



Newsletter

Christmas 2013

A Message From Our Headteacher



In Luke's Gospel account of the nativity, Joseph and Mary travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census. Jesus is born there and laid in a manger. Angels proclaim him a

aviour for all people, and shepherds come to adore him. It is a simple story bringing a message of hope.

In school there is a sense that Christmas is upon us with Christmas trees, an advent wreath, a crib and excited young people. Through assemblies and various events we are reiterating the importance of recognising the needs of others and helping our pupils to show care in practical ways. The vast majority are fortunate and come from homes filled with joy and love, we are encouraging them to appreciate those gifts and to make a positive contribution at home.

Thank you for your generous response to charity fund raising this year. Acts of kindness enable our children to understand that even though it is easy to focus on receiving at this time of year, it is often in the simple act of giving that we find the greatest happiness.

This has been a busy and productive term and I would like to thank our excellent staff for providing so many opportunities for our young people.

On behalf of all the Staff and Governors of St. Patrick's, I wish you all an enjoyable peace filled Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2014.

GCSE Results 2013



The spectacular success of this year's GCSE candidates once again bucked the national trend of decline!

99% of students gained 5 or more A* – C GCSE equivalent grades.

88% of students gained at least a grade C in English GCSE.

77% of students gained at least a grade C in Maths GCSE.

73% of students gained 5 or more A* – C GCSE equivalent grades including a C in English and Maths.

85% of students gained 8 or more A* – C GCSE equivalent grades.
Well done Year 11. We wish you every success in the future, God bless.

Formal Opening Ceremony

Celebrations of the opening of our fantastic new building finally came to a close in September when VIP guests including Ian Stewart, City Mayor of Salford attended a celebration event at our school. The formal opening of the new building of St Patrick's by Bishop Terence Brain, pictured below, took place just before the summer holidays.

Between the two events, Mrs Rogers CBE, Headteacher, Staff and Pupils of St Patrick's were honoured to also welcome many other special guests including: Councillor Nick Page, Salford City Council strategic director for children's services, Fr Devaney, Chair of Governors of St Patrick's, Cannon McBride, Episcopal Vicar for Formation, Fr Flavian and the Just Youth Team, Governors, Parents, Headteachers from our other Salford schools, and two former pupils who were amongst the first to attend St Patrick's in 1957, Keith Crook and Ian Gregory.

Incidentally, both men were school friends, and remain so, of Tony Green who featured in the news article; "From Memory Lane to New Lane", in the last newsletter.

To read more and view photos visit our website.



The Katrina Appeal



It was our pleasure to welcome Katrina and her husband, Charlie, into school recently to give us an update on her condition and to meet some of Miss Cohen's form who have been helping to sell wristbands in school to add to our ever growing fund raising pot.

Katrina recently visited doctors in Chicago to discuss her treatment and is now even more determined to raise the remaining £90,000 she needs by February 2014. National newspapers are now starting to show an interest which hopefully will increase public awareness about her fatal condition, Systemic Scleroderma.

For more information, or if you would like to donate, please go the following website or contact Miss Cohen directly at school.

www.gofundme.com/2ibkd0

Finally, thank you to all of the pupils and staff at St Patrick's who have made a huge contribution to the appeal... raising £2600 so far; amazing things really do happen here!

To read more and earlier news stories about Katrina, visit the school website.

Noticeboard

Parents/Carers

We Value Your Views!

Ofsted survey available at

<http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

School Start and Finish times

Pupils will return to school on Monday 6th January at 8.40am and finish at 3.15pm. Please note, the second stage of the change to the structure of the school day will only take effect from September 2014. This will be confirmed in writing to Parents/Carers nearer the time, in addition to the information being available on the website.

Boom Radio

Broadcasting every Friday lunchtime, St Patrick's pupil run radio station is growing from strength to strength. The team meet on a Monday lunch in music if pupils have any requests/ birthdays or any ideas for show items.

