



ST PATRICK'S NEWS



OCTOBER 2025



What a great start to the academic year we have had! The excellent GCSE results from our Class of 2025 gave us all such a wonderful boost to begin all the hard work again with a new Year 11! We were so thrilled with how last year's Year 11 did. They worked incredibly hard, listened to teachers' expert advice and did it all with a smile (mostly!) on their faces. We were lucky to have such a joyous group of young people to work with.

This year's Year 11 have started with exactly the same attitude. It has been a pleasure to watch them blossom over recent years, under Mr Hindmarch's guidance, and the feedback we have had from the exam invigilators about how mature and focused they have been over their recent exams has been so pleasing, but not one bit surprising. There is a real feeling in the year group of 'I want to do my absolute best', which is all we ever would ask from them.

At the other end of the scale, Year 7 have settled so very well. They are hardworking, kind and already so involved in the wider life of the school. It is lovely to see that they haven't wasted anytime in becoming fully St Patrick's pupils. I felt very proud as we walked them through the Eccles streets to Holy Cross Church a few weeks ago for their Year 7 Welcome Mass-they looked super smart and their Y6 teachers and primary Headteachers couldn't believe how grown up they were!

As you will see from the newsletter, we have been very busy! We couldn't possibly tell you all of the great things that have been going on this half term but a few of my personal highlights of this half term have been:

- Open Morning for Y5/6. The whole school was visited by over 500 children and parents/carers who saw our school during a normal morning. I was so very proud of the children and staff for showing off how we learn and behave every single day. I was also incredibly proud of the prefects who toured visitors around.
- Y7 and 9 retreats. The feedback we have had from the different places we have taken children for spiritual retreats has been amazing. They said we are 'a very special school...' and it was 'a joy' to have us. It is lovely to know our children are proud of being a part of St Patrick's and impress everywhere they go.
- Commissioning mass for pupil chaplains in Years 7-11. We joined together with children from our primaries to commission pupils to carry out a special mission: spreading the good news of Jesus Christ within our schools. It was a special mass and wonderful to have Year 5-11 pupils all standing together to receive a blessing.
- Voices of the Holocaust. Year 10 watched a very powerful and moving play about the holocaust. Their respect and attention was brilliant. They asked searching and sensitive questions at the end of the play. We were so proud of how they responded to one of the most shocking and upsetting periods in history. The company commented on how amazing our pupils are and how they would love to come back to work with us again.

- Feedback from our 5 school bus drivers. I jumped on all 5 of our school buses recently to check pupils are behaving well and being respectful to the drivers and to their fellow pupils as they travel to and from school. The drivers were so positive about our children and said, "they are great," "they are very well behaved", "never any cheeky behaviour", "no messing about", "all the children do is sit and chat (loudly!)". It was great to hear that our pupils can be trusted to do all the right things without staff or parents watching their every move.
- Individual pupil successes. We have so many talented and dedicated pupils who have had great individual success outside of school. It is also great that they have been proud enough to tell us about it. You will find a selection of those stories in our newsletter. If your child has done something to be proud of, big or small, please email in and we will congratulate and celebrate them too.
- The number of children who improved their attendance from this time last year. It has been a pleasure to see these children in every day but more than this, it is a pleasure to see them looking happier because they are more involved in school life and are doing better in lessons.

Thank you, as always, for your support. You, our parent and carers, understand that your child's happiness and success at school is achieved because we all work together.

Have a safe and restful half term.

Mrs Byrne



NEW TEACHER INTERVIEW – MISS COOKE



I teach... History.... the best subject ever!

Life before St Patrick's... Before training to be a teacher I gained my undergraduate degree in History. I have also worked in lots of jobs — from a waitress to a shop assistant to working at McDonald's.

How I've found my first term at St Patrick's... I have loved my first half term and have really enjoyed getting to know the students and staff. Everyone has made me feel so welcome! The highlight has definitely been seeing students get passionate about the past.

My best learning tip.... Believe in yourself always – confidence goes a long way. I do not mind how many mistakes or errors people make, it is the trying again I am focused on!

