



Newsletter

A Message From Our Headteacher



As both the school year and my first year as Headteacher come to a close, we bid a very fond (and tearful) farewell to our Y11 pupils. They worked so hard throughout the year and approached their exams with maturity and a confidence borne out of knowing they had worked so hard. We wish them luck and happiness as they start the next stage of their lives and we know we will never be strangers – once St. Patrick's, always St. Patrick's! Their time with us came to an emotional end, with Holy Mass celebrated with the whole year group, followed by the traditional shirt signing before finally bidding them farewell as they crossed the school door threshold off into adulthood and whatever their promising future will hold. The tearful farewells didn't last too long, though, as we were all together again the following night for the Leavers' Prom, which was a night of much laughter, food and bad dancing! (Naturally, I'm not referring to the teachers; they were great

on the dance floor!) As we say a sad "Goodbye" to Year 11, we say an excited "Hello" to our new group of year 7 pupils who will be joining us in September. They will be well looked after by the remaining year groups, of whom we are equally proud. Years 10, 9, 8 and 7 have impressed us all greatly this year, be it by working hard for their own exams and pushing themselves that extra mile, or by supporting the Y11 and Year 10 pupils through the stressful times of formal public examinations. Mostly, though, they have made us proud in the way they have been all-round good ambassadors for our school. I have made no secret that our quest is not just to maintain our "Outstanding" reputation, but to become truly "World Class" and the pupils we will have in all of our year groups from September, along with you as parents, will play a major role in this endeavour. Finally, thank you to you – the parents, carers and wider community that help to make St. Patrick's the wonderful oasis it is. We couldn't do it without you.

I wish you a sunny, stress-free summer.
Mrs Wall



Pupils' fundraiser!

Grace McAvoy, in Michelangelo 3, organised and completed her own charity Triathlon in April. She followed an under 15 triathlon regime: 350m swim, 4.8km bike, 2.4km run. Both her family and school are incredibly proud of her as she raised over £1000 for an extremely worthy cause.

Grace's younger brother has just been diagnosed with a heart condition and consequently, she decided and was determined to raise money for the charity 'Cardiac Risk in the Young,' also known as CRY.

"I was motivated to organise this event for CRY because my 10 year old brother, Will, has recently been diagnosed with a heart condition called Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome (WPW), which means he has an extra electrical pathway between his heart's upper chambers and lower chambers; it can cause a rapid heartbeat and can lead to sudden death in healthy, active young people and adults."

St Patrick's does a lot of work for charity but it is great to see individuals taking the responsibility and doing their own, fantastic, fund-raising work, particularly for a charity so close to home!

Long Service Award for Father O'Driscoll

Father O'Driscoll who is a Governor here at St Patrick's, has been awarded a Long Serving Governor Award after a total of 33 years service, since 1968.

He is pictured above with St Patrick's Headteacher, Mrs Wall and Executive Principal, Mrs Rogers; also Mrs Burgess, Headteacher at St Teresa's RC Primary School with pupils Lucy Mortell and Matthew Siddall (both Y5).

He started as school governor at All Souls RC Primary where he served for five years (1968-1973). He then served at St Peter & John RC Primary and Sacred Heart RC Secondary (later Cathedral High School) for seven years (1973-1980). From 1994 to the current time he has served at St Teresa's RC primary and St Patrick's RC High School & Arts College (21 Years).

Salford's Mayor, Councillor Christine Hudson, presented him with his award at a ceremony at Harrop Fold High School.



Year 5 and Swan Lake with Miss Tandy

Swan Lake tells the story of Odette, a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. This Ballet is based loosely on a number of Russian Folk Tales and was the theme of Year 5's visit to St. Patrick's this term. The children were challenged in a number of cross curricular activities including: Music, Drama and Literacy.

The class had a taste of Drama with Miss Olsen, which included playing cooperation games to warm up their bodies and mind. This was followed by freeze framing key scenes from Swan Lake, using levels, facial expressions and body language for a desired effect. There was plenty of talent on show and Miss Olsen was very impressed with the children's drama skills.



During a Music session with Miss Carney, the children attentively listened to snippets of Tchaikovsky's music from Swan Lake. Using whiteboards they wrote down feeling words associated with the music and were able to explain how stories can be told through music.

Having enjoyed two practical activities, the children then put their imaginative and artistic skills to the test by modernising the story of Swan Lake, choosing accompanying modern day songs, including artists such as Taylor Swift. Miss Tandy was impressed with their imaginative skills and unusual settings, which in one group included a machine which turned people into swans!

