

ST PATRICK'S NEWS



DECEMBER 2023



We have had a very busy term, as is always the case at this time of year. When we look back on all the things we have achieved it is hard to believe how we have managed to squeeze it all in!

So many of our pupils have achieved great things both big and small over the course of the last 15 weeks. From Year 7 making such a big move from primary school and settling so well to our Year 11s completing their first set of PPEs (pre-public exams) we have watched with pride as our children grow and learn. You will see many of the great highlights of this term in this newsletter-we hope you enjoy reading about it as much as we've enjoyed being a part of it.

We have put a great deal of energy into talking to pupils and families about the importance of attendance this term. Did you know that if your child has an attendance of 97% to our school or more they have a 93% of passing all their GCSEs? Those with 90% attendance or lower have just a 30% chance of passing! I found this link between how many days your child misses with their success at GCSEs fascinating. We know if they come in to work with us most days in the year their chance of success is excellent. **Please continue to keep sending your child in every day.** Even if they have stresses or worries we can help and support them. If they are too ill to learn we can always send them home.

This final week of term is a time when we reward pupils for their hard work and dedication. I have enjoyed watching pupils come up to the front in assemblies to be given badges, vouchers, certificates and even invitations to celebration breakfasts and lunches (St Pat's kids love their food 😊). I was especially pleased to see the number of children who have never had a reward before being mentioned for improving and trying their best to turn things around; they are clearly being influenced and inspired by pupils who always do the right thing and that is what being a school family is all about.

We will also be supporting pupils to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas through our advent services on the final day of term. I hope that they take the message away with them that Christmas is not about presents but how Christ came to be the light of the world for us all and how we all have an individual responsibility to share their light with others.

I would like to thank parents for all their support so far this year. The parental support we have is the school's secret ingredient to success and you are a vital part of our team. Every time you turn up to a parents' evening, every time you talk to your child about their homework, every time you tell them to make sure they have their blazer for school helps us to do the very best for your child. A child who has a great family and a great school united in their best interests will always do well.

Next half term we have the following things coming up that are key for parents to know about:

Thursday 11th January Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 26th January Year 11 mock interview day

Thursday 1st February Year 9 Parents' Evening

Year 8 and Year 9 behaviour, effort, engagement and homework scores will be inputted by teachers and sent home

I hope you have a very restful and happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing our pupils at 8.25am sharp on Monday 8th January and seeing parents soon in 2024.

Best wishes,
Mrs Byrne

ADVERTISING UNLOCKED

In November we took our Year 11 Enterprise & Marketing students to Essence Media in Manchester. They used the day to gain experience of how an advertising agency works and what the different job roles entail. The pupils then worked in groups on a marketing task whereby, they had to produce a marketing campaign to promote the new movie 'Trolls Band Back Together'. The winning team, picked by the Essence Media staff, were Ysabella D, Jessica S, Kaila P and Lily B. Best presenter was awarded to Jack C. The pupils got a lot of useful information out of the day and the staff were very complimentary about behaviour and attitude.



NEW TEACHER INTERVIEW - MR O'DONOGHUE



I teach...

I am the Second in Science and hold a bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree from John Moore's University. I teach GCSE Science at St Patrick's but have taught all 3 Science A Levels, GCSE Astronomy, BTEC level 2 Engineering, Electronics and Manufacturing, BTEC level 3 Applied Science, Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautical Engineering.

Life before St Patrick's... I have been teaching physics and science for 30 years. St Patrick's is my 7th school. I was Assistant Headteacher at UTC Warrington and have been Head of Science at 5 different schools. Before teaching I worked for International Computers Ltd as a Surface Mount Software Support Engineer.

How I've found my first term at St Patrick's... I've really enjoyed my first term here. I have been impressed with the drive and ambition of many of my students and their willingness to work hard, engage with their own learning and form positive relationships with staff and other pupils.

My best learning tip.... Never stop learning, there is always more to know.

Something interesting about me... I am originally from Higher Broughton in Salford. Now I'm back after leaving 38 years ago. I have also swam with Pink River Dolphins in an alligator and piranha infested river in Bolivia.

LONDON MACBETH TRIP

Right at the start of the year, 50 of our Year 10 pupils took a trip to London to see Macbeth performed at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. They also took part in a drama workshop run by the Globe Theatre and had a guided evening walking tour. A great time had by all!





YEAR 7 - MY FIRST TERM

Written by Jocelyn Williams

My first term at St Patrick's has been amazing. At first, I was really nervous about homework and people being bigger than me. However, I was really excited to make new friends and learn new things. When I actually got to school, it was lots of fun. For me, I really enjoy baking, science experiments and being able to buy whatever you want from the cafeteria. Homework is, as I expected, never-ending as there is pretty much homework for every subject (this was a shock to me as I only had one piece of homework a week in primary.) Now, I feel like I fit right in and I know my way around the building. I've joined lots of clubs, doing things I enjoy doing such as Lego club. I don't always get it right but I'm really happy to be at St Patrick's and I'm looking forward to the rest of year 7.

