



# SAINT PATRICK'S NEWS LETTER

Autumn 2019

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

## Headteacher's Welcome



We have had a fantastic start to the academic year, having been lifted by our best ever GCSE results in the summer. Well done to the class of 2019 for working so hard.

I'm really glad to be back after my maternity leave. The first few weeks leaving a baby is obviously hard but the smiling faces of our children cheered me up so much and made me feel welcomed back into school.

I am very proud of our children. They are working incredibly hard, pushing themselves to learn new knowledge and skills. It is my pleasure to see them working hard in lessons and being stretched by our excellent teachers.

Teachers have been working really hard over the past year on developing our curriculum. This work involved looking at what is taught and in what order so that pupils are building up knowledge day by day, week by week and year by year. Teachers have also worked hard on teaching pupils how to remember knowledge so that it is well learned and 'sticks' in their heads. The Senior Team have really enjoyed watching lessons and seeing all this work come together. Our staff are fantastic and know exactly when the right time is to change and develop – having our finger at the pulse like this is what makes St Patrick's such a special place.

We have welcome Year 7 and Year 9 parents into school already this year. As per usual we have been so well supported by parents, carers and even older brothers and sisters who used to attend St Patrick's. A huge thank you for your continued support – you are an important part of our winning formula!!

Just thinking ahead to the new year, January / February are often the time of year where we face coughs and colds and other minor illnesses. Thank you, in advance, for sending your child to school and teaching them to be resilient when they have minor illnesses. This means they do not miss vital learning. Similarly, January / February often means snow! Please be reassured that school will remain open and we expect all children to come into school.

Finally we say goodbye to Miss Olsen, our fantastic drama teacher, who is leaving us to go on a big adventure, starting in Thailand after Christmas. We wish her all the very best and hope she sends us a postcard!

May I take this opportunity to wish all pupils and parents a very happy and holy Christmas.

Mrs Byrne.

**St Patrick's – Amazing things happen here**

## Attendance to school is the key to success!

Did You Know....?

**10** whole days of school has been missed if your child has 95% attendance.

**20** whole days of school has been missed if a pupils attendance is 90%.

By the time a pupil is persistently absent (85% attendance) they have missed 6 weeks or half a term of schooling.

Our school attendance is fantastic which means no lost learning time.

Please remember to keep our standards high for the new term:

- Plain black leather shoes
- Dark coloured coat
- No knee high socks
- No extreme hair styles
- No fake tan / eye lashes
- No false nails / nail polish

Thank you for helping us ensure pupils are focused on learning.

## Pupil Focus



Our pupil focus this half term is on Miya. Miya is an outstanding example of what St. Patrick's embodies as a school and demonstrates on a daily basis that amazing things happen here. As well as being diligent and committed to her studies in her lessons, Miya contributes to many other areas around school. She is a pivotal part of our music department, contributing to our whole school choir as well as our smaller Chamber and Harmony groups. Miya has performed in a variety of locations, including at the Trafford Centre and different churches around the diocese. She has also had roles in our latest school productions of Grease and Little Shop of Horrors. Miya is not just a performer, however. She is

a valued member of our peer mentor team and gives up her time to mentor a younger member of our community, meeting with them weekly to ensure their St. Patrick's experience is as good as it can be. She has also done work as an anti-bullying ambassador and is a key member of our Student Council, representing the voice of our pupils within the school. We are extremely proud of Miya and everything she does for the school, safe to say it would not be the place it is without her outstanding contributions!

## Staff Focus – Miss Hannah Lockey – Teacher of RE / Second in RE

I started working at St. Patrick's in September after working for three years at a high school in Bolton. It is always a bit daunting starting a new job but the staff and students at the school have been so welcoming.

It has been amazing to see all the brilliant opportunities the students have on offer to them and how hard the staff work to make sure that all our pupils have a chance to succeed. I went to a Catholic high school myself, so it is great to be back in an environment with such lovely values and a feeling of community. I studied Philosophy at university, so I love hearing the different views and opinions of my students in our class discussions.

