

ST PATRICK'S NEWS

APRIL 2023



Happy Easter, everyone! I can't believe we are two terms through the year here at St. Patrick's. It has been a packed Spring term, with lots of exciting things to celebrate and our pupils continue to make us so proud. There have been so many highlights – the ski trip, the Stratford trip, the school show, our St. Patrick's Day masses at Holy Cross, the Prom fundraising and all of our Lenten activities. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Our Year 11s have been working so hard as their final examinations approach and we are so proud of the fantastic maturity they have demonstrated over the past few weeks. They continue to be fantastic role models and they are making St. Patrick's very proud.

All of our pupils have worked incredibly hard this term and it has been a pleasure to see them continue to thrive and wanting to be the very best version of themselves. Your continued support ensuring that pupils have a bag, the right uniform and are fully equipped for school is really appreciated; the stationery shop has been a great success in ensuring that pupils have a pen, pencil and ruler for every lesson.

School reopens to all pupils on Monday 24th April and we look forward to seeing everyone bright and early at 8.25am; punctuality to school is so important because Form time is when we get organised for the day and ensure key messages are shared. It also prepares pupils for life beyond St. Patrick's. Thank you for sending your child to school and teaching them to be resilient when they have minor illnesses; we've had lots of coughs and sniffles this term and there will probably be more in the summer term as the pollen count increases. Being in school means they do not miss vital learning and if we think they are too unwell to be here, we will let you know.

In the Summer term, we do allow pupils to not wear their jumper if it is warm. However, standards for the rest of the uniform remain the same. I would ask parents to ensure that pupils are wearing the correct school shoes and that skirts are not rolled at the waist, which is an incorrect wearing of uniform. Our uniform is so visible in the community and we are always so proud of the green blazer when pupils are walking to and from school; thank you for supporting us with our continued high standards.

Thank you, as well, for your continued support during the industrial action that has taken place over this term. Our community has really felt supportive during this time. As you know, the strikes happened because of the ongoing national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, conditions and the recruitment crisis, and not because of any issues at our school. There is potential further industrial action in the next term and I will keep parents updated with arrangements as soon as possible.

Finally, we say goodbye to a few members of staff at this time of year:

Miss Shama Shafiq, Second in Science who has chosen to leave teaching.

Mrs Vitty Hughes, member of the Admin team who is moving to work closer to home.

Miss Neve McNulty, teaching assistant who leaves us to become a DT technician.

We also said goodbye to **Mrs Wendy Valentine**, teaching assistant, earlier in the term who has set up her own business. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours and know they will stay in touch to let us know how they are getting on.

Next term, we will welcome **Mrs Byrne** back from maternity leave on Monday 22nd May. I have really enjoyed my time as Acting Headteacher of St. Patrick's; it really is a wonderful school and I have been very proud to step into the role temporarily.

Wishing you a happy and holy Easter,
God bless,
Ms Gráinne O'Hagan - Acting Headteacher

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

On Friday 24th March, members of Faith In Action went to Holy Cross Church to perform a reflection, which preceded the actual reconciliation service on the theme of saying sorry – and meaning it.

All of members read with confidence and style and were once again complemented by Fr Collins.

St Mary's Year 6 pupils were also present as were Pupil Chaplains from Holy Cross and All saints Due to the solemn nature of the event, there was no opportunity to mingle after the Service, but it is hoped that future meetings can be arranged with our feeder primary schools to ensure that new members of Faith in Action can be found for September.



Well done to Abigail Eboda, Betws Redgrave, Katie Ratcliffe, Mia Flindle, Matthew Bird, Harry McAuley, Imogen Keaney, Grace Hamblett and Clare George, thank you for taking part.

NEW TEACHER INTERVIEW - MISS MELLETT



I teach...

Religious Education at both KS3 and KS4. I received my degree in Theology and Religious Studies in Liverpool.

Life before St Patrick's...

I was studying! I had just finished up doing four consecutive years of higher education before starting at St Pats. I did have a lovely getaway to Belgium in Summer with my friends.

My best learning tip....

question, question, question! I like to get my students to think deeply "why do you think that?" Or "convince me of your argument". Express your opinion as we all have one.

Something interesting about me....

I like to read and escape into the world of literature. I am currently working my way through the classics! I am halfway through Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë.

SIX THE MUSICAL

We recently held auditions for our next school show Six the Musical - Teen Edition and had around 50 students turn up to auditions from all 5 year groups. We were blown away by the talent and enthusiasm of our students and it made our casting decisions very difficult.

