



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



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Christmas 2014

Newsletter

Prince Harry's scrum with St Patrick's

Congratulations to all the pupils who were involved in the Rugby event at Eccles Rugby Club recently. Our Year 9 pupils were taking part in a Princes Trust leadership programme. They spent the morning being trained and then put it into place in the afternoon when the younger Year 7 & 8 pupils, plus the feeder primary schools joined the game. They displayed a very positive attitude towards the day and were a credit to themselves and the school.



The fantastic surprise of the day came when Prince Harry arrived. The Prince joined in the games, spoke to pupils and met all our Young Leaders in a Question & Answer session. Prince Harry also took part in the teachers training course and teachers can now say they have been in a scrum with Prince Harry!



A Message From Our New Headteacher

Well here we are again! Christmas is upon us and it only seems a short time ago that we were welcoming the pupils back to school, after the summer holiday. I have greatly enjoyed my first term as Headteacher and I am already plotting and planning for our return in January! Since we are often distracted during this time of year by the more modern demands of the Christmas season, we need to remind ourselves and each other to slow down and to reflect and plan the ways in which we may be able to shine Christ's light. Through acts of kindness such as showing compassion, encouragement and forgiveness for those we know as well as those who we do not know; Let us be respectful, courteous, patient, generous, dependable and thoughtful. Let us extend our hearts and our hands out to those in need - the sick, the lonely, the fearful, the poor, the hungry. Let us find the strength and courage to reach out to those close to us who we may have fallen out with. Let our busyness be purposeful and meaningful. Advent gives us the opportunity to show our thanks and to demonstrate to the whole community that we know Christmas is more than giving and receiving presents. Which leads me to thank you for your generous response to charity fund raising this year. Acts of kindness enable our children to understand that even though it is easy to focus on receiving at this time of year, it is often in the simple act of giving that we find the greatest happiness. In school it is clear that Christmas is upon us with Christmas trees, an advent wreath, a crib and excited pupils - as I write this, I have just come in from the dining room where our pupils are having their Christmas lunch - Christmas crackers included! There was such a wonderful atmosphere. Through assemblies and various events we are reiterating the importance of recognising the needs of others and helping our pupils to show care in practical ways. The vast majority are fortunate and come from homes filled with joy and love, we are encouraging them to appreciate those gifts and to make a positive contribution at home. So please - ensure they at least do the washing up on Christmas Day!

This has been a busy and exciting term and I would like to thank our excellent staff for all their hard work and dedication and for providing so many opportunities for our pupils. Finally, on behalf of all the Staff and Governors of St. Patrick's, may I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas followed by a New Year of promise and contentment.



Kids' Lit Quiz 2014

Following a year of practice, in October our **2014 Kids' Lit Quiz** team was announced. The four Year 8 pupils - Adam Palmer, Rebecca Houston, Liam Mears and Caoilinn Hughes - had all demonstrated excellent knowledge of children's literature, and in the weeks running up to the competition, were coached by year 10 student Hope Duncan, who had successfully represented the school in the competition herself at their age. Our team competed against 20 teams from the North West in ten exciting rounds. In round one they played their 'joker' playing for double points - to our delight they won the round outright! They won books for themselves and took a strong lead. Later rounds proved trickier, and our team were placed 7th or 8th overall, but they competed strongly and were an absolute credit to St Patrick's.



A Free Book in time for Christmas

St Patrick's will be giving all our Year 7 and 8 pupils an extra Christmas present this year to encourage them to keep reading! Pupils have a choice of 20 titles from children's author Michael Morpurgo (*War Horse*, *Private Peaceful*), twice winner of the Salford Children's Book Award. The books will be presented at a special assembly promoting the message **Read to Succeed**.

Dance Quest is an opportunity for pupils to develop their dancing skills by working with professional dancers and choreographers from The Lowry. This year, pupils from yrs 7 and 8 devised their own original dance routine. Meeting after school every Thursday - and supported by their professional dance coach Clare—they created a modern dance piece inspired by the association of three words: Regal, Tribal and Sport. The resulting dance was performed at The Lowry's Quays Theatre to a rapturous applause from a packed audience, who couldn't believe such young pupils could come up with such a brilliant piece of choreography. Well



Pictured from left: (Bottom) Tania Guchu, Amy Chester, Jacob Chambers and Amy Goodwin. (Top) Frances Williams, Niamh Preston, Emma Malloug, Claire Fildes (dance teacher), Sarah Abulatifah, Vongai Tepa.

