



ST. PATRICK'S RC HIGH SCHOOL
A National Teaching School



Easter Newsletter

Headteacher



This half-term has flown by! One because it is so short but two, because we have been so busy!

As always, our pupils have been so focused on their learning and it is a joy to walk around the school each day and see them at work. Our teachers are always delivering high quality lessons and pupils are so well supported by our teaching assistants and support staff. This half-term Year 11 have been very busy with English and maths PPEs (pre-public exams) as the final exams are coming round really quickly now. It is lovely to see pupils revising together and helping one another, our Year 7 to Year 10 pupils have been very supportive too.

St Patrick's Day

The highlight of the half-term was our St Patrick's feast day celebrations. The whole school celebrated mass together and all the pupils were given a St Patrick's badge, mass card and caramel egg. We don't know what the caramel egg has to do with the feast day but Fr Byrne said St Patrick was partial to them so that's good enough for us!

Finally, thank you to our parents for your continued support. It makes a huge difference to our work and means your child gets the absolute best education.

Have a Happy & Holy Easter
Mrs Byrne

Year 7 Parents Evening

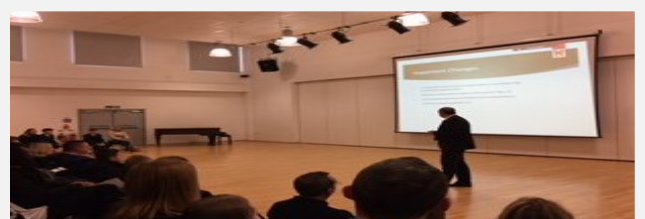
Thank you to all our Year 7 parents for joining us at Parents' Evening a few weeks ago. The turnout was fantastic and shows yet again how engaged and supportive you all are. Year 7 have settled so well and I was able to report this back to our primary headteachers when I met them last week. They were thrilled to hear how well Year 7 are doing.

Positive Feedback

We have received a number of emails from members of the public praising our pupils and telling us how impressive they are. Some have come from local residents who've spotted our pupils in a tearoom and some sat on a plane next to them on a trip to New York and back. It is so lovely to hear that our young people represent St Patrick's wherever they go and uphold our good name.

Mindfulness

We are committed to looking after our mental health and this half-term, Year 11 benefitted from a "Mindful Me" session to help them cope with any exam stress they may face over the next few weeks. We also have our very own peer mentors in Year 11 who support pupils in younger years with any issues they might be facing. Thank you to our peer mentors and well done to our mentees for being brave enough to open up about things that are on your mind.



Attendance

Attendance continues to be excellent.
Thank you to parents for understanding how important it is to send your children in each and every day to learn.

School Standards

Please be reminded of our school standards of uniform and conduct:

- Jumpers worn at all times (are optional after Easter)
- Phones and devices not to be used in lessons unless for educational purposes as directed by staff
- No fake tan
- No heavy make-up
- No false nails, no painted nails
- No fizzy drinks such as Lucozade

We appreciate your support in helping us uphold our high standards

Staff Focus

Anna Sharpley



I've recently joined St Patrick's as the School Business Manager and Director of Finance for the Teaching School. I'm new to Education, having previously worked in the Retail sector for the past 12 years as Head of Financial Control for Pets at Home PLC.

I'm looking forward to learning about the world of Education but also bringing my business experience into the role to support the vision and strategy of St Patrick's and the Teaching school going forward.

I live locally in Monton with my Husband and two young daughters and in my spare time enjoy going to Boot camp, spending time with my family and friends and planning my next holiday!

St Patricks Day

On Friday 16th March, we celebrated the feast day of our Patron Saint as a school community. As always, the day was a great success and much fun was had. We celebrated Mass together as a school in the morning across three different venues, there was celebrations throughout the day in lessons and many staff joined in the fun by wearing green. It was a fantastic day and a brilliant way of celebrating St Patrick and his life together.



Holy Week



On Wednesday 28th March, Year 7 pupils were off-timetable all day in order to take part in the annual Holy Week workshops running across the RE Department. The pupils all gathered in the hall to come together to reflect on the importance of Holy Week and listened to prayers and readings, which focused on this theme. Pupils were then split into smaller groups where they participated in different activities associated with a particular theme, such as making their own mini-versions of the Garden of Gethsemane. Pupils then returned to the hall where they placed daffodils at the foot of the cross and received a small gift to mark the day. It was a wonderful, reflective and holy day and it was a fitting way to mark Holy Week together. In assemblies during Holy Week, the Liturgy Group also provided a short presentation about Holy Week, which was another fantastic way of sharing the importance of the week together.

