



# Newsletter

## Spring 2014

### The Red Walks



Pupils of St Patrick's have always demonstrated a caring and generous spirit when it comes to fundraising for good causes, but this year has been exceptional.

The fun aspect of The Red Walks has also been fully embraced by both staff and pupils alike. Please visit our web site to see the photos that show the lengths some have gone to.

Well done to all our staff and pupils for making The Red Walks 2014 such a memorable year.



This year an outstanding effort has been made by forms to fundraise in advance of their 1km walk round the school grounds for Caritas and other Lenten charities.

Our pupils have been particularly inspired by the high profile of Sports Relief on TV this year. As a consequence, the amount of money raised for good causes has been significantly higher than ever before.

### A Message From Our Headteacher

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 have begun GCSE examinations and our very 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 Kilometre walk to raise money for charities which are sensitive to our ethos. Everyone really got into the spirit of the event 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.

Congratulations to our sports stars and teams on a busy and successful term.

The excellent behaviour and manners of the pupils who went on the ski trip at half term helped to ensure a very successful and enjoyable trip. I hope the staff and pupils going to Italy this Easter - godono l'esperienza!

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

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



### St Patrick's Day Celebrations

Every year the school celebrates the feast day of St Patrick with a whole school Mass for all pupils and staff. Amazingly, there are a total of three Masses celebrated simultaneously to accommodate our large school population.

Once again, our pupils responded impeccably and respectfully to the spiritual high point of the schools ecclesiastical year. Pupils prepared for the Masses with prayers of petition and offerings and conducted the readings and presentations. All Masses were supported by our outstanding choirs and harmony groups to bring the liturgy to life for both our staff and young people alike. All the priests were provided from Just Youth, our school chaplaincy organisation. One of the priests who originated from Nigeria reminded us that St Patrick was also their Patron Saint.

We were also extremely pleased to welcome back Fr Flavian who has been recovering from a serious illness.

Following this celebration our pupils and staff received a specially composed St Patrick's prayer, a shamrock pin and a cream egg. This set the tone for the remainder of the day, staff delivered lessons with a special focus on fun and enjoyment.

At break time, in our great St Patrick's Day tradition, staff were treated to a variety of cakes whilst they listened to our talented staff musicians playing Irish songs and ballads.





## Year 7's Castle Project



Mr Naughton's Year 7 History class created some fantastic pieces of work recently when they were asked to complete their first History project this year.

They were given four weeks to complete the project at home and asked to demonstrate that they understood how and why castles were built, how they were attacked and how they were defended. They were allowed to complete the project through a variety of mediums including writing a poem, essay or song, building a model or designing a detailed diagram.

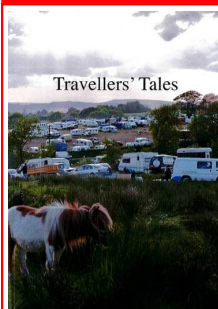


They did such a fantastic job that their work was displayed in the foyer for several weeks.

A special well done from Mr Naughton goes to Ryan Philips for his outstanding work.

Well done to all the class on a really great job!

## A Travellers' Tale



Toby\* is a Year 7 pupil here at St Patrick's who is from the Traveller community. Whilst in Year 6 he wrote a fantastic article which impressed his school so much that they submitted it for consideration to 'Travellers' Tales'. He was ecstatic when he recently received a parcel containing an extremely nice letter from his former Headteacher accompanied by the book, 'Travellers' Tales' containing his published work. Well done Toby\*, what a great story!

### Enjoying school

"My mum is a Romany Gypsy and my dad is an Irish Traveller. They both tell us wonderful stories from when they were young and went travelling with their parents, my mum in England and dad in Ireland...

...I love being a Traveller – I'm happy to be one as it's a very good thing to be. I suppose the best thing about it is having a big family: I have lots and lots of uncles, aunts and cousins and I love them all and enjoy meeting them...

...I like school and am good at lots of subjects, especially literacy...in religious education we're doing a topic called 'called to serve' and our teacher is telling us that if we try to help people we can make a big difference in their lives...it's a good subject to learn and I enjoy it.

School is the best place for children. I would tell all Travellers to send their children to school because education is important, and I would tell the kids not to give up too easily."

To read Toby's\* full story, please visit our website

\*Name changed



## Year 7 Science Project

Year 7 pupils have enjoyed building models of the solar system this term and have produced some fantastic work. Well done Year 7! Visit our website to view the rest of the models at: [www.stpatricksrchigh.co.uk](http://www.stpatricksrchigh.co.uk)

## We Will Rock You



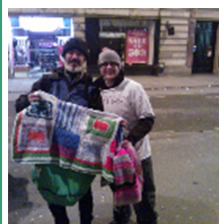
The latest school production, We Will Rock You, was another huge success this term with fantastic performances by Liam McCusker and Jennifer Rice in the leading roles.

The amazing songs of Queen were lead by Mr Snowden and the outstanding school musicians. The show was a real ensemble piece with some Year 7's taking to the St Patrick's stage for the first time.

Both nights proved to be an uplifting experience to shake the January blues with some amazing solos and wonderful performances from all involved. Bravo!

## Theatre In Education

Our Year 9 Drama class are devising a piece of Theatre In Education this term. They will be showcasing various problems faced by teenagers and young adults.



The performance will consist of the themes of bullying, homelessness and racism and will be about 45 minutes long.

The production will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 4.30pm and tickets will be £1 with all proceeds going to 'Coffee 4 Craig', a charity that supports those in our community who have lost their way.

## Look How Far We Have Come

Ladies and gentlemen, the Year 11 GCSE Performing Arts students will be putting on a performance of exciting extracts from a variety of Manchester based plays and shows. The performance is called 'Look How Far We Have Come' which takes place on the 29<sup>th</sup> April at 4:30pm.

The performance includes pieces of various Manchester plays and TV shows from 'Billy Liar' and 'Hobson's choice' to 'Coronation Street' and 'The Royle Family'.

The Year 11's have created the performances all by themselves and worked extremely hard to market, rehearse and research this unmissable variety of Manchester working class life.

Voted 5 stars by Year 11, this once in a lifetime opportunity to watch this veritable feast of local based entertainment, will leave you crying with laughter and your brain infused with a timeline of events covering over 100 years of Manchester's very best variety performances; from TV, to dance, to stage! So why wouldn't you come and watch this fabulous performance created by our very own Year 11's?

Ticket sales will begin 7<sup>th</sup> April. We hope to see you there!





## Afternoon Tea for St Ann's Hospice

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, a group of Year 11 students carried out an Afternoon Tea event in order to raise money for St. Ann's Hospice (as part of their Hospitality GCSE). The event was open to members of staff, Senior Leadership Team as well as student's friends and family.

The four Year eleven girls organising the event were Dana Burbidge, Megan Still, Jessica Sweeney and Rebecca Dooley. They raised over one hundred and twenty pounds for the charity and their donation was much appreciated by the St. Ann's Hospice staff.

The event was held in the school hall with an Afternoon Tea theme for the room consisting of a hot beverage service, music and presentation as well as a variety of sweet and savoury food options served on a cake stand. The successful event enabled students to gain valuable life skills and experiences on running a Hospitality event.

Written by Rebecca Dooley, Year 11

## More Fundraising Events

In addition to organising Afternoon Tea, Mr Hall's Catering and Hospitality pupils have been ridiculously busy this term! They have organised a variety of events from cake sales to three course meals.

Ann Ward, Heather Buckley, Callum McDonald and Amy Wilkinson ran a cake sale to raise money for the Katrina appeal and raised over £30. Hannah Cunliffe, Charlie Medati and Caitlin Higham also ran a cake sale. Jessica Walker organised a three course sit down meal to raise money for the British Heart Foundation: she raised £200. Eleanor Dean, Charlotte Stoddard and Caylon Mulhearn sold pancakes, cakes, burgers and hot dogs for Shrove Tuesday and raised over £50. And Eddy Edokpor, Louis Hughes and Cameron Dempsey produced a 3 course sit down St Patrick's day themed meal for staff members.

Well done to all the pupils, who did a fantastic job!



## NHS After School Programme

Once again, the NHS After School Programme was a huge success this year!

24, Year 10 pupils attended the series of workshops which were delivered by doctors and nurses at Salford Royal Hospital. The workshops included; Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Dietetics, Domestic Abuse and A&E.

Staff at the hospital were very complimentary about our pupils and said what a privilege it was to discuss topics with them, how they were very well behaved and showed great maturity discussing emotive and sometimes embarrassing subjects.

"They were a credit to the school."



## Safer Internet Day

Year 7 & 8 pupils recently participated in National Safer Internet day 2014. Students took part in activities during their ICT lessons and presented their findings and information through a variety of media, including presentations and videos.

Prizes were issued by class teachers for outstanding work and effort.



## Ski Pila 2014

During half term, 40 intrepid students and staff voyaged out of Eccles and into the small mountain town of Pila, high in the Italian mountains. Here they were to spend a week sharpening their skiing skills, building new friendships, experiencing new culture and risking life and limb as they sped down the crisp white slopes of the Aosta Valley. This is their story;

"Throughout the week we didn't stop laughing. Every day there were new activities and adventures. Skiing during the day but also swimming, tubing, snow fights and dancing in the evenings."

"I had the best time of my life."

"Everyone was like a big family, we all got on great."

"I loved the BBQ on the slopes."

"My best bit was learning to parallel turn."

"I still laugh about it now."

"The mountains were beautiful."

"Chill factor is ok, but real skiing is amazing."

The staff would like to thank all the students for another great St Patricks trip.



## Pupils Gain an Extra Qualification

Another group of our Year 10 pupils were very lucky this term when they were given the opportunity to obtain the industry recognised Food Hygiene Certificate level 1.

The certificate, which was delivered and awarded by the Institute of Environmental Health, took place during Enrichment lessons and consisted of three, one hour taught lessons and a written test at the end.

Well done to the pupils who took part, all passed with flying colours!







## Oxford and Russell Group Student Conference

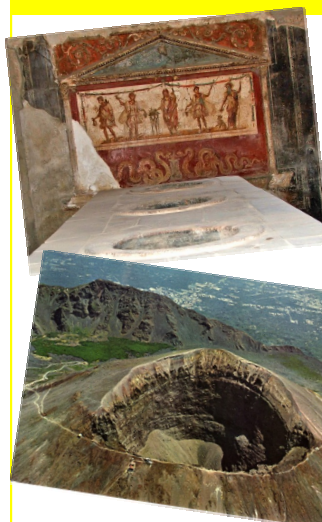
A group of our Year 10 students headed to the Etihad Stadium recently for the Oxbridge and Russell Group Student Conference. The purpose of the

conference was to encourage pupils to aim high in planning their university education. The conference was an invaluable experience for our pupils, here are some of their comments;

- "Good tips, helped us to understand how important our future is."
- "Motivated us to aim high."
- "Gives us an idea of what universities expect."
- "Very informative. Motivates us to make sure we fulfil our potential."
- "I think it was an eye opener in what we need to do to achieve."
- "Made me believe I can reach my full potential."

Please visit website for more details at: [www.stpatricksrchigh.co.uk](http://www.stpatricksrchigh.co.uk)

## Humanities Trip to Italy



Pupils are very excited now about going on their trip to Italy on Saturday 12th April. They will be staying in Sorrento and visiting Vesuvius, Pompeii, Campi Flegrei and Villa Oplontis. Look out on the website after Easter to hear all about it and see some photos.



## Parent Forum

In our most recent meeting, which took place on 24th March, the agenda included;

- Charlotte - Connexions
- Hair extensions and make up policy
- Catering – portion sizes
- Cash rewards for GCSE results
- Options

Minutes can be obtained by emailing [amanda.palmer@salford.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.palmer@salford.gov.uk)

The next Parent Forum will take place on Monday 12th May at 4pm. New members welcome.

All queries and items for the agenda, please also send to the above email address.

## School Council

Delegates for the school council appointed by forms and houses include; Shaun Bryan, Savannah Keegan, Alex Hilton, Jodie-Leigh-Wyatt, Ashleigh Richardson, Amy Wilkinson, Chloe Ramsbottom, Olivia Ward, Aaron McRoy, Chloe Arrandale, Jessica Crooks, Laura Shawcross, Sarah Abulatifah, Lucy Marsh and Thando Sibanda.

The focus for this term's School Council meetings was rewards, including trips and merits. The School Council felt the system was working and particularly appreciated the achievement postcards home. They also liked the idea of an electronic record that some staff were trialling with different classes. They also felt there should be more reward trips. Another topic was the food in the canteen, the ending of the subway bar was regrettable and the Council felt something else should be put in its place. Portion sizes are now being reviewed by Spie, our catering company after being highlighted by both the School Council and the Parent Forum. The School Council will be shortly going to Altrincham Ice Rink for their outstanding contributions this year.

## Salford Schools Badminton Champions



A huge well done to our Year 9 boys who performed brilliantly in the Salford Schools Badminton Tournament this term and became the Year 9 Salford Champions.

Each match consisted of two singles games and three doubles games. The boys played against four teams.

After a slow start, the team soon responded to the challenge. They started to dominate the opposition and their confidence grew as the tournament progressed. There were some excellent individual performances from Davidson and Rohit and combined with Jithin and Jamie in the doubles, they went on to produce some brilliant games and results.

The boys won nineteen games and lost only one, a great achievement!

The team then went on to represent Salford in the GM Badminton Tournament at The George Carnell Recreation Centre in Urmston. There was some excellent individual and doubles play against strong opposition. The team won two of their group matches but unfortunately did not qualify to the knock-out stages of the competition.

The boys were a credit to the school and this experience will help them when they compete next year.

Well done to; Davidson Sabu, Rohit Abraham, Jithin Saju, Bash Abubaker and Jamie Lynch.

## Year 8 Netball Tournament Champions

Congratulations to all the girls who represented St Patrick's at Conder Hall in Shropshire in March. They were an absolute credit to the school. Their behaviour and attitude were exemplary and commented upon by the staff at the centre.

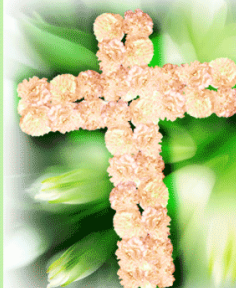
As well as taking part in many of the various outdoor educational activities on offer, the girls played fantastic Netball on both Saturday and Sunday and as a result of their performances, were crowned champions of the Year 8 Tournament, winning the final 3-2 in a very nail biting match. Both Miss Sanders and Mrs Shepherd said how proud they are of the girls and that they were a pleasure to take away.



## Eccles 50M Swimming Championships

Well done to the 12 pupils who represented the school in the Eccles 50m Freestyle Swimming Championships, in particular to Alex Gartside for winning his bronze medal.

Special congratulations to Alex Hiles in Lowry who won the overall competition. Alex received a magnificent trophy which dates back to 1913. Well done Alex!



*Wishing that  
the blessings  
of the Lord  
fills your heart  
and home  
with happiness!*

*Happy Easter!*