Record Number of Pupils Enrol for The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Once again, Year 10 pupils have been given the opportunity to enrol for the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award this year. Welfare and Conflict Manager, Mrs Clark, who has supported the award at St Patrick's for several years, said, "The uptake this year is unprecedented. Pupils appreciate that having the Duke of Edinburgh award, which is recognised Worldwide on their CV, will give them the opportunity to stand out from the rest when it comes to college, university and job applications."

DofE gives all young people aged 14-24 the chance to develop skills for life and work, fulfil their potential and have a brighter future. If your child is involved with the award please support and encourage them where possible.



St Patrick's Embraces Computer Science

A group of pupils recently had a fantastic day when they took part in a Computer Science Workshop at the Museum of Science and Industry. Year 10 Pupil, Chloe Arrandale tells all about it;

"On 2nd November, my brother Jack and I went to MadLab based in Manchester Digital Laboratories and it was amazing! When we first got there, the organisers taught all the people who didn't know how to work Python the basics, then they taught us all how to make a hangman game... it was awesome. I found it quite difficult at first but soon, with the help of one of the organisers (Steph), I figured it out.

After we had dinner the workshops started. I did two of them as there wasn't enough time to do all of them. Although my brother did one I didn't. He had to program a robot to move.

The first one I did was making a server and making it do things such as telling how old you are. We used a program called GitHub, it was so much fun. I managed to program my server to give you either your age when you gave it your year of birth or vice versa.

I also learnt how to program myself to other servers and even managed to talk to a couple of people on it (although my computer didn't at all like it).

Afterwards, I joined a different workshop; here I learnt how to make games on my computer. I had to download a program called Py Games, which would allow me to run and make changes to games. I made a maze game where the character was a wolf and you had to get to an elk.

I loved the experience and will be looking out for anything similar. And although I didn't do all the workshops, my brother did one I didn't. He had to program a robot to move."

By Chloe Arrandale, Year 10.

Praise For Our Talented Choir

Once again, huge congratulations go to our amazing choir and harmony group this term. They have performed at various events, impressing their audience on every occasion.

Events included singing at St Patrick's Senior Citizens Christmas Party where guests were entertained with an array of Christmas songs and carols. A performance by the Harmony Group at Salford Cathedral on Wednesday 11th December was a very prestigious event for Salford City Council where they performed 3 Christmas songs. The school received some very complimentary emails the following morning;

"Just a short note to say how much I enjoyed the contribution from one of your choirs at the Carol Concert last night. The choir sang superbly and I wish them every success for the future."

Former Mayor of Salford.

"I had the pleasure of listening to one your school choirs last night at Salford cathedral and felt compelled to contact you regarding them.

What an amazing set of singers, I was gobsmacked how good they were. My mum and I went and we both spoke afterwards and said that your choir was the best part of the evening despite the philharmonic orchestra being in attendance. It's so nice for teenagers to be seen in such a positive light rather than something negative for a change.

So, congratulations and keep up the good work."



St Patrick's Choir at our Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

"...best Eva Peron I've ever heard," says Andrew Lloyd Webber of Former St Patrick's Pupil

Former Deputy Head Girl, Mollie Melia-Redgrave, was the talk of the school recently after an article on the What's on Stage website was published stating of Mollie; "Andrew Lloyd Webber has heralded an unknown acting student as "...the best sung Eva Peron I've ever heard"."

The article went on to read;

"...He was speaking ...after watching a production of Evita to mark the opening of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre at the Arts Educational School (ArtsEd) in West London. Lloyd Webber took to the stage after the performance and said he was "not prepared" for such an accomplished production of his 1978 musical.

Singling Mollie Melia-Redgrave, who sang the title role, out for praise, he added: "'You Must Love Me', which is a song Tim Rice and I wrote for the movie, I've never, ever heard sung so brilliantly."

St Patrick's Head of Drama, Miss Olsen said, "She was a lovely student who worked really hard and was involved in every school production. She played Sandy in the school production of Grease. I was particularly proud of her when she took on the role of Director for 'The Crucible'. She worked incredibly hard researching the play, context, characters and leading workshops. She found it demanding directing her peers but the production was superb and she was very proud of herself. She achieved a distinction star in the BTEC Diploma in Performing Arts going on to audition for musical theatre at Pendleton College."