Year 7's First Term at St. Patrick's



In July St. Patrick's welcomed a bubbly cohort of enthusiastic yr 6's to the school and I'm pleased to announce our new yr 7 cohort have lived up to their lively reputation. The friendly yr 7's have settled in smoothly and their diligent personalities were particularly noted from the response to the y6 Summer Project, which was overwhelming. Each entry was outstanding and the winning stories are displayed for all to see in the school's LRC as well as on the school's website.

Yr 7 are a truly fantastic year group who are polite, considerate towards others and eager to get involved with all that St. Patrick's has to offer, whether this is Science Club, Netball or fund raising for

CAFOD. Much fun has been had in just one term - who could forget the jelly baby that exploded in Science Club? Either way, we anticipate further achievements and laughs during yr 7's first year. *Miss J Tandy*

At the start of yr7 all the pupils were scared and nervous but within days they started to settle and find it easy. They made friends easily and the older pupils helped us find our subject classrooms—they were very kind to us. And last but not least the teachers made us feel welcome. Eve Goodwin said: 'When you step in at the front doors you're trembling and feeling sick, but by the end of the day you're so happy and just can't wait for tomorrow.' We think St. Patrick's is a great school! *By Keenan Duff and Martin Karinge in Year 7.*



Fight for Form of the Term!

Lowry 3 is Lowry's highest achieving form with a grand total of 4154 achievement points - an average of 180 points per pupil. Two of the top achievers, Luke Kavanagh and Abbie Corbett, attribute the success to: Mrs Williams who is great at making sure all positive green writing is recorded; and the form camaraderie - they support each other through stressful exam and personal times and are genuinely proud of each other's achievements. Their motto: A form that prays together, stays together.

L3 raised over £500 charity in their own lunch time. They have several amazing dancers - Holly Rogers (yr11) ranked 6th in the country in Latin Ballroom Dancing; Isobel Hassall (yr9) and Hollie Mosey (yr11) won a national competition at Morris Dancing.

Their boys are very sporting too - Luke Kavanagh (yr11 Deputy Head Boy) and Joe Cunningham represent St. Patrick's at football and rugby. The form has talent such as Marielle Srebalus (yr10) - one not to be messed with as a Martial Arts expert. Grace Feeney and Holly Burns

(yr9) help make the Netball team one of the most feared in the authority. 'St. Patrick's Got Talent' contest winner, Emily McAvoy, is an amazing guitarist and singer and the gregarious and talented actress/singer Rebecca Dowson recently performed brilliantly in a Shakespeare play at the Contact Theatre.

Two new Yr7's, Molly Johonnett and Anna Rose Atherton have made an impact on the form and contributed immensely to the Form's Achievement Points. Being crowned 'Lowry Form of the Term' is well deserved and a result of true teamwork. Mrs Williams beamed: "I am very proud of my Form. They work extremely hard at both their studies and extracurricular activities and are a pleasure to see every morning. Well Done!"



Leading the way for Picasso are Mr Hall's amazing P3 with an outstanding 3443 Conduct points so far this year! Five pupils in particular gained over 200 conduct points since September: Amilee Christopher, Hannah Glynn, Sylona McCarthy, Alex Taylor and Connell Mistiades (who tops the class with an outstanding 248 conduct points). Unlike the usual trend of the most points coming from yr 7's, these pupils are from all year groups and Hannah Glynn leads the way with one of the top points count in the school for a yr 11 pupil.

Stars of St. Patrick's Shakespeare for Schools production, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' - Julia Chybowska and Shanice Creag wowed the audience at the Contact theatre, Manchester. Brandon Urmston, Liam Brannigan, Jack Curran, Maia Doolan and Klaudi Harasim all have 100% attendance—the overall attendance for the form is 96.16%, which is outstanding. The form have a fantastic bond and are always a pleasure to visit, they've also set the bar recently as the class who raised most money for charity across the school through hard work and team spirit. It will be difficult to knock this class off their perch!