As an RE teacher, it has been lovely to work with the Liturgy group and be part of the year group masses on Fridays.

I have loved my first term working at this school.

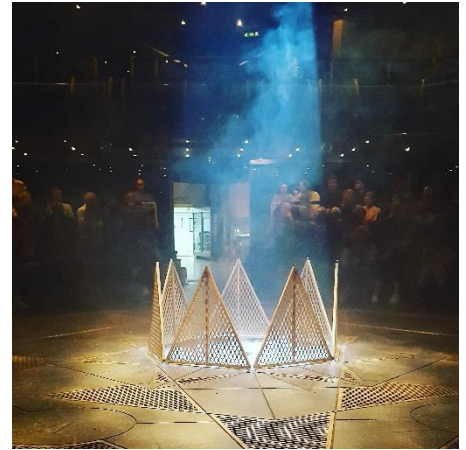


## Macbeth at the Royal Exchange Theatre

Year 9 and 10 students, along with the Year 11 Drama class, went to go and see an adaptation of William Shakespeare's Macbeth at the Royal Exchange Theatre in October. The production used the Shakespearean language, but updated the play by having key roles played by women; both Macbeth and Duncan were played by women. Students really enjoyed seeing the play, and said that seeing the play performed on stage really helped them understand the play in time for their GCSEs.

The 'in the round' staging at the theatre allowed all students to be full immersed in the play, and was something that the Drama students in particular said they found interesting about the performance.

With fantastic performances, innovative staging, and clever reveals of the ghostly characters, all of the students said they massively enjoyed seeing such an iconic and important text brought to life.



## Working Skills Day



As with every year, our Year 11s had a day off timetable back in October to prepare them for the world of work and life beyond St. Patrick's. We had a variety of external visitors in for the day, including visitors from the NHS talking about how to maintain a healthy mental wellbeing, from TSB explaining how to budget properly and use things like debit/credit cards and visitors from the Bank of America equipping our pupils with essential interview skills.. Other visitors included

those from the Armed Forces, Salford Foundation, Property Alliance Group, Careers Connect, GM Higher and GMLPN. St. Patrick's would like to thank these volunteers for giving up their time to provide our Y11 pupils with an invaluable day of skills, experiences and knowledge.



## Armistice Day and Remembrance Service



As part of their role as ambassadors for the school for this year's First World War Centenary Commission's trip to the Battlefields, Miss Davis and four of our pupils, Amy, Kacey, Jack and Jonathan attended the memorial service at Peel Green Cemetery.

As representatives for the school, all of the students were fantastic and exemplary role models for the young students who attended with their primary schools.

A special well done should be given to Kacey who spoke confidently and respectfully as part of the service commemorating those who have fought for us.



The whole school gathered to mark Remembrance Day.



## General Election



In line with the General Election this year, St. Patrick's held its very own version on a whole-school scale. We had four candidates representing four parties: VISION, TRANSFORM, PROGRESS and TOMORROW. Our candidates filmed promotions, campaigned



across the school and pitched to our staff during our weekly briefing. The day went amazingly well and each and every member of our school community had a vote.





The overall winner of the General Election was the TOMORROW party which – unbeknown to staff and pupils - had the same policies as the Liberal Democrats. A massive well done to Maisie, Jessica, Neo and Temi from Year 10 in being our absolutely superb candidates and a huge congratulations to Temi for winning the St. Patrick's RC General Election, 2019. His acceptance speech in front of 200 pupils was just like a real politician's! Well done to all involved. It was a special occasion that really supported our pupils' understanding of citizenship and British values.



## ManactCo theatre presents A Christmas Carol

On Wednesday 11th December, the ManactCo theatre company came into school to perform 'A Christmas Carol' for our Year 10 students. The performance was absolutely fantastic with pupils and staff both commenting on how brilliant it was. Our Year 10 pupils got a lot out of the Q & A session as they hot-seated the key characters and delved into their psyches and motives in the novella. We look forward to the 'Macbeth' performance for our Year 9s in March! This theatre performance supported pupils learning for their GCSE course so well. Amin commented, "I loved it! It really brought the novel to life for me."

