

ST PATRICK'S NEWS



EASTER 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

We have achieved so much this term and have so much to celebrate. Our pupils never fail to amaze us and it has been lovely to watch them grow and develop so far this year. One of the highlights of the term was our annual trip to Holy Cross Church to celebrate St Patrick's Day. We were so proud of how the pupils conducted themselves, proudly walking through the streets of Eccles in their green uniform! So many parishioners who came along to mass commented on how respectful the children were and how well they participated in mass. We are definitely improving our singing and it was great to see Year 11 and also Year 7 leading the way and belting out the hymns we have practised!

This year we have changed the order in which we assess pupils, issue reports and meet parents to discuss how your child is progressing. We have now seen every year group's parents - we have never managed to do this by the spring term before. This has been done in response to past feedback from parents who thought waiting until the final half term of the year to meet teachers did not give them enough time to support their child meaningfully. We hope you have found this new way of communicating with you about your child's progress better and more helpful. All feedback welcome!

We have welcomed some past pupils into school recently. It has been lovely to hear their stories and what they have achieved since leaving us. Two past pupils worth highlighting are Tim Heatley (Class of 1996) and Ged Mason (Class of a long time ago!) What struck us most is how these past pupils have a strong commitment to serve others and give back to their local communities through the industries they work in. It is truly amazing that the core of Catholic service runs through our pupils, even many years after they have left. If you are a former pupil and want to come into school to tell pupils about your journey, please get in touch. We will always be happy to hear from you and would love to welcome you back.

As we move closer to Easter we have been busy thinking about how to prepare ourselves and make changes. We have focused strongly on Pope Leo's Lenten message of 'refraining from harsh and hurtful words' and 'listening to the cry of the poor.' We have raised over £1300 for CAFOD and Mary's Meals. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these worthy causes and for helping your child to understand how to put the needs of others before their own. We have also had the pleasure of watching our Year 10 boys (ably assisted by 7JL) bring Holy Week to life through a dramatization of Palm Sunday and The Last Supper. It is wonderful to see pupils leading us all in our faith in this way.

We hope you all have a peaceful and restful Easter, spending time with family and friends. Please remember one of our former parents and former governors, Claire, who is very poorly in your prayers this Easter.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Byrne

Please note that if your child misses their 9am or 1pm registration mark then they are marked absent for half a day, even if they only miss half an hour!

WEDNESDAY PRAYER

Year 9 began their turn of leading our weekly Wednesday Prayer services in Chapel. Pupils from 9PMG did a fantastic job of writing the bidding prayers, choosing the music and reading.

Thank you as always to Fr Martin for his support in celebrating these important acts of collective worship with us!



SUNDAY MASS AT HOLY CROSS

Well done to these fantastic pupils, who volunteered to attend Sunday Mass at Holy Cross RC Church and lived out our school value of 'Service' in the parish community! Pupils fulfilled roles during Mass and served refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards. Thank you to Fr Martin and parishioners for the very warm welcome, and for joining us after Mass for tea and toast! We will be visiting St Mary's next on 17th May.



ST PATRICK'S DAY

As part of our joyful celebrations for the feast day of St Patrick, pupils, staff, and Governors gathered together at Holy Cross RC Church for a special St Patrick's Day Mass. The occasion was a wonderful expression of our school community coming together in faith, reflection, and celebration.

It was particularly uplifting to see so many of our pupils actively involved in the liturgy, taking on a variety of ministries with confidence and reverence. From readings and prayers, to assisting during the Mass, their participation truly enriched the celebration. A highlight of the service was the enthusiastic and heartfelt singing! Our pupils certainly raised the roof with their joy and energy, creating a vibrant and memorable atmosphere for all in attendance.

We extend our sincere thanks to Fr Martin for leading such a meaningful and inspiring Mass, and to the parishioners who joined us and shared in this special celebration. It was a truly memorable way to honour St Patrick and to strengthen the sense of community within our school and parish.



EID AL-FITR

Staff and pupils celebrated Eid al-Fitr with a tasting table of different foods to try, alongside Bracelet Making and Card Crafting. Eid Mubarak to all Muslim members of our community!



