



ST. PATRICK'S RC HIGH SCHOOL  
A National Teaching School



## SPRING HALF-TERM NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This half term has been exceptionally busy and exciting with a huge variety of activities going on. Year 11 have been working so hard and so have their teachers! Most subjects this year will be the new 9-1 GCSE exams and we have spent years planning for these changes so pupils can rest assured that they are in safe hands, despite a year or two of great change.

One thing I am very proud of is our high standards of uniform and the fact that our pupils look so smart. Our green blazers and jumpers can be spotted a mile off and our pupils always represent us so well in the community. We thank parents for their unwavering support in making sure their child is sent to school with full uniform and equipment as it makes such a difference to pupils' attitudes to learning when they look and feel smart and part of our St Patrick's team.

I have taken a number of external visitors around our school and in classrooms this half term and their reaction is always the same; they comment on how peaceful and calm our school is and how lovely our pupils are. The small things, such as pupils allowing visitors to pass through doorways first, is just one example of the wonderful way our pupils show their kindness, respect and maturity.

As I mentioned, there have been so many great events and achievements this half term but I would have to say my highlight was the Grease production. It showcased how talented, committed and full of life our pupils and staff are and it was a joy to watch.

Have a lovely and well deserved rest this half term.

### Grease

For two nights, our talented pupils blew the audience away with their singing, dancing and acting skills, by performing the classic musical Grease! John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John had nothing on our very own Temi and Amy who showed confidence and skill way beyond their years as our lead actors. They were ably supported by a great cast and band who entertained us for the duration. Well done to all pupils and huge thank you to Mr Snowden and Miss Olsen for giving up their time to bring out the best in our young entertainers and give them an experience they will never forget.



*Amazing things happen here*

Executive Principal : Mr P Murden  
Headteacher : Mrs A Byrne



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## YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS



Our Year 11s were given mock interviews earlier this term to help them practice the key skill of selling themselves in a pressured, interview situation. We had colleagues from a range of colleges and work settings, such as banks, who gave up their time to prepare our pupils for the next stage in their lives. Our Year 11s did us so proud. The interviewers commented on how excellent our pupils were and how maturely they presented themselves. One even said that he felt like one of our pupils was interviewing him! Well done to all our Year 11s.

## GULP

Our Year 8s have been involved in an exciting project connected to healthy living. GULP - giving up loving pop - is an initiative aimed at helping young people to think about what they are drinking and how sugary drinks can really affect their well-being, weight and general health. We featured on television and yet again, the pupils involved did us proud and represented themselves and St Patrick's so well. Thank you to these pupils for raising awareness of this important issue and to Mrs Gardiner for leading on this project.



## ICT EXAMINATIONS

Well done to our Year 10 ICT pupils who completed their web design exam earlier this half-term, as part of their certificate in digital applications. They have worked incredibly hard and gave it their all. We are confident they will have performed very well and will be celebrating when they get their results from the exam board in early March.

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### INCLUSION FESTIVAL

A number of our Year 7 pupils attended an inclusion festival this week. Not only was it of great benefit to the pupils who were engaging in lots of inclusive activities, they were able to interact with pupils from other schools which helped them to develop socially and build their confidence—all great preparation for when they leave us and make their own way in the world. Our pupils were a credit to themselves, in how they behaved and joined in all activities, as well as a huge credit to St Patrick's.



### PARENTS

We have had two key educational events in school this half term aimed at parents—Year 11 Exam Evening and Year 8 Information Evening. Thank you to the overwhelming number of parents who attended and engaged with us in talking about how to support your child. I have never seen such numbers of parents attending evenings and I really believe the contribution of parents and the support we receive from you is one of the key reasons St Patrick's is such a successful and wonderful school. Thank you especially to those parents who attended the Parents' Forum, giving their views about what is working well and what we can develop further. We value your opinions and views greatly.

### NEW INTAKE – YEAR 6

We had an unprecedented number of applications from Year 6 families to join us in September and we received the most applications in Salford local authority. We are very proud of this and feel very privileged that parents want their child to join us and trust us with their child's well-being and education. We take this responsibility very seriously and soon we will be working with primaries and paving the way for a smooth transition in September.

### DODGEBALL

Staff and pupils decided to pitch against one another in a game of dodgeball at lunchtime recently. Great fun was had by all and the pupils watching were impeccably behaved despite the high jinks! Some of the members of staff are still recovering from the exertion but it was worth it as we raised £120 for charity! Well done to all, especially the brave teachers.

 **Follow us on Twitter**

**@MrsByrneStPats and @StPatsRC**

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## ATTENDANCE

Attendance to school continues to be strong and we admire how much resilience our pupils have in coming in each and every day, no matter what the weather. Thank you to parents for supporting us with attendance and for avoiding taking their children out of school for holidays – every learning day counts!

## SPORTS NEWS

### Football

Huge congratulations to the Year 11 Football team who were narrowly beaten in the English Schools National Elite cup 2-1 by Sandwell Academy. The boys battled for the full 90 minutes and with 5 minutes to go were actually winning. The boys played so well that even the Sandwell Academy staff said that the boys on effort alone deserved to take the tie. However a deflected goal and a towering header with virtually the last touch of the game it proved how cruel a game football can be sometimes.

### Taekwondo

Congratulations to our Year 10 pupil Frankie Williams who has achieved excellence in Taekwondo outside of school. This comes after a long period of absence from the sport due to injury, proving that you can come back stronger if you set your mind to it!



### Netball

Congratulations to the Year 8 Netball team who beat Moorside High School and the Year 9 Netball team who beat Walkden earlier this month.

### Swimming

We also have an outstanding swimmer at St Patrick's: Jessica Smith in Year 8. Jessica swims for Flixton Swim Team and has recently qualified for Lancashire County Championships in 11 out of 16 events! She's also competed in the past in the North West Regional Championships. We are very proud of Jessica's achievements and her strong commitment to developing and honing her God-given talents. Best of luck in the upcoming competition.

## Upcoming Events

- Catholic Schools Cross country Championships
- Salford Swimming Gala
- New Indoor Cricket club

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