



Christmas 2018

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



Headteacher's Welcome

We have had another successful half term with our pupils working incredibly hard to develop their skills and knowledge and use their talents to the very best. As parents and carers will already know we had an inspection in early December to see how well we provide a Catholic education to all pupils. I am pleased to inform you that the inspectors found that St Patrick's continues to shine as a great Catholic school. This is down to the hard work of the staff, governors, pupils and parents working together. Well done everyone. Please find a copy of the report attached. There have been so many examples of excellence this half term that it is impossible to cover them all but here are some of our highlights:

- Year 10 and Year 11 PPEs. Pupils excelled themselves with a mature attitude to their exams and conducted themselves so sensibly. They all made us really proud.
- Some of our Year 7 and 8 pupils entered a literature competition in Liverpool. They did so well in a really hard competition; even Mrs Lane struggled with the quick fire rounds!
- Our Year 10 pupils were involved in a Shakespeare Schools Festival performance and performed a 30 minute version of Macbeth at Z Arts Centre. It was absolutely brilliant and we were so proud of them.
- To commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1 the whole school gathered in the dining area and on the balconies to listen to a reading and Mr Snowden played the last post on his trumpet. During our two minutes' silence, pupils showed respect and reverence. It is one of the proudest and most moving moments I have had as a teacher and again shows how wonderful all our pupils are.
- Finally, we have really enjoyed the advent preparations that have taken place in school this December. A number of our pupils have presented excellently in assemblies and services to highlight the importance of preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ. Thank you to all who have helped us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas this Advent.

School drop off and pick up times are obviously very busy. Please can carers / parents continue to be considerate by not blocking staff cars in and of the local residents' parking and vehicles. We know it is hard sometimes but it might do our pupils the world of good to be dropped nearby and walk the rest of the way!

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support. We could not achieve such amazing things without your help and engagement.

Have a happy and holy Christmas.

Mrs Byrne.



Achievement Champions - Autumn Term

The Achievement Champions for each year group have been busy all term dropping into lessons with rewards and rewarding the top 10 achievers in the year group every week. At the end of the term, rewards assemblies took place for each year group to celebrate the successes of the term so far and also the highest achievers. Congratulations to everyone who has been rewarded, and also good luck for next term, as the whole system starts again and every student has the capability of being rewarded for their excellent work in the spring term.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Mr. Ladley, Miss Hogan, Mr. Mallalieu and Miss. Davis.

Pupil Focus - Phoebe Year 10



Phoebe is one of our many outstanding pupils; she is what we would consider a true all-rounder!

To name just a few of her many accolades, Phoebe played Macbeth in the school's production and was truly triumphant! She is also an amazing member of a prestigious drama group outside of school.

She valiantly represents Cheshire and Merseyside at a high level of Gymnastics. We often wonder how she finds the time to fit in all the amazing things that she does. Phoebe is a credit to our school and proves that there are truly generous and genuine people in the world.

Phoebe is also a vital part of our SVP group; she gives up her time to mentor younger students and advise them if they need it. She is a pivotal part of the Maths club and is part of the Scholars Programme for Science.

She has represented the school at Mock Trials and was absolutely amazing.

We are so proud of all the things that Phoebe does and know that our younger pupils look up to her as a role model. Phoebe inspires both staff and pupils to be better people.

Staff Focus - Fiona Waterhouse

Hola / Bonjour! I am proud to be a Spanish and French teacher at St. Patrick's - sharing my enthusiasm for the different languages and cultures with the students...and staff!

Prior to teaching I worked at The University of Manchester, in outreach promoting opportunities into higher and further education with schools and colleges all across the North West. This is where I discovered a passion for supporting and encouraging young people.



Remembrance Assembly

The whole school gathered together to remember those who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world. There were readings from Year 10 pupils Amy and Katie .

An amazing Poppy sculpture that featured at the centre of the service was made by Mrs. Gallagher and a team of pupils.

The last post was played by Mr Snowden during a poignant 2-minute silence to remember those who had fallen and those that are still keeping us safe both at home and abroad. Poppies were worn as a mark of respect. Thank you our pupils for showing such respect.



Symphony Group

The schools symphony group performed at MAPAS Carols and Christmas concert at St Peters Church in Swinton on Tuesday 11th December. They represented the school excellently and were a real credit.



SCIENCE CLUB



A huge well done to year 7 and 8 students who have attended Science Club after school this term and joined in with experiments from bubbles inside bubbles, making slime, sparklers, oobleck, lava lamps, soda snakes, bouncy balls, dissecting a heart and investigating air resistance to safely land an egg! Thank you for your enthusiasm and amazing contributions after school.

A special mention to Maisie, Megan, Abi, Gabriella, Liberty, Brandon and Mateusz for constructing incredible parachutes without cracking an egg!

A special thank you to Mollie, Jack, Liam and Leyton for helping plan, organise and deliver Science club after school! You have been amazing - keep up the good work!

WW1 Centenary Battlefields Trip 2018

At the beginning of November, we got the opportunity to go to the World War One Battlefields trip in Belgium and France. We took part in activities that

showed us what life was like in the trenches. We visited a museum that had the uniforms of both English and German soldiers, and contained artillery to show what was used in the war.