Da Vinci 2 have more than just achievement points. D2 is one of the most understated forms in the school. Under the guidance of Miss Valentine, who supports and encourages pupils to take part in all aspects of school life, pupils are thriving under the pressure.

Several pupils have made special contributions: Lauryn Brown for her efforts in drama and PE; Amber Griffin who excels in all subject areas; Mollie Gibson has an attitude which inspires others. D2 have several super pupils including Ella Coezy, Chloe Byrne, and Daniel Regan.

With their fantastic attendance and punctuality record and increasing amount of achievement points, this form is a prime example of what a superb form should be, they're an example to all.



Michelangelo 3 are soaring above the rest of the forms with an outstanding 4689 Achievement Points recorded on the system! Grace McAvoy, Yr8, is making the biggest contribution with an astonishing 472 points for excellent work and effort, as well as being an ambassador for the school. Lewis Gardner, Yr7, is a close second with 368 points for his excellent effort in lessons and Jess Carlin, Yr11, has a respectable 237 points including contributions to a drama production and for her role as Deputy Head Girl!

Keep up the excellent work Michelangelo 3!



Renoir 5 deserve to be form of the term, Some of them come to school even if they have a germ.

They are a form to make you smile, They always go that extra mile.

Mrs Millar just wanted to say,

Thanks very much and stay this way!



G3 - this terms achievement points winners for Gainsborough house looking decidedly non-plussed. When asked for a comment on this outstanding achievement an unnamed source replied coolly; "Its just what we do!"



DRAMA and MUSIC NEWS

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

This performance is on at the Lowry for a short time over Christmas and we are booked for Tuesday 6th January 2015. We have purchased a lot of tickets because it's on the GCSE English syllabus and a lot of our students are or will be studying it. Tickets cost £27.50 and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

In January, pupils will be doing a performance of **Willy Russell's Blood Brothers**. The cast are well under way rehearsing and excitement is building. The performance will take place 28th and 29th January, tickets are £3.00 and available from the school office from 15th December.



Do they know it's St Patrick's?

Behind the scenes, staff have taken time out to visit our recording studio in the music department to record their own rendition of the 1984 song '**Do They Know It's Christmas?**'.



Pupils will listen to the recording during the Christmas quiz, where they'll guess who is singing each line, then watch a video of the big reveal and see their teachers performing their lines.

Shakespeare for Schools Festival

Last month students from years 8, 9 and 10 performed a very memorable and humorous 30 minute piece of the Shakespeare play 'A Midsummer night's Dream'.

They performed in the Contact Theatre in front of an audience of 300 as well as a cast workshop with another secondary school.

We spent weeks preparing our piece creating costumes and props in the colour scheme of green, gold purple and white which looked really effective on stage.



At the end we agreed we'd had a fantastic and inspirational time and hope to encourage more students to take part in this festival in future!

Miss Hart said: "After last year's 'Shakespeare for Schools' event I didn't think it could get better. I was wrong. St. Patrick's performance brought the house down this year; it was so professional and truly hilarious! The entire theatre was in laughter. Every student was confident and a credit to the school. A great nights entertainment!"

Chetham's World War One Project



Last month, as part of an outreach project with Chetham's Music School and Remembrance Day events, students from Drama Club spent weeks working with the poet Tony Walsh. With his help and research the students wrote 75% of the text in the Japanese style of Haiku to produce some very poignant and moving accounts, which left the audience stunned. The pupils delivered their poem from the balcony of the beautiful John Ryland's Library at a formal black tie event. Some of the students had never performed to an audience before and all of them conducted themselves superbly.

Always well attended and enjoyed by all, the **Christmas Advent Service** takes place on **17th Dec at 4pm**. There will be a variety of musicians performing including full choir, harmony group, chamber group, soloists and instrumentalists.