Y11 WORKING SKILLS DAY

Year 11 had their careers day back in September; great participation and excellent feedback about the behaviour and attitude of pupils. Year 11 also had their whole year photo in November, we were so pleased with their exceptional behaviour, which was reiterated by Tempest who said that they were the 'best year group they've worked with all year.' The pupils looked really smart and grown up. Well done Year 11!

BOLTON SCHOOL VISIT

In December, as part of the Chemistry GCSE syllabus, Year 10 visited the Bolton School who were hosting the Royal Society of Chemistry's Christmas lecture. Students received a presentation from Manchester University which was an extravaganza of sound and vision including exciting experiments. A great time had by all!



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL...

This year's school production of 'High School Musical' has now been cast and rehearsals are in full swing. The dates for the show are **11th-13th March 2024!**

Further details will follow in the New Year!



MYED APP

A reminder to all to download the 'Myed' App, it's the best way to keep up to date with school.

- Instant FREE messaging service to school - inform of absences, ask us questions
- Keep up to date with your child's attendance, achievements and behaviour
- Receive school reports
- Up to date school news
- Reduce paper - all letters are sent through the app



PORTICO LIBRARY VISIT - READING FOR PLEASURE

Pupils from both KS3 and KS4 were invited to attend a creative writing workshop at the infamous Portico Library, Manchester, this half term. This is the second trip St Patrick's pupils have made to the Victorian Library, which is famous for its collection of historic literature. Marie Basting, a local author, delivered a fascinating workshop on traditional folklore and fairy tales, including the Salford tale of St Ambrose Barlow's skull at Wardley Hall. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their morning, which included creating their own fairytale mash-up utilising the skills and knowledge Marie delivered in the session. These stories will be shared with the Library and Michelle O in Y10 has entered her story in the Sadie Massie Awards Competition, and we wish her lots of luck! We look forward to visiting again!



PARENTS' EVENING REMINDER

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at our Year 11 and Year 9 Parents' evenings in the New Year. Last year, 89% of our parents and carers attended. It would be wonderful to have 100% attendance and every pupil represented. These evenings are the perfect opportunity for you to ask any questions about your son/daughter's progress and also how you can best support them at home with their learning. Parents and school working together maximises the chances of your child becoming "the very best version of themselves".

Year 11 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 11th January and Year 9 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 1st February. Please make sure that you have made your appointments via our online booking system, [SchoolCloud](#).

GCSE AWARDS EVENING

On Thursday 7th December we welcomed the Class of 2023 back into school to collect their official GCSE Certificates, followed by an award ceremony to celebrate their achievements. It was lovely to see those pupils who have set the bar so high for St Patrick's and have moved on to exciting new places. This is always one of our favourite nights of the year and as always it was a great evening. We are so proud of all of you and wish you all the luck for the future!



HOW ST PATRICK'S MARKED ADVENT 2023...

The season of Advent is a very special invitation; an opportunity to sing praises and rejoice in the first coming of the Messiah, but also to prepare for the return of the King. The word Advent comes from the latin "adventus" meaning arrival. Advent therefore invites us to ponder the first coming of Christ and to look forward to his second.

- **The Travelling Nativity** offered all of Year 7 the chance to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. The focus on the Nativity story reminds us of the real nature of Mary and Joseph as Jesus' loving parents.
- **During PSHE-** week commencing 27th November, there were 2 opportunities to engage with the real meaning of Christmas. Firstly, a detailed examination of all the key elements which made up the journey to Bethlehem and secondly, a reminder of the messages behind the gift of our saviour.
- **Faith in Action** created the post communion reflection for the Year 10 first Friday Mass on 8th December, which was based on the theme of Advent.
- **The Advent Service** took place at Holy Cross Church, Patricroft on 20th December. Scripture was read by members of the Faith in Action Group, carols and soloists were prepared by Ms Waterhouse and Mr Steggles agreed to stage a short drama input.
- Year 8 Forms have lead **Wednesday prayers** in the Chapel, throughout Advent. Fr.Collins and Mr Lowrie have provided space for reflection in what is a busy school environment- a time for prayer is never a time wasted...

PARIS TRIP - OCTOBER HALF TERM

In October 50 pupils and 5 staff had the opportunity to visit one of the best cities in the world, Paris. During our time there we had the fortune of taking a boat ride down the river Seine to see some of Paris' wonderful monuments and stroll down one of the most famous avenues on the planet, the Champs-Élysées. After some free time and shopping pupils were treated to a lovely meal in a typical French café and then headed to the Montparnasse tower viewing point to see Paris at night (including the twinkling Eiffel Tower). The highlight of many pupils' trip was Disneyland Paris where everyone experienced the "happiest place on Earth". From the rollercoasters to the characters, and the castle to the fireworks, everyone had a blast. After such a successful trip, Paris 2024 is now in the pipeline. A massive thank you to all of the parents and the pupils whose behaviour and conduct was impeccable - even the waiters in the restaurant were impressed and commented on their politeness.