Red Walks

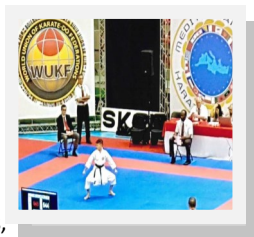
Pupils have been fundraising for Sport Relief 2018 in form time, they have been learning about the role of the charity and where the money raised goes. As part of the fundraising, pupils have been doing sponsored silences, bake sales, selling official Sport Relief merchandise and every pupil in the school has completed a one kilometre Red Walk in the fastest walk and reddest outfits they could!

No running was allowed! We had a Spider-Man, roller boy, Elmo, a power ranger, Shepherd's Red sheep - the list goes on!



Pupil Achievements

AMAZING THINGS DO HAPPEN HERE!
Kenneth Leano in Year 8 has achieved a Silver and a Bronze medal in the Mediterranean Grand Prix and Malta Open Karate competition this week.



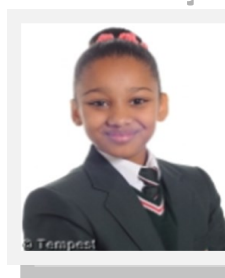
This adds to his impressive titles and medals, which he has accumulated since starting at St Patrick's:

English and Scottish Karate Champion
European Silver medallist in Karate

Well done, Kenneth!

We have some exciting news about a former pupil of St Patrick's – Josie Roué. Josie is a renowned theatre and film director and has just finished directing the upcoming 'Mary Queen Scots'. Josie is proof that the world is your oyster and St Patrick's pupils can achieve anything they set their minds to. Congratulations to Josie on her amazing achievements.

Pupil Focus



Denise Robalo in Year 10 is one of our many outstanding pupils at St Patrick's; she has had a fabulous year so far and has achieved many accomplishments. Alongside studying vigorously for her GCSE's, Denise has played an active part in the wider school community at St Patrick's. She

has given her time up to support and mentor one of our Year 7 pupils, as well as actively campaigned and promoted the importance of recycling. Denise's endearing qualities and talents show no end! Denise's involvement with the school production of Greece, Battle of the Bands and this summer's showcase reveal a wealth of talents from this young, prosperous lady. As an Ambassador for MFL and school council member, Denise has a bright future ahead of her and we are very proud of her efforts this year – well done!

New York

A fabulous time was had by all pupils and staff in New York during February half-term. This five day Arts trip saw us take in the sights of New York City; Empire State Building, Met Museum, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, World Trade Centre Memorial, Wall Street and Brooklyn Bridge. We had breakfast every morning at a typical New York Diner in the Hell's Kitchen area of NYC and we delighted in trying something new everyday. We went ice skating in Central Park and paid our respects at St. Patrick's cathedral on 5th Avenue. Our pupils even tried their hand at presenting and filming when on the NBC Studio Tour in the Rockefeller Centre. The open topped sightseeing bus tour gave us all an invaluable taste of the sights and ambiance of life in NYC. We even managed to squeeze in a little shopping time in the trendy SOHO and NOHO districts. The trip was rounded off with a night on Broadway watching the production of Lion King at the prestigious Gershwin Theatre. Our pupils were a credit to us and their families. The Headteacher even received an email from a member of the public that was on our outward and return flights to commend how fantastically well behaved our pupils were.

New York Photographic Competition

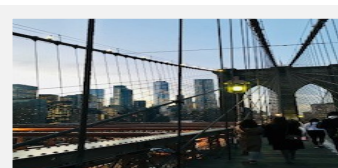
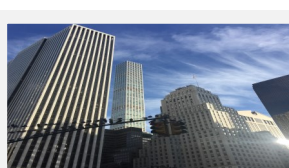
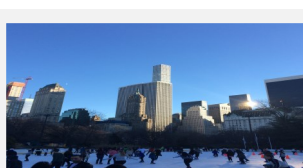
As we have taken three cohorts of pupils to New York within a 12month period, we thought we should show off their photographic skills by holding a NYC Photographic competition. Our trip is educational after all.

