



# St Patrick's RC High School

## Newsletter

*Spring 2013*

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### A Message From Our Headteacher

Older pupils have begun GCSE examinations and our best wishes and prayers are with them at this important time. Hard work needs to be sustained and will bring rewards.

Our Lenten charity fundraising has, as always, been a key feature of school life at this time of year. Without doubt a highlight was the mile walk to coincide with red nose activities and raise money for charities which are sensitive to our ethos. Everyone really got into the spirit bringing much laughter to our annual event which allows young people to experience the joy of belonging to a community and the joy of helping others. Thank you to all those staff, pupils and parents who have supported these efforts.

The school liturgical team (pupils and staff) and the RE department supported by the Just Youth Team and our music department have been working hard to ensure that our school is a thriving Catholic Community. We celebrated St Patrick's Day in style beginning with Mass in the morning for all pupils and staff.

My thanks to those staff who give their time so generously to take extra lessons, organise events, support sporting or musical activities, or organise trips.

It is a real privilege to be the Headteacher of St Patrick's and serve this school community.

May God Bless you, and your families, this Easter.

### St Patrick's Red Walks



St Patrick's main fund raising event for St Joseph's Penny coincided with comic relief this year. The 'Red Walks' as we call them, challenge forms and houses to raise money for St. Joseph's Penny, and complete a lap of the perimeter of the entire school grounds during form time.

Each house dresses up in the most outlandish red costumes they can think of, so they can do something funny to raise money for charity. This event is an important but very competitive annual feature of school life at St. Patrick's. Prizes are given to the fastest house completing the lap, the form with the most outlandish costumes, and the form that raises the most money.

The money is still being counted for this year's walks, but in the past we have raised some large amounts through this extravagant event that pupils really love!



### Our New School Building



Our return from the Easter Break will bring an exciting stage in the history of St Patrick's as we move to our new school building. Whilst it will be sad to leave our old building, it is fantastic for all of our staff and pupils to move to a building that will support the outstanding Teaching and Learning that takes place at St Patrick's. Pupils will all be a part of the school's history as they will be the first to be educated in our new setting.

The building will provide an outstanding setting which will add to the vibrant, aspirational school culture that was recognised by Ofsted at the last inspection. I am sure all of our young people will value and respect this fantastic facility!



## Ski Pila 2013



Once again, the Italian Alps welcomed St Patrick's during half term in February. Pupils enjoyed a plethora of activities from swimming to tubing and of course, lots of skiing! By the end of the week all pupils were proficient skiers, some had even

become very proud experts.

The fun carried on into the evenings with a different event planned each night. Pupils took great pleasure in sharing their vocal abilities at the karaoke night, as well as visiting the local village, pizza night and the much-anticipated 'disco' night.

A fantastic holiday was had by all and pupils thanked Mr Chaytor, Mr Burns, Mr Hunt and Miss Birchenough for;

"...the best week of my life".

"...a life changing experience".

"...best memories".

The pupils talked about how they had made new friends and just didn't want to go home!

The teachers said they had never received so many compliments from people about a group of pupils, "...they were an absolute credit to themselves and the school, we were inundated with praise for them from coach drivers, hoteliers and instructors. We felt so proud of them".



## Drama with Corrie Star!

On the 7th March 2013 St Patrick's had a visit from Jack P. Shepherd! Some lucky Year 9s got to take part in a drama workshop where they got to work with the Coronation Street star.

Jack lead lots of activities to help improve confidence and skills that everyone seemed to enjoy! Jack told everyone about the work he does with Studio 12, teaching children from age three to eighteen. He told our Year 9s about what the best ways to get into acting were (strongly encouraging going along to Studio 12 in Worsley!)



He said to try out for anything you can because you never know when you'll get your big break, he didn't ever think he would get a main part in Corrie!

By Georgia McKevitt & Rebecca Dooley, Year 10

## Our Visit From Olympian Chris Cook

Staff and pupils alike were thrilled when Olympian Chris Cook visited St Patrick's recently. Chris delivered a series of inspirational assemblies and workshops throughout the day, all of them based around motivation, success and achievement. Chris spoke about making smart choices and following your dreams, doing what you love to do and what makes you happy. His positivity was truly infectious throughout the day as he talked about belief and determination, respect, dedication and commitment, and always striving to be, "...better than yesterday".



