

ST PATRICK'S NEWS

DECEMBER 2022



As the end of the Autumn term draws near, we wanted to share with you all of the amazing things that have been happening at St. Patrick's. It has been a long, busy, fun-filled term, with lots of opportunities for our wonderful pupils to shine. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Our new Year 7s have settled in so well and are really part of the furniture now; the best part of my week this term has been when I have been back in the classroom, teaching every Year 7 class an RE lesson. It has been fantastic to meet them all and they are making St. Patrick's very proud.

All of our pupils have worked incredibly hard this term and it has been a pleasure to see them responding so well to our Behaviour Curriculum and wanting to be the very best version of themselves. Your support ensuring that pupils have a bag, the right uniform and are fully equipped for school is really appreciated; we are running a stationery shop before school for pupils who run out of equipment as well.

School reopens to all pupils on Monday 9th January and we look forward to seeing everyone bright and early at 8.25am; punctuality to school is so important because Form time is when we get organised for the day and ensure key messages are shared. It also prepares pupils for life beyond St. Patrick's. Thank you for sending your child to school and teaching them to be resilient when they have minor illnesses; we've had lots of coughs and sniffles this term and there will probably be more in the new year. Being in school means they do not miss vital learning and if we think they are too unwell to be here, we will let you know.

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 and their parents for Parents' Evening on Thursday 12th January; this is their final Parents' Evening at St. Patrick's and is a really essential opportunity to get that one-on-one staff feedback as they begin the rundown to their examinations.

Finally, we say goodbye to a few members of staff at this time of year

Mr Pete Gregory – teacher of PE who leaves us to pursue a career in long-distance driving.

Mrs Janine Gannon – teacher of English who has chosen to leave teaching.

Mrs Nikki Sterry – teacher of Science who leaves us to become a paramedic.

We wish them all the best in their new endeavours and know they will stay in touch to let us know how they are getting on.

Wishing you a happy, holy and safe Christmas,

God bless,

Ms Gráinne O'Hagan
Acting Headteacher

BISHOP JOHN VISIT *Written by Abigail Eboda*

On Thursday October 5th, Bishop John Arnold visited St Patrick's. It was an amazing experience, where the bishop talked about his childhood and life as a bishop. The Faith in Action group were very well behaved and were very respectful towards the Bishop, they contributed their time to show off their amazing presentations such as plans for a possible prayer garden and how St Patrick's Day was successful. Bishop John was so impressed with how calm, engaged and confident our students were as he toured around the building. Thank you for visiting us and we hope to see you again soon.



NEW TEACHER INTERVIEW - MR HOY



I teach...

I am the Head of Music and hold a Bachelor of Music (Music Education)(Hons) from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and a Master of Education from Monash University. I am currently undertaking further study, this time with a focus on School Management and Leadership through Harvard University. I have greatly enjoyed starting up several new ensembles since arriving at St Patrick's and enjoy making music with and for others.

Life before St Patrick's...

I was the Head of Performing Arts at Tara Anglican School for Girls in Sydney for the last 9 years. Previously I was the Head of Student Leadership and Teacher in Charge of Music at Rosebank College for 8 years and have also taught at St. Clare's College, Waverley.

How I've found my first term at St Patrick's...

I have really enjoyed it as it has given me an opportunity to pass on my love of music to others. I am committed to instilling in students a passion for lifelong learning and St Patrick's is a place where this is possible for all. I'm excited about developing and implementing teaching and learning experiences across the curriculum that are characterised by engagement, active learning and the transformation of knowledge.

My best learning tip....

The pain of effort is far less than the pain of regret!

Something interesting about me....

I have acted in a film that won first prize at the Montréal World Film Festival.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE...

This year's school production of 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' has now been cast and rehearsals are in full swing. There is a team of students attending props club to make things for the show too! The dates for the show are **8th-10th March 2023!** Further details will follow in the New Year!



NATIONAL POETRY DAY 2022

This term, St. Patrick's pupils enjoyed celebrating National Poetry Day, which focused on the theme of the **environment**. Pupils read poems with messages that can change the world and then using poetic devices and imaginative vocabulary wrote their own poems, entitled: Poems for the planet. A group of talented pupils submitted their poems to the Power of Poetry Competition by Young Writers. The team were really impressed with these poems and will be publishing them in a book, which will be available to lend from the school's LRC.

Adrian's (Y9) poem was celebrated via the St. Patrick's Newspaper!