RHS GREEN SHOOTS TASTER DAY

Throughout March, groups of Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils took part in RHS Green Shoots Taster Days; an inspiring opportunity to explore horticulture, environmental careers and outdoor learning.

The day began with careers-focused tours of the RHS gardens, including behind-the-scenes areas rarely open to visitors. Pupils learned about the many roles involved in designing and maintaining large public gardens, as well as the science and creativity behind horticulture.

In the afternoon, pupils took part in a practical outdoor session involving digging, weeding and planting. They worked with great enthusiasm and teamwork, enjoying the chance to learn new skills outdoors. There was also time to relax, explore the gardens and enjoy the woodland playground.

We are incredibly proud of how maturely and positively our pupils represented the school. Experiences like this help build confidence, develop practical skills and introduce pupils to future careers in environmental and land-based industries.



ST PATRICK'S COLLYHURST VISIT

Five of our Year 10 pupil chaplains, accompanied by Mrs Wallbank, had the wonderful opportunity to visit St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst to venerate and learn more about the relics of Saint Carlo Acutis. This special visit formed part of their faith leadership journey and gave them a meaningful encounter with the life and witness of a modern young saint.

The group were warmly welcomed by the parish team at St Patrick's, who shared the inspiring story of Saint Carlo's life: his deep love for the Eucharist, his devotion to prayer, and his powerful example of using technology to spread the Gospel. His message that "we are all born original, but many die as photocopies" resonated deeply with the pupils as they reflected on how they can live out their own call to holiness.

Each pupil brought their own rosary to be made into a third-class relic. They were able to hold and bless their rosaries with the relic of Saint Carlo; a profound spiritual moment that made a lasting impact on them. Many spoke about feeling encouraged to grow in their prayer life and to follow Saint Carlo's example of faith lived with joy, courage, and generosity.



YEAR 7 FRIDAY MASS

In February, Year 7 celebrated their first 'in school' Friday Mass. We thanked God for helping us to settle into St Patrick's. Every form wrote their names on a candle to offer prayers to God.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Former St Gilbert's pupils, now in Year 9, enjoyed returning to their primary school to speak to Year 3 about the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Thank you for the warm welcome, and for all your fantastic questions!



SALFORD SCHOOLS INCLUSION FESTIVAL

Well done to the 20 Year 7 pupils who were selected to take part in the festival held at St Patrick's. They represented the school brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, teamwork, and a positive attitude throughout the day, while fully engaging in all the activities.

Pupils had the opportunity to try a range of sports including goalball, archery, boccia, curling, volleyball, and bowling. Many learnt new skills and showed great determination, making the experience both enjoyable and rewarding for everyone involved.



CYBER FIRST MEGA DAY

Year 10 students recently attended the CyberFirst Mega Day at MediaCity as part of an exciting Computer Science trip, focused on careers in technology and the wider digital industry.

Throughout the day, students took part in a variety of challenges and hands-on activities designed to develop their problem-solving, teamwork, and cyber-security skills. They also gained valuable insight into the wide range of opportunities available within the tech sector.

Students were split into two teams and competed against other schools from across the region. The students demonstrated excellent collaboration, determination, and technical ability. Both teams performed exceptionally well - finishing in 1st and 2nd place overall.

This fantastic achievement is a testament to the students' enthusiasm and talent in Computer Science. Well done to everyone involved for representing the school so brilliantly!



DIGITAL DEFENDERS CHALLENGE

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 pupils who recently competed in the final of Callsign's Digital Defenders Cyber Challenge. The team reached the final stage of the competition, going head-to-head with five other Manchester schools and presenting their work in front of leading industry experts.

Their final presentation was outstanding; delivered with confidence and professionalism, and they were a real credit to St Patrick's. Throughout the event, our pupils conducted themselves impeccably and demonstrated impressive technical knowledge, teamwork and communication skills.

This achievement is the result of months of dedicated preparation, during which they truly put St Patrick's value of resilience into action. We could not be prouder of their efforts and success.