We went to lots of different memorial cemeteries and paid our respects to soldiers and nurses who had been killed in World War 1. At one of the cemeteries, we found a soldier from the Manchester regiment who lived just round the corner from school on Church Street in Eccles.

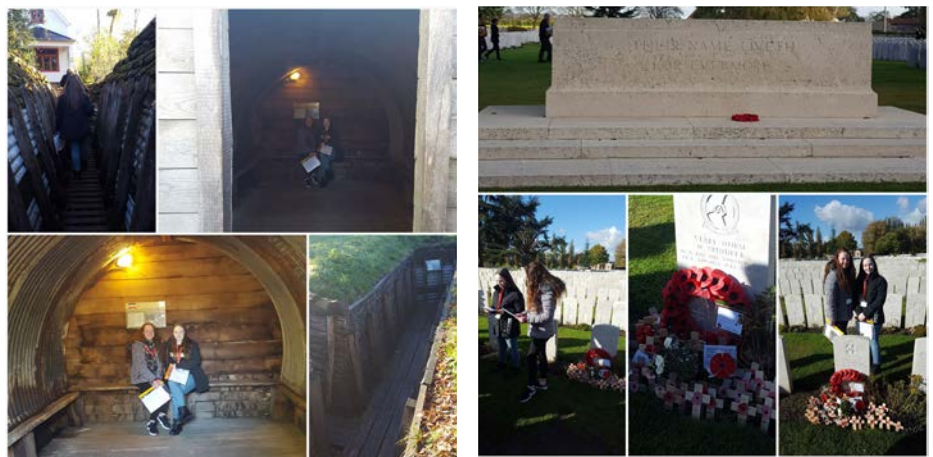
Thanks to the input of historians and ex-soldiers, we learnt about battle tactics such as putting land mines underground and setting them off in order to direct the enemy whilst troops got to higher ground.

Overall, we thought that the whole experience was not only eye opening, but it gave us a special appreciation for the men and women who fought for, and with, our country, then and now.

By Amy & Katie



1914 - 1918



SVP Film Night



During October, SVP worked hard to set up and sell tickets for a Halloween film night in school. Over 60 pupils attended the showing of 'Hocus Pocus' after school and took part in Halloween games. SVP also set up a tuck shop on the night to raise money for Cornerstone. They raised an amazing £93.47 in total for the charity, putting their Catholic mission into action.

Drama & Performing Arts

Shakespeare Schools Project - 'Macbeth'



Year 10 Drama students recently performed a 30-minute version of 'Macbeth' as part of the Shakespeare Schools project. The group performed on a dark Friday evening at the Z Arts centre in Hulme with two other schools but lit up the stage! The students' performance was outstanding, a real ensemble piece!

Phoebe Lam shone as Macbeth and Beth Allen portrayed a chilling and manipulative Lady Macbeth, with live drumming from Joseph Thompson and a last minute stand-in by Sara Marques. The whole cast made this one of my proudest moments at St. Patricks!

Thank you and well done to all involved.



Little Shop of Horrors

Work continues on the forth-coming production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' January 22nd, 23rd and 24th 2019; tickets will be available soon!

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.

Come and join us for a great night of music, fun and just a little horror!

St Patrick's RC High School
presents...
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS!

Dates: Tuesday 22 January
(5pm), Wednesday 23
January (6pm) and Thursday
24 January (7pm)
Just £4!!!

Annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

On Friday, 14th. December, Saint Patrick's held our Annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. Every year we invite the senior citizens of our local community with their families to join with staff and pupils in celebrating Christmas with food, music, games and the opportunity to just chat and get to know each other that little bit better at this festive time of year. Mr. Hall and his team of GCSE catering pupils did a splendid job of making the food and serving our guests.

A great time was had by all!



Music throughout the event was provided by the school choir and soloists.



Amazing things happen here...

Sports News

Earlier this term St Patrick's were invited to a collaboration event at St. Matthew's RC High School. The event was in conjunction with PlayStation who are the official sponsors of the English Schools Football Competition.

The day included a number of activities including a question and answer session with professional footballer for Manchester City and England, John Stones. John was then introduced to all the boys before the match against St Matthew's and even had time to stop and pose for a team photograph also signing some sports memorabilia. Our school was lucky enough to get John to sign an England Shirt and Manchester City shirt and these will be displayed in school in the New Year.

It was a fantastic day that the boys will never forget. The boys were filmed by the BBC and the FA throughout the course of the day, so we will keep you posted when the footage is available for us all to view.



Netball

Well done to all the girls who have represented the school this term as part of our netball teams - we have had some great matches and the girls have been a credit to the school and themselves. More matches are scheduled for January - keep an eye out on twitter for dates.



COMING UP IN JANUARY

Volleyball Club starts every Wednesday in January 12:15 -12:55 - open to all girls interested in playing volleyball. Beginners and new members welcome. See Mrs. Shepherd for more information.



Watch out for the next issue of the St. Patrick's Newsletter!

It'll be packed with more fabulous news about our pupils and their amazing achievements!