



SAINT PATRICK'S NEWS LETTER

Autumn 2018

St. Patrick's RC High School
A National Teaching School



We have had another great start to the academic year, having been lifted by another set of fantastic GCSE results in the summer.

Pupils have settled into learning so quickly and maturely and so many members of staff have commented on how well pupils have begun their studies this year.

As I have moved around the school looking at our pupils learning, I see young people eager to learn and staff teaching to an incredibly high standard. The new GCSE courses are much more challenging than ever before and it is very pleasing to see staff and pupils rising to this challenge. However, it is not just high academic standards that define us. We make sure that pupils are able to express their God-given talents fully and we have seen lots of examples of this already this term.

It has been pleasing to see another huge turnout for our school play auditions from our budding dramatists and musicians and we have enjoyed celebrating with those pupils keen to excel in sporting activities; already we have had great success in netball and cross country to name a few.

I have also been incredibly impressed and humbled by the number of our young people who are dedicating themselves to serving others. We have many pupils who are mentors to younger people, giving their time to listen to worries and concerns they may have and we have hundreds of pupils involved in charitable causes. It makes me very proud to witness these remarkable acts of kindness on a daily basis.

However, our pupils do not achieve all of this alone. Can I thank our parents and carers (including older brothers and sisters who are often ex-pupils) for supporting us in our work. I am always amazed at how well our parental events are attended. Your presence and continued support is part of why amazing things happen at St Patrick's so thank you.

Our pupils always belong to our family and we've had some very sad news over the past few weeks. Two of our past pupils, Katy Ashton, 20, and Tom Noakes, 29, have sadly passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in separate circumstances. We have remembered these two pupils and their family and friends in our staff briefing prayers and out Wednesday prayers in the chapel.

Each Wednesday in the chapel we have prayers that everybody is welcome to attend. A different form each week takes the opportunity to lead the readings and prayers, ensuring that every pupil will experience the peace and serenity of slowing down in the middle of a busy week to quietly pray. Bliss!

Finally, I wanted to inform you about some personal news that will affect life at St. Patrick's in the short term: I am expecting my second baby at the end of February and plan to start my maternity leave at February half-term.

This is obviously very happy news for me and my family but I am clearly, hugely invested in St. Patrick's and want it to be business as usual so that the school remains as unaffected as possible whilst I am off. To this end, Mr. Campbell (Deputy Head) will be stepping up as acting headteacher and Mr. Murden (Executive Principal) will devote more of his time to us from January, until I return to ensure a smooth handover and support the school. We are very lucky that our unique school structure allows for this type of support and means that the staff and pupils can continue to focus on our core business of learning at all times.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Alison Byrne - Headteacher

St. Patrick's - Amazing Things Happen Here

Anti-bullying Ambassadors

Last year an anti-bullying team was set up in our school containing over 30 ambassadors. Each of our ambassadors was given training and a yellow anti-bullying badge. We have set this team up to make sure any pupil who feels bullied has a fellow pupil to speak to. We can then report this to members of staff and stop bullying straight away.



Keiran (Year 11) and Wiktoria (Year 11).

Pupil Focus - Thomas Maksymowicz, Year 10 Renoir House



At the end of this half term, we would like to profile one of our amazing students, his name is Thomas and he is fantastic role model to all members of Saint Patrick's.

Thomas is a pupil who is always willing to serve others. He volunteers his lunch time every day to support our younger pupils in the quiet club, providing a listening ear to pupils problems and offering solutions.

As a member of the School Council from Year 8, he has used his voice to influence positive change for all pupils in Saint Patrick's. He is also an Anti-Bullying Ambassador and school librarian.

All members of staff agree that no task is too much for Thomas and he is always willing to support our school in any way he can. Thomas' warmth and kindness are shown everyday in his interactions with other students and staff, with just a friendly smile on the corridor or holding the door open.

Thomas is not just an excellent role model outside of the classroom, his hard work and dedication to his studies are clear to see in his lessons.

It is a pleasure to have Thomas as a member of our Saint Patrick's family.

Staff Focus - Danny Shaw

I am Head of Science at St Patrick's and I teach all year groups. I mainly teach Physics and Chemistry and enjoy the mathematical elements of these subjects.

I firmly believe that understanding the world around you, and within you, allows you to see and appreciate the beauty of nature.

Prior to teaching Science, I was a swimming instructor and lifeguard for 10 years at local pools working for Salford Community Leisure. This is where I discovered a passion for teaching and helping others to achieve their potential.



Duke of Edinburgh

After the fires in Rivington at the end of the last school year, the Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Award participants completed their expedition this term on a much colder autumn night. They trekked around Rivington following their maps and applying their compass skills. They camped overnight at a local campsite after cooking their own meals from scratch.

The pupils demonstrated excellent behaviour over the two days and engaged fully with the activities. They now just need to complete their Physical, Skill and Volunteering aspects to have completed the Award in full and progress to Silver and Gold Awards at College.