Well done to all pupils involved.
Mrs Tandy-Hall



BEBRAS CHALLENGE 2022

In November all of our KS3 pupils took part in the annual Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. This was completed during their Computing lessons and our pupils went head-to-head with other pupils across the Country. The pupils had to solve computational problems by thinking in a logical and analytical way. There were a number of our pupils who scored in the top 10% of the Country and these will be invited to participate in the **2023 Oxford University Computing Challenge** in January 2023 (this will be done online from school). The pupils who achieved the Gold Award were:

- Daniel Popielarczyk
- Igor Campbell
- Isaac Glynn-Atkins
- Lottie Canty
- Eva Knight
- Evie Errington
- Jasmine Vaflor
- Maria Sage
- Vincent Ogbechie
- Maxx Twohig
- Casey Ramos
- Isaac Lau
- Luke Llenos
- Nicholas Kou

Well done to all involved!
Mrs McKinlay-Boyle

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Sandra Baranowska and Helena Goluchowska from 8NE accompanied Miss Davis and Miss Wainwright to the Peel Green War Memorial service and represented our school by each doing a Bible reading as part of the service. As a school we all gathered together for a whole school assembly to pay our respects. Everyone was extremely respectful and made us so proud.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October marked Black History Month and this year the focus was on 'making a stand'. We celebrated it in many different ways at St Patrick's – both across the school and in the History department. Pupils engaged brilliantly with our form time activities, and many of our pupils and staff were showcased in videos discussing the many ways that people of colour have impacted our lives and have changed the world that we live in. Mr Hall and his Y10 catering class cooked up a storm and allowed us to sample some amazing food from around the world, which went down a treat! There were opportunities for budding writers and artists to show off, with creative writing and design a badge competitions encouraging pupils to really think about Black History and this year's theme. In History, all Y7 and 8 pupils took part in a scavenger hunt, finding out information about some incredible people from across many different fields – from presidents, to musicians, to astronauts! We learnt a lot, and enjoyed ourselves doing it – and will take away from it that anyone can make a difference.



YEAR 7 - MY FIRST TERM *Written by Grace Hamblett*

My first term at St. Patrick's has been great, I have been able to do lots of new things, some I didn't even think were real! I have joined multiple clubs like Cinema club, Faith In Action (FIA), Lego Club and I even tried choir but it wasn't for me. Most Wednesdays I will go to the chapel to do a 10-15 minute mass with Fr. Martin. I do miss my Primary school, however St. Patrick's has allowed me to become involved in Faith In Action since I wasn't picked to be a chaplain at Primary School. The lesson I have enjoyed the most so far is RE since Mrs. Mellet has helped me to understand something I don't get.

MOBILE PHONES UPDATE



We are really pleased with the way in which students have adapted to life at St. Patrick's without mobile phones. We are seeing much more face to face communication, interactive games being played during unstructured times and engagement in co-curricular activities. Just a reminder that if a pupil is seen on their mobile phone it will be confiscated in the first instance and handed back at the end of the day. A second sighting within a half-term will result in a parent/guardian having to come to collect the phone from reception, and persistent offenders will be escalated via their Heads of Year. We really appreciate your support on this and the improvements in pupils' interactions with each other, and mental health, is clear to see.

CLEAVLEY COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

St Patrick's have nominated a number of students from Years 7-11 to take part in group-working activities led by the Salford Youth Service at Cleavley's Community Forest Garden on the Worsley Road. All students who took part in the sessions last week thoroughly enjoyed it and are now looking forward to the next session in the New Year.



PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

The head of Performing Arts from Loreto College came in to school at the end of November to deliver some Drama workshops with our Year 10 and 11 pupils. The Year 10s created some physical theatre taking inspiration from the national theatre company Frantic Assembly. The Year 11s did a workshop on scripted performance. Our visitor wanted to pass on how well behaved and engaged all the students were with the workshops and said that we have a lot of talent here at St. Patrick's!

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



We held our annual Christmas Card design competition for KS3 pupils again recently. There were so many fantastic entries and it was hard to choose which designs to print. We managed to shortlist 14 designs, 5 of which were printed. We chose 2 designs for our internal colleagues and the remaining three were printed and sent to our external friends, governors, other schools and to the senior citizens who came to our Christmas party. All 14 pupils received a selection box and a special shamrock pin badge from the headteacher, and the winners received a their card which was printed and framed.

FRENCH GCSE STUDY MORNING: LA COUR DE BABEL

Twenty of our GCSE pupils were selected to attend a GCSE study morning, led by Isabelle Vanderschelden, Independent film scholar and Educator, co-founder of Filta (Film in Language Teaching Association) and founder member of the Flame research group.

The morning offered students an opportunity to see a recent French film featuring young people from different backgrounds who have just arrived in France, and need to learn French, before they can join the mainstream education system.

Before the film began, relevant background information was discussed, in English and French, to help the pupils gain a broader understanding of the film's context.