## GCSE Science in Action

This term, a group of year 10 students attended the GCSE Science in Action event hosted at the University of Salford. Students were able to hear from five renowned scientists and communicators about their work on topics such as Everest, de-extinction and the future of Science.

It was a great visit that thoroughly supported our science curriculum.



## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

An Anti-Bullying Ambassador is someone who has been trained by The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Campaign. Their role is to help educate their peers on bullying, lead on anti-bullying campaigns, promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates difference and help keep their peers safe both online and offline. Our anti-bullying team are working hard in school to promote positivity and love between every member of our community. We meet weekly to discuss current issues, and the team have created competitions, social media accounts, assemblies and form time vertical tutoring activities to engage everyone in our inclusive environment and celebrate all our differences that make us all unique. I would like to thank every member of our team for their hard work and dedication to the cause, and we will continue in the new year to make our school a safe and comfortable environment. Mr Mallalieu.



## Christmas Flash Bang Show



On Monday 9th December, a group of Year 9 students attended the Royal Society of Chemistry's Christmas Flash Bang Show at Bolton School. The afternoon featured a presentation from the University of Manchester as well as



an extravaganza of rapid colour changes, clock reactions, explosions, flame colours, Barking Dogs, gun cotton, Sellotape bombs, indoor fireworks, hydrogen rockets, chemical demonstrations, fizzes, whizzes, flashes, welding, melding, crashes and bangs to give students an insight into the world of Chemistry. Pupils had great fun and learned so much to bring back to their lessons in school.

## SVP



SVP have been busy this half term working within our theme of service! The group attended the Caritas Festival Friday during half term one. This was an event set up by the Salford Diocese in order to celebrate the work of all schools in Salford

who undertook fundraising for the St Joseph's Penny Appeal. Three representatives from SVP attended the event, and took part in the 30 second challenge whereby they had to explain in 30 seconds what St Patrick's did in order to raise money. At the event, pupils were also able to see the fantastic work that local charities are achieving in Salford. Pupils were also inspired to start



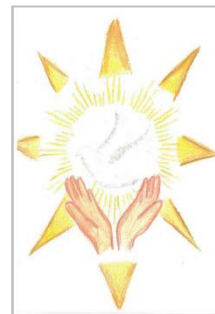
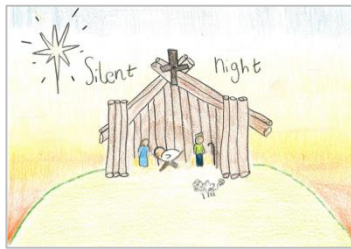
planning for our Advent charity appeals. As a result, during this half term, the group have worked exceptionally hard in organising a food, toiletries and clothes collection for Cornerstone, Salford. This is a local day centre for vulnerable people. Each form have been collecting items and a HUGE donation has been made. SVP have also planned for each form to raise money for CAFOD World Gifts during Advent, whereby each form has raised money and chosen an item to buy for those overseas who are less fortunate than ourselves. We thank everyone who has helped the groups in making our fundraising so successful; we feel like we have made a positive contribution to the local and worldwide community.



## Christmas card design competition



Mrs Tysvaer-Amiar in the Art department and Miss Lockey in the RE department collaborated to hold a cross-curricular activity for pupils to design a Christmas card which would be sent by the Head on behalf of the school. There were so many fantastic entries which were shortlisted initially by the Liturgy Group; the shortlisted designs were sent to the Head, who chose the winning four designs to go to print. A fifth winning design was used by the Teaching School and was sent to their colleagues and external contacts. The 10 finalists were informed at a breakfast with the Head and their original designs were framed before they were presented to them at the Senior Citizens' Party.



## Performer: Denis Coleman



Performer Denis Coleman, visited our Year 9 pupils whilst on his Drug Education, Mental Health & Healthy Lifestyles themed schools tour. Denis sang, provided information and answered questions on drugs, alcohol and mental health as part of the PSHE curriculum.