Check out the school's website and the LRC for pictures of the children's work.

Katrina's Progress

This time last year, Katrina was in America waiting for a life-saving Stem Cell transplant, having managed to raise an amazing £110,000 - £3,000 of which was raised by our generous pupils and staff here at St Patrick's.

After a gruelling three months in America recovering from the transplant, Katrina returned home but was unable to socialise for a while due to a very low immune system. During this time she took up the opportunity of a Help for Heroes respite week. By February this year however, Katrina sprung back into action and returned to being 'a morning person'. Now there's no stopping her and she's making up for lost time.

She came in to St Patrick's in March to update some of our pupils on her progress (pictured right). Her campaigning to allow other Systemic Sclerosis sufferers access to Stem Cell transplants is now beginning to pay off and she was excited to tell us that the Royal Free Hospital, London, will now be starting to carry out Stem Cell

transplants here in the UK.

Katrina's wish for the future is that she is able to use her experience to educate UK doctors and nurses about Scleroderma, and she hopes to get into UK hospitals soon to work with them to help set up support groups for patients like her.

She is also in training for a 182-mile bike ride from Cirencester to Bolton in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital which is her way of giving something back after all the fundraising done in aid of her own cause, Katrina's Future.

Katrina has also been busy setting up her own business – Cycle Warriors – which allows her to teach mountain biking skills to others. This has been a hobby of Katrina's for years, but one which she had to give up after being diagnosed. She is now waiting anxiously for the all clear to get back on that bike, and that will be happening very soon!



Building on the success of last year's Form Pitches, St Patricks' Forms raised the bar with regards to the quality of their pitches and the lengths they would go to to impress the judges! SLT and Heads of Houses decided on the following winners from each House: Mrs Hardy (Da Vinci); Mr Macafee (Gainsborough); Miss Davis (Lowry); Miss Wood (Michelangelo); Mr Hall (Picasso); Miss Wood (Renoir). Mrs Wall, Mr Wall, Mrs Leader and I had the very difficult job of deciding who should be crowned this year's Form Pitch winner. The quality of the presentations was outstanding; almost reducing us to tears of joy and pride. Our pupils communicated how they live and learn by our school



ethos, work to achieve their very best and know the importance of great attendance. The overwhelming consensus was how much they value what their Form Tutors do for them and we were told that they saw their Form Tutor as their 'Mummy' or 'Dad' in school. After much discussion, it was decided that Miss Wood and Renoir 7 should win this coveted accolade and dine out for breakfast at Frankie and Benny's. Well done to all Forms, to the winning Forms from each House, in particular to Renoir 7.

Easter Trip to Berlin

During the Easter Break, a group of Year 9 & 10 pupils went on a fantastic trip to Berlin. The 35 pupils, who were accompanied by six teachers, visited many of the German capital's famous landmarks, including, the Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, the Reichstag.

Pupils also travelled to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, located 35Km outside Berlin, to learn about the harrowing stories of the 200,000 inmates which passed through its gates.

As well as visiting some of the most famous historical sites in Europe, pupils also had the opportunity to experience another culture by exploring the local shops, cafes and trying the local cuisine.

Geography teacher Mr Rollinson, who organised the trip, said: "Our visit to Berlin was filled with laughter and entertainment, as well as lots of historical and geographical learning. Exploring Berlin and its sites in this way has not only furthered the pupils' learning but also provided them with an experience they will cherish forever. The pupils were an absolute credit to St Patrick's throughout the trip and

they helped to make it the successful trip it was."

Year 9 pupil, Laura Shawcross, said: "Berlin was an exciting, educational and memorable experience for me. We got to see so many aspects of the city and learnt loads, whilst being entertained by my class mates. My favourite part of the trip was our visit to the Jewish Museum. It really brought home the horrors of the holocaust but also the happier stories of those who fled Germany and made new lives in places like Manchester. I'm really glad I went to Berlin. It's an experience I will never forget."



Pictured above, right: Kaitlin McKeown, Rebecca Dowson, Shannon Rothwell, Brittany Trelfa, Melissa Wharton, Lauryn Brown with Mr Rollinson.

Arts week activities

This month (July) the Drama Club displayed some work as part of the Music showcase. They have been working on musical 'Islands in the Stream', written by Dareo Holuj-Knott. Dareo and is based on the racial tensions in Southern America in the 1950s. Amelia McLaughlin helped direct the group, whilst Michelle Doolley devised some linked pieces of drama around the Rosa Parkes story.