Train to Teach in St Patrick's R.C High School Greater Manchester Alliance

Did you know that for the past three years the government has asked outstanding schools, like Saint Patrick's, to recruit and train the teachers of the future? Recruitment once again is now open and applications are being accepted for our very successful School Direct Teacher Training courses. As a National Teaching School we work in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University to provide outstanding teacher training courses in a wide variety of subjects. These include Maths, Science, Geography and many more!

At the end of our teacher training courses trainees are awarded with both Qualified Teachers Status (QTS) and a PGCE. For more information about how to get into teaching please visit our website or contact us using our teacher training email:

teachingschool.stpats@salford.gov.uk



Parent Forum



The Parents' Forum met this Tuesday and discussed the Pastoral System and Rewards, following two excellent presentations by Mr Leader and Mrs McGreal. Miss Atkins from the office was also present to explain the new Learning Gateway. Parents will eventually be able to see most of the information we have stored at School about their child, using this IT portal. Homework and Banding was also discussed. The next meeting is in February. All Parents are most welcome to attend.

All queries and items for the agenda, please send to amanda.palmer@salford.gov.uk

School Council Meetings

The full School Council met three times this term to discuss the most pressing issues raised by Forms and Houses. The topics ranged from Vertical Tutor Time, the Canteen, 'Own Clothes days' and Anti-Bullying (to coincide with Anti-Bullying Week). We have a brilliant group of pupils this year who were particularly articulate about strategies and initiative we could use to respond to bullying.



Two New Parent Governors



Greg Bailey

Congratulations and a warm welcome to our two newly elected Parent Governors **Greg Bailey** and **Maria Burney**.

The counting of the ballot papers for the Parent Governor election took place on Friday 7th November.

We hope they find their new roles fulfilling and enjoyable.



Maria Burney

Log on to SIMS Learning Gateway (SLG)

Parents can gain access to their child's attendance, progress reports and achievements and update their own contact details. A letter has been sent home with pupils containing log in details.

<https://hslg11.capita-cso.co.uk/schools/spchs/SLG>



Visit our website for more news articles and all the latest school information www.stpatricksrchigh.co.uk

Things are getting exciting in Science Club on Tuesdays after school, for a group of committed young scientists from year 7, 8, 9. Fascinating and awe-inspiring experiments and demonstrations have increased their excitement and passion for the subject. Science in the real world has never been more enthralling and captivating as right now, with recent major breakthroughs such as landing a space probe on a comet for the first time, the development of a new material called Graphene (the strongest yet thinnest material ever produced and could change the industrial world) and the discovery of the Higgs Boson. Here at Science club we aim to inspire our members to become interested in scientific developments by discussing and choosing their favourite Science news articles, which will be displayed on a board in the department. At the end of the academic year we aim to produce our own educational scientific newspaper highlighting our choice of articles and reasons for choosing them. After Christmas we'll be initiating the Mission X programme in association with the European Space Agency, to allow members to experience training as an astronaut for the agency through a series of activities and projects. Join in our fun 3-4.00pm Tuesdays in S6.

Dr. Wood, Science Department.



Seguy Sensations: This term yr11 GCSE Art & Design group have been exploring the work of the French 20th century artist Eugene Seguy. Seguy was an entomologist (science of insects) and artist and his highly coloured, graphic work was based on insects. Shown here are some examples of the fabulous artwork pupils created. Pupils at St. Patrick's are taught on industry standard packages and are proficient using Photoshop on our suite of Macs. We hope you enjoy seeing such skilled and creative artwork. *Mrs Williams, Art Department.*



Following a recent pop up session on assessment, I taught a lesson on adding fractions with year 7 and 8 using an idea Miss Parkinson gave me from her class' activity 'Trading Terms' - teams of pupils traded different geographical terms and the winning team had completed all 30 terms first. I adapted this activity so instead of terms, the pupils had to answer 30 fractions questions: 10 red, 10 amber and 10 green. In groups of four, pupils completed a set of questions before being given more challenging ones. I was pleased with the results and will adapt it to other topic areas. Keenan Duff, yr7, enthused: "It was fun and educational as well. I really enjoyed working in groups, everyone was having fun and enjoying themselves as well as improving our knowledge of fractions". *Mr Leyland, Maths Department*



St Patrick's girls winning the way

NETBALL

All 4 Netball teams have shown great performances in their matches this year and excelled in the Salford Leagues, St Patrick's yrs 7, 8, 9 and senior teams have won ALL their fixtures and got through to the final play offs in January. The seniors were also crowned Salford Schools' Rally Winners as were the yr 9 team. A huge achievement for all girls involved.