Six is a pop musical based on the six wives of Henry VIII. The wives come together to debate which of them had the worst time with Henry in an X-Factor style singing competition!

We are hoping to take to the stage in the Summer term and will release more information about dates and where to get tickets nearer the time! Watch this space...



PPE'S / Y11 / PREFECTS

The prefects and senior prefect team continue to make multiple positive contributions to wider school life. While Year 11 prefects support staff completing duties at break and lunch to help maintain a positive environment and atmosphere during these times, the senior team work within their separate committees to further enhance everyday school life for the whole community.

Our senior team manage and run the equipment shop that is open for all pupils before school and during lunch as well as supporting fund raising, including our very busy hot chocolate station. The committees include sports, anti-bullying, pupil voice, charity and ethos, environment, co-curricular and mental health. These committees not only manage contributions from younger pupils of all year groups but are responsible for initiatives in the school including various clubs and events.

However, time is now running short for our Year 11 team and we will soon be looking to Year 10 for their successors. Whoever takes over will have huge shoes to fill but we are confident they will continue to help make amazing things happen within school.



YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

This term we held our annual Mock Interview Day, which is where we invite various external employers/providers into school to put our Y11s through their paces in a realistic interview experience. Our Y11 pupils have to put together an application form and then are interviewed on their skills, experiences and ambitions just like in a real interview. Pupils are then provided with some detailed written feedback to help them perfect their technique before their first real interview. As always, visitors to the school were extremely complimentary about our pupils and all pupils should be very proud of how they conducted themselves and for giving it a go – it's always a nerve-wracking experience to be interviewed but we are sure that it was an invaluable experience for all who took part – very well done everybody!

SCHOOL SHOW *Written by Libby Needle*

In March, we presented our school production of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, which we performed for 3 nights in a row! This is how it went... Auditions were held in October and I wanted to audition for Lucy. I was over the moon to find out I had been cast! The people chosen to play my siblings were Harry McMahan, Isobel Chinnery, and Maxx Twohig. Rehearsals took place twice a week, including a few weekends, they were so much fun! The shows took place from 8th-10th March with an open dress rehearsal for our feeder primary school on 6th March. Our opening night went well but some of us messed up a couple of lines. The audience was so good. They laughed at only some of the right bits and we definitely did a good performance but it could be improved. The next night we did the same as Wednesday but the audience were BRILLIANT! On Friday night we nearly lost our voices screaming songs. I loved playing the part of Lucy and would definitely love to be in the show next year!



ST PATRICK'S DAY

For the second year running, we celebrated our Saints day at Holy Cross Church, Patricroft. Year Groups were split up and both Masses were a huge success. Members of Faith in Action figured prominently in both Masses- as readers, servers and taking up the offertory. There was an excellent contribution from the choir who sang 2 hymns during Holy Communion and offered a sung version of the Breastplate of St Patrick as a Communion reflection in partnership with Faith in Action.

Staff read at both Masses and Fr Collins' complemented both sets of pupils on their respect and standards of behaviour, Crème eggs/badges and prayer cards were distributed.

LENT

As a school, we came together to mark the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday took place during ½ Term, so no Ashes were distributed. Instead we reflected on the plight of those not as fortunate as ourselves- with Dristy, the young lady from the developing world being an example of those who make the most of what they have.

STRATFORD TRIP

We arrived into Stratford-upon-Avon around midday, and after a traditional Shakespearean lunch at McDonald's, we headed off on our tour of the city. We were told all about Shakespeare's life in Stratford, including some infamous stories about his father's arrest for leaving a "dung pile" outside his neighbour's house; the flooding of the first Shakespeare festival; and the Grey Lady, the ghost who haunts the Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre.

Later that evening we went to that very theatre – although the only spirits we saw were the fairies in the play, *The Tempest*. The show explored ideas about magic, gender and climate change. The powerful Prospero used her spells to torture and torment her enemies; the terrifying Caliban was a monstrous figure of fear; the elegant Ariel danced and sang her magical tunes before being lifted through the roof of the theatre to freedom. All in all, the play was a triumph.

The morning of the second day was given over to free time for shopping in Stratford, with many of us buying souvenirs - see if you can spot the teachers who went on the trip by their Shakespeare badges! Following this, we went to a drama workshop, which helped pupils to explore the characters of the play and their use of voice. It was a really fun end to the trip, with a star turn from Y7 student Andrea, reciting one of the play's monologues in front of the group.