Pupils could submit up to three images each, to be judged by Mrs Byrne our Headteacher and Mr. Murden our Executive Principal. The quality of the entrants was outstanding and judging was tough. Here are the prize winners from each group:

Feb 2017: 1st Connor Clarke, 2nd Max Bolton, 3rd Jeovely Maiotuka, 4th Thea Devlin

Oct 2017: 1st Megan Griffith, 2nd Katie Hood, 3rd Tamsin Lythgoe, 4th Jack Henderson, 5th Liberty Sanderson

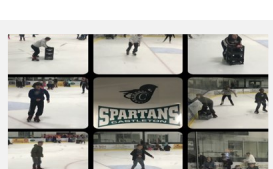
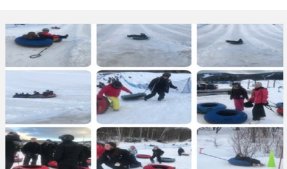
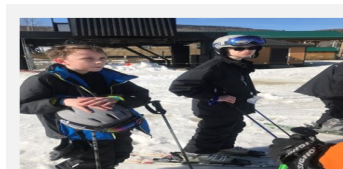
Feb 2018: 1st Frances Williams, 2nd Maisy Kavanagh, 3rd Natalie Houston, 4th Abbi Gray, 5th Lucy Bailey



Ski Trip

This year the ski trip returned to the USA and the fabulous Killington Resort in Vermont. After the long journey and being greeted by heavy snow, the pupils embarked on 5 days of fantastic skiing and fun times. The 'Beast of the East' is the best resort that we have skied in. The resort was full of exciting trails ranging from beginner slopes right through to 'double diamond' black for the experts, which many of our pupils set their sights on! We had a mix of weather throughout the week so pupils could experience skiing in warm sunny conditions as well as snowy and blizzard-like conditions. As always the ski coaches were absolutely fabulous. They were friendly, encouraging and great fun to be around. In the evenings pupils were kept busy swimming in the hotel pool, bowling and tubing and ice skating.

When our skiing was sadly finished we headed to New York. Arriving late it was straight to bed before being up early to head out sightseeing and do a little shopping. In the evening we went for a nice meal at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Factory and then we explored the bright lights of Times Square. On the final day in New York we had the opportunity to explore the famous Central Park and do some final shopping before heading home. Mr Challoner is well on the way to finalising the 2019 Ski Trip which will take us to Austria/Germany.



Drama

The Year 11 Drama students had a public performance of extracts from 'Sweeney Todd' in preparation for their GCSE practical examination. Students did extremely well with some difficult language and melodramatic acting style, well done!



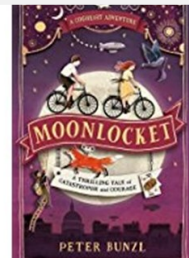
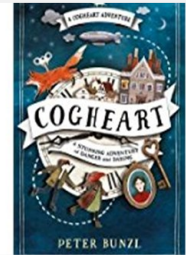
Frankenstein theatre trip

The Drama students attended a trip to The Royal Exchange to see 'Frankenstein'. The show has had rave reviews and it is recommended to anyone with a love of gore and Horror! Mary Shelley's classic is celebrating its 200 year anniversary and in the days of self-teaching robots, many of the themes are still relevant. The performance is staged in-the-round.



Author Visit

This term, author Peter Bunzl, visited our school to give a talk and workshop to one lucky Year 7 class. Peter was recently short-listed for the Salford Children's Book Award 2018 for his book *Cogheart*, "A Stunning Adventure of Danger and Daring". The pupils learned all about the automatons and animation films that are important influences in his writing, before having a go at their own animation. *Cogheart* and its sequel *Moonlocket* are available to borrow from our school library.

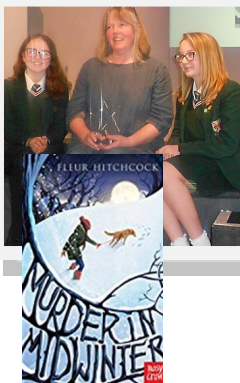


Salford Children's Book Award 2018

Congratulations to **Fleur Hitchcock** -Winner of the Salford Children's Book Award 2018.

Fleur was presented with her award at a prestigious ceremony at The Lowry. Two of our Year 8 pupils, Maisie Broderick and Natalie Houston had braved the stage to give a presentation about Fleur's book **Murder in Midwinter**, so we were delighted when it was announced as the winner.

Members of the LRC Book Club, along with pupils from high schools across Salford, had voted for their favourite from a shortlist of 6 books. Nine pupils from the Book Club represented our school at the event.



Year 9 pupils recently watched a performance of 'Macbeth' by the ManActco Theatre Company. The Shakespeare play is one of their set GCSE texts and explores themes such as ambition and the power of evil, which the company vividly brought to life!

