



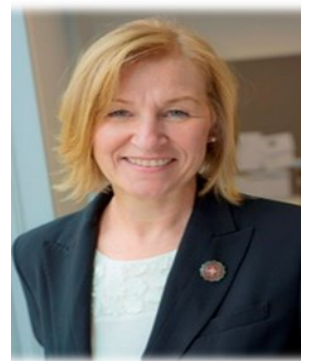
St Patrick's RC High School

Christmas Newsletter



A message from our Executive Principal

In a recent newspaper article I saw the image of a modern nativity scene with wise men delivering amazon parcels, Mary and Joseph taking a selfie with their much loved new child on an iPhone and the shepherd finding his way via sat nav, rather than a star. It is easy to look at those images and imagine that the world 2016 years later has moved on, one would assume for the better. I then turned on the national news and saw images of refugees, many of them women and children in desperate need of a place to stay where they will be safe, warm and fed. There are constant reminders that within our country we do not take sufficient care of our most vulnerable, the homeless, elderly and many families struggling financially through no fault of their own. We are as much in need of Christ now as we were all those years ago. We should always remember those who are less fortunate in our community, in particular those girls and boys who do not have an easy childhood, but are constantly reminded through the media that some have so much in a world which covets expensive goods and extravagance. During this period of advent we are encouraging children, through assemblies and various events, to recognise the needs of others and to demonstrate care in a very practical way. I feel immensely proud of our talented musicians who will go into the community at Christmas to bring joy to others, other girls and boys support various charities and many of our senior pupils who serve the elderly at our annual Christmas party. Our young people are a gift from God; they bring so much joy and hope for the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers and support staff, they work tirelessly to care for and enrich the lives of our children. I wish you and your families a joyful, peaceful and holy Christmas.



Mrs B Rogers

Goodbye, Mrs Wall!

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Mrs Wall after many years of service to St Patrick's. In her time here she has done so many things to support our pupils, staff and parents and we will miss her greatly.

We wish her all the best for the future.



Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Mr Hall's Year 9 and Year 10 Catering pupils planned and prepared an event for Senior Citizens in the local community. For this they had to make the food, set up the room and serve the customers. Entertainment was provided by Mr Snowdon's choir and the Senior Prefects also supported the Catering pupils. The event was a fantastic success and the pupils should be proud of themselves.



Armistice Day Service

On Friday 11th November, two Year 7 pupils (Rebecca Jones and Aaron Sales) and Miss Hogan attended an Armistice Day Service for the 'Churches Together' initiative at Peel Green Cemetery. Both pupils read and also joined in with laying wreaths at the war memorial in the cemetery. It was a lovely atmosphere and there were lots of lovely comments about how well the two pupils represented the school.

ICT Department

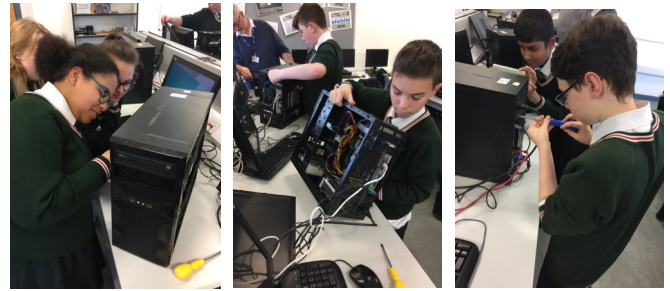
Year 9 Business – Merry Mugs

The Year 9 Business team has set up a small enterprise group that are selling hand decorated mugs for the Christmas period. The mugs have been designed and made by the pupils themselves and 50% of the profits are going to Cash4Kids charity. The project has allowed the pupils to apply their knowledge of business and enterprise to a real life situation and work in. We have a lot of budding entrepreneurs in the group who have each taken on a business role. Well done, Year 9!



Year 9 Computer Science Visit to Media City

In November our Year 9 Computer Scientists completed a Master Class in Computing at Future Skills in Media City. The master class programme presented an opportunity for pupils to enrich their current studies and discover more about studying their subject at college. They spent the afternoon in groups working on animation and also taking apart and re-building computers. A very worthwhile afternoon was had by all.



Year 8 Coding Day

In September the ICT department held a Coding Day for Year 8. Staff from Manchester Metropolitan University came in and ran several different workshops for the pupils to take part in. The pupils looked at dancing Robots and programmed spheroids to take part in a race. After completing the workshops all Year 8 pupils were presented with a BBC Micro Bit and used them to code games and puzzles on. Further information can be found on <http://microbit.org/>



The day was enjoyed by everyone who took part and we got some very positive feedback from the pupils.

MFL Department

European Week of Languages

In September the MFL department organised a range of activities to celebrate the European Day of Languages officially recognised each year on 26th September. As always the week long celebrations allowed pupils of all year groups to celebrate their love of language learning. Activities included speaking for a sweet at break time, the Great British Bake Off, art attack and treasure hunts. Our Language Ambassadors also helped out by running German, Portuguese and Italian clubs during lunch time. Lots of fun was had by pupils and the MFL department would like to thank all staff who gave up their time to join in.



Barcelona Trip 2017

Plans are now well underway for the Barcelona Trip which departs on Saturday 1st April 2017. In the New Year we will send out details of a meeting where parents and carers will be able to find out more about the itinerary and accommodation. A reminder that all monies should be paid by the end of this term (Thursday 22nd December). Please contact Miss Cohen if there is an issue meeting this deadline.