After that, we came home from the trip – equally exhausted and inspired!

Keep your eyes out for information about the next trip if you want to be a part of our next adventure!



LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL

On Saturday the 1st April Isabella Taylor in Year 8 and Noah Sankey in Year 11 were involved in the MAPAS Musical Theatre groups performance of *Legally Blonde The Musical*. Isabella was part of the cast and performed the Bookish Client role, while Noah was in the Band playing the challenging Reed 1 part on Alto Saxophone. It was such a wonderful learning opportunity as he was invited to join the band, the rest of who are all professional performers around Manchester. Both students performed exceptionally well and we are very proud of their efforts. It was a joy for Mrs Byrne and myself to watch the show and see all of the hard work by the cast and crew pay off. Congratulations to all involved!



SKI TRIP - USA 2023

We had a fantastic time over the February half-term in America, where we had an action-packed holiday. All of our students and staff on the trip had a wonderful time skiing at Waterville Valley and Cannon Mountain in New Hampshire, followed up by a full weekend in New York City. Many students (and staff) had the opportunity to ski for the very first time, which came with a fair few falls along the way!

Highlights of the holiday also included:

- Ice Skating on a Hockey Rink.
- Tubing down an actual ski slope.
- Visiting the sights of New York City (Times Square, Rockefeller Building, Macy's Department Store)

All our students and staff on the trip send a big thank you to Mr. Challoner for putting all the effort into making it all happen!



INTEGER COMPETITION 2023 'STORIES INSPIRED BY NUMBERS'

Integers are all positive and negative whole numbers, including zero.

The Maths Department were challenged to put on their creativity hats this term and devise a short mini saga, based on a number. During one Maths lessons, pupils revised integers and read a range of mini sagas based on a single digit. Using images, they planned their ideas and wrote their 100-word saga, not forgetting to embed their knowledge of creative writing skills.

Patient 24 (Writer unknown)

'I was alone in the dark misty room. My heart was beating faster by the second. My eyes begin to close as I hear 'Patient 24.' I rapidly got up; my legs weak beneath me. "Patient 24, welcome to your first day here." Then the little door opened to reveal a tall, slender woman. She angrily grabbed my arm. She took me to a room which had the number 24 written on it. My thoughts raced, my head throbbed, I couldn't breathe. I suddenly fell to the floor. Then it all went black. I woke up alone.'

Over 200 pupils took part in the competition and everyone received a certificate, prize and special bookmark. Congratulations to everyone who took part and many thanks to the Maths Department for all their hard work!



DIANA TRUST ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR TRAINING

In March, Mrs Austin took a group of 6 KS3 students to Didsbury High School for the day to take part in the Diana Trust Anti-bullying Ambassador training. They are already now working on the Wellbeing badge and have lots of ideas to put into action. Well done to Anya Harper-Preston, Grace Hamblett, Leon Breen, Joy E, Michelle Ogbechie and Harry McAuley.

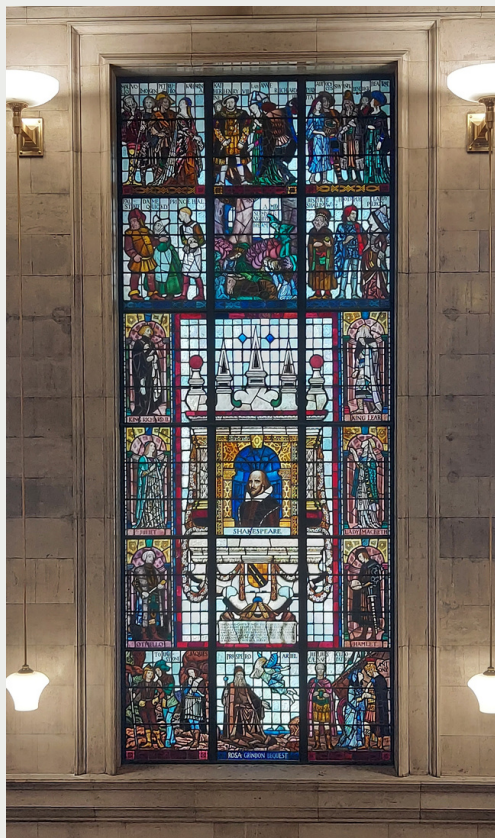


YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11 LORETO COLLEGE TRIPS

Over the course of this year, a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students have been invited to attend masterclass sessions at Loreto College. These sessions have included topics that students are currently studying, such as: Maths, English and Chemistry, as well as subjects they might be considering taking at A-Level such as Sociology. Year 11 have completed both of their masterclass visits and said that some of the benefits of going to Loreto were meeting new people; gaining new knowledge; and practising the knowledge they had already required for GCSEs in new contexts. The students also found that it gave them a better understanding of what to expect at college, as well as an insight into what A-Level study requires.