Something interesting about me... I was in a pantomime and have travelled to lots of Greek islands just to see ancient ruins.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY 🎅

Our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will take place in school on Friday, 12th December! If you know anyone who would like to attend, please contact the school office on 0161 921 2300 to book a place.

Join us for an afternoon of delicious food, festive cheer, and wonderful entertainment provided by our talented students. And if you're lucky, you might even get to meet Father Christmas himself!



YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS

Thank you to our fantastic new Year 7 cohort, their families and Father Martin for a wonderful Year 7 Welcome Mass at Holy Cross RC Church. It was wonderful to hear pupils singing our school hymn together, and to witness the prayerful and reverent atmosphere they created in church. Welcome to the St Patrick's family, Year 7!



WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Thank you to Mr Joy for his assemblies on World Environmental Health Day, where this year's message is 'Clean Air, Healthy People'. This has been a great opportunity for pupils to reflect on their vital role as stewards of our common home; God's creation.



YEAR 8 CONFIRMATION ASSEMBLY

We were delighted to welcome Sister Anna and Sister Linda to school to deliver an inspiring assembly to Year 8, who are about to begin their journey of preparation for Confirmation.

A reminder that the deadline to return the registration form is Friday 7th November. The form must be returned to your parish priest (not the school) in order to be included in this year's programme.

The form can be found [here](#).



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Our pupils and staff held a cake sale raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. We also filled our Prayer Tree with heartfelt prayers and messages for all affected by cancer. May God bless and comfort all who are suffering.



ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY WITH ALISON WATERS

Year 11 Art and Design pupils recently had the privilege of working with professional ceramic artist Alison Waters, whose work will soon be exhibited at Manchester City Gallery. This exciting opportunity allowed students to connect their classroom studies with the wider world of contemporary art, gaining invaluable insight into the life and practice of a professional artist.

Prior to Alison's visit, pupils explored her artistic journey through research pages, investigating the wide-ranging experiences that shaped her career before she became a ceramicist. This foundation prepared them to truly appreciate seeing her work first-hand and learning directly from her about the importance of perseverance, adaptability, and creativity. Alison's story highlighted to pupils that an artist's journey is rarely linear, but one of discovery, resilience, and growth.

Inspired by her distinctive ceramic chimney pots, students set about designing and creating their own ceramic forms. Once fired, these pieces will become canvases for their own photography, merging two creative disciplines into one artwork. This not only developed pupils' technical skills in clay but also their ability to express ideas through mixed media.

For pupils, experiencing Alison's ceramics in person and engaging in conversation with her brought art alive in a way that textbooks alone cannot achieve. The workshop inspired them to see creative pathways as not only possible but rewarding, echoing the Catholic principle of helping each individual grow in wisdom, creativity, and faith.



COLUMBAN PILGRIMAGE

Pupil Chaplains visited Holy Cross to meet Columban missionaries, who were stopping for lunch during their pilgrimage walk. They discussed the impact of climate change around the world, and prayed for the future of our common home.

Flo and Keira in Year 8 said: "It was an amazing way to connect with our faith and share our ideas to improve our world." Organisers shared that spending time with our incredible pupils had been a highlight of the day for many pilgrims.



CAREERS INFORMATION EVENING

We were delighted to host our Careers Information Evening here at St Patrick's RC High School. It was fantastic to see so many of our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils exploring their future paths and gathering valuable insights about life after St Patrick's.



PEER MENTORING

We are so proud of our older pupils who give up their time to mentor younger students. The mentoring sessions created a positive and supportive environment, where younger pupils could practise answering questions and receive constructive feedback. Our older students showed great leadership, patience, and encouragement throughout - wonderful examples of the teamwork and kindness that make our school community so special.



VOICES OF THE HOLOCAUST

Thank you to Voices of the Holocaust for deepening our understanding of the Holocaust. Year 10 were blown away. This experience will have a deep and lasting impact on their understanding of humanity and their own responsibilities towards others.