Year 11 High-Achievers

A group of our high-achieving Year 11 pupils attended a PiXL Conference on *Getting into the Top Universities* at Emirates Old Trafford Cricket Ground. This was to give pupils some tips on applying for the top universities in the UK. Pupils were given an invaluable insight into preparation for renowned universities and are aiming to get into some very ambitious careers!



Loreto Masterclasses Trips

Both Year 11 and Year 10 pupils are being given the opportunity to attend Masterclasses on a range of subjects in Loreto College. These Masterclasses are aimed at giving GCSE pupils the opportunity to challenge and stretch themselves, whilst aiming for Grades 7, 8 & 9, or A and A*. The content is challenging and stimulating, ensuring that the pupils are engaged with, and ambitious to succeed in, their favourite GCSE subjects.

MyEd App

Our aim is for the MyEd app to make access to school information easier and quicker from your mobile phone/tablet. The app provides general information regarding school dates and news. In addition, you are also able to access information relating to your child and their attendance, achievement and much more. For more information please visit our school website on how to download the MyEd app.



School Productions

St Patrick's RC High School Presents...

MAMMA MIA!

Wednesday 25th January 2017— 6pm
Thursday 26th January 2017— 7pm

Adults: £4

Students: £1

~ Tickets are now available to purchase from the main office ~



'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'

On Thursday 15th December 2016 a group of pupils and teachers went to see 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' the Christmas production at the Lowry theatre. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, the production was amazing and the flying car was a highlight! Jacob Bland a Year 7 pupil was outstanding as Jeremy Potts, the inventor's son, played by Jason Manford. Well done, Jacob and also ex St Patrick's pupil Mollie Melia-Redgrave who is also in the cast. Mollie said Jacob was outstanding and extremely professional during technical rehearsal.



Paris Trip

During October half term, Mr Dorrian and a team of teachers braved the challenge of taking sixty Year 9 pupils to Paris! After a long coach ride, they arrived safely and headed straight into Disneyland. After a late night watching the astounding firework display, pupils returned to the hotel for some much needed rest! Another day in the Disneyland Parks followed and on the final day they visited the centre of Paris. They took in the scenery from atop the Arc de Triomphe, enjoyed panoramic views of Paris city centre from Montparnasse Tower, and relaxed on a leisurely riverboat cruise down the Seine. On their way home, pupils recounted tales of the 'amazing trip' where they 'all had so much fun', won prizes, and enjoyed the best meal of the trip (an incredibly expensive McDonald's order costing over £500)! The trip was a roaring success for the third year running, the pupils were a credit to the school! It is hoped that the same can be said next year when Mr Dorrian hopes to run it again!



Pupil Achievements

Joe in Year 11, qualified as a FA Referee this year and was invited to referee a corporate match at Old Trafford between Manchester United staff and one of their sponsors, Adidas. Joe, who is a Senior Prefect and has 100% attendance record from starting in Year 7 said the match went without any major incident apart from a few over exuberant tackles, he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would like to pursue it further.

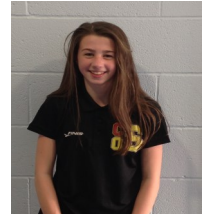
Joe is a member of the Manchester Football Association Young Leaders Academy and a PE leader at St Patrick's and would encourage anyone who enjoys the sport of football and refereeing to get involved and take it to the next level.



Abbi and Frances competed at the North West Regional Finals at Latin Ballroom dancing and both qualified to represent the North West at the National Finals in Blackpool in April 2017. We wish them luck and as they say on 'Strictly'.....Keep Dancing!



Isabel has been competing for the city of Salford in the ASA synchronised swimming national championships at Gloucester this weekend. Her team '12 and under free team' achieved the silver medal.



Supporting Reading

Following on from last year's (first) very successful *Supporting Reading...* Parents' Information Evening, 55 people attended one of the three sessions held at school this term. The sessions, led by Mrs Lane, Head of Literacy, and ably assisted by members of the school Literacy Team, gave hints and strategies to use at home to support Reading for Pleasure. Those attending were able to see the different Reading Interventions we have in place at school and understand how and why each child follows a particular programme. They were also given indications of the reading progress their children could make at St Patrick's. Today's busy lifestyles with so many distractions for young people (example: games consoles, social media, mobiles, television etc.) can mean that there is often very little time to READ but current research shows that there is a direct link with pupils who **Read for Pleasure** and **Educational Achievement**. Here at St Patrick's we take reading very seriously and support our pupils with their reading in many ways; one of our school mottos is **Read to Succeed**.

Our **Encouraging Reading at Home** "tip sheet" can be found on the website, under Literacy Across the Curriculum.

Teaching School

The work of our Teaching School continues to grow in 2016...

Initial Teacher Training:

This year, we have recruited 23 Primary and Secondary trainee teachers who complete our School Direct PGCE Programme, which we run alongside Manchester Metropolitan University. During the year, the trainees complete teaching placements at St Patricks, or in any of our Alliance schools whilst continuing their studies at University. They are supported by highly trained mentors in each school, who ensure they are meeting the standards required to become excellent practitioners. All the trainees return to St Patrick's weekly to take part in Professional Issues sessions, preparing them to be Newly Qualified Teachers by the end of the academic year. It is always a privilege to work with our trainee teachers, ensuring the highest quality of teachers are entering this exciting profession year on year. We are already recruiting for trainee teachers to join us in September 2017. If you know anyone who is interested in training to be a teacher with St Patrick's, please follow the link for more information:

<http://teachingschool.stpatricksrchigh.co.uk/initial-teacher-training/>

Thank you to all our teachers and pupils who have supported the work of our trainee teachers so far this year!