Chris Cook competed for Great Britain for nearly 10 years before retiring from international swimming in 2009. His achievements include; Double Commonwealth Champion, British Record holder, Commonwealth Record holder, World Medallist, European Medallist & Olympic Finalist.

## NASA's Mission X Lands at St Patrick's

Mission X is an international educational challenge that teaches students how to "train like an astronaut", focusing on fitness and nutrition. Sponsored by NASA, Mission X features training modules and healthy activities that compare to those used by astronauts and cosmonauts during all phases of space flight.



St Patrick's budding rocket scientists and astronauts, the Apollo Adventurers, have been taking part in the project with the support of teacher Mr Davies and British astronaut Major Timothy Peak. Their latest adventure was building and launching rockets. Year 8 Hope Duncan reports...

*The Apollo Adventurers went on a trip to Salford City Stadium, to release some rockets they had made in honour of Mission X. We first went to a rocket building workshop at our school, to learn more about how to make a good rocket. We all split up into small groups to design our rockets.*

*We assembled the rockets, decorated them, and gave them each a name. Each of the rockets got loaded with a real gunpowder fuse, and we were ready to go. Our groups travelled by minibus to the stadium, and we watched a talk about space. We then got to hear about life in space from a British astronaut, Tim Peak. Everyone got to see some really interesting videos, and found out lots about life in the stars.*

*After that, it was time to launch the rockets! Some of the other schools and Tim Peak himself came to watch, and after a traditional space countdown-3, 2, 1, Ignition! - Our rockets were off, flying through the sky, and we were really pleased with the result. We braved it through the cold, and it was definitely worth it. Then all that was left to do was to go out and find out rockets!*

Another great trip complete for the Apollo Adventurers!  
By Hope Duncan, Year 8





# Noticeboard

Dates for your Diary...  
We are looking forward to the second BTEC Production and the first in our new school – June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>!

For further reading on news articles and to view photographs, please visit the school website which is updated regularly. You will also find lots of useful and interesting information and links.

At the time of print, our amazing school choirs were about to take part in a national festival called Music for Youth, we wished them lots of luck and we hope everything went well. Check the news section on the website for an update.

Streetdance for Pupils  
Every Thursday 3.40 – 4.40 in the drama studio in our new school from 25<sup>th</sup> April!  
Everyone welcome!

Auditions for Year 7 and 8 for the Shakespeare for Schools Festival will be held at the beginning of next term.

Pupils should see Miss Olsen for more info.

## Free Books for our Year 7s!

At St Patrick's we recognise the vital importance of reading for pleasure. There is a lot of evidence to show that pupils who read widely give themselves a head start when it comes to having success at school, at college and in their work, no matter what sort of career they choose.

The government-funded scheme *Booked Up*, that has provided all Year 7s with a free book in recent years, has been a casualty of austerity measures, but we didn't want our pupils to lose out, and decided to fund something similar ourselves.



## World Book Day

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, St Patrick's recognised World Book Day through a wide range of activities. The theme of the day was 'characters from Literature' and from time activities included describing a famous character and asking other students to guess who they were meant to be. Years 7 and 8 were invited to enter a competition to create a modern fairytale, whilst KS4 students will shortly be finding out who will win the prize for best review of a play or novel.

There was a clear buzz around the school due to the competitive activities and the fantastically authentic costumes donned by many staff members. The English Department began their day by engaging the Year 7 cohort in a series of activities, which included creating a modern fairytale, exploring the Mines of Moria and many other book based games and activities.

The Year 7s impressed all staff members with their enthusiasm and competitive spirit.

All staff members

also joined in the festivities through the annual World Book Day Staff Quiz, which revealed that there are one or two budding literary geniuses in our midst!



## Perfect Poetry!

After studying the novel, 'Stone Cold', which deals with the theme of homelessness, Year 8 pupils penned poems on the topic for Mrs Procter.

Lia Richardson's poem, 'Street Life', was so good, it was entered into a competition with the Young Writers publishing house.

Lia's poem was selected out of hundreds of entries, to be published in an anthology of poetry. What an amazing achievement!

We have a young Wordsworth in our midst it seems. Well done Lia.

### Street Life

No home, no warmth  
No food, no bed  
No work, no money  
A rock for your head.

Grubby clothes  
Smelly skin  
Grimy nails  
Scraps from a bin.

Blue lips, white hands  
Damp hair, soaked bones  
No friends, no family  
No mobile phone.

Dirty looks  
Sorry stares  
Spiteful words  
Nobody cares.