WORLD BOOK DAY

What an amazing celebration we had for Lord of the Rings. From Hobbits to Elves, Gandalf to Shelob, we had a wide variety of costumes from staff, and the children loved the Map of Middle Earth Adventure at lunchtime and the Quiz. It was lovely to see so many KS3 children exchanging their book tokens for the World Book Day books where they had a variety of 6 to choose from. What will the theme be next year?



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

In February, our school community came together to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Students gathered in prayer, reflecting on the importance of faith, compassion, and hope. During the celebration, they prayed not only for the sick and those in need, but also for their own personal intentions; fostering a spirit of empathy and connection within our school family.

As part of the celebration, each student was gifted a rosary and a prayer card to take home, encouraging them to continue their prayers and devotion beyond the classroom. It was a meaningful day that reminded us all of the power of prayer and the importance of caring for one another, especially those who are unwell.

We are grateful to see our students actively participating in these spiritual traditions and carrying the message of Our Lady of Lourdes in their hearts.



CAFOD COLOUR WALKS

This Lent, our pupils walked as fast as they could around the school perimeter in bright, colourful attire to raise money for CAFOD. Students brought one colourful item to wear, such as a scarf, hat, sunglasses, or hoodie, along with a small donation. Prizes were awarded to the fastest walkers and the most colourful form in each year group!



Y10 GIRLS' GROUP VISIT MANCHESTER POLICE MUSEUM

Y10 Girls enjoyed an inspiring and hands-on visit to the Manchester Police Museum, where pupils took part in an interactive tour and an exciting mock trial.

During the visit, pupils stepped into the roles of barristers, witnesses and even the judge, bringing the courtroom experience to life. They learned about the history of the police force and explored fascinating artefacts, including Victorian cells, batons and handcuffs. The opportunity to dress up and act out real-life roles helped pupils to better understand the justice system and sparked curiosity about future careers in law.

Pupils were enthusiastic about the experience and keen to share their thoughts:

- *"I loved being the judge and it's made me really interested in law."*
- *"I loved being the prosecutor – I enjoyed everything."*
- *"I found all the historical things really interesting."*

Staff were equally proud of the group's engagement.

One teacher commented:

"I was so impressed with the pupils – they really got into the roles in the mock trial and they were asking all sorts of questions."

The visit proved particularly inspiring for one pupil, who was told by a museum facilitator that she should consider studying law, after being highly impressed with her performance during the mock trial.

Overall, the trip was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn outside the classroom, build confidence and gain insight into the world of law and justice.



EUCHARIST FOR THE EPIPHANY

Thank you to Father Martin Collins for celebrating Mass with us! We celebrated the Eucharist for the Epiphany, and Year 11 enjoyed their year group Mass alongside staff and parents/carers. A fantastic way for us to start the new year and Spring term together as a community of faith!



FROM HEAD GIRL TO YOUTH MAYOR

We are incredibly proud to share that on 3rd March, our former Head Girl, Betws Redgrave, was inaugurated as Salford Youth Mayor.

The ceremony was a wonderful celebration of the dedication and impact of the Salford Youth Council, made even more special as it took place during Salford's centenary year.

We have no doubt that Betws will continue to be an inspiring role model - leading with dignity, championing the voices of young people, and making a meaningful difference in her community.

Congratulations, Betws!





PE NEWS



It has been another busy and successful term in PE! We have launched our brand-new sports leadership programme, where students are beginning to develop key leadership skills and will work towards achieving a level 2 qualification. An exciting opportunity for those looking to take on roles within sport.

We welcomed external coaches into school, with a Lacrosse coach working with Year 7 and 8, and a Sale Sharks rugby coach delivering sessions to our Year 10 girls. A fantastic opportunity to develop new skills.

In Rugby, Year 10 boys were narrowly beaten 25-24 in the Lancashire Cup, in a game decided by the final kick. Year 9 boys had an outstanding 66-0 win in their Lancashire Cup fixture.

In Football, Year 8 boys showed resilience despite an 8-2 result and finished 4th in their tournament (2 wins, 2 draws, 2 losses). A special mention to James W, who was nominated Player of the Tournament. Year 7 & 8 girls impressed with an 8-1 win over Lowry Academy and finished 1st and 2nd in their tournament. Year 9 boys also secured an exciting 7-6 victory against All Hallows.