CROSS COUNTRY

As a result of the finishing positions over the three races the girls should be very proud of their performances and achievement both as individuals and as part of the teams. St Patrick's came home with a collection of team and individual medals / trophies.



Overall Year 7 results

Gold medal: Isobel Johnson; Silver medal: Maizie Craven; Bronze medal: Ella Buckley. Overall Yr 7 champions for this year.

Overall Year 8/9 Results

Silver medal: Grace McAvoy. Overall Yr 8/9 champions.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

The winning streak has continued in the Girls' football leagues with both the Junior and Senior teams winning all their matches - again these teams are through to the final play offs on the 10th December.

St Patrick's boys are tops

Congratulations to all boys representing the school this year at the **Salford Mets Cross Country** competitions, we're proud to be champions of both the yr 7 and yr 8/9 competitions. All are welcome to the next cross country event on **Saturday 17th January at Buile Hill Park.**



Lead by captain Davidson Sabu, the **senior badminton team** competed at St Ambrose Barlow High School winning against Irlam, Walkden, Moorside and Albion. The final match of the day was the decider with St Patrick's narrowly losing to St Ambrose and finishing runners up. The junior team competition at Salford City Academy faced teams from Salford Academy, St Ambrose, and Irlam which saw us go head to head with St Ambrose and narrowly finishing as runners up. Both teams qualify for the next tournament representing Salford at the regional competitions in January. Good luck boys!



The yr9 and 10 **basketball teams** are currently playing their season with excellent performances so far. As we went to print, the yr9 team have put in excellent effort in two close defeats away at Moorside and at home against Bridgewater, whilst yr 10s narrowly lost by four points away to Swinton.

The **yr7 football team** are currently into quarter finals of the cup following a great win against Irlam 8-0. Harry Hebden and Shaun Dawson have been the star players so far and Mr Hall is impressed with the boys' commitment to training.

The **yr9 boys** topped their Salford Schools group with maximum points and narrowly missed out on a place in the final of the Salford 6-a-side tournament. Jean Belehoun and Dami Sanusi shared captaining responsibilities. All the squad have shown excellent attitude and dedication - well done lads!

The **yr10 team** played against Albion, coming from 2-0 down to win 4-2 after four stunning goals from Liam Wakefield and a game saving stop from Harry Sidall at 3-2. Our Irlam game was cancelled leaving us top of the group. In the Catholic schools cup we fought tooth and nail to score a last minute 3-3 equaliser to take the game to extra time. Another goal a piece left it at 4-4 before we clinched the 5-4 win with the last kick of the game. Player of the season so far has to be Liam Wakefield and captain, Leighton Egan.

The **yr11s teams'** successful campaign so far saw them qualify for the quarter-finals lead by captain Matthew Hargreaves. The first game resulted in a 3-0 victory over Irlam & Cadishead, only to be beaten by All Hallows in a close contest next. This defeat meant the last game of the season was a must-win but we beat Harrop Fold 2-1. Attitude and performance have been of the highest calibre throughout the campaign, Mr Macafee is very proud to manage this great team.

Gymnastic fantastic!

Our girls' gymnastic success has again been recognised at regional level. In the recent North West Floor & Vault Gymnastic Championship held on 22nd November at Robin Park in Wigan, both Ellie Bates (yr10) and Frances Williams (yr7) had a taste of success.

Ellie achieved a bronze medal on Floor and bronze overall medal in the U14's category. Frances achieved gold medal on Floor, gold medal on Vault and overall champion in the U12. Both girls together with Keeva Welch (yr11 and overall U14 champion 2013) are also members of the City of Salford Gymnastics Squad. *Well done girls, we're very proud of you.*



May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours and may the coming year be filled with happiness.