Year 10 attended a 'Debate Evening' as part of their first trip to Loreto. Students were divided into small groups with students from different schools and given a topic that they either had to defend, or argue against. All students took part in a live debate in front of other students, as well as some A-Level students who were volunteering at the event. The feedback from Loreto staff was overwhelming, with many staff singing the praises of our students. Year 10 will now have the opportunity to attend the masterclass sessions over their remaining time in Year 10 and into Year 11.

YEAR 10 CITY MAYOR PROJECT



14 students in Year 10 are taking part in the 'City Mayor Project' which has been launched across Salford this year.

Students are undertaking a group project where they must produce either a book review; an extended project on something that has happened in, or around Manchester; or, a creative writing piece entitled, 'A Day in the Life of...'

All students have had the opportunity to meet with the organisers of the project at Eccles Library, as well as taking part in a trip to the Local History Library at Salford Museum and Art Gallery. At the Local History Museum, students were given the opportunity to practise research skills that they may find useful if they decided to go and study at University in later life.

3 of the groups also had the opportunity to visit the Central Library in Manchester to do further research on their projects. During the afternoon, they had access to letters, journals, postcards, banners and correspondence that had been collected from the Suffragette movement in Manchester, as well as access to bulletins on The Working Class Movement, and access to the Library's extensive News Paper archive. The group were especially impressed by the Shakespeare stained glass window, as well as the beautiful reading room where they saw students of all ages working and revising.

BIG LENT WALKS

Across 6 mornings in March, pupils in each year group walked approximately 1km around the perimeter of the school ground in fancy dress fundraising for CAFOD's Big Lent Walk.

There were prizes for the fastest (no running was allowed!) and the most colourful. There were some very creative outfits, some Heads of year were hardly recognisable!

All pupils donated to CAFOD with the total so far being £654!

Well done everyone for getting so involved and making this year another successful fundraising campaign once again, you were all superstars!



ORCHESTRAS FOR ALL *Written by Annabelle Pinkney and Grace Agnew*

On Friday the 17th March, thirteen students travelled with Mr Hoy to the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) to participate in the Orchestras For All programme. The students who attended were Kioko Nagy Parra (flute), Eva Knight (flute), Grace Agnew (flute), Emma Wozniakowska (clarinet), Isabel Sankey (clarinet), Deacon Yates (clarinet), Cyrus Chick (alto saxophone), Noah Sankey (alto saxophone), Beth Ratcliffe (alto saxophone), Lecia Ho (French horn), Katie Ratcliffe (violin), David Amalu (violin) and Annabelle Pinkney (percussion). The main aim of the programme is to create an environment where young people from any background can thrive and enjoy making music with others. We rehearsed repertoire that included Merry Go Round Of Life from Howl's Moving Castle and 99 Red Balloons by the German band Nena. On the day we came together with other schools from around the UK to form an Orchestra, supported and mentored by professional orchestral musicians.

I was very excited in the Percussion section as there were bongos, congas, drum kit, triangles, timpani and a concert bass drum. We swapped around the different instruments and took turns in reading the music for each song. The professionals guided and assisted us on our parts and gave us advice and mentorship. There was a wide array of instruments, including Trombones, Bass Clarinet and Oboe. We were split into our instrumental groups for sectional rehearsals. We had different professionals help us if needed and we rehearsed each section of the songs bit by bit to prepare for the full orchestra performance in the afternoon.

We enjoyed lunch together, then had more sectional rehearsals before a full rehearsal and at the end of the day we performed our pieces as a full orchestra. Our thanks goes to Mr Hoy, our Head of Music, for this wonderful and unique learning opportunity and we look forward to the 5th of July when we will have the final day and performance in the main Concert Hall.



INNIT 4 YOUNG PEOPLE

We have been working with a Salford based charity to create a new scheme of work for the Year 9 Drama curriculum.

On Monday 24th April, we will be visited by members of the charity who will be coming in to explain what the work is all about. It will use a range of Drama techniques to explore a range of PSHE topics that are specific to the Salford area.

We hope to continue working with the charity and they have given us free tickets to watch their musical INNIT next year for the entire Year 8 cohort!

