St Ambrose Barlow RC High School
Weekly Newsletter
Volume 4 | Issue 08
November 20th, 2026



School That Matters: Gifts and Talents

As we move through the All Saints term towards Advent, guided by our mission theme of Love, we have been considering our personal missions and the gifts and talents we all have. This week's Gospel reminded us of a vital message: that each of us is a gift, that we are all necessary and of value. The modern world is quite good at persuading young people of the opposite, our job is to keep them focused on their worth. This was very much in evidence when we welcomed back a group of former pupils, all now in the twenties, to talk about their careers in engineering, design and construction.

They were here to re-launch the qualification 'Design Engineer Construct!' in Salford, along with colleagues from various industries, teachers from across the city and city leaders. They spoke about the way that their learning in school had paved the way for a work that is exciting and changes people's lives for the better.

Paige now works in Scotland and is currently building a whisky distillery in the Highlands; Lauren spends a great deal of her time in Scandinavia working on a variety of projects; Brad described the life-changing experience of building a 100 metre suspension bridge in Rwanda. Two of the former pupils are engaged to people they met at school. Their stories showed very clearly the power of education in our school to shape our pupil's lives and experiences so that they in turn can go on to affect the experiences of others. It was mission and gifts in action.

Beyond this it has been another busy week at St. Ambrose Barlow RC High School with Year 11 especially completing their mock exams. As we go through the month of November, we are remembering those who have died in our weekly Mass and in form time. We have also appointed our Form Prayer Leaders and Council representatives to ensure that young people's valuable voices are at the heart of our school. We were also delighted to welcome back former pupils who have gone on to work in the construction industry to talk about their careers and the foundation they received in our school. Look out for our Jubilee Alliance Advent charitable appeal for South Sudan, in collaboration with Jesuit Missions, and our Christmas parcels for local people. Tickets are selling fast for the Over-65s Christmas Party and Concert on December 15th.

Ben Davis,
Headteacher

Contacts

Reception:
0161 921 1570
office@stambrosebarlowswinton.org



Chair of Governors:
Mrs. Vikki Allen



Headteacher:
Mr. Ben Davis



Deputy Headteacher:
Mrs. Victoria Knipe



Director of Safeguarding:
Mrs. Anna Goddard



SENDCo & SEND:
Mr. Gareth Jones

Pupil Absence:
attendance@stambrosebarlowswinton.org
or via your Synergy App

Finance Office:
finance@stambrosebarlowswinton.org

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)



Design Engineer Construct:

On Tuesday evening we were pleased to have former SAB pupils back at our school. We loved hearing how through lots of hard work and the chance to study a Design Engineer Construct qualification, they find themselves with successful careers in the construction industry. It was also great to see Alison Watson MBE who founded Class of Your Own and who Designed the 'Design Engineer Construct' qualification.

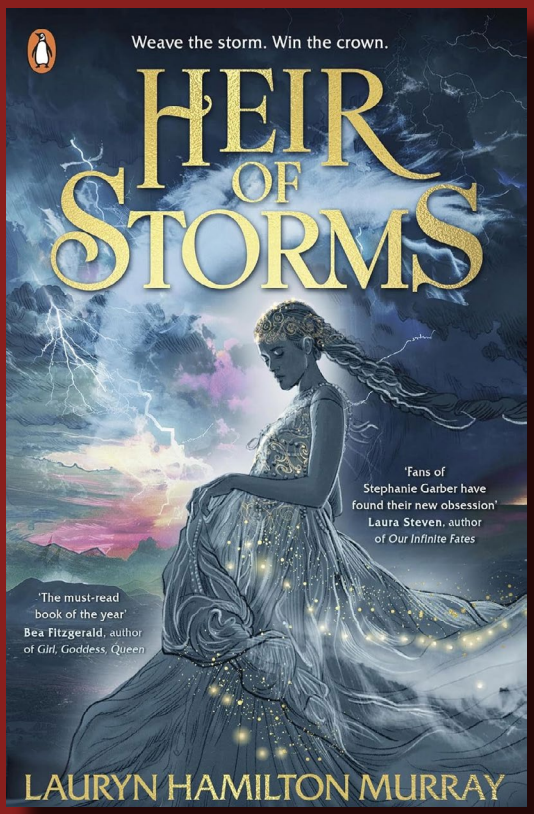
Also returning was former Technology teacher Daniel McDonnagh, who now works for Class of Your Own, taking the qualification to schools worldwide.

We enjoyed our former pupils sharing with us how their pathways since leaving us were so varied and exciting, enabling them to find their own specialist profession in the construction industry.



Art Focus:

Arrabella - Year 7 study of the artist Lauren Mortimer.



Book of the Week:

Heir of Storms by Lauryn Hamilton Murray

HEIR OF STORMS is an epic romantasy in the style of TWIN CROWNS and early Sarah J. Maas with a touch of THE HUNGER GAMES.
I am the girl who wove the storm that shook the world.
And I'm coming for my crown.

When Blaze came into the world, she almost drowned it.

Blaze, a Rain Singer, is born into one of the most powerful fire-wielding families in the empire. Her birth summoned a devastating storm that resulted in the deaths of thousands, and she has spent her life as an outsider, reviled and feared.

When Blaze and her twin brother, Flint, are selected to compete in the Choosing Rite, the trials which decide the future rulers of the empire, she's suddenly thrust into the limelight – and into battle.