Well done Mollie, we're all very proud of you here at your old school. We wish you every success in your acting career and will be looking out for your name in lights!

To read the full What's on Stage article, go to;

http://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/11-2013/lloyd-webber-hails-arts-ed-student-best-eva-peron-32651.html?cid=homepage_news



Rehearsing wholeheartedly since June, a dedicated cast including Bash Abubaker as Othello and Liam McCusker as the evil Iago, wowed the audience with their 30 minute interpretation of 'Othello'.

The dedication of the cast was rewarded with a wonderful performance at the Contact Theatre performance in November. Bash played the leading character who is duped by his sergeant and is convinced that his wife is untrue. It was a great ensemble piece with some outstanding performances.

Miss Olsen said, "I was extremely proud of the commitment and hard work shown by the cast and I was filled with pride when our group were praised by other teachers for their delivery of the Shakespearian language, knowledge of plot and portrayal of characters."

Festival Coordinator, Davey Kelleher said in an email to Miss Olsen, "I must give you huge congratulations on what you've achieved... your cast put on a brilliant performance and I hope they will never forget how it felt to stand on that stage and hear the applause of the audience. I hope they left the theatre standing a little taller, full of pride in their achievements and more confident to tackle their next challenge."

Which is exactly as Liam McCusker describes it. He said the whole experience, including doing a show at a real theatre was very rewarding, "...when they were handing out the awards, it was great seeing Miss Olsen being applauded then being applauded ourselves. As we left the theatre, members of the audience came up to us telling us how good we were."

Huge congratulations to Miss Olsen and all the cast on their fantastic performance. We hope to see you take part in what will be a very special festival next year, on the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth.

Did You Know...? A bit of Christmas trivia

- ★ In A.D. 350, Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 the official celebration date for the birthday of Christ
- ★ In Greek, 'X' stands for Christ. This is from where the word 'Xmas' originated.
- ★ The legend of Santa Claus comes from a real saint, St. Nikolas of Myra, who lived in today's Turkey around the fourth century.
- ★ According to a story, the tradition of Christmas stockings have been originated from three sisters who could not afford a marriage dowry. They were helped by Saint Nicholas, who crept down their chimney and filled their stockings with gold coins.
- ★ Christmas was first celebrated in Britain in 521 in York.
- ★ In Canada, Santa Claus has his own postal zip code, H0H 0H0.


COMING SOON!

St Patrick's presents a whole school production of the Musical 'We Will Rock You'.

At St Patrick's, we're all looking forward to watching our talented actors, musicians and singers performing in their next production in January. Don't miss what promises, (as always!) to be a great show.

Tickets are available from Miss Olsen at £3 each for performances on;

Wednesday 22nd Jan at 4.30pm
and
Thursday 23rd January at 6.30pm.

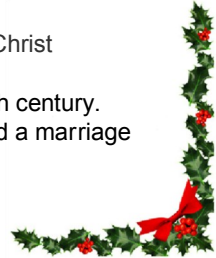


Pupils Gain an Extra Qualification

A group of our Year 10 pupils were very lucky recently when they were given the opportunity to obtain the industry recognised Food Hygiene Certificate level 1.

The certificate, which was delivered and awarded by the Institute of Environmental Health, took place during Enrichment lessons and consisted of three, one hour taught lessons and a written test at the end.

Well done to the pupils who took part, all passed with flying colours!



School Council

This term's new delegates for the school council were appointed by forms and houses, they include; Shaun Bryan, Savannah Keegan, Alex Hilton, Jodie-Leigh-Wyatt, Ashleigh Richardson, Amy Wilkinson, Chloe Ramsbottom, Olivia Ward, Aaron McRoy, Chloe Arrandale, Jessica Crooks, Laura Shawcross, Sarah Abulatifah, Lucy Marsh and Thando Sibanda.