WORLD BOOK DAY

'One book, one pen, one child and one Teacher can change the world' - Malal Yousafzai

St. Patrick's, welcomed our pupils and staff to the wonderful world of books on World Book Day this March. Staff and pupils dressed up for the occasion, in characters from C. S. Lewis' beloved story: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. There were beavers, White Witches, Peter's, Susan's, a tree and even a Faun going about their daily business in school, much to the amusement of everyone. Congratulations to: Mr Barrie, Mr Frazer and Mr Steggles, for winning the staff, fancy dress competition. I was very impressed with Mr Frazer's wardrobe costume, hand-made, with imaginative details draw inside, including 3D objects!

During their English lessons, pupils learnt about doors as portals in Literature and created their own unique portal with accompanying imaginative description. Lots of fun was had by all and it was wonderful to finish the week off by watching our very own Drama department showcase The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.

Congratulations to Miss Shafiq's Form (9SSH) for scoring full marks on the Form quiz and to Mr Singh for winning the staff quiz and beating the SEND team by one point, single handed!



NOISY TOURNAMENT

It was wonderful to welcome year 6 pupils from 4 of our local primary schools for a day of debating, led by The Noisy Classroom, an organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting the use of speaking and listening in the classroom.

The pupils were involved in a range of workshops throughout the day as well as going head-to-head with other schools in debates ranging from the banning of zoos to a manned mission to Mars. The pupils argued their points well and certainly gave us all food for thought.

The day culminated in a final debate between St. Mary's RC Primary School, Eccles and St. Teresa's, Irlam, discussing whether Manchester is a great city for children to live in. The winning team was St. Teresa's, who opposed the idea that Manchester is a great city for children to live in, whilst runners-up St. Mary's supported the City. Both teams performed marvellously and put their stances across skilfully.

We look forward to welcoming Year 6 pupils from our feed primary schools back to St. Patrick's in June for our Literacy and Numeracy Feast.





IN OTHER NEWS...

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



11th May - Year 7 Parents' Evening
 15th May - GCSE Exams Begin
 26th May - Geography Bay of Naples Trip
 22nd June - Year 10 SCC Taster Day
 28th June - Year 11 Leavers' Mass
 28th June - Year 10 into Year 11 Evening
 29th/30th June - Year 6 Transition Days
 3rd July - Year 11 Alton Towers
 6th July - Year 10 Loreto College Taster Day
 6th July - Year 11 Prom
 11th July - Sports Day (weather permitting)
 19th July - Alton Towers Year 7-10
 21st July - School closes for summer

CO-CURRICULAR ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done to everyone who has made an effort to attend co-curricular clubs this year - a special well done to Octi Jamali, Betws Redgrave, Frankie Nipah, Annabelle Pinkney, Katie Ratcliffe, Marco Rabor, Clare George, Cassidy Cvikk, Luke Jones, Vinny Rothery, Wojciech Kaminski, Maya Walford, Tyler Robinson, Sophie Royle and Isaac Mather who have all attended 30 or more clubs so far!

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Please remember and make sure all your friends and family are aware: for the local council elections on May 4th and for all elections from October onwards, photographic ID will be required to vote at a polling station. Therefore, your polling card is not acceptable ID. For more information, go to the Electoral Commission's website <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id> or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING (ITT)

In supporting the next generation of teachers, St. Patrick's is a hub for training future primary and secondary school teachers. If you or anyone you know is interested in a career in teaching, contact The St Patrick's Centre of Educational Excellence for further information: thestpatrickscentre@salford.gov.uk

NATIONAL SWIM CHAMPION



Grace Jenkins in Year 10 won Team Gold at Swim England Artistic Swimming National Age Group Championships. Well done Grace, fantastic achievement!

YEAR 11 PROM FUNDRAISING

Students in Year 11 (with help from some dedicated Year 10 students during the PPE exams) have been fundraising for their Prom.

Hot chocolates, Valentine's day messages and cake sales are all generating profits to help ensure that Prom can be affordable for all students, while still keeping the event as amazing as ever!

With Staff vs Student events planned for later in the year, as well as a showcase event with the Drama department in the works, the Year 11s really are showing an incredible level of organisation and commitment to ensuring that this year's Prom is going to be one of the best!



Staff vs Student Sponge throwing

If your child has any news they would like to feature in our next newsletter, please email us and we would be thrilled to share it! stpatricks.rchighschool@salford.gov.uk