Nicole Feeney choreographed a dance with some of our budding dancers.

Music Department showcased its groups during the performance including the Choir, Harmony Group, Chamber Group, Rock Band and Big Band. There were also featured soloists from different year groups.

The Big Band performed at the Year 6 intake evening, performing three songs, I feel Good, Live and Let Die and Car Wash. In addition to



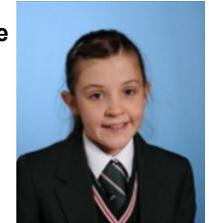
this they performed at a Music Festival at Chatsworth High School, also as part of our Arts Week activities.



Drama Club excelled with their performance of scenes from Alice in Wonderland for Year 6's, at the end of last month (pictured in rehearsals).



Lilah Bell In Year 9 has been accepted into **Halle Youth Orchestra**. This is a really prestigious accomplishment and you have to be exceptional to get into the Halle. She will be joining up with them soon and will be performing music of a very high standard. The music department are very proud of her achievement. Well done!



Huge Congratulations to the 'Great by Choice' cohort for completing the 2014-15 programme. These 20 Year 10 pupils have worked extremely hard and have been committed to attending after school sessions on a weekly basis, gaining new experiences and completing challenging tasks, as well as raising their aspirations for the future.

The weekly sessions included how to strive for an A* in their subjects, as well as sessions in cooking, a book club, a trip to the Chill Factore and even a boot camp class, to name a few. Our pupils have said that the programme has helped them to mix with people they wouldn't normally see within their school day and has taken them out of their comfort zones at times, which in turn has given them more confidence. It's not every day that you get the opportunity to do clay modelling!

The feedback from our pupils was enormously positive: target and attainment grades improved; they have become more disciplined and now realise how important it is to strive for the best that they can be.



Train to Teach in Saint Patrick's R.C High School Greater Manchester Alliance

Are you or someone you know thinking about teaching?

Recruitment is now open and applications are being accepted for our very successful School Direct Teacher Training courses, which will begin in September 2015.

As a National Teaching School we work in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University to provide outstanding teacher

training courses in a wide variety of subjects. These include Maths, Physics, Chemistry and many more subjects. We also have some limited courses available which offer a salary as you teach.

At the end of our teacher training courses trainees are awarded with both Qualified Teachers Status (QTS) and a PGCE. For more information about how to get into teaching please visit our website or email us at:

teachingschool.stpats@salford.gov.uk



Parent Voice

This term one of the Parent Forum meetings focused on the subject of e-safety. Jo Ness an expert from our IT provider RM, came along to the meeting and presented a comprehensive lecture about the safeguarding issues surrounding the safe use of IT. This followed a large number of requests by parents for advice and guidance about e-safety. Parents and carers recognised their children were well informed about e-safety, and that they needed to catch up. The meeting was extremely well supported and feedback indicated the evening was a great success. We will therefore include a similar event in the future for new parents or carers. There's now a section on our website dedicated to e-safety for both pupils and parents.

The Parent Forum also fed back on new homework software, Showmyhomework, with an entirely favourable response. Parents found the site extremely accessible for themselves and their children. We should also highlight the fact parents have access online to information about their children's grades and achievement, rewards and behaviour logs. It was also recommended by the group that we should combine information about all the online resources parents now have access to, during an information session that would include e-safety.

The Parent Forum meets regularly twice a term. All parents are welcome. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 29th September**. Please send all queries and items for the agenda to abigail.adkins@salford.gov.uk



Pupil Voice

This term the full School Council met five times to discuss the recent Behaviour, Achievement and Rewards questionnaire and topics raised by Forms and Houses. Including, The Canteen, Non-Uniform Days, equipment, rewards and Sanctions Tutor time.

All recommendations made by the School Council are presented at the Senior Leadership meeting. As a direct consequence of the School Council's suggestions the food in the Canteen is being evaluated, for price and quality. The end of term non-uniform day is being considered and a review is taking place about rewards and sanctions, and Tutor time.

Members of the School Council also responded to an Eccles council competition to improve the local environment. Their proposal was for a unique place for young people in Eccles to meet and socialise, to learn new skills and for inspirational people to speak and motivate young people. Working with Mrs Kelly, they secured nearly £15,000 to open a 'chill café' in Eccles Town Centre. The café will be called 'The Chill' and will open its doors in September. The aim of the competition was to attract more young people to Eccles. Well done to Rohit Abraham, Bash Abubakar, Davidson Sabu and Christopher Thomas for all their hard work on the project so far. More details will follow in the new year. Finally, as this School Council comes to the end of its period of office I would like to thank all the members for their dedication and hard work, which is greatly appreciated by both staff and pupils.