MACBETH MOVIE NIGHT

Our Year 11 students gathered for Macbeth Movie Night, bringing Shakespeare's thrilling tale to life on the big screen! From ambition and betrayal to courage and consequence, it was a fantastic way to explore the play while enjoying a fun evening with friends.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Pupils in 8MCA took part in an 'Examination of Conscience' in our beautiful school chapel and showed a lot of reverence and respect. Pupils have been learning about Conscience in lessons so they had chance to reflect on how they use their conscience in their own lives.



YEAR 9 RETREATS - LAUDATO SI' CENTRE

Year 9 students recently took part in workshops and activities inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, with a focus on teamwork, community, and caring for creation.

As part of our Personal Development programme, our Year 9 pupils attended a Laudato Si' retreat at Wardley Hall, inspired by Pope Francis' call to care for our common home. The day offered a wonderful opportunity to step outdoors, spend time together as a form, and connect with the natural world.

Pupils explored themes of environmental stewardship and sustainability through hands-on activities such as foraging, fire-starting, hammock construction, and prayerful reflection. They even sampled some surprising edible plants, including a few that proved to be quite spicy!

A highlight of the day was enjoying freshly picked apples straight from the trees, followed by toasted marshmallows around the campfire. The retreat was a joyful blend of learning, teamwork, and appreciation for God's creation – an experience that encouraged pupils to reflect on how we can all play our part in caring for the world around us.

One pupil said "I can't believe it's time to leave this beautiful place already", whilst another said "It was fun to spend time outdoors and explore the woods at lunch".



WORKING SKILLS DAY

Our Year 11 students threw themselves into Working Skills Day! They explored the skills that will help them thrive in the world of work through engaging sessions, including:

- Team Building
- CV Writing
- Interview Skills
- Public Speaking
- Virtual Work Experience
- The Power of Now - Making the Most of Today!
- Finance and Budgeting



YEAR 7 LOCAL PILGRIMAGE

Our Year 7 pupil chaplains recently had the wonderful opportunity to join Year 6 pupils from St Mary's and St Gilbert's Primary Schools on a special local pilgrimage. The group visited three important spiritual landmarks, beginning at St Mary's Church, continuing to Holy Cross Church, and concluding at our school chapel.

At each stop, the pupils paused to reflect and pray together, sharing in moments of quiet contemplation and community spirit. The pilgrimage offered a meaningful way for the children to explore their faith, strengthen friendships, and experience the joy of collective worship in a supportive, welcoming environment.

It was inspiring to see our young chaplains guiding and encouraging the younger pupils, fostering a sense of unity and spiritual growth across the schools.



SALFORD CENTENARY STERRING GROUP

We recently hosted a Salford Centenary Sterring Group meeting today. A group of our Year 10s welcomed the group and told them about St Patrick's and their views on Salford. The group are looking for 100 Salford heroes - do you know anyone who could be nominated? If so, get in touch!



HAVE YOUR SAY IN SALFORD'S CENTENARY!

2026 marks 100 years of Salford's city status - and they want you to help shape the celebrations. This survey is your chance to tell them what makes Salford special to you, what kind of activities you'd love to see, and how they can make the centenary inclusive, meaningful, and memorable for everyone. Let's celebrate our past, present, and future - together.

[Complete the survey here!](#)



**Help us make 2026
unforgettable**

Your ideas could inspire events, exhibitions, and more.

Have your say, take the centenary survey today.

YEAR 7 RETREATS TO SAVIO HOUSE: BUILDING BRIDGES AND GROWING TOGETHER

This term, all of our Year 7 students had the special opportunity to attend a retreat at Savio House, a beautiful retreat centre nestled in the Cheshire countryside. Each Year 7 form went on their own day-long retreat, giving them time and space to grow closer as a group, reflect spiritually, and explore the theme of "Building Bridges."

The day was thoughtfully designed to help our newest year group settle into secondary school life by focusing on teamwork, personal reflection, and connection. Through a variety of activities—ranging from group challenges and games to moments of quiet reflection—students were encouraged to think about the relationships in their lives and who helps "build them up."

