are fully engaged in learning within and beyond the classroom. This week

has also seen pupils contribute to vital national research into school attendance and the impact of school of young people. In addition we have hosted workshops on the Social Media Effect for Year 10 and a lecturer from Salford University presented to history pupils in Key Stage 4, greatly enhancing their subject knowledge, while other pupils have benefited from working with Cap Gemini to gain an insight into international business.

Ben Davis,
Headteacher



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PA to the Headteacher:

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)



ART FOCUS: Observational Drawing and Tonal Shading by Lucy, Year 9.



STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Rohan

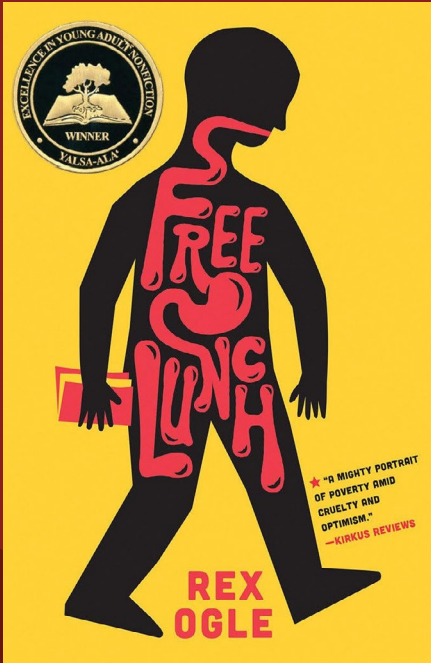
Congratulations to Rohan who represented St Ambrose in the English Fell races last weekend! A fantastic achievement - well done Rohan!



STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Mikey

A huge congratulations to Mikey, Year 11 who completed the Manchester half marathon on Sunday 4th October in an incredible time of 1 hour and 48 minutes. We are all so proud of you Mikey. What an amazing achievement and a fantastic display of determination and resilience!



BOOK OF THE WEEK:

Free Lunch by Rex Ogle

Unable to afford to give him lunch money, Rex's mom has signed him up for free school lunches. As a poor kid in a wealthy school district, better-off kids crowd impatiently behind him as he tries to explain to the cashier that he's on the free meal program. The lunch lady is hard of hearing, so Rex has to shout.

Free Lunch is the story of Rex's efforts to navigate his first year of sixth grade (roughly the equivalent of Y7) — who to sit with, not being able to join the football team, Halloween in a handmade costume, classmates and a teacher who take one look at him and decide he's trouble—all while wearing second-hand clothes and being hungry. His mom and her boyfriend are out of work, and life at home is punctuated by outbursts of violence. Halfway through the year, his family is evicted and ends up in poor quality government-subsidized housing in view of the school. Rex lingers at the end of last period every day until the buses have left, so no one will see where he lives.

Unsparring and realistic, Free Lunch is a story of hardship threaded with hope and moments of grace. Rex's voice is compelling and authentic, and Free Lunch is a true, timely, and essential work that illuminates the lived experience of poverty in America.

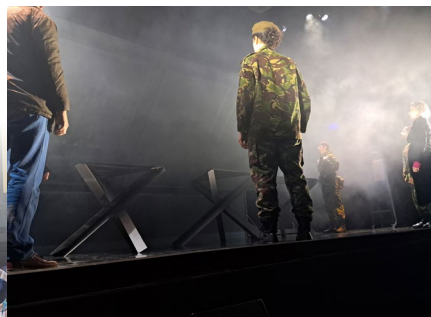
OTHELLO:

On Thursday 8th October, 45 Year 10 students visited the vibrant Home Theatre in Manchester to watch a performance of William Shakespeare's Othello.

The production brought Shakespeare's tragedy to life, exploring thought-provoking themes such as jealousy, manipulation, racism, trust and betrayal. Students saw how Iago's deception led to devastating consequences, highlighting the dangers of misplaced trust and the destructive power of jealousy. These themes encouraged students to consider how Shakespeare's ideas remain relevant today.

The Home Theatre staff even complimented the students on their conduct, and we are extremely proud of the way they represented our school.

Overall, the visit was an enjoyable and valuable learning experience, allowing students to deepen their understanding of Shakespeare while experiencing the power of live theatre.



SPORTS FOCUS – NETBALL:

Over the last few weeks, our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 netball teams have been busy competing against a number of schools across Salford, showing great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The Year 10 team have had some fantastic performances, securing a close-fought victory against Bridgewater School and putting in an excellent performance against Walkden Co-op's Year 11 team. This Thursday, they face St Patrick's, and we wish them the very best of luck!

The Year 9 team have continued to grow in confidence throughout the season, demonstrating excellent attacking play and battling hard in their matches against Walkden Co-op and Bridgewater School. Their teamwork and commitment have been great to see.

The Year 8 team are continuing to find their feet and develop their skills, with some closely contested matches against Walkden Co-op and Bridgewater School. Despite a couple of narrow defeats, the girls have shown fantastic resilience and a real willingness to learn and improve.

On Monday evening, we welcomed Co-op Swinton for a St Ambrose netball tournament, where we proudly fielded three teams and involved an incredible 28 girls. It was a fantastic event, with many students taking part in their very first competitive netball match. It was wonderful to see so many girls getting involved, building their confidence and enjoying the opportunity to represent St Ambrose.

Well done to all the girls involved over the past few weeks. We are incredibly proud of their effort, commitment and enthusiasm, and we look forward to seeing them continue to develop and succeed as the season progresses!



www.stambrosebarlowswinton.org



@sab_salford

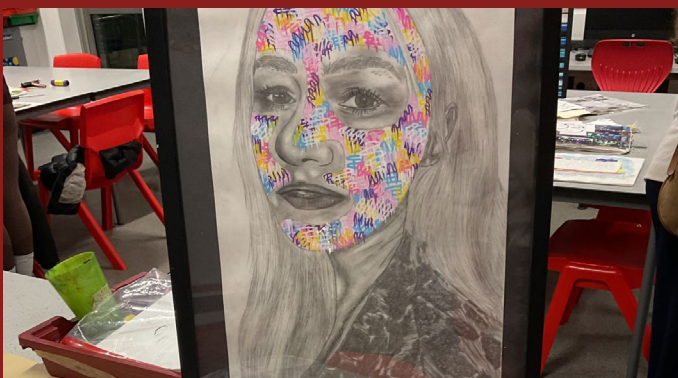


@sabsalford



OPEN EVENING

YOUR FUTURE. OUR MISSION.



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.