Threats abound at the Golden Palace, where intrigue and romance await with not one but two handsome suitors: the enchanting Crown Prince and a dangerously alluring newcomer at court.

As her powers strengthen and her fellow competitors fall, the throne is suddenly within her grasp. But in order to take the crown, she'll have to leave behind the stories that others have told about her and find the courage to write her own.

'Heir of Storms is everything I've been craving in a YA fantasy. An original spin on timeless tropes, between its thrilling trials, delicious romance and addictive cast of characters, this is the must-read book of the year.' Bea Fitzgerald, bestselling author of Girl, Goddess, Queen



November, Month of Remembrance

Throughout this month we have been remembering those close to us who have died. In our Chapel is a Book of Remembrance and at the end of the month our Tuesday Mass will be said for those who have died and are remembered in the book. If you would like your loved one to be included please complete this short form: *https://forms.gle/wgeA8wJ1nsmBXTBX7*

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
St. Ambrose Barlow, pray for us.
Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey



Safeguarding

at St Ambrose Barlow RC High School

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

Our school mission is founded on Love: everyone safe, healthy, included and deserving of dignity. Through our lived mission we promote British Values.

Safeguarding Leadership



Anna Goddard
Director of Safeguarding
(DSL & Prevent Lead)



Sarah Moynihan
Deputy Director of Safeguarding
and DDSL



Abby Scowcroft
School Therapist



Victoria Knipe
Deputy Headteacher
Deputy DSL



Ben Davis
Headteacher
Deputy DSL



Vikki Allen
Safeguarding Governor

Notice the Niggle
If you are worried about a child in any way, please ask to speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team. We take nothing for granted. **Think: it can happen here**.

As a guest in our school your safety and wellbeing is paramount, please ask to speak to a member of our Safeguarding team if you have concerns. We have staff trained as **Appropriate Adults** – please ask for a member of our Safeguarding Team.

Safeguarding

Grand Theft Auto 6 Launch: warning for parents and carers

The launch of Grand Theft Auto 6 (GTA 6) means that parents and carers need to be very aware of the online risks of such games. Realistically, even if your child doesn't have access to the game, their friends might and they will be understandably curious and potentially exposed to harmful content. It is important that they feel they can talk openly to you and that you are aware of how they feel and what they experience.

GTA 6 itself is rated 18, meaning it is intended only for adults and is not suitable for young people and children. If you have purchased the game for your child we strongly recommend that you do not allow them to play it and that you familiarise yourself with the content. We also suggest that faced with pressure from your child to purchase the game because their peers are doing so, you do not give in.

In the UK, shops cannot legally sell a Pan-European Game Information-rated (PEGI) 18 game to anyone under 18. But a rating only works if someone acts on it, and games reach children in plenty of ways that don't involve a shop counter: a parent's account, an older sibling's copy, a friend's console, or clips and livestreams online.

Age ratings also don't cover everything. Both PEGI and the Entertainment Software Ratings Board say that chat and other online interactions are not rated, so what happens between players is not part of the age rating.

The Game is Not Age Appropriate and encourages anti-social attitudes

The game contains violence, strong language, criminal activity, drug and alcohol use, and sexual themes. Exposure to it risks encouraging very unhealthy attitudes to women, relationships, substances and violence. In some cases regular users of such games no longer see strong violence, particularly against women, as criminal and dangerous. Whilst it is a game, experts believe that GTA 6 has a widespread cultural influence and that this is not positive on young people.

The Game undermines healthy habits

Staying up late and gaming can mean that pupils sleep habits change and they lack structure, becoming late to school (or missing school days), struggling to sleep or concentrate or experiencing a deterioration in mood and wellbeing.

Online Safety & exposure to risk

Just because your child does not own the game, it does not mean that they are unaffected by it. Young people may encounter GTA 6 content through livestreams, clips, and social media even without owning the game, and online gaming carries significant risks around meeting strangers online, potential grooming and in-game spending. At the moment GTA6 is marketed as a single player game, but online modes are expected in due course and now would be a good time to review other games your child plays.

What can parents and carers do?

As well as not buying the game, it is healthy for parents and carers to discuss the content, age-rating and risks of this and other games with your child, especially if they are interested. Open and honest conversation, without judgment, helps with ensuring that sensible and safe boundaries are in place around your child's online world and for gaming in particular. More directly, we encourage you to ensure that devices on which your child accesses social media and gaming have the correct level of parental and communication controls.

Practical Steps you can take this week regarding GTA 6

Check the console settings. PS5 and Xbox Series X|S both let you block games above a chosen age rating, set playtime limits, approve spending and limit who can chat or message your child.
Check whose account is logged in. A game bought on an adult account can be played by anyone using that console.
Agree on the rules before the game arrives. It is easier to talk about limits before the hype peaks.
Talk to other parents. If your child is going to a friend's house, a quick message about what they can play can save a lot of worry.
Keep the conversation going. Check in regularly about what they are playing, who they are playing with and how it makes them feel.

Conversation starters

Children are more likely to tell you when something goes wrong if they feel they can talk to you without being in trouble. Stay curious, not cross. A few ways in:

"Have you heard about GTA 6? What are people saying about it?"
"Are any of your friends getting it? What do their parents think?"
"What would you do if someone you didn't know asked to chat or play with you?"
"If you ever see or hear something that upsets or worries you, you can tell me, and you won't be in trouble."

Useful links and further information

Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership: https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/parents-and-carers/online-safety-for-parents-carers/
NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk