



ST PATRICK'S NEWS

DECEMBER 2024



We reach the end of another busy term and we have achieved so much together. It is such a privilege to work with such dedicated staff to serve this wonderful Catholic community.

As always, our children have done us proud in how they present themselves every day, how they behave and act and how hard they work. Year 7 have settled so very well and show all the signs of being a fantastic year group. It was lovely to meet so many Year 7 parents and carers last week and talk about all the successes of the term. Year 11 have made a great start to their final year with us - they are setting such a high bar for the rest of the school in terms of their attitude to their learning and their commitment. Their PPE (mock exam) results are very promising and we think they are set to be the best performing year group we have had in years! Year 10 are following them closely behind. I am so proud of how much Year 10 have matured and how lovely they are. They responded so well to the study skills sessions we put on for them and Year 11,

and I can see they are focused and want to do their absolute best. Year 8 and Year 9 also continue to do well and have shown a huge increase in achievement points this term so very well done!

We have put so much energy into improving attendance over the past 12 months and I am pleased to say that, at the time of writing this, we are number 1 in Salford for attendance! We are thrilled. We have had so many children achieve 100% this term and so many children have made huge improvements since last year. I was talking to two girls who have moved their attendance from 65% to 99.5% yesterday! How amazing that they have made such a turnaround but most importantly, how great they feel the sense of belonging to our school that has kept them getting out of bed every day to join us, rain or shine.

We could not be the school that we are without the support of our parents and carers: thank you for sending your child into school every day, on time and ready to learn - it really does make such a difference that you have those high standards at home too. Thank you also for using Class Charts to keep track of your child's day with us and have those encouraging discussions at home - us all being on the same page is the key to success.

You will see from this term's newsletter that we have achieved so much and had a great time along the way. Yet again, I have had so many compliments about the children from a variety of people from the site and kitchen staff based at our school, to hotel managers in Iceland, to staff at The Palace theatre, to teachers at Pendleton College! The comments are always along the same lines: your children are amazing! Your children are the best! Your children are head and shoulders above! Bring them back any time and from Pendleton College staff, please send more of your kids to us once they leave Year 11! It makes us all beam with pride that others see what we see.

We return on Monday 6th January at 8.25am where we will be lining children up in the playground to make sure we are all St Patrick's ready. Have a happy and holy Christmas. We all deserve a good rest and some time to recuperate!

Best wishes,

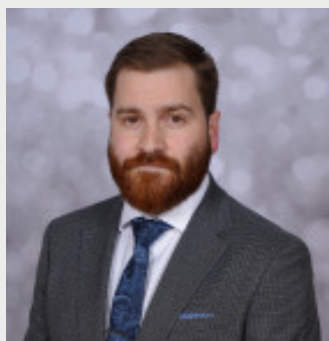
Mrs Byrne
Headteacher

GEOGRAPHY SUMMIT TRIP

In November, a group of 10 Year 10 Geography students attended the Youth Global Climate Conference hosted by Wild Hearts at Siemens head office. They worked with industry professionals from Siemens, Nestlé, Adecco and Wesleyan who delivered workshops on the importance of sustainability in industry. An amazing opportunity for the pupils exploring roles and careers in sustainability.



NEW TEACHER INTERVIEW -



I teach... With a degree in English Language, I specialise in GCSE English Language, but teach both Language and Literature. I am the Key Stage 3 Progress Lead at St Patrick's.

Life before St Patrick's... I worked as a teaching assistant at St Mary's Catholic High School in Astley before training to be a teacher. I then taught English at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College in Altrincham for ten years. Before working in education, I worked in Sainsbury's, Wetherspoon's, Argos, the M.E.N. arena, the list goes on...

How I've found my first term at St Patrick's... I've enjoyed my first term at St Patrick's. Getting to know the students has been the best part, by far. Working with teenagers makes teaching the funniest job in the world!

My best learning tip....

- 1) The expert in anything was once a beginner.
- 2) If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you.

Something interesting about me...

- 1) I run an English revision YouTube channel called 'Pate Resources'. Check it out to brush up on your English skills!
- 2) Pate rhymes with late, but not latte.

ADVERTISING UNLOCKED

In November our Year 10 Business Studies students visited a media agency in Manchester called Wavemaker and the pupils learnt all about the different jobs available in the advertising and media sector. They were then put into groups to work on a brief for Vimto whereby they had to come up with a new advertising campaign. All of the pupils played an active role in this and their behaviour was impeccable! Thank you Year 10!



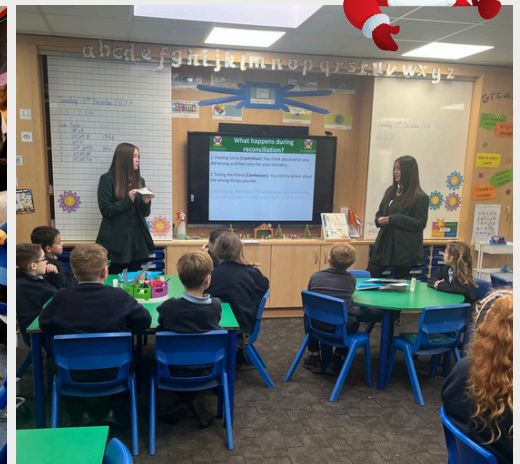
LOWRY THEATRE TRIPS

This half term, Miss Davis took students from Y7-Y11 to see Wonder Boy and Come From Away at The Lowry Theatre in Salford. Wonder Boy was the story of a teenage boy with a stammer who has lost his mum and had to start a new school. The show switches between him struggling to verbalise himself, and the very clear inner thoughts he wishes he could express. Come From Away is a musical based on the real events surrounding 9/11; 38 planes that were in the air at the time were diverted to a small island in Canada where local people put them up and looked after them during one of the most impactful events in modern history. Come From Away is still running at The Lowry over Christmas and it comes highly recommended from everyone who went to see it!

YEAR 9 PRIMARY VISITS

Huge thanks to our Year 9 pupils for creating and delivering fantastic presentations on the Sacrament of Reconciliation to Year 3 pupils at their former primary schools. They demonstrated excellent knowledge and understanding, having recently revisited their learning about this in RE lessons, as well as great creativity and confidence when delivering. Well done to all involved so far! - Mrs Rosa

"We as representatives of Year 9 at St Patrick's, went back to our former primary schools to talk to the Year 3 pupils about their upcoming Sacrament of Reconciliation. Going back felt nostalgic as we got to see our old teachers and the pupils of our former schools. At St Teresa's, they had an understanding of Reconciliation and the Sacraments that they had already completed, so it was nice to educate them further. At St Gilbert's, the idea of Reconciliation was new to them but the majority of pupils knew about Baptism. At Holy Cross, they attempted to name all of the Sacraments, which they struggled with but they tried their best. All primary schools that we visited now have a greater understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and are no longer worried. We enjoyed visiting our former schools and hope there are more opportunities for other pupils to go back too. We are all thankful for the chance we had to do this." - Roan F, Isaac G-A, Khaye R, Ellie-Mae H, Gracie M and Brooke D



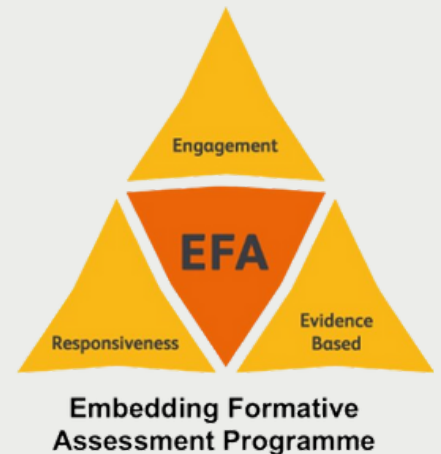
HAVING FUN WITH FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

We are delighted to say that the new SSAT Embedding Formative Assessment (EFA) programme at St Patrick's has been a tremendous success this term. The feedback from both pupils and staff has been overwhelmingly positive.

Pupils are really enjoying their lessons, with their teachers using engaging strategies such as mini whiteboards, quizzes, polls, think-pair-share, and exit tickets. These innovative methods have not only enhanced student participation but have also deepened their understanding across subjects. It's wonderful to see how much the children are thriving in such an interactive learning environment.

Our staff have found the programme equally rewarding. By beginning to incorporate more of a broad range of formative assessment techniques, teachers are able to gauge student understanding more effectively and tailor their instruction to better meet the needs of our learners. Their enthusiasm for these strategies has further enriched the classroom experience.

We encourage you to ask your child about their learning experiences. Simple questions about their favourite activities can reinforce their enthusiasm and curiosity about what they are studying. It's a great way to keep the conversation about learning going at home.



YEAR 7 - MY FIRST TERM *Written by Katie L*

I've really enjoyed my first term at St Patrick's. I have settled in really well even though I was a bit nervous before I started high school. I have really nice friends and I really like my form and my form tutor. I really enjoy getting involved in things around school; I have been to Wednesday prayers and I go to Netball Club every week as well which has been really fun. I've really enjoyed doing subjects that I didn't do at primary school like Food Technology and I've found it really interesting to do new things like science experiments and different drama activities. I feel like I know a lot more people and faces in Year 7 now and I know most teachers' names. I'm really enjoying Year 7 so far and I'm looking forward to what the rest of the year brings.

GCSE AWARDS EVENING

On Thursday 5th December, we welcomed back our class of 2024 to celebrate with them one last time for their GCSE Awards Evening. It was wonderful to see so many of our pupils back at St Patrick's for the final time and it was fantastic to come together as staff, parents/carers and the year group as a whole to recognise and celebrate all of their achievements. We wish them every success for the future and will continue to keep them in our prayers.



PANATHLON BOWLING COMPETITION

In November, Mrs Shepherd took 11 pupils to the Panathlon Bowling competition. All the pupils were an absolute credit to the school and themselves.

6 of our pupils made it into the 100 club by scoring 100+ points! Special mention goes to Niamh as she not only got into the 100 club, she also won the 'hot shot' competition for the greatest number of strikes and spares, and she also won the highest scorer for the whole competition! To add to this, she is now the highest scorer for the northwest bowling competitions from all primary and secondary schools!

St Patrick's Team 1 were crowned the overall winners for the competition and will now go on to represent Salford in the Greater Manchester competition early next year! Well done to everyone involved!

YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS

Back in September, Year 7 had their Welcome Mass at Holy Cross RC Church. It was a wonderful way to welcome the year group properly and it was lovely to see others in the community (including parents/carers) joining us in this special welcome. The Year 7s were so impressive with their behaviour and respect shown and it was great to see so many of them get involved with the Mass as altar servers, readers, etc. The Year 7s have made a fantastic start at St Patrick's and it has been a real privilege to see how well they have settled in and the contributions they have already made

BLOOD BROTHERS

In November, the English department arranged for Year 11 to go and watch a performance of Blood Brothers at the Palace Theatre in Manchester. Blood Brothers is one of their essential texts in the English Literature GCSE. It was a fantastic cultural and educational opportunity to see the text in action and help maximise their understanding in preparation for their exam. Year 11 displayed exemplary behaviour and we are really proud of them.



HOW ST PATRICK'S MARKED ADVENT...

Celebrating Advent Together: A Season of Giving and Reflection

As the Advent season draws to a close, we reflect on how our school community has embraced this special time with generosity, collaboration, and a focus on the true meaning of Christmas. This year, we've shared the joy of the season in a variety of meaningful ways.

Partnering with Primary Schools for Advent Liturgies

Our school has been blessed to work alongside our partner primary schools to create and deliver Advent liturgies. These moments of prayer and reflection have brought students and staff together to focus on hope, peace, joy, and love—the core themes of Advent. Both primaries and St Patrick's have delivered these student led liturgies during the week's of Advent.

Advent Assemblies

Our Advent assemblies have been a highlight, offering students and staff the opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Mrs Rosa and Miss Dickinson asked all students to reflect on who might need hope this season- particularly the homeless, the lonely, and those who are grieving. With our talented choir performing during these assemblies, the music has uplifted and inspired all who attended.



A Visual Reminder of the Season

The beautiful crib displayed in our school reception has served as a powerful symbol of the Nativity story, reminding everyone who walks through our doors of the humble beginnings of Jesus and the message of love and hope He brings.

Encouraging Meaningful Gifts

This year, we've encouraged our pupils to embrace the spirit of giving by purchasing CAFOD World Gifts for their loved ones. These gifts, such as clean water supplies or farm animals, not only make thoughtful presents but also transform lives around the world. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we're proud of how our school community has come together to make a difference for others and reflect on the deeper meaning of this holy season. We wish all our students, staff, and families a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

ICELAND TRIP - OCTOBER HALF TERM

In the October Half Term a group of 40 students visited Iceland. They had a wonderful time exploring the Great Geyser, Gullfoss Waterfall, Þingvellir National Park Tour in the Golden Circle, before heading to Skógafoss Waterfall, Sólheimajökull Glacier walk and Seljalandsfoss waterfall. The scenery was spectacular, a trip to remember for sure!



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Friday 13th December, we celebrated with our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas party in the school hall. Our guests received a lovely christmas meal prepared by our Year 9 catering students, alongside performances from our school dance club led by Miss Flusk, and our school choir led by Mrs Mulholland, plus a special visit from the big man himself! 🎅

We look forward to seeing you all again next Christmas!



STAFF CHANGES THIS TERM

The end of the school term sadly brings us the news of some staff leavers:

Mrs Lucy Adams - Head of RE

Mrs Sarah Manion - Business and Finance Manager

Miss Jess Williams - Teaching Assistant

We are excited to be welcoming the following teachers in September:

Mrs Claudia Harvey - KS3 RE Teacher and Lay Chaplain

Mr Brendan Sloane - ICT Teacher (Maternity Cover)

YEAR 10 SALFORD QUAYS VISIT



CLASS CHARTS

Reminder to all parents that we now use Class Charts instead of Myed to communicate home to parents and carers. Please ensure that you have signed up to Class Charts Parent in order to receive up to date information.



You can report any absences or lates using the Class Charts Parent App, as well as see behaviour and achievement points, attendance and homework.

To ask any general questions, please email school stpatricks.rchighschool@salford.gov.uk or call us on 0161 921 2300.

YEAR 11 FEBRUARY PPE'S

Year 11 will begin their PPE's on the 31st January 2025, the full PPE timetable can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact school.





IN OTHER NEWS...



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



6th January - All students return to school
9th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening
10th January - Year 11 Mass
24th January - Year 11 Mock Interview Day
28th January - DTP & MenACWY Vaccination Year 9
31st January - Year 11 PPE's begin for 2 weeks
11th February - DTP & MenACWY Vaccine Y9 Mop-Up
14th February - School closes for Half Term at 3pm
Half Term - Ski Trip to Italy and Trip to London
24th February - School reopens to all
24th February - Year 7 Retreat (7SS & 7MDI)
4th March - Year 7 Retreat (7ADA & 7VMR)
6th March - Year 9 Parents' Evening
11th March - Year 7 Retreat (7RR)
20th March - Year 11 Invite Only Parents' Evening
27th March - Year 9 Options Evening
4th April - School Closes for Easter Break

NATIONAL GYMNASTICS ACHIEVEMENT FOR JAMES!

James G in Year 9 finished 3rd nationally at the British Gymnastics Trampoline championships in Telford back in October. What a great achievement and a wonderful photo!



YEAR 11 LEAVERS' HOODIES

Just like last year, we will be arranging leavers hoodies for Year 11. A letter will be sent in the new year with details of how to purchase one.



INSTAGRAM

We are now on Instagram, follow us here www.instagram.com/stpatricksrchigh or search 'stpatricksrchigh' on Instagram to see all our latest news.

NEW WEBSITE

We are really excited to announce that we will be launching our new website in the new year! Please keep an eye on our socials for the launch date.

BRITISH AGE GROUP WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to Esther who finished 2nd nationally at the British Age Group Weightlifting Championships in the 65kg Clean and Jerk and the 57kg Snatch. Amazing effort, Esther, we are incredibly proud of you!



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