The Award gives pupils an opportunity to give back to the community, learn something new and get outdoors, which is a welcome change in this day and age! Well done to all of the pupils who took part!



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Mr Hall's KS4 students held an amazing bake sale during break and lunch time. It was in aid of the charity, Macmillan.

Plenty of cakes were eaten and a lot of donations made. Thank you to all those who supported the event and got involved to make the morning a huge success.

We made over £300!



Cafod

On the 5th October the school held a collection for CAFOD. Money is still trickling in, however we expect to exceed last years total of £450.00.

A special thanks to Ryan Fitzgerald's Form as they collected **£44.00**. Year 8 Mass was also held on the 5th October where we celebrated the theme of generosity to others and loving thy neighbour.

CAFOD
Just one world

Open Morning

Open morning on the 27th. September was a huge success and we were inundated with prospective pupils and their parents / carers.

We are the only school in Salford to hold this event whilst school is in full swing and lessons are in progress as the standards set by our staff and pupils speak for themselves.

Together with our record of outstanding GCSE results, the best in the authority for a number of years, we remain the most over-subscribed school in Salford.



Achievement Champion - Information Evenings

Five staff have been appointed as “Achievement Champions”, one for each year group. Year 7 - Mr. Ladley, Year 8 - Miss Hogan, Year 9 - Mr Mallelieu, Year 10 - Miss Davies and Year 11 - Mrs. Gillmon, Senior Assistant Headteacher.

Information evenings were held for pupils and parents / carers of each year group. A huge thank you to all who attended. It was an excellent opportunity to share our vision with you for the year ahead.

Well done to all years. It has been an excellent start to the year and the Achievement Champions are incredibly impressed.

Working Skills Day

Year 11 pupils were off timetable for the whole day on Friday 5th October, to take part in a Working Skills Day. This is a day where external agencies come in to prepare our Year 11's for the world of work.

Visitors included: TSB bank, the Armed Forces, interview skills professionals, STEM employers, apprenticeship providers and Salford Foundation and university students and providers.

Feedback from pupils, staff and visitors was very positive and Year 11's gained some invaluable information about their potential future from the day.



Shakespeare School Festival

Pupils participated in a cast workshop with another school. They excelled when experimenting with voice and body language. We are excited for the upcoming performance of Macbeth at Z Arts Centre on Friday November 16th 2018.



Little Shop of Horrors



Work has already started on the forth-coming production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' January 22nd, 23rd and 24th 2019; tickets will be available later in the year!

The show, a musical/comedy / horror tells the bizarre story of a nerdy florist who finds his chance for success and romance with the help of a giant man-eating plant who demands to be fed.

Performing Arts @ St. Patrick's

Sporting News



The annual Salford Mets schools cross country took place this term with St Patrick's being well represented. It was really good to see the green of St Patrick's out in numbers. The Year 7 boys' team finished as runners up, whilst Years 8, 9,10 and 11 teams finished as champions. Year 8 Josh, picked up the silver medal. In the seniors, Rose and Matthew in Year 10 picked up the gold medal with Joe winning the silver.

Rugby Club

There has been a great number of pupils from Year 7 to Year 10 attending the Rugby Club on Tuesdays after school. It has been good to see both new players and experienced players coming down to give school rugby a try!

Massive thanks go to the Year 11 pupils giving up their own time to work with the younger pupils.

Well done Tom, Reece and Daniel.

Netball



A huge "well done" to Year 10 and 11 Netball teams on their performances at the Salford Schools Netball Rally. Both teams represented the school well in their respective rallies and played brilliantly. As a result, both teams were runners up for their year group - a great achievement!

Celebrating Success...



Congratulations to Year 8 pupil Keshana scoring 160 runs for Lancashire U12s vs Somerset at the recent West Cricket Festival.



Year 11 pupil Jacob won the silver medal in the S8 100m backstroke at this Summers CP World Games.

Well done Jacob.



Year 8 pupil, Jake achieved silver medal at the North West Gymnastic Championships and qualified for the North West squad for the British Team Championships in November. Jake trains 20 hours a week at Manchester Academy of Gymnastics.

Fantastic achievement, Jake!



One of our Year 11 Pupils Frances, has kicked-off the new year with a great start with two Taekwondo triumphs.

In September she won the Scottish Open Taekwondo Championships, and more recently won the Gold Medal in a tournament at the University of East London Sports Dock Arena.

Frances trains 5 times a week under the guidance of Brian and Paul Green former coaches to Jade Jones double Olympic Gold Medallists.

Frances says she would like to encourage more pupils to take up the sport as it promotes qualities that are important for life: courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit as well as promoting fitness and being great fun.

We wish Frances the best of luck when she competes in the British Championships in Sheffield at the end of October and in the New Year when she hopefully will compete in Las Vegas and other tournaments across Europe.