## Remembering Mrs M Rice

Two of our pupils, along with Mrs Lane, attended the funeral of Mrs Mary Rice. Mary taught here at St Patrick's from 1960 – 1985 and was a Deputy Headteacher and for a time Acting Headteacher. Whilst she was here she organised and led numerous trips to Lourdes which were memorable for both staff and pupils. After retiring, she often encountered ex-pupils and parents and enjoyed reminiscing about the 'good old days'.

Mrs Mary Rice passed away peacefully on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, having lived a long and happy life in the service of others. We have remembered Mary and her family in our prayers.

## Senior Citizens Christmas party



On the 13th of December the Year 9 Hospitality and Catering students planned and ran a Christmas party for local members of the community. It was a hugely successful event with over 100 people attending. Service to others is a key part of our Catholic Mission and it was lovely to entertain the senior citizens of our community and spread our Christmas spirit.



## Year 11 Hospitality and Catering practical exams

The Year 11 Catering students recently completed their practical examinations. They all did very well and here are some of the examples of what they made. The only problem was the pupils scooped their dishes themselves and left not a crumb for Mr Hall! Well done, Year 11.



## Rewards films

Well done to all our pupils who were chosen to watch a reward film in the hall in the final days of term. You deserve this special treat for working so hard and contributing so much to our school. Keep up the good work next term.

## Sporting news...

### Rugby Club

The rugby club has been in action this term to build on the great work in the 9-a-side rugby tournaments. The year 10/11 were first up finishing 3rd in the competition, a great result for the boys who finished unbeaten on the day. The year 9 team also had a good tournament finishing 4th with great efforts by all.



Year 7 & 8 teams are looking for new members and the rugby club continues in the new year see Mr Gregory for details.





### Girls' Football Teams

The girls' football teams have made a great start to the season this year with wins away from home. It is the first time that they have played in the girls' football small sided leagues and there is some very good talent coming through. Well done girls, very much looking forward to the next half of the season after Christmas. Practice will resume on Wednesdays after February half term due to the light and weather conditions.

### Snowsports Club

The Snowsports Club has been running with skiers and snowboarders from all years groups since October Half Term. This is a mixture of pupils on lessons and pupils that can already ski or snowboard on lift passes coming for practice. Well done to everyone taking part and I'm thoroughly enjoying passing my passion for the snow on to you all.



The aim of these sessions is to eventually make a Snowsports competitive team to enter the English School Ski and Snowboard leagues in the UK. There will be another set of lesson available from February half term until Easter and run on a 6 week block. If you are interested in learning its £69 for the 6 session and see Miss Leese for the dates. Miss Leese.

### Year 7 Boys' Football



Its been a great start to life at St Patrick's for the Year 7 boys' football team who remain unbeaten. With an exceptionally talented group of boys we are expecting big things this season. So far this year they have scored 26 goals and conceded 1. They have also advanced to the next stage of the Catholics Schools cup after beating Our Lady's 5-1 earlier this month. Well done boys!

Our Year 9 Netball and Year 7 Netball teams have played some amazing matches – well done to all players in these teams. It is great to see you developing your skills and competitive spirit!



Well done to our cross country runners too – between them they've had some fantastic finishing places and have been out representing the school in all kinds of weather. Great resilience and determination shown by all.



## School Performance – Buggy Malone

Our pupils are rehearsing well for our next school performance, Buggy Malone, which will be presented in January 2020. Tickets are on sale now at £4 each and are available from the school office. Book early to avoid disappointment! Our fantastic promotional poster, designed by our talented Thalia in Year 7 gives a flavour of what to expect. We look forward to welcoming you to our school production.

Buggy Malone is set in the 1930s when alcohol was banned in America. It is a slapstick, musical comedy about the rivalry between two gangs led by Fat Sam and Dandy Dan. The action mostly takes place in Fat Sam's 'speakeasy' – a place where people could drink illegally and secretly! The cast dodge each other and dodge the law in and amongst all these our two main characters, Buggy and Blousey fall in love!



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!

Website: <https://www.stpatricksrhigh.co.uk/>