



# ST PATRICK'S NEWS

APRIL 2025



What a busy term! We have squeezed so much into the time since we returned after Christmas that it is hard to remember everything we have achieved as a school community!

I always start my highlights of the term with Year 11 so this time I will start with Year 7! All Year 7 forms have been on a retreat to the Spiritan Centre this year to enhance their spiritual growth and bond as a form group. We had excellent feedback both from the children and from the centre about our pupils and how maturely they engaged with the day. Well done to Year 7 for settling so well and becoming a great part of our school. Only last week we had fundraising 'colourful walks' whereby pupils dressed in bright colours and walked around the perimeter of the school to raise money for CAFOD. Year 7 were the most enthusiastic! Special shout-out to Mrs Moran's form who resembled a rainbow!!!

Year 9 are at a crossroads and are choosing their GCSE subjects in preparation for Year 10/11. We have been so impressed with how mature children have been in thinking about their future and weighing up all their options. Particularly pleasing has been over-hearing children talk so ambitiously about challenging themselves to their parents. We are excited to see how Year 9 adapt to their GCSE courses in September and we trust that they will be yet another high flying year group.

Year 10 is a year group full of character and Mr Hindmarch is moulding them into a great bunch. They are lively and fun and enjoy their time at school and we can tell they are ready to step up into the top spot as soon as our Year 11 leave!

Year 8 are really leading the way on uniform standards. When they walked into assembly this week they were a sight to behold! As we always say to pupils, it is easy to start well but much harder to end the term looking just as smart. Well done to Year 8, Year form tutors, Mr Elliot and Mrs Billington for such a team effort!

Last but not least, our lovely Year 11! What a lovely year group, full of funny, kind, sparky and selfless young people. They are working so hard ahead of their GCSEs and we are so proud of them. Between the PPEs (mock exams) in November and those in February they progressed so much; a testament to their dedication and trust in the staff who love teaching them so much. They will begin their GCSE exams two weeks after Easter-we are keeping them in our prayers and willing them on.

All year groups have now taken part in sessions on study skills. In these sessions, pupils were taught how to use a study schedule and how to revise using techniques such as flash cards and mind maps. Mrs Jones led on this and was very impressed with how well pupils engaged. We hope this will support children to complete homework and revision to a very high standard and help them achieve their potential.



As you may have noticed through the information sent home to you, we have changed the way we track your child's progress. Ms O'Hagan is leading this important work and we are confident our new systems will push all children to be the very best they can be. Thank you to the parents who came to the parent forum and gave valuable feedback on this and other areas of school to help us improve.

As ever, there are too many amazing things that have happened this spring term to mention. However, I would like to highlight a few things we are particularly proud of:

**Year 11 mock interviews:** our children blew the interviewers away with their preparedness, their articulation and their warmth. Thank you to Miss Mainwaring for leading on this and to the volunteer interviewers from various industries (some of the parents/families of pupils) who gave up their time to give our children a valuable experience.

**Michael Wheeler, MP for Eccles and Worsley, visit:** Michael kindly joined us for an afternoon to tell us about his role as an MP and participate in a Question Time session. We felt so proud of the children involved and asking questions, many of whom would not typically put themselves forward to speak in this forum. So many children shone and showed they had such political and social awareness; their Catholic education shone through as they asked questions about protecting those less fortunate and ensuring politicians serve the most vulnerable in society best.

Speaking of politics, our very own head girl, Betws Redgrave, was successful in being elected Salford's next Youth Mayor. We are so proud of Betws and how she is prepared to serve others. We can rely on Betws as if she is a member of staff! She is a wonderful asset to our school and to Salford and she has set the bar very high for pupils at St Patrick's.

**Ski trip to Italy:** Mr Challoner led a group of 60 pupils to experience life on the slopes during February half term. As predicted the children were a credit to us and the staff commented on how amazing the children were and what a pleasure it was to spend time with them. Thank you to the staff who gave up their half term to ski - Mrs Shepherd, Miss McCulloch, Miss Brannagan, Mr Ingram and Mr Joy (who didn't ski but minded everyone's bags and waved at those skiing past!) Mr Challoner has finally capitulated and organised a ski trip for next year to Austria, despite saying he wasn't running one next year. We also have a Paris trip for Y7-9 led by Mr Bessonies for next Easter planned-we are so lucky to have staff willing to put in extra time to organise such fantastic experiences.

Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers for your support. Because of you working with us (even when you don't necessarily always agree with us!) we achieve the following every day:

- a super smart school
- children who are in school learning, even if they have the sniffles (we are top in Salford for attendance)
- children who behave well and value their education and the adults who help them (we have the lowest suspension rates in Salford)
- a school community that follows in the footsteps of Christ by serving others

Have a happy and holy Easter. We will see all pupils at 8.25am on Tuesday 22nd April.

Mrs Byrne



## Y7 FORM CHAPLAINS LEAD THE WAY WITH INSPIRING PRAYER BOARDS

Year 7 Form Chaplains have taken a meaningful step in fostering spiritual growth within our community. Each form has been working hard to create vibrant and engaging prayer boards, designed to serve as a central space for morning prayer and reflection.

These prayer boards are more than just decorative displays; they are a testament to our students' commitment to their faith and to supporting one another in prayer. Every morning, students will use their prayer board to share intentions, read scripture, and offer words of encouragement. The boards feature a variety of elements, including prayer requests, inspirational quotes, Bible verses, and student-created reflections.

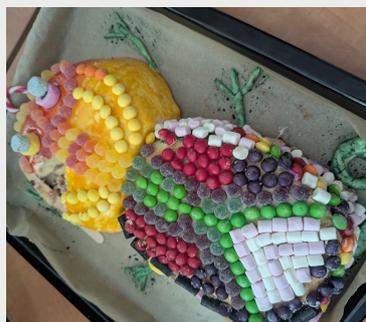
By establishing these sacred spaces within their classrooms, our Year 7 Form Chaplains are helping to cultivate an environment of faith, unity, and mindfulness. The initiative encourages students to take ownership of their spiritual journey, fostering a habit of prayer that extends beyond the school setting. We are incredibly proud of the creativity and dedication shown by our young chaplains. Their efforts remind us all of the power of collective prayer and the importance of having a dedicated space to focus our hearts and minds each day.

We look forward to seeing how these prayer boards continue to evolve throughout the year, inspiring both students and staff alike. Well done to our Year 7 Form Chaplains for leading this beautiful initiative!



## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

From 10th-14th March, we celebrated British Science week focussing on the theme 'adapt and change'. All students took part in Science activities in form times, including the design of their own adaptations in life and exploring future developments in Science. We also held a quiz competition in forms, the 'Great Science Bake Off' and Science club investigations. Well done to quiz winner 9AJ and our bake off winners!



## MATHS FEAST

8 of our pupils competed in this year's Maths Feast competition which drew on and challenged pupils' problem solving and reasoning skills. Well done to one of our Year 10 teams who won the competition!



## MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

In January, our Year 11 pupils took part in our annual Mock Interview Day. A number of visitors from external agencies came into St Patrick's to provide students with a valuable opportunity to practice and refine their interview skills in a simulated environment, helping them prepare for future job interviews. We received excellent feedback from our interviewers. Well done Year 11 and thank you to our visitors on the day!

## WORLD BOOK DAY

The staff had a roaring (20s!) time dressing up as flappers and dandies for our Great Gatsby theme for World Book Day! We even remained in full costume for Y9 parents' evening!



## ST PATRICK'S DAY

On Monday 17th March, our school community came together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a special Mass at Holy Cross Church. Students and staff walked in unity to the church, embracing the spirit of the occasion.

The Mass was a beautiful and meaningful celebration, filled with prayer, music, and reflection on the life and legacy of St. Patrick.

Everyone participated with great reverence, making it a truly special event for all. Well done everyone!

## PILGRIMS OF HOPE

To celebrate this year's Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope, Year 10 Core PE classes have been choreographing their own dances to interpret the words from CAFOD's Jubilee song. We have seen fantastic group work and individual performances - well done!



## NEW WEBSITE

On Friday 10th January, we launched our brand new website! We would like to draw parents attention to the new curriculum pages where you will find all the important information about what your child will be learning this year. These pages include overviews of each subject, the exam boards and the knowledge organisers. Happy browsing!

## TIME OUT CLUB

Miss Sequeira will be launching our new mindfulness & wellbeing club: Time Out, after the Easter holidays. It will be open for all years on a Wednesday and Thursday 3-4 pm. There will be a max capacity of 10 pupils per session. Sessions include mindset workshops, team-building activities, arts and crafts, and more. Each Monday, the session topic for the following week will be in form notices. To attend, they must tell their form teacher or inform me by the Thursday before the session. Spaces are first come, first served. Selected students will be notified on the Friday and reminded on Monday. If they don't get a spot they will have priority the following week. Please speak to Miss Sequeira for more information.



## YEAR 11 LEAVERS' HOODIES

The deadline to purchase a Year 11 Leavers Hoody is **Sunday, 6th April!** Don't miss out! Visit <https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/> and enter the code **26948YR11**

The online shop will close on this date and no further orders can be placed.



## NEW MENU

Over the last two half terms a handful of pupils from each year group have been helping in designing the school menus with our catering team. We've had two menu sampling days where the pupils tasted and rated new food ideas, such as chicken chow mein, mac & cheese, beef tacos and teriyaki chicken, plus a range of tasty desserts. It's been a really fun time for them and they were all eager to have such an important role in the development of our school meals.

The new exciting menu is now more inclusive for our pupils and staff with special dietary needs too, offering a wider variety of gluten free and dairy free options, plus more vegetarian dishes. The new menu will go live after the Easter break and will run until the end of the school year.

We will be running more events like this towards the end of the school year, as we plan our winter menu too.

## PRIMARY VISITS

Year 9 pupils were delighted to return to their wonderful primary schools, St Joseph the Worker and St Mary's, to speak to Year 3 about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to answer their fantastic questions about what life is like at secondary school. Thank you for having us!



# FAITH IN ACTION: INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Faith in Action continues to make a profound impact on our community, bringing young people together to explore and deepen their faith through meaningful projects. Recently, we have had the privilege of collaborating with Year 5 pupils from our feeder primary schools in a creative and reflective journey of faith.

As part of this initiative, the pupils have worked diligently to design and construct their own unique Stations of the Cross. Through art, prayer, and reflection, they have brought these stations to life, each one representing a key moment in Christ's Passion. This project has not only strengthened their understanding of the Easter story but has also given them the opportunity to express their faith in a deeply personal and creative way. The result is a powerful, student-led series of reflective stations that will be prayed and displayed throughout the feeder primaries, offering a space for prayer and contemplation for all.

In addition to this inspiring work, we are delighted to announce the launch of the new Faith in Action Award, accredited by the Salford Diocese. This award aims to encourage and recognise the commitment of young people who actively live out their faith through service, prayer, and reflection. It provides a structured pathway for pupils to deepen their relationship with God while making a tangible difference in their communities. By engaging in acts of kindness, supporting charitable causes, and taking part in faith-based initiatives, students will work towards different levels of accreditation, gaining a deeper sense of purpose and discipleship. Please see Miss Dickinson if you want to start your bronze award!

The Faith in Action Award will serve as a beacon of encouragement for our young people, inspiring them to put their faith into practice and develop a lifelong commitment to service and spiritual growth. We look forward to rewarding pupils and celebrating all that they have already achieved, as well as seeing the many ways in which our students will rise to the challenge, using their gifts and talents to make a difference in the world around them.

V

## Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (Kneel)  
Response: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)



Scripture: Mark 15:21  
And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Reflection: we think the station represents friendship.  
Think of a time you have been a good friend.  
Think of a time when you have hurt someone physically or mentally.  
How can we help others to be good friends?

Prayer: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be



XII

## Jesus Dies on the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (Kneel)  
Response: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)



Scripture: Luke 23:44-46  
It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Reflection:  
How would you feel if you were Jesus?  
Why did you feel that they killed Jesus?  
How would you feel if you were Jesus?  
Why did people let this happen?  
How would you feel if you were Jesus's mother?  
How would you feel if you had thought Jesus's Plan?

Prayer: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be

## YEAR 7 RETREATS TO SAVIO HOUSE - BUILDING BRIDGES

Our Year 7 students recently embarked on their retreat to Savio House, where they explored the theme of bridges—not just physical ones, but the connections we build with each other and with God.

Throughout the day, students took part in exciting team-building activities, strengthening friendships and learning the value of trust and collaboration. They also had moments for personal reflection, thinking about their own journey and the bridges they wish to build in their lives. Lunch on the astro and time in the games room provided a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company.

The retreat concluded with a meaningful service led by the volunteers at Savio House, bringing the day's theme to life through prayer and reflection. It was a day of growth, connection, and faith—one that we hope will stay with our students as they continue their journey through school.



## NEW TEACHER INTERVIEW



**I teach...** With a First Class Degree in Computer Science and a Post Graduate Degree in education, I specialise at St Patrick's in Computer Science. I am the Computer Science Lead and Whole School ICT Lead.

**Life before St Patrick's...** I had a career in the private sector where for over 20 years I was managing software teams around the world. I have been fortunate enough to travel extensively and work on some very exciting digital projects. Some of the clients that you may know are Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, McDonalds, Amazon, Walmart among hundreds of others over the years... You have likely used one of the software applications I was involved in designing and delivering!

**How I've found my time at St Patrick's...** I have loved it! Teaching is such a worthwhile career and getting to know the students at St Patrick's and being involved in their learning journey has been wonderful, we have some great characters at St Patrick's who I know will go on and achieve amazing things!

**My best learning tip...**

- The best way to predict your future is to create it... starting with today's homework..
- Life's like a web browser - sometimes you need to close a few tabs to stay focused on what matters

**Something interesting about me...**

- Every year I set myself a physical challenge, for the last 3 years I have done an Ultra Challenge, sometimes 2 in a year! Before this I have jumped out of an aeroplane, ran 2 marathons, completed many crazy tough mudders, spent a week in an army bootcamp (by far the hardest thing I have ever done!) and completed many charity events.
- On a Monday evening, I volunteer at a Foodbank. I also volunteer once a month at a School Uniform Network shop in Warrington where pre loved uniforms are donated and handed back out to those in need.
- I am currently studying for my Masters Degree in Education outside of school

## LONDON TRIP

Our school trip to London was an unforgettable adventure filled with culture, entertainment, and exploration.

On Monday, we set off bright and early, excited for the journey ahead. Our first stop was the V&A Museum, where we admired an incredible collection of theatre props and costumes from famous shows and movies. Next, we explored Covent Garden, soaking in the lively street performances and indulging in some shopping. After a delicious dinner at Pizza Express, we headed to the theatre to watch Moulin Rouge. The singing, dancing, and stunning set design made for a truly spectacular show!



Tuesday was a day of art and sightseeing. We started at the Tate Modern, exploring its impressive exhibitions before strolling along London's Southbank, where we took in iconic landmarks like Big Ben, the London Eye, and Tower Bridge. A tasty meal at Las Iguanas fueled us for the evening's highlight – Stranger Things: The Play. The show's mind-blowing special effects left everyone in awe!

Our final day, Wednesday, took us to the Natural History Museum, where we were fascinated by the incredible dinosaur displays. We then had time to shop and explore Leicester Square before embarking on the long journey home.

Overall, the trip was an amazing experience filled with learning, fun, and unforgettable memories. We can't wait for the next one!

## SCHOOL RESET

School reopens on Tuesday 22nd April. Pupils will line up in Forms on the yard at 8.25am. Please ensure your son/daughter is in School by 8.25am and is in full uniform and in possession of all equipment. Pupils with full equipment and in full uniform with no corrections will receive Achievement Points from their Form Tutor. As we move to the summer term, jumpers are no longer compulsory but pupils are expected to have their shirt tucked in at all times.

## YEAR 10 PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT



## CLASS CHARTS

Thank you to all our parents and carers for the positive support you have given the school and your participation in any surveys that have been requested this term.

As we further integrate and use Class Charts as our communication method to parents and carers, we wanted to inform you that when we return on Tuesday 22nd April that all staff will be using the "Detentions setting" function on Class Charts.



Detentions can have varying lengths including 15min/30mins/45mins or 1 hour. These are mainly during the school day but can also be after school. The different detention lengths allow for escalation/upscaling should a pupil not attend an original detention but also allow the staff to differentiate based on what type of behaviour has warranted the detention in the 1st place.

We would kindly request that you support the school if your child receives a detention as specified in the School's Home School Agreement. Staff receive no pleasure in issuing detentions or sanctions but it is crucial part of the School's Behaviour policy and needed if a pupil displays "misbehaviour". This also enables opportunities for restorative conversations between the teacher and pupil with the aim of improving behaviour.

It is the pupil's responsibility to ensure they attend any detention that may have been set. Non-attendance to a detention will be "Upscaled" by the teacher.

Feel free to communicate with the School should you have any feedback on the use of Class Charts regarding detentions.

Finally, please try to engage with your son/daughter at least twice a week about Homework deadlines, their Behaviour "Wheel" and if relevant, engage with them in discussion about detentions they may have received. Pupils should also be accessing Class Charts daily to ensure they keep on top of any homework deadlines.

If you require access to Class Charts, please contact school on [stpatricks.rchighschool@salford.gov.uk](mailto:stpatricks.rchighschool@salford.gov.uk) and we will be able to provide you with your access code.

Thank you for your continued support!

### Train to teach here

Every child deserves an amazing teacher

A school led provider with Liverpool Hope University





## GREATER MANCHESTER INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

THE ST PATRICK'S CENTRE OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



*Become the teacher that you want to be with our expert support and help*



**Apply for courses**

We are proud to develop the next generation of teachers with our train to teach local offer



Our trainees graduate with:

- QTS
- PGCE
- Masters Credits



A commitment to face to face learning delivered by experts



Two placement schools giving you the opportunity to develop and embed your practice



A supportive family training experience that works. Make contacts that last for your entire career

## LENTEN WALKS FOR CAFOD

This Lent, pupils were once again raising money for CAFOD by walking around the perimeter of the school grounds, as fast as they could (no running was allowed!) Pupils and their form tutors were dressed in colourful attire-see the photos. There were prizes for the fastest and most colourful forms.

Well done all year groups who fully got into the competitive spirit of things as well as giving a donation to CAFOD on the day, and especially to Year 7, who although new to this event, really excelled in their outfits!



## SKI TRIP TO PINZOLO

As we welcome the Easter break, we look back on an incredible February half-term ski trip to Pinzolo, Italy! It was a week filled with adventure, excitement, and plenty of snow, as our students took to the slopes to develop their skiing skills and create unforgettable memories.

Each day began with morning ski lessons led by expert instructors, helping everyone - from beginners to seasoned skiers - to improve their technique and confidence. After working up an appetite, the group enjoyed a well-earned lunch in the beautiful mountain surroundings before heading back out for another session on the slopes in the afternoon. The progress made throughout the week was fantastic, with many students achieving personal milestones and mastering new challenges.

But the fun didn't stop there! Evenings at the hotel were packed with activities. From relaxing in the swimming pool to gliding across the ice rink, there was always something to enjoy. Friendly hotel challenges brought out everyone's competitive side, while the highlight for many was the much-anticipated karaoke night - an evening of music, laughter and some truly unforgettable performances!

A huge thankyou to all the staff, instructors, and students who made this trip a success. Your enthusiasm, resilience, and team spirit were truly inspiring. We can't wait for the next adventure!



## PAT'S PANTRY

We are pleased to have recently launched Pat's Pantry, our very own food and household essentials provision (food bank) for our school community.

Our Faith in Action pupils are collecting donations and managing the stock in our pantry to ensure we have sufficient supplies of everything to support anyone in our school community who feels that they may benefit from this.

We have a range of dry and tinned food that make up complete meals, plus sauces, drinks and snacks available, as well as toiletries, cleaning products and baby food.

Pat's Pantry will be open on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th April from 10am - 2pm for anyone who needs to use it (or would like to donate anything). Please pop in the school during these times and ask for Mrs Lynch.

If you would like anything from Pat's Pantry during school term, please see the poster for the contact details.

This is a confidential provision and a friendly helping hand to anyone who needs it.

# PAT'S PANTRY

Food and Household Essentials Provision



If you need anything from Pat's Pantry, please contact Mrs Lynch on  
0161 921 2308 [victoria.lynch@salford.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.lynch@salford.gov.uk)

Donations kindly requested, please drop off at reception  
St Patrick's RC High School, 56 New Lane, M30 7JJ

# IN OTHER NEWS...



## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**4th April** - School Closes for Easter Break  
**22nd April** - School reopens to all students and staff  
**23rd April** - MFL Speaking Exams begin  
**28th April** - 3D Design Exam begins  
**30th April** - Art & Photography Exam  
**2nd May** - Year 10 First Friday Mass  
**5th May** - Bank Holiday  
**6th May** - GCSE Exams begin  
**12th May** - Year 7 Assessment Week  
**14th May** - Pendleton Theatre Trip  
**19th May** - Year 9 Assessment Week  
**23rd May** - School closes for half term at 3pm  
**2nd June** - School reopens to all students and staff  
**2nd June** - Year 10 Exams begin  
**4th June** - Year 8 Castlerigg Manor Trip  
**13th June** - Year 10 College Taster Day  
**16th June** - Year 10 Work Experience begins  
**25th June** - Year 11 Leavers' Mass  
**25th June** - New Year 11 Information Evening  
**26th June** - Year 6 Transition Days  
**26th June** - Year 6 Transition Evening  
**2nd July** - Mission Day  
**3rd July** - Year 11 Prom  
**4th July** - Year 7 First Friday Mass  
**8th-10th July** - School Production  
**11th July** - Sports Day - subject to weather  
**15th July** - Year 9 & 10 Award Ceremony  
**16th July** - Year 7 & 8 Award Ceremony  
**18th July** - School closes for summer at 1pm

## YOUNG WRITERS ANTHOLOGY

6 of our Y7 pupils entered a national poetry competition and all 6 have been selected as national finalists and are getting their poems published! They'll be published in the Young Writers Anthology which will be released in the summer. It is really rare that so many would get published but their poems were just so impressive they decided to publish them all! Well done to Connie, Sophie, Ella, Florence, Winny and Oliver!

## LUCY-KATE BRINGS THE SPIRIT!

Lucy-Kate in form 7VMR is off to Orlando Florida to represent England at the ICU World Cheerleading Championships as part of Team England Special Abilities Unified Pom Team. They are a team of disabled and non disabled athletes competing as one team against other countries. Good luck Lucy-Kate!



## STAFF UPDATES

We are sad to be saying goodbye to following staff members who are leaving us for pastures new:

**Mrs Linda Parker - LRC Manager** - who is retiring after 25 years at St Patrick's as our School Librarian and LRC Manager. Her love and passion for reading has supported and encouraged hundreds of pupils. In retirement, she is looking forward to holidaying in Greece, gardening and walking her dogs. A kind and softly spoken lady who will be greatly missed! Wishing you great enjoyment and pleasure for the 'new chapter' of your life.

**Mrs Cath Smith - Teaching Assistant** - who is leaving us after 17 years to spend more time with her beautiful family and put her feet up! We will miss her kind heart and infectious laugh. Enjoy your new beginnings!

**Miss Chloe Jolly - Teaching Assistant** - has been with us since January 2021. She is a much loved teaching assistant and will be missed by all as she heads to pastures new at another school.

We are excited to be welcoming our new business manager, **Mrs Jennifer Sykes**, to the St Patrick's team.

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](mailto:stpatricks.rchighschool@salford.gov.uk)