Year 9 Macbeth

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book day in style!! Year 7 did a carousel of interesting and exciting book related tasks delivered by characters and villains from literature.

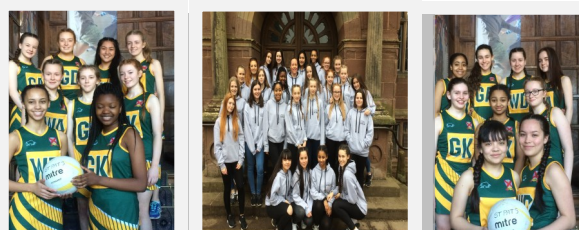


Sports News

Condover Hall Trip 2018

Our netball team competed in a tournament at Condover Hall. As always they were a credit to themselves as well as the school and played some excellent netball. Throughout the whole weekend our girls showed fantastic teamwork, passion and true St Patricks determination, not just on the courts but throughout the weekend our girls were complemented on their excellent behaviour and attitude. As well as netball, the girls also took part in various activities such as high rope, archery, rock climbing, zip wire, laser maze, laser quest, grid of stones and tunnelling. It was a pleasure to take them and the Year 11 girls will be missed, huge thanks to them for all their dedication to the netball team for the past 5 years, they have done St Patrick's proud.

Mrs Shepherd



Catholic School Cross Country

Following on from the success earlier in the year at Salford Mets cross county, the boys looked forward to more success at the Catholic Schools competition.

Again fantastic performances by all our participants on a tough, wet/muddy course around Heaton Park. Particular highlights included Josh Perryman (3rd) and Kaine Williams (5th) in the Year 7 race, and Matthew O'Neill (1st) and Joe Coggins (2nd) in the Year 8/9 race. The Year 7 team finishing 4th overall with the Year 8/9 team finishing as champions.

Year 7 team: Josh Perryman, Kaine Williams, Freddy Tyler, Adam Pike, Josh Blake



Matthew O'Neill 1st Place
Joe Coggins 2nd Place



It's been a busy term for football again with all year groups reaching the later stages of the knock out league competition. Years 7 and 10 are still going strong so hopefully there will be some more silverware arriving at St Patrick's early next term. In an emotional final game for Year 11 it unfortunately ended in quarter final defeat to Walkden, after the highs of a fantastic English Schools Cup run it seemed like the boys just couldn't raise their game one last time. Although the boys were disappointed I personally couldn't have been any prouder of them. They have been a credit to St Patrick's this year, on behalf of the PE staff I would like to personally extend my congratulations to every one of the Year 11 boys for their performances in recent years. After initial results early in KS3 were disappointing, they have made huge improvements as they progressed through into

KS4 and have matured not only into a good team but a great set of lads. I wish all the boys all the best for the future and hope as many of them as possible stay involved in competitive football for as long as they can.

Eccles Swimming Gala

Once again our fantastic swimming team dominated the Eccles 50m Swimming Gala. There were outstanding performances by all our swimmers with our Year 7 pupils looking strong for years to come. Special congratulations to Jessica and Matthew who became Senior Champions and bringing the shields back to St Patrick's for the 5th year running.



Rugby

This term has seen the start of the fixtures for the Year 7 and Year 8 rugby teams. Unfortunately due to the poor weather, fixtures have been hampered and the teams have only played 1 match each with a busy half term ahead after the Easter break.

The Year 8 team travelled to St Ambrose Barlow, unfortunately losing as we faced a tough, well drilled opposition. The positives we can take from the game was the enthusiasm and enjoyment by the team, hopefully we can build on this as the season progresses. Our Man of the Match was Ethan Raynor making some strong runs backed up with tough tackling.

The Year 7 team faced Walkden High at home, again up against tough opposition with experienced players the boys gave a strong performance, unfortunately losing 34-12. Highlights included great tackling by Freddy Tyler and Connor Ryan, with strong attacking runs from Kaine Williams, Josh Blake, and Tawonga Chirwa. Tries were from Josh Blake (1) and Kaine Williams (1) with 2 conversions added by Josh. Man of the Match

was Keshana Fonseka who put in a steady performance in attack and defence from Full Back.

A special mention for our fantastic Year 9 pupil leaders Sam Crowther and Harry Stevens who have gone above and beyond our expectations by giving up their own time

to coach and train both Year 7 & 8 teams over the winter months. Well done, boys!



Football