After the screening, the pupils engaged in a university style seminar discussion around the characters and the themes of the film, including identity, migration and education. The pupils made exceptional contributions to the seminar and really demonstrated the high standards expected of a St Patrick's Pupil.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Monday 26th September St Patrick's celebrated European day of languages with a range of events for our pupils. It was a wonderful day where our pupils were invited to share experiences and learn more about the different countries, cultures and languages that one can find across the continent. A highlight for many of our pupils was the visit from 'Feel the Heat', a salsa dance company based in the North West. Through the Spanish language, pupils learnt a variety of individual and partner Salsa dance moves, culminating in a final routine that could feature on Strictly Come Dancing! ¡Bravo, chicos!



LIBRARY UPDATE

Our library has had an amazing first Term since September. We have had some exciting new books come in, from adventure to sci fi, comedy to mysteries. We have also had the Half Price Book Fair which, as usual, has been a huge success. The book fair not only gets the pupils engaged in reading but also allows us to gain more books for our library so everyone can share the reward of reading. Over the last 12 days of the school term we have been making suggestions for 'the 12 Books before Christmas' each one with a Christmassy theme.

Since opening to all year groups every break and lunchtime we have been very busy. Monday lunchtime Club has become Reading Champions Quiz Club, and we are hoping to enter 2 groups into the national competition in March. On Wednesday's we host Manga Club and various other creative competitions throughout the week. Please come along and join the fun!





SCIENCE NEWS

Science Club on a Monday and Year 11 intervention on a Thursday have both had excellent attendance and we are so proud of everyone involved.

We have also recently taken Year 10 students on a trip to the Royal Society of Chemistry flash bang show at Bolton Grammar school to showcase exciting and engaging Chemistry experiments.



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Friday 16th December, Mr Hall's Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students, Mrs Billington's Dance Troupe and Mr Hoy's Choir planned and ran a Christmas party for local members of the community. It was a hugely successful event with nearly 100 people attending, including one very special visitor! 🎅 Service to others is a key part of our Catholic Mission and it was lovely to entertain the senior citizens of our community and spread our Christmas spirit. See you again next year!



GCSE AWARDS EVENING



On Thursday 8th December we welcomed the Class of 2022 back into school to collect their official GCSE Certificates in a formal ceremony. We then hosted an awards presentation to celebrate their achievements from last year. 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. They all looked so grown up and we are very proud of them!

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This term we have taken part in Anti-bullying Week which started with Odd Socks Day to raise awareness. Thank you to everyone who took part and donated.

Our Year 11 ambassadors, Julia Adamarek and Neve Pollard, did a fantastic job delivering anti-bullying assemblies and current ambassadors from all years were on duty at lunch times to speak to students with concerns. St Patrick's is a member of the Anti-bullying Alliance and is working towards becoming a gold accredited school this academic year. Pupils are completing a whole school online survey which will be analysed and plans put into action in the upcoming months. Work has been completed in form around respect and bullying ensuring that there are clear links between personal, social and health education, citizenship, religious education and other curriculum areas. Anti-bullying ambassadors in each year group will receive updated training to support peers and meet regularly to monitor any concerns.

Pupils who witness or who are victims of bullying can speak any member of staff they are comfortable with, designated pastoral staff are Pastoral Leads, Head of Years and Form Tutors. Alternatively email: Bullyingstpats@salford.gov.uk



Bullying in any form is always unacceptable. Staff and Governors at St Patrick's accept the definition:

'The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face to face or online.'

Please click this [link](#) to read the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

LONDON TRIP OCTOBER HALF TERM

In the October Half Term, Mr Steggles ran a trip to London.

London was such a great experience. On Day 1 we spent time in Regents Park before visiting Madame Tussauds and saw many of our favourite actors, actresses, musicians and influencers as wax figures which was really exciting, they were so realistic, it was almost like meeting them in person.

On Day 2 we saw many of London's famous landmarks on a river Thames cruise and we also learnt about some of London's most amazing historical stories from our tour guide. After that we were able to do our own thing in Covent Garden before making our way to the meal at Pizza Express and watching Wicked at the Apollo Theatre in the West End. Finally, on Day 3 we visited the Tate Modern and saw loads of amazing and unique pieces of art. After that we were allowed to tour London on our own, during this time many took the opportunity to shop, visit places like m&m world or have a drink in a cafe.

Written by Sophia Wilson Year 10



HOW ST PATRICK'S MARKED ADVENT 2022...