We also hosted a KS3 festival with over 80 students taking part in activities such as Archery and Volleyball, alongside taking KS3 pupils to two external festivals to build confidence and try new activities.



SALFORD PLATE FOOTBALL QUARTER FINAL *Written by Daniella O - Year 8*

On Thursday 12th March, St Patrick's Year 8 football team played against Irlam and Cadishead Academy Year 8 boys. The players were extremely excited as it was the first game back after half term.

The match between St Patrick's and ICA was a very intense and interesting one. From the beginning, both teams played with a lot of energy and determination. St Patrick's started off strongly in the first half, creating a lot of chances. Emmanuel O quickly made an impact by scoring 2 goals. Louis then added another goal for St Patrick's giving them a strong lead. However, ICA did not give up and managed to score 1 goal before half time making the score 3-1 going into the break.

In the second half, ICA came back stronger. They attacked more and more until they scored 2 goals, making the score 3-3. By the end of normal time the score was still tied, so the match went into extra time.

During extra time, St Patrick's stepped up again. Emmanuel scored 3 more goals, making the score eventually 6-3!! Sienna W played a huge part by getting 3 assists. The teamwork from St Patrick's was really good and they showed great effort and resilience.

At the end of the match, St Patrick's won after a very dramatic game. It was a great match, with lots of goals and exciting moments. The players worked extremely hard and it was a great win to advance to the semi finals. Congratulations all!

U19 CALL-UP FOR EX-PUPIL!

We are incredibly proud of ex-pupil Alfie McIlroy, who has been called up to the Northern Ireland U19s football squad.

Alfie will fly out next week with the squad to take on Lithuania and Azerbaijan in two international fixtures.

A fantastic achievement - everyone here wishes him the very best of luck!



SALE SHARKS RUGBY SESSIONS

This term, we have been delighted to have Sale Sharks delivering Rugby sessions during our Year 10 Core PE lessons!

They are working with the girls to develop not only their rugby skills, but also resilience, teamwork and confidence. It's fantastic to see all the girls actively engaging, challenging themselves and, most importantly, having fun.

A video of the sessions can be found on our social media pages.



SKI TRIP - BIBERWIER, AUSTRIA

During February half term, a group of our students travelled to Biberwier in Austria for an exciting and memorable ski trip. Throughout the week, students skied the slopes around the resort, including regular runs from the Alm above the village. Each day was spent developing skills on the mountain, with groups working on technique, building confidence, and exploring a variety of runs across the area. As the week progressed, students became increasingly confident, tackling longer runs and spending more time enjoying the slopes.

Evenings were filled with a range of après-ski activities and group events. The first night began with an impressive ski show, where instructors performed jumps, synchronised formations and a spectacular torchlit descent. Later in the week, students took part in a lively quiz night and an ice-skating session, both of which quickly became highly competitive. The group also visited Highline179, walking across the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge connecting Ehrenberg Castle and Fort Claudia high above the valley. The trip concluded with a celebratory awards evening, recognising the effort, progress and achievements of the students throughout the week.

It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved, and we are already looking forward to the next ski trip, which will take place in Folgaria, Italy, in 2027.



STAFF CHANGES

Mrs Cathryn Taylor, HR Assistant - We say goodbye to Cat, who is leaving us to take up a new role at Loreto. During her time with us, Cat has been a valued member of the team and we are grateful for all the hard work and positivity she has brought to the school.

Mrs Patricia Rudge, Finance Support - Pat stepped in to support the finance team back in 2024. From the moment she joined us, Pat proved to be an invaluable member of the team, offering her time, expertise and support whenever it was needed. We will miss her dearly, and wish her a wonderful retirement.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for their dedication and commitment to the school, staff, and pupils.