New PE Kit update

St Patricks new PE kit is now available to buy from Whittaker uniform suppliers. The new PE kit is mandatory for all new Year 7 starters and optional for all other pupils in Year 8-11 until September 2016.

New Puma Team wear - GCSE PE

All GCSE PE pupils will be required to purchase a Personalised Puma polo shirt as part of the course. The polo will be personalised with pupils initials and the school badge and will be used as part of the practical examination process. The new polo shirts can be ordered from Mr M Challoner and cannot be bought at Whitakers. Cost £18. Order forms available from Mr Challoner now.

New Puma Team wear - GCSE PE

All pupils who represent St Patricks RC High School in extracurricular sports teams will now have the **option** of purchasing additional training/match kit for use when training or for travelling to and from fixtures.

The boys option will be a Puma team wear jumper with initials, costing £22.

The girls option will be a Puma hoodie with initials, costing £25.



The new Puma team wear can be ordered from Mr M Challoner **only** and cannot be bought at Whitakers. Order forms now available from Mr Challoner.

St Patrick's Dance Stars



This term, three pupils from St. Patrick's have showcased their Ballroom dancing skills at regional and national competitions.

Holly Rogers (pictured below) is currently ranked 6th in the country in Latin dancing and has got through to the National Final in Blackpool in October. We wish Holly the best of luck and all our fingers are crossed for her in her last event as a 'junior' dancer.



Fortunately, as Holly left this summer, we gained two new budding Year 7 ballroom dancing stars, Abbie Grey and Frances Williams who are keen to follow in Holly's footsteps. Both did well in a recent Regional competition. Abbie will be representing the North West in Blackpool in October in Disco and Freestyle dancing.



St Patrick's Sports News



There's no stopping St Patrick's girls when it comes to sporting success this year. Congratulations to the **Year 8 girls rounders team**, who won the Salford rounders rally in May, beating every team. Players of the Rally were Lucy Ward and Freya Coggins, who were fantastic throughout and will play captain this season.

The **Year 9 girls rounders team** are the Salford champions. Again, beating all the schools they played. All the girls, they were fantastic.

We congratulate all the girls who represented us at Condover Hall. Our **Year 9 girls** (pictured left) won all their matches and our **Year 8 girls** (right) won all but one game, which they drew



and as a result both teams were crowned as the **tournament winners** for their year groups.



Head of Girls' PE, Mrs Shepherd, said: "They were a credit to themselves and the school and I was very proud of them. They all played brilliantly all weekend and despite the poor weather showed all the other 24 teams that we are the best!"

Congratulations to the **Year 7 and 9 rounders teams** they beat Swinton High School. The year 7s won 14 - 8. The Year 9s won 10.5 - 8. Well done to all the girls.



The pupils were a credit to the school at the Catholic school athletics competition with some amazing individual performances. Grace McAvoy won the long jump. Codie bright was 3rd in the javelin. Emily Knipe won the high jump. Ellie Bates was 2nd in the 200m. The senior relay team in the photo (right) won. The Girls finished an overall 6th place. Absolutely amazing, especially the senior team who came an overall 2nd place. So close, roll on next year!

Our **Year 7 rugby squad** performed really well in the Salford Red Devils rugby festival this month. Some excellent rugby took place with the boys beating Buile Hill 2-1, drawing 4-4 with Swinton, then winning the final game against Walkden 3-1. Player of the day was Michael Silcock, who really impressed with his great attitude and performances.

Year 7 and 8 Rugby who took part in the 9-a-side rugby festival, organised by Salford Red Devils community foundation. The **Year 7** finished unbeaten on the day, with player of the tournament going to Michael Silcock. The **Year 8 team** gave some great performances but ultimately struggled against the other physically bigger sides, their player of the tournament was Sean Carroll. From September we will be working with Salford Red Devils to provide coaching and pupil development utilising 'Embed the Pathway'. This is a new initiative from the Rugby Football League to promote and develop Rugby League in schools, with the aim of increasing

the national talent pool. Keep an eye out for coaching courses during the Summer break. More details on Twitter @StPatsPE. Well done to all the pupils who took part in **Sports Day** events this month - they all did themselves and the school proud.



Visit our website for more news articles and all the latest school information www.stpatricksrchigh.co.uk

Have a blessed, happy and safe Summer—see you in September!