The school council's focus this term is vertical tutoring and form time activities. We are always aiming to improve the quality of lessons and form time is no exception. The school councillors debated the length of form time and how we could ensure the tasks remain enjoyable and relevant to all year groups. One brilliant suggestion from the school council was that they had an input into the planning of future programmes for vertical tutoring. The school council also discussed the variety of meals being served in the school canteen. They reported back to the catering manager and suggested that we have themed weeks based around different cultures and countries. Other items discussed were the Year 11 leaver's prom and PE kit.

The school greatly appreciates the hard work the school councillors contribute to the success of our school. We pride ourselves on being a listening school and pupil voice is high on our list of priorities. This year's school council trip will be to Altrincham Ice Rink in January.

Parent Forum

In our most recent meeting, which took place on 30th September, the agenda included;

Increasing pupil safety – arriving by bus

suggestions included extra railings or school crossing patrol and a dedicated drop off point for cars.

Exam information for Parents

Requests were made for more detailed exam information to assist Parents/Carers in supporting their child.

Arts College

Even though funding is no longer available, we are still an Arts College and Applied Learning College. This includes practical outcomes in lessons, enterprise and employer links.

Prize Night

Commencing again in 2014 at an external venue.

The next Parent Forum will take place on Monday 27th January at 5pm. New members welcome.

All queries and items for the agenda please send to;

amanda.palmer@salford.gov.uk

Girls

Sports News

Boys

We have had an extremely successful start to the year in Hockey, Netball, Girls Football and Volleyball. At the beginning of the season, Year 7 and 8 Netball teams represented the school excellently in their Salford Schools Netball Rallies.

As a result of their performances (winning all matches) St Patricks were crowned champions for both Year 7 and Year 8 competitions.

A couple of weeks in and all three teams had a fantastic victory over Salford City Academy, preventing the opposition from scoring at all. They have since continued with their success to produce some fantastic results.

As a result of winning all their games this year, St Patrick's Junior Hockey Team have won the league and are Salford Schools Champions – a fantastic achievement by the girls.

The Senior Hockey team represented the school in the Salford Schools Senior Hockey Tournament. They finished as silver medalists which is a huge achievement as they were playing girls from Years 10 & 11. They performed brilliantly, winning all but one match.



The Football team recently won a match against Irlam scoring a mammoth 13 - 0, amazing result girls! They then went on to become Salford Champions, congratulations!

Rugby Union

Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in the Greater Manchester Schools Rugby Union Tournaments organised by the RFU this term. For year 7, it was a first taste of competitive rugby and proved to be a valuable experience, well done boys.

The well established players of the Year 8 team travelled to the tournament with no substitutes due to injury, so the boys really had their work cut out for them. In an amazing display, the team finished the day unbeaten and Champions of Greater Manchester. The victory saw them qualify for the regional tournament at Preston Grasshoppers where they will face teams from Cumbria, Merseyside and Cheshire. Good luck boys!

Basketball

Year 9 and 11 are currently mid season in their Basketball leagues, with some great performances being put in by all. Year 9 are currently unbeaten with a win over Swinton and a draw with Moorside. Year 11 have put in some excellent performances but unfortunately, lost to All Hallows and Moorside, and achieved a draw with Albion.

Year 7 Football 5-a-side

The Year 7 boys took part in the tournament at Salford Academy. They played really well, winning their group games and making it to the final. A spirited display, and a lot of missed chances unfortunately saw the team finish as runners-up.



Salford 100 Life – Saving Competition

Test 1—Search, dive and rescue
Test 2—Life-saving leg kick 25 yds.

Congratulations to the following pupils who took part in the annual competition at Broughton Baths. They completed the tests successfully and were a credit to the school.

Izzy Taylor, Alex Hiles, Brandon Dawson, Freya Coggins, Julia Chybowska, Emily Mcavoy, Molly Russell and Alex Gartside.

*May the Christmas Season fill your heart with love,
your home with happiness and your life with peace.*