No pride, no worth  
No self-esteem  
No heart, no comfort  
Nowhere to dream!

Lia Richardson- Year 8



## School Council

Members: Savannah Keegan, Caitlin White, Lewis Wilkinson, Hope Duncan, Kara Sears, Jordan Bright, Bianca Els, Laura Shawcross, Maciek Chybouski, Alexander Thornton, Mr Magee (Assistant Headteacher), Mrs Cusick (Business Manager) & Mrs Hall (Catering Manager).

Matters discussed during recent meetings included the move to the new school; most council members visited the new school last term and reported back extremely positive comments. It was amazing!

Pupils would like to see more reward trips & opportunities for reward.

Drinks machines and healthy eating vending machines were suggested as a great way to reduce queues and provide refreshments for after school activities. Mrs Hall will investigate this.

The idea of an ECO club was raised, where pupils could be active about their environment. The group would be linked to the School Council and undertake initiatives for the benefit of the whole school community.

There will be a reward trip for councillors to Altrincham Ice Ring at the end of the Spring Term.

## Parent Forum

The last meeting was held on 19th February. Guest speaker, Mr McCartney, Head of Technology talked about the different areas of Technology. Parents were given a tour of the current Design and Technology labs and shown the different pieces of equipment that pupils get to use during lessons. Exciting times are ahead with the move to our new school, where the facilities will be even more fantastic!

Others topics discussed included: school sport, building relationships – Restorative Justice, revision, good reading for parents. Thank you to the parent who very kindly recommended the classic worldwide bestselling book, *The Secret of Happy Children* by Steve Biddulph.

In future, a whole school text message will be sent to all parents informing them of details of the next meeting.

# Sports News

## Netball

The Year 7 Netball Team narrowly missed out on the semi finals at the Catholic Netball on 4th March by just two goals. Big congratulations to the whole team.

Year 8 Netball Team finished 3rd in the Salford Tournament on 5th March.

More great netball results... the Year 7 team beat Walkden 10 - 0 and the Year 9s, 13 - 4. Great job girls!

## Year 11 Boys Power into Plate Final

The Year 11 Football Team qualified for the Salford Schools Plate final after two terrific games of football at St Patrick's. A comprehensive 7-2 demolition of Wentworth in the quarter final – goals from Adam Massey (2), Adam Whitehead (2), Peter Forshaw (2) and Isaac Illidge (1) – set up a semi final clash with Moorside.

The semi final was a closely fought encounter with both sides spurning chances to break the deadlock in the first half. The game sparked into life immediately after half time when Adam Massey latched onto a Peter Forshaw pass to give St Pats the lead.

The goal gave St Pats the confidence to attack further and super sub Aidan Smith soon doubled their advantage with his first touch of the ball, finishing off after excellent work by Adam Whitehead.

Isaac Illidge booked St Patrick's place in the final by nodding home from 6 yards out, to seal a fine 3-0 victory.

After the semi final victory team coach Mr Breen said 'I am delighted the lads have reached the final and it is no more than they deserve after some fine attacking football in recent games. Let's hope they can go on and win the Plate in their final year at St Patrick's'.

At the time of print, the final was yet to take place, (18<sup>th</sup> March) against Oasis Academy. Good luck boys!



## Cheerleading and Dance Club

Cheerleading is now becoming more noticeable in schools; with our Cheerleading Team looking for new members as we lead up to the UKCA National Schools Championships in June. Last year was the first time the team entered the competition, and this time we are looking to improve on our results from last year, and possibly take two routines to the competition.

Lauryn Brown, who competed last year said, 'It was a fun experience, was good to see what the other schools had to offer and it gave me an opportunity to meet new friends within the school in different years.'

Miss Bieliunas, who runs the Cheerleading and Dance Club said, 'I am looking forward to working with the cheerleaders and seeing what talents they have as a team, I am also excited to go to the competition now we know what to expect on the day and how the other schools perform.'

Cheerleading and Dance Club takes place on Wednesday lunchtime with the possibility to have an after school practise depending on numbers. All years are welcome.

## Year 7 and 8 Girls Football

Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 Girls Football Team who played exceptionally recently. They overcame tough opposition and managed to reach the final of the Salford Schools Tournament.

They finished runners up and were presented with their certificates in assembly.

Their coach Miss Widdowson, pictured with the team, said she is "very proud" of them all. Well done girls!