The theme of "Building Bridges" invited pupils to consider the people who support them—family, friends, teachers, and even new classmates—and how they, in turn, can be bridge-builders for others. In the calm and welcoming atmosphere of Savio House, many students shared that they felt more connected to their form group and had a better understanding of the importance of kindness, trust, and support in their school journey.

It was also a chance for students to take a step back from the busy pace of school life and spend some quiet time thinking about their own personal and spiritual growth. With guidance from the wonderful team at Savio House, each group left feeling uplifted, supported, and more united as a form.

We are incredibly proud of how Year 7 embraced the retreat experience with maturity, openness, and enthusiasm. It has been a fantastic way to start their secondary school journey, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow and build bridges throughout the year.





IN OTHER NEWS...



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- 24th October** - School closes for half term
- 3rd November** - School reopens to all students
- 7th November** - Year 9 Mass
- 12th November** - Advertising Unlocked Trip
- 14th November** - Y11 + 7BB School Photographs
- 19th November** - Y11 Blood Brothers Trip
- 27th November** - Y11 Parents' Evening
- 28th November** - Staff INSET Day
- 1st December** - School closed to all
- 4th December** - GCSE Awards Night
- 5th December** - Year 10 Mass
- 8th December** - Year 9 Assessment Week
- 12th December** - Senior Citizens' Christmas Party
- 17th December** - Advent Carol Service
- 19th December** - School closes for Christmas at 12pm

LIONESS IN THE MAKING!



We're incredibly proud of Sienna, who had the amazing opportunity to visit England's St George's Park training ground. She enjoyed an unforgettable experience training with England Women's Team Manager, Sarina Wiegman, and touring the world-class facilities.

Even more exciting news, following a successful four-week trial with Everton FC, Sienna has now been offered a place in the Everton Academy!

A huge congratulations to Sienna on these fantastic achievements. We're so proud of how she continues to represent St Patrick's both on and off the pitch. Well done, Sienna!



4TH IN THE WORLD AT MMA CHAMPIONSHIPS!



Ollie K in Year 10 was scouted to represent Team England in MMA earlier this year and travelled to Abu Dhabi in July for the World Championships. He fought amazingly and came 4th in the world for his age and weight category - the highest level a youth under 18 can compete at!

Next up, Ollie has his next fight this November and is hoping to be scouted once again for the internationals, which would see him proudly represent England in Serbia next year. Well done Ollie!



COUSINS WIN GOLD AT EUROPEAN JIU-JITSU CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to Stanley A and Lewis H, who both struck gold at the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu European Championships in Wolverhampton last weekend.

Stanley impressively secured two gold medals, while Lewis earned a fantastic gold of his own. Both boys train with dedication every evening while keeping on top of their schoolwork - a truly well-deserved and incredible achievement!



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! enquiries@stpatricksrchigh.co.uk



IN OTHER NEWS...



HUBERT RANKED NO.1 IN THE UK FOR UNDER-13 DISCUS! 🏆

This summer, during the Salford Schools Athletics Meeting, Hubert K caught the eye of coaches from Salford Metropolitan Athletic Club. Following conversations with his parents, Hubert joined the club to develop his skills in Shot Put and Discus, and he's been making remarkable progress ever since.

When he began his throwing journey, Hubert was already achieving excellent distances - over 8 metres in the Shot Put and around 20 metres in the Discus. Since then, his hard work has paid off. Competing for Salford Mets in the England Athletics Youth Development League, Hubert finished the season with outstanding results: a Shot Put best of 10.85m, ranking him 5th in the UK, and a Discus throw of 34.13m, which not only broke a long-standing meeting record but also secured him the title of No.1 Under-13 discus thrower in the UK.

A huge congratulations to Hubert on his incredible achievements - a true inspiration to young athletes across the school! 🌟



PAT'S PANTRY - WELCOMING DONATIONS

PAT'S PANTRY
Food and Household Essentials Provision

If you need anything from Pat's Pantry, please contact Mrs Lynch on
0161 921 2303 lynch.v@stpatricksrhigh.co.uk

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

Pat's Pantry is 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 27th October 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.

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! enquiries@stpatricksrhigh.co.uk