We are also excited to welcome the following staff members to the team at St Patrick's:

Miss Ellie Dolan, HR and Finance Assistant

Nadia Pais, Teaching Assistant

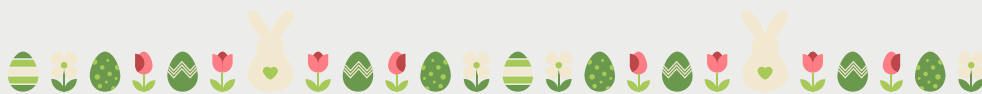
Mr Sohail Noorgat, HR and Finance Officer

Mr Sam Nelmes, Teacher of Maths and Numeracy

Miss Mia Locketti, Cover Supervisor

Mrs Christine Toogood, Teacher of Science

Miss Lucy Owen, Cover Supervisor



FAREWELL TO MRS MILLAR

This term we also say a fond farewell to **Mrs Leanne Millar**, who has been a valued member of our school community for 16 years. Throughout her time at the school, Mrs Millar has made an enormous contribution, both as a dedicated Maths teacher and as a Head of Year for the last 12 years; a role in which she supported and guided countless students.

Mrs Millar's commitment to her students has always been clear. In the classroom, she inspired many young people to build confidence in Mathematics and to approach challenges with determination and resilience. As Head of Year, she was a constant source of support, offering guidance, encouragement and care to students and families alike.

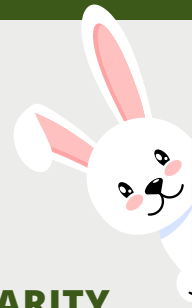
Her calm approach, strong leadership and genuine kindness have made a lasting impact on both students and colleagues. Many students will remember her for the encouragement she gave them to aim high and believe in their abilities.

While we will certainly miss her presence in the corridors and classrooms, we are incredibly grateful for the years of dedication she has given to our school. On behalf of the whole school community, we thank Mrs Millar for everything she has done and wish her every happiness and success in the next chapter of her journey.





IN OTHER NEWS...



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



20th April - School reopens to all
21st April - GCSE Drama Exam
22nd April - MFL Speaking Exams
W/C 27th April - 3D Design, Art & Photography Exams
29th April - Family Forum
1st May - Year 9 Mass
4th May - Bank Holiday
7th May - GCSE Written Exams Start
18th May - Year 10 Horizons Week
22nd May - School closes for Half term at 3pm
22nd May - Year 9 and 10 Retreat
1st June - School reopens to all
8th June - Year 10 Exams Fortnight
23rd June - Year 10 Colleges Trip
24th June - Year 11 Leavers' Mass
24th June - New Year 11 Information Evening
25th-26th June - Year 6 Transition Days
25th June - Transition Information Evening
1st July - Mission Day
2nd July - Year 11 Prom
2nd July - Wimbledon Trip
3rd July - Year 10 Mass
7th July - Year 10 Taster Day at Loreto
10th July - Sports Day
17th July - School closes for Summer at 1pm

TIES ON SCOPAY

Has your child lost their tie? We have some for sale from Reception. These can be purchased on Scopay for £3.50.

CALLED TO TEACH?

Train to teach with St Patrick's RC High School and our network of schools across Greater Manchester – working as a Lead Partner school to develop the next generation of secondary school teachers.

We are currently recruiting for teacher training courses starting in September 2026.

Find out more here:

<https://www.stpatricksrchigh.co.uk/teacher-training/>

TEAM Y9 RUNNING IN SOLIDARITY

Year 9 pupils came together in true solidarity this week to support our wonderful pupil Grace and her incredible fundraising efforts. Throughout the month of February, Grace has shown outstanding dedication and determination by running 50 miles for the Childflight Charity; a local charity very close to her heart. This is an amazing achievement that we are all so proud of!

To celebrate and stand alongside her, 50 pupils each ran a mile, symbolising the 50 miles Grace has completed. It was a powerful moment of unity, encouragement and community spirit.

A huge thank you to all the pupils and staff who took part, supported the event, and generously donated. We are also so grateful to the spectators who came along to cheer everyone on.

What made the day even more special was seeing so many pupils who wouldn't usually call themselves "runners" stepping forward to take part. It was a true example of teamwork and determination.

This event beautifully reflected our Catholic Social Teaching values. We witnessed solidarity in action, as pupils stood together to support one another. We saw service through giving their time and energy for a good cause. We demonstrated resilience in completing the mile, even when it felt challenging.

Well done, Team Year 9 — you truly embodied our school values!



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