INCLUSIVE SPORTS

Mrs Shepherd has been very lucky to have taken 3 different groups of pupils to 3 different inclusion sports and festivals this term. On all three trips the pupils have actively engaged and been a credit to themselves as well as St Patrick's.

- **Panathlon Tenpin Bowling** - the group of Yr 7 pupils were very enthusiastic and loved their morning at the bowling alley. They all played fantastically with special mention to Niamh K who made in to the 100 club by scoring more than 100 points.
- **Panathlon Xtend** - the group of girls took an active part in all the different activities on offer and as the morning progressed it became more competitive. As a result of their efforts, they finished in bronze medal place - well done girls!
- **Salford Schools Inclusion Festival** - a big well done to the boys who represented St Patrick's at this event - again they all took an active part in all the different activities on offer and worked well as a team. They were able to experience new activities and games and applied their skills well.

We are really proud of all who took part in these events and look forward to more next term.



YEAR 11 TRIP TO BLACKPOOL

The Year 11 Drama class went to see a production of Shrek the Musical at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. They will be writing about the production for their GCSE exam and will be comparing it to the recorded version of the Broadway production.



THE CLEARING

Big Brum Theatre Company came in to school to deliver a PSHE and Drama performance that got students thinking about the effects of global warming and what is to be a caring and compassionate person. There were interactive elements to the performance. The company will be coming back to school in the new year with their production of Frankenstein.



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY



On Friday 15th December, Mr Hall's Hospitality and Catering students and Mr Steggles' Performing Arts students ran a successful Senior Citizens' Christmas party. During the event members of the local community were invited into school to enjoy a Christmas feast, there was entertainment and refreshments provided by the students, who represented the school very professionally and should be extremely proud of themselves. A very merry time was had by all. See you all again next year!



SPRING TERM BEHAVIOUR CURRICULUM "RE-BOOT"

This term we have had a number of school leaders from across the country visit St Patrick's. Our brilliant, hard-working, professional staff and our amazing pupils always leave a positive and lasting impression on our visitors.

At St Patrick's we work hard to ensure our pupils live out our five Catholic values and are equipped to become "the very best version of themselves".

Early in the spring term our Pastoral leaders will be identifying and rewarding pupils who meet "Super Pupil" status. These are the pupils who consistently arrive to school wearing their uniform with pride, who are prepared to learn and demonstrate an excellent learning attitude.

In order for your son/daughter to "hit the ground running" at the start of the Spring term, can you please ensure that they arrive back on Monday the 8th January 2024 prepared to become "the very best version of themselves".

We want all pupils to return after the Christmas Holidays:

- Punctual to school and arriving no later than 8.25am (bus issues permitting)
- Dressed in full complete uniform (please consult our website for details), this includes having a school bag capable of carrying multiple A4 books/revision guides. Coats if worn should be dark coloured and worn over the blazer
- Equipped to learn. This includes having pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, sharpener and a calculator. The student planner/diary that was given to every single pupil in September is also a compulsory piece of equipment that pupils are required to bring to school daily.

We appreciate so much the amazing, proactive support from our parents and look forward to a really positive and productive Spring term.



IN OTHER NEWS...



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



8th January - All students return to school
11th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening
22nd January - Year 9 DPT/MenACWY Catch Up Session
26th January - Year 11 Mock Interview Day
1st February - Year 9 Parents' Evening
5th February - Year 11 PPE's begin
16th February - School closes for Half Term at 3pm
Half Term - London Trip
26th February - School reopens to all
11th-13th March - School show (High School Musical)
21st March - Year 9 Options Evening
21st March - Shakespeare for Schools Festival
26th March - Year 11 Invite Only Parents' Evening
28th March - School Closes for Easter Break

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.



YEAR 11 YEARBOOK

Yearbooks are available to purchase on Scopay until Monday 8th January. The books will be produced by the pupils themselves with a collection of photos, memories and messages from staff and pupils in Y11. It's a great memento to mark the end of their time at St Patrick's.

YEAR 11 PROM

The Prom committee have also been working really hard to raise money for prom with things like Name the Pumpkin for Halloween and selling hot chocolates at break time.

SUPERSTAR TIA!

Back in October, our Year 9 student, Tia, represented St Patrick's in the Greater Manchester County Schools under 14 girls football team. It was the first match of the season and GMC were 5-1 victors against Cheshire County! Everyone is so incredibly proud of Tia for not only making the squad but also being picked as the number 1 keeper for the first league game. Keep up the hard work Tia and you will go far!



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has helped to support our collections for the Wood Street Mission and Caritas' day centre, Cornerstone. With your help, we were able to take positive steps to make sure that people in our local area were supported. Thank you for putting our Catholic faith into action to show goodwill to all. We are so proud of our school community!

C1 FORMS

We must have a C1 form for every student in order for them to attend a school trip.

[Download a copy here](#)

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