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** reflection offers all Form teachers the chance to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. Heads of Year distributed the models of the crib/prayer role play provided by the Technology Dept. The focus on the Nativity story reminds us of the real nature of Mary and Joseph as Jesus' loving parents.
- **During PSHE-** week commencing 28th 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 2nd December, which was based on the theme of Advent. Special thanks to Betws Redgrave and Katie Ratcliffe, alongside Munachi Unagha, Zak Crooks, Kaci Chalmers and Harry McAuley who all performed with great maturity alongside the Year 10 Readers.
- The Advent Service took place at Holy Cross Church, Patricroft on 21st December at 7pm. Scripture was read by members of the Faith in Action Group, carols and soloists were prepared by Mr Hoy, and Mr Steggles agreed to support a short drama production which was performed by some Faith in Action members and St Patrick's drama students.
- Advent Appeals. This year we decided to support local charities who will be closely monitoring the economic crises affecting a lot of families. Year 7 will be supporting Irlam and Cadishead Food Bank, Year 9: Wood St Mission, Year 10- Salford Loaves and Fishes and Year 11: Shelter. Year 8 have decided to assist Mary's Meals whose Mission is to assist poor people in developing nations.
- Year 8 Forms have lead Wednesday prayers in the Chapel, at 12.15 throughout Advent. Fr.Collins/Mr Lowrie have provided space for reflection in what is a busy school environment- a time for prayer is never a time wasted...

NO CHRIST, NO CHRISTMAS KNOW CHRIST, KNOW CHRISTMAS



STAFF LEAVERS

Mrs Sterry, Teacher of Science - We will sorely miss you at St. Patrick's, you have been an incredible Science teacher, as well as phenomenal PE teacher. Always going above and beyond with extra-curricular activities. We love your smile and your positivity, you are going to go on to help so many others and we wish you all the best in your new role.

Mrs Gannon, Teacher of English - Good bye to our wonderful Mrs Gannon. She has been a great teacher and friend to all and has done fantastic things for the pupils over her 14 years here. We are so sorry to see her go but know that she is making the right decision for herself and her family. We wish her all the best for the future.

Mr Gregory, Teacher of PE - Mr Gregory has been a PE teacher here at St Pats for 20 years where he has undertaken many different roles including teaching PE, teaching geography, being a form tutor and involved in ITT. He is not only a colleague but a friend for life and it has been a privilege to teach alongside him. He will be greatly missed by pupils and staff alike. All the best for the next chapter in your life.

PANATHLON CHALLENGE

In 2021/22, Panathlon gave over 50,000 young people with disabilities and special needs the opportunity to take part in competitive sport. Over the last few weeks, Mrs Shepherd has begun to take some children from St Patrick's to take part in the challenges that they run.

First up was the Panathalon Bowling Competition. There were at least 12 teams and we finished in the middle. All the students said they enjoyed it and were a credit as always to the school.

Next up was the Panathlon Xtend challenge which took place at Irlam High on Tuesday 13th December. The pupils were an absolute credit to the school and participated so well finishing in 4th place overall. It was lovely to see them all fully engaging in the activities, interacting with each other and smiling.



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



Our Centre of Excellence have been working extremely hard during the Autumn term providing support to other schools through our Behaviour Hub Programme Open Days as well as our Advanced Maths Programme ran by Mr Ladley. Our mission is to enable all schools in the North West and beyond to provide the highest quality of education and care, ensuring the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils are not left behind.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed hosting Year 6 Parent Coffee Mornings with our feeder primary schools, as well as Year 7 Parent Workshops for Literacy and Numeracy. These workshops help us to maintain a clear and open communication parents during transition to high school.

IN OTHER NEWS...

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



9th January - All students return to school
10th January - Year 9 DPT/MenACWY Immunisations
11th January - Year 11 Enterprise & Marketing Exam
12th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening
18th January - Flu Vaccination - Years 7, 8 & 9
27th January - Year 11 Mock Interview Day
30th January - Year 11 Health and Social Care Exam
1st February - Year 11 Digital IT Exam
2nd February - Year 9 Parents' Evening
13th February - Week 1 of Year 11 PPE's
17th February - School closes for Half Term at 3pm
During Half Term - Ski Trip to the USA

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' HOODIES

Just like last year, we will be arranging leavers hoodies for Year 11. If your child would like to purchase one, please register your interest via this link:

<https://forms.gle/cecM9X7TeYzm7cGb8>

HARRY'S CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Written by Harry McMahon, Year 10

On 5th December, I took part in a charity event to sing for some OAP's in our local community. We helped to raise hundreds of pounds for local care homes and the Hamilton Davis Trust. The night included myself, a Cadishead Local Band and another fantastic singer. It was a Christmas party where dinner was served for all and it was a very homely and exciting evening.



WOMEN'S GYMNAST OF THE YEAR



A huge well done to **Esther Hewitt** in Year 7 who won Women's Gymnast of the Year at the Manchester Academy of Gymnasts awards ceremony in a unanimous decision! We are all so proud of you, Esther!

HUGE FOOTBALL CALL UP!



Charlie Stewart in Year 10 has been called up to play for the Scotland National Football Team